



**the legal rules 4**

The Legal Rules 4 is the latest in an annual compilation of the Rules and changes in the rules of the World Science Fiction Society, produced as a service the fandom to Let People Know What's Going On, by Jerry William Lapidus, 54 Clearview Drive, Pittsford, New York 14534. Copies will go to most people who receive my genzine, Tomorrow And..., as well as members of APA-45, Slanapa, and the Cult (for which this is f/r 274.999), as well as anyone else I think should get it. Postal rates and everything else has gone up, so additional copies are available for either a quarter or 3 8¢ stamps. A Jewel publication. Australia in '75!

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Notes on this fourth edition...

At Norescon, a number of fairly important changes in the rules were made, and thanks to Chairman Tony Lewis, Parliamentarian Elliot Shorter, and that master of Business Meetings, George Scithers, I was able to obtain the official wording on all the business conducted. Thank you, all.

As in previous editions, I'll begin with a listing of all business conducted at the Norescon Business Meeting in Boston, and will then list the current rules, as amended or changed. In cases where material requires additional explanation or discussion, I will comment thusly.

I apologize in advance for any errors present; I ask anybody aware of such to let me know, in order to make future editions as accurate as possible.

Art--Canfield, cover; Steffan, 3&5

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### The Minutes

1. A motion instituting a mail ballot for consite selection in addition to in-person voting, tabled at Heicon, was passed. Elliot Shorter, Parliamentarian, reworded the motion for the rules as follows:

Voting for the sites of World Science Fiction Conventions shall be limited to members of the current convention who have also paid at least \$2 towards the dues of the convention to be voted upon. Eligible members may vote either by attending the site selection business meeting, or by mail. The Committee in charge of the convention at which the site is to be chosen shall be responsible for the mechanics of the mail balloting and they shall be guided in their responsibility by the mechanisms of the various professional societies which regularly hold balloting by mail.

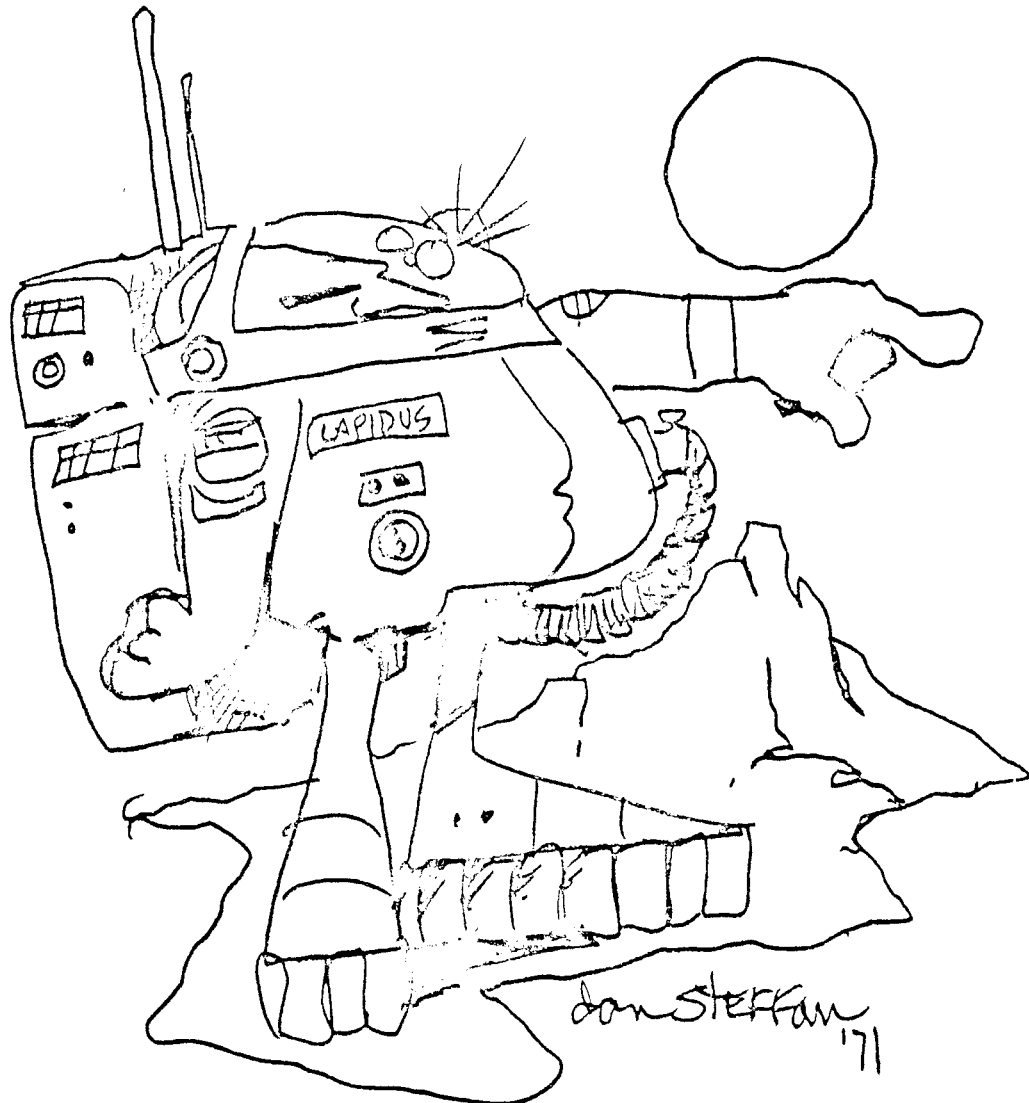
This rewording replaces section 3.06 in the rules.

2. A motion redefining the North American rotation zones by latitude and longitude was defeated (wording in the Noreascon Program Book-- it's so complicated I'm not going to bother with it here), after being tabled at Heicon.
3. A Committee was formed to study the Hugo awards in depth, and to report to the LACon Business meeting. Membership: Bruce Pelz, chairman; Len Moffatt, fan; the del Reys, editors; Larry Niven, author; and Jack Gaughan, artist.

4. A motion officially limiting the Hugo to english-language nominees and first translations was defeated.
5. A motion redefining the professional and fan artist hugo categories was passed. The new categories read:
  - 2.06. Best Professional Artist. An illustrator whose work has appeared in the field of professionally published science fiction or fantasy during the previous calendar year.
  - 2.10. Best Fan Artist. An artist or cartoonist whose work has appeared, during the previous calendar year, in magazines of the type defined under Article 2.08. Anyone whose name appears on the final ballot for a given year under the professional artist category will not be eligible for the fan artist award for that year.
6. A motion to expand and redefine the Dramatic Presentation category was passed, the new rule to read:
  - 2.05. Best Dramatic Presentation. Any production in any medium of dramatized science fiction or fantasy, which has been publicly presented for the first time in its present dramatic form during the previous calendar year. In the case of individual programs presented as a series, each program is individually eligible, but the entire series as a whole is not eligible.
7. An SFWA petition for the reinstatement of the novelette category was presented as a motion, and was defeated.
8. A motion was passed slightly redefining rule 4.01, the new rule wording to read:
  - 4.01. Any change in the rules of the World Science Fiction Society shall take effect no sooner than the end of the convention at which such change is adopted.
9. A motion was passed requiring a 3/4 majority vote to rescind action made at the immediately previous convention, the purpose being to guard against hasty and/or repeated changes of previous action. The new rule:
  - 4.02. Any proposal to amend the rules of the Society shall require for passage only a majority of all the votes cast on the question, except that a proposal to rescind any such action of the immediately previous business session shall require for passage three-quarters of the votes cast.
10. A motion to clear up the wording in rule 3.03 was passed.
11. A motion to set a four-month-before-the-convention deadline for prospective bidding groups to make a final choice on bidding was

withdrawn for further study, since the new mail ballot rule may require additional time.

12. A resolution urging the LA committee to institute some sort of four-month or similar limit was passed, however.
13. A motion reintroducing the North American Science Fiction Convention, or NASFIC, was passed. The basic argument in favor was that under the current bidding, an overseas successful bid would cause considerable problems with future North American bids in upcoming years, dealing with hotels. The rules passed included detailed plans for choosing sites, etc., and are included in the following Legal Rules listing.
14. A motion was defeated that would have required that the worldcon and the NASFIC, when held, be at least six weeks apart.
15. All business conducted at the Heicon business meeting was officially ratified (except, of course, for those items changed at this meeting).



The Rules of the World  
Science Fiction Society

1.01 The World Science Fiction Society is an unincorporated literary society whose functions are: to choose the recipients of the annual Science Fiction Achievement Awards, known as the Hugos; to choose the location for the annual World Science Fiction Convention; and to attend the annual World Science Fiction Convention.

1.02 The membership of the World Science Fiction Society at any time consists of all those who have paid membership dues to the then current convention committee.

1.03 The management and responsibility for all phases of the annual World Science Fiction Convention lie entirely with the convention committee, which acts in its own name, not that of the society. The convention committee which puts on the convention is, of course, the committee whose bid for selection of its location is accepted by the annual meeting of the Society.

2.01 The Selection of the Science Fiction Achievement Awards, nicknamed Hugos, will be made as follows.

2.02 Best novel: A science fiction or fantasy story of 40,000 words or more, appearing for the first time during the previous calendar year. Appearance in a prior year makes a story ineligible, except that the author may withdraw a version from consideration if he feels that version is not representative of what he wrote. A story may thus be eligible only once. Publication date, or cover date in the case of a dated magazine, takes precedence over the copyright date. A serial takes its appearance to be the date of the last installment. Individual stories appearing as a series are eligible only as individual stories, and are not eligible taken together under the title of the series. The convention committee may move a story into a more appropriate category if it feels it necessary, provided the story is within 5,000 words of the category limits.

2.03 Best novella: Rules as for best novel, with length under 40,000 words and above 17,500.

2.04 Best short story: Rules as for best novel, with length under 17,500 words.

2.05 Best dramatic presentation: Any production in any medium of dramatized science fiction or fantasy, which has been publicly presented for the first time in its present dramatic form during the previous calendar year. In the case of individual programs presented as a series, each program is individually eligible, but the entire series as a whole is not eligible.

2.06 Best professional artist: An illustrator whose work has appeared in the field of professionally published science fiction or fantasy during the previous calendar year.

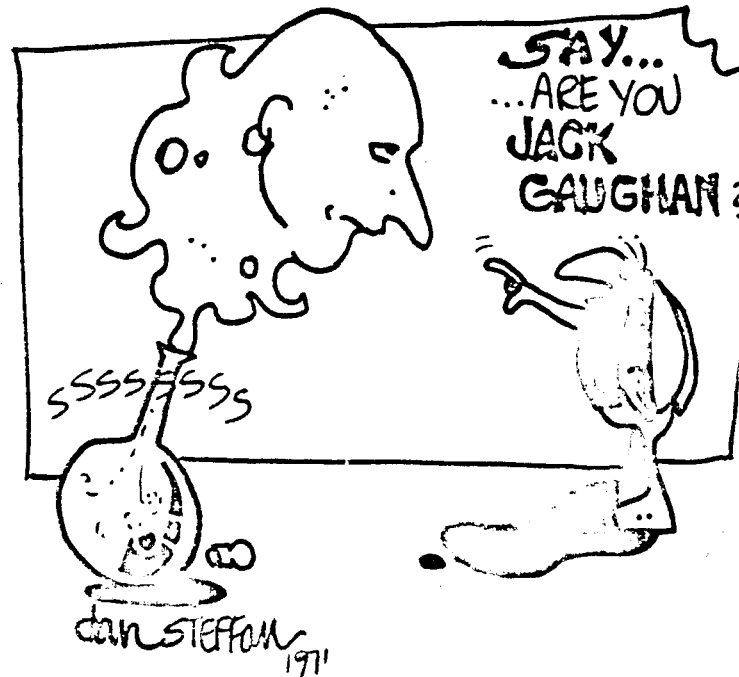
2.07 Best professional magazine: Any magazine devoted primarily to science fiction or fantasy, which has published four or more issues, at least one issue appearing in the previous calendar year.

2.08 Best amateur magazine: Any generally available non-professional mag-

azine devoted to science fiction, fantasy, or related subjects, which has published four or more issues, at least one appearing in the previous calendar year.

2.09 Best fan writer. ∟ No official wording has ever been passed in the category. Thus I suggest the following, based on other rules and on the decisions made in presenting this award in the past.: Any fan whose writing has appeared, during the previous calendar year, in magazines of the type defined under Article 2.08. ✓

2.10 Best fan artist: An artist or cartoonist whose work has appeared, during the previous calendar year, in magazine of the type defined under Article 2.08. Anyone whose name appears on the final ballot for a given year under the professional artist category will not be eligible for the fan artist award for that year.



2.11 Additional categories: Not more than two special categories may be created by the convention committee with nomination and final voting to be the same as for the other, permanent, categories. The convention committee is not required to create any such categories; they should be held to a minimum, and those created by one convention committee are not binding on following committees. Awards under those categories will be Science Fiction Achievement Awards, or Hugos.

2.12 The name and design shall not be extended to any other award whatsoever.

2.13 No award: At the discretion of the individual convention committee, if a lack of nominations or final votes in a specific category shows a marked lack of interest in the category on the part of the voters, the award in that category shall be cancelled for that year. In addition, the entry "no award" shall be mandatory in each and every category of the Hugos. This applies both to permanent categories and to those which the individual conventions establish on a temporary basis.

2.14 Nominations and voting: Selection of nominees for the final award voting shall be done by a poll conducted by the convention committee under rules determined by the committee. Final award voting shall be by mail, with ballots sent only to Society members. Final ballots shall include name, address, and membership number, to be filled in. Final ballots shall also provide alternatives given in each category to not more than five. Assignment of nominees nominated in more than one category to their proper one and eligibility of nominees shall be determined by the convention committee. Voters shall indicate the order of their preferences for nominees in each category.

2.15 Tallying: Counting of all votes shall be the responsibility of the

convention committee, which is responsible for all matters concerning awards. In each category, votes shall be first tallied by the voters' first choice. In the event no majority vote is then obtained, the nominee placing last will be eliminated and the ballots listing him as first choice redistributed on the basis of the ballots' second listed choice. The process will be repeated until a majority vote winner is obtained.

2.16 No member of the then current convention committee nor any publication closely connected with them shall be eligible for an award.

2.17 The Hugo award will continue to be standardized as to the design of the rocket ship on the model presently in use. The design of the base is up to each convention committee.

3.01 Conventions: The Society shall choose the sites of the annual World Science Fiction Conventions two years in advance at a business meeting to be held at an advertised time during each annual World Science Fiction Convention, presided over by the chairman of the then current convention committee, or by someone designated by the committee. The business meeting shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, and such other rules the then current committee may publish in the program book.

3.02 To assure an equitable distribution of convention sites, the North American continent is divided into three geographical divisions, as follows:

Western Division--New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Saskatchewan, and states and provinces westward; and Baja California.

Central Division--All Mexico except Baja California, and all states and provinces between the Western Division and the Eastern.

Eastern Division--Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Quebec, and states and provinces eastward; also St. Pierre and Miquelon, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all islands of the Carribean Sea not previously included in this region, and other islands similarly situated.

3.03 Convention sites shall be rotated among these divisions in the following order: Midwest, East, West. Any site outside North America may bid for a location in any year. The bids of locations to hold a convention shall only be considered and voted on if they lie within the geographical division where there is; except that the rule of rotation may be set aside by a vote of three-fourths voting, with the provision that in no case may two successive conventions be in the same division or outside North America. In event of such setting aside, rotation shall be resumed the following year.

3.04 By bidding, a convention committee promises to abide by this constitution. Locations and dates for the next convention must be announced by the bidding committee before site selection. Such proposals are subject to confirmation by the business meeting.

3.05 In the event the society is without a properly selected location for the next annual convention because of the resignation of the then current convention committee or other cause, the five most recent committee chairs willing to serve shall be authorized to select the next location for the World Science Fiction Convention.

3.06 Voting for sites of World Science Fiction Conventions shall be limited to members of the current convention who have also paid at least .2 towards the dues of the convention to be voted upon. Eligible members may vote either by attending the site selection business meeting, or by mail. The Committee in charge of the convention at which the site is to be chosen shall be responsible for the mechanics of the mail balloting and they shall be guided in their responsibility by the mechanisms of the various professional societies which regularly hold balloting by mail.

3.07 a. Whenever the Society, meeting in North America, chooses a site outside North America for the coming Worldcon, it shall, at the same meeting, select a site for a separate North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFic) to be held in the same year.

b. Bidding for the NASFic shall be open to North American sites defeated in the Worldcon voting, as well as to any other sites eligible under the rotation system.

c. Except as otherwise provided, the rules governing the rotation system, voting, and bidding on the Worldcon apply to the choice of site for the NASFic. The meeting may be recessed in order to permit compliance with Rule 3.06. The purchase of memberships in the convention to be vote upon.

3.08 When the Worldcon is held outside North America, if one or more bids for the coming Worldcon are entered for sites outside North America,

a. The Worldcon shall chose among such sites and a site in North America to be chosen by the NASFic.

b. The NASFic for that year shall choose a site for the NASFic two years later in accordance with the rules governing the rotation system, voting, and bidding on the Worldcon.

c. If the Worldcon chooses a site in North America, the coming Worldcon shall be held at the site chosen as the site of the NASFic for that year.

4.01 Any change in the rules of the World Science Fiction Society shall take effect no sooner than the end of the convention at which such change is adopted.

4.02 Any proposal to amend the rules of the Society shall require for Passage only a majority of all the votes cast on the question, except that a proposal to rescind any such action of the immediately previous business session shall require for passage three-quarters of the votes cast.

4.03 All previous by-laws, constitutions, and resolutions having the effect of by-laws and constitutions of the World Science Fiction Society are revoked.

4.04 The Rules of the World Science Fiction Society as decided in the business meetings shall be printed by the World Science Fiction Convention Committee, and distributed with the Hugo nomination ballots, and