

IPMS CANADA
RECOMMENDED CONTEST RULES

SECTION 1 - GENERAL

1.1 This set of rules has been drafted by members of the Executive of IPMS Canada, with significant input from IPMS Canada chapters and members. The intent is to provide a set of “guideline rules” to IPMS Canada chapters who wish to conduct their own chapter or regional competitions. Note that these rules consider the competition aspect of the function only. Other aspects, such as finance, the choice of venue, dates and times, furniture, concessions and other necessary considerations are the responsibility of the functions overall Steering Committee.

1.2 These rules represent specific Canadian criteria and reflect particular differences inherent in geography, membership and organization. These rules can, and should be, modified to meet requirements specific to our widespread chapters. However, please note that the applicable provisions of the IPMS Canada Chartered Chapter Guidelines should remain in effect. These are not to be considered a “be all and end all” set of rules. On the contrary: comments, suggestions and modifications are expected, and welcomed.

SECTION 2 - COMPETITION ORGANIZATION

2.1 Competition Committee. A Competition Committee should be formed to consider all aspects of the competition. In particular, the Committee is responsible for:

- a. the creation, modification, addition and deletion of all rules and categories for the competition, including the formulation and definition of any Special Theme Awards;
- b. the selection of a Chief Judge;
- c. the recommendation of Head Judges (for designated categories) to the Chief Judge;
- d. the provision of a sufficient number of trophy packages to account for all categories, and additional trophy packages for unplanned splits in categories; and
- e. ensuring that all participants are aware that no liability for loss or damage, however caused to contest entries, is assumed by IPMS Canada, the Host Chapter, their sponsors, the convention venue, or the contest judges. This information should be clearly stated on the entry forms.

2.2 Judges. Judges will be organized as follows:

- a. Chief Judge. A Chief Judge will be selected by the Competition Committee. He or she will be responsible for:
 - (1) The selection of Head Judges and Judges,
 - (2) The briefing of all judges on the methods and criteria of judging before the contest judging begins,
 - (3) Approving any “splitting” of larger categories,
 - (4) Being the final arbiter of any area of concern within the judging activity, and
 - (5) Any other aspect of the judging activity as assigned by the Competition Committee.

- b. Head Judges. Head Judges will be selected by the Chief Judge. They will be responsible for:
 - (1) The judging of categories as assigned by the Chief Judge,
 - (2) Bringing the requirement for category splitting to the attention of the Chief Judge as soon as possible for his approval,
 - (3) Implementing any approved category split,
 - (4) Being prepared to assist the Chief Judge and other Head Judges in any aspect of the judging activity.

- c. Judges. Judges will be selected by the Chief Judge. They will be responsible for:
 - (1) The judging of assigned categories with a Head Judge, as assigned by the Chief Judge, and
 - (2) Being prepared to assist Head Judges and the Chief Judge in any aspect of the judging activity

- d. Judging Teams. Each judging team will consist of a Head Judge and at least one other judge, and preferably two others (if numbers of judges allow) in order to avoid a tie in judging.

2.3 Decisions. All judges' decisions are final. Final category placement is at the discretion of contest judges. At their discretion, judges may split categories during final judging.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY

3.1 General. Competitions at the Chapter and Regional Level are open to all modellers, whether or not they belong to IPMS Canada or to a Chapter. Contestants are eligible to enter any number of models in any of the Competition categories. A contestant may also serve as a "proxy" to enter models for a fellow contestant who is unable to attend. Proxy entries must be entered in the name of the builder. Entry fees for proxy models are the same as for attending contestants. All entries except group entries must be the sole work of the individual whose name is on the entry form. Commercially built and/or finished models are ineligible.

3.2 Modellers entering pieces that exceed three feet in either width or length, or that require special power support or special placement, must notify the Contest Chairman at least one month in advance of the Contest. The limited space for the Contest requires additional planning for such entries. Failure to provide advanced notification for such models could result in their being unable to compete or inadequate special support.

3.3 Exhibitors are encouraged to leave their models in the display room until the scheduled awards activities are over and the attendees have had the maximum opportunity to view them. In the same vein, every opportunity to display models that are not in competition should also be encouraged, but only when table space permits.

3.4 Juniors. Junior division categories are limited to members 17 years and younger. The Junior Class will be split into two age groupings: "Pre-teen" for ages up to 12 years inclusive; and "Teen" for ages 13 through 17 years. Junior members may, at their own discretion, enter any or all of their models in senior divisions. However, models entered in senior divisions will then not be eligible for special junior awards.

3.5 Intermediate Categories. Some chapters are introducing the idea of "intermediate categories" for those modellers new to the hobby, and who that may be intimidated by entering the main competitions against modellers with years of experience. Such "intermediate" categories should be encouraged wherever possible.

3.6 Previous Winners. Models that have won awards in any category of any previous Chapter/Regional/National contest may not be entered in any subsequent Chapter/Regional/National contest respectively. However, previous winners at one level of competition may enter in a higher level of competition. For example, a winner of a club competition can be entered in a Regional Competition. As well, previous individual award winners can be used in collections or group entries. Further, models that have initially won an award as part of a collection or group entry may subsequently be entered individually in contests. Finally, models that have won both individual and group entry awards are not thereafter eligible for subsequent contests.

3.7 Prohibited Entries. The following entries are prohibited:

- (a) "Test Shot" or pre-production examples of kits not yet commercially available may not be entered in any competition if there are any copyright, proprietary or other legal considerations.
- (b) The Chief Judge will exclude/remove from competition any entry considered by Contest Officials to be inappropriate or offensive to generally acknowledged standards of taste and acceptability. The following are examples of entries prohibited in competition or on display at any IPMS Canada or IPMS Canada Chapter event:
 - (1) There shall be no graphic depiction of any human being or animal excretory functions;
 - (2) There shall be no depiction of sado-masochistic activity, equipment, settings or situations, to any degree, regardless of whether there are figures in the model and regardless of whether any figures present in the model are clothed;
 - (3) There shall be no depictions of explicit sexual conduct, bilateral or autoerotic, regardless of degree and regardless of the clothing-status of the participants, that involves children and the touching of the breasts or genitals or other erogenous zones of any depicted figure; and
 - (4) There shall be no depiction of any nude human male or female figures where the genitalia of the figure are exposed where the clear intent of the same is to portray a sexual scene.

SECTION 4 - CONTEST JUDGING

4.1 General Considerations. The following general considerations should apply to the judging activity:

- a. Judges cannot judge a category in which they are entered;
- b. It is left to the discretion of the Host Chapter as to imposing any limitations on allowing judges to enter at their own local competition, in categories that they are not judging;
- c. Judges may be provided with a special ribbon or other device to allow their easy identification during the competition;
- d. It is strongly suggested that judges are experienced as such, and are also active modellers, thus ensuring a good background knowledge of both current judging methods and also of the latest modelling techniques;

- e. Strict impartiality is expected at all times;
- f. Specially designated judging teams should monitor the competition area prior to judging to ensure models are in the proper categories for judging, that theme awards are understood and documented on the forms, and that all other rules respecting eligibility are adhered to;
- g. They may also move models to accomplish any “splits” required in the larger categories, and will inform the Chief Judge if this occurs; and
- h. Given the constant issues of handling models the handling of models should be limited only to judges, and then only for the purposes of moving models or when required for final triage between closely competitive models. Picking up models should be only be done with the utmost care and, whenever possible, with protective gloves. As an alternative, the use of dental mirrors for judging is recommended.

4.2 Judging. The following specific considerations should apply to the judging activity:

- a. Models will be judged for skill in construction, finish, realism (where applicable), scope of effort, and accuracy (where applicable). Additional criteria are considered for special categories such as dioramas, collections and conversions;
- b. Models are judged as three-dimensional objects and are examined in all aspects. Accordingly, and where necessary, entries will be handled carefully by judges both for proper table placement and for judging, as required;
- c. Models in the Contest Room may be covered by cases while on general public display, but such cases must be removed from models for judging. Judges will not remove cases from models unless the modeler has given explicit, written approval in advance. Models in cases will not be judged, with the following exception: in instances where removal of a case could cause damage, and in the judgment of the Head Judge the case would not impede effective judging, the case may be left on for judging. This arrangement must be made prior to judging and noted in writing on the entry form by the Head Judge. The Head Judge will have the final and exclusive authority to allow or deny this exemption; and
- d. No reference materials may be placed on the tables but should be available upon request. Building/modification information should be confined to the entry form. Photos of the model during construction are encouraged as they can better illustrate modifications better than text. However, such materials must not dominate competition table space, and may have to be limited as

space permits. If so, one photo album of in-build photographs (no larger than 4"x8" album size) is also permitted.

4.3 Model Composition. The use of plastic is encouraged. However, the use of other modelling materials is allowed as the builder sees fit. Judging standards of finish, attention to detail, and authenticity will be the same, regardless of the materials used. At the discretion of the Competition Committee, models using other predominant materials such as wood, photo-etch or paper may be entered. These models should be assigned to specific categories to ensure that they are competing against models of like construction. Pre-built models (e.g., Dragon, Corgi, Forces of Valour) are not allowed. Re-painted pre-built models may be allowed in separate categories at judge's discretion.

4.4 Scratchbuilt. These models may incorporate parts from other kits, but these should be generally unrelated to their original identity, except for minor parts such as wheels, guns, etc. Models determined to be scratchbuilt must be entered in the proper scratchbuilt category.

4.5 Conversion. Entries in this category (if open) must represent a version different from that provided by the basic kit. The conversion must contain significant structural modifications to the basic kit involving extensive changes in contour or configuration. In addition to the normal judging criteria common to the entire contest, judges of the Conversion Category will give special consideration to the complexity of the conversion. A conversion accomplished with primarily commercial aftermarket parts will be at a disadvantage, therefore, against a conversion accomplished primarily by the builder's craftsmanship - assuming both are finished to similar standards. Simple conversions may be entered in regular categories. More extensive conversions, however, should be entered in the appropriate conversion category. The builder must detail the conversion changes made to the base kit on the entry sheet or accompanying documentation. Judges have the ultimate authority to determine a model's category placement, and such decisions by judges will be final.

4.6 Figures. Entries will not be classified as dioramas by the inclusion of accessories supplied in the figure kit.

4.7 Markings. In aircraft and military vehicle Classes, markings will determine the category in which a model is entered. For example a C-47 in military markings would normally be placed in the Large Prop category, but if in airliner markings it would be placed in an Airliner category. A Shuttle, either by itself or attached with fuel tank and booster, goes in Real Spacecraft, while a Shuttle on the back of a NASA Boeing 747 goes in civil Aircraft.

4.8 Missiles. When the missile's transport vehicle or launcher is the predominant portion of the system (e.g., SCUD, Patriot), the model will be entered in the appropriate Armor category. Military launch vehicles (e.g., V-2, ICBM, IRBM), civilian launch vehicles (e.g., Scout, Saturn), and military launch vehicles modified for civil missions (e.g., Atlas/Agna, Jupiter C) will be entered in the Real Spacecraft category.

4.9 Jets. Jet Aircraft categories include manned or unmanned jet- or rocket-powered aircraft such as the Me-163, X-1, X-15, X-24, etc.

4.10 Bases/Dioramas. Bases will be allowed in all categories and will not be considered in the judging except in the Diorama classes. The use of display bases is encouraged to help in moving models. If used, there should be a note indicating whether the model is attached to the base or not, either separately by the contestant or as a check-box on the entry form. A base may be a piece of undecorated wood, plastic or glass or it may simulate the natural surface on which the prototype would be found. However, nothing other than that surface may be used. Aircraft and military vehicles may rest on simulated ground or paving, and aircraft that need beaching gear or dollies may be so equipped. Ships may be displayed in water. The base must not be the predominant feature of the entry and must be of a size proportionate to the model. The Chief Judge and judges reserve the right to exclude oversize bases. The model may include primary crew figures. The addition of any other figures or equipment outside or not attached to the model (e.g., support equipment, shell splashes, or buildings) will make the model a Diorama, which should then be entered in the proper Diorama category. However, if a contestant prefers to enter in a strictly aircraft category (i.e. non-diorama), then it must be clear that the accessories on the base will be ignored during judging. Dioramas are judged not only on the technical merit of their construction but also on the strength of the theme or story they present, so that if two dioramas were technically equal the one having the stronger theme or story would win. A previous national contest winner may be used as part of a diorama as long as it not the primary focus of the diorama.

4.11 Judging Criteria. The following criteria will be used to judge entries in the competition:

- a. Workmanship: Evaluation of how well a model is assembled and finished. Assembly criteria includes: parts fit, seam and joint treatment, parts alignment, removal of flash and rough finish, decal application, uniformity of gloss/matte finishes (unless, for example, an uneven finish is intended to represent a weathering effect such as a wet oil leak), unpainted parts, application of metal-skin or metallic finishes, and the detailing of internal and external features. Weathering should be considered in the context of workmanship, but the presence or absence of weathering should not necessarily be a determining factor.
- b. Construction Techniques: Evaluation for the modelling methods used to create an authentic and/or realistic subject. This criterion is particularly applicable to conversions and scratchbuilt models and in diorama constructions. "Credit" for hand lettering and custom marking is considered a construction technique.
- c. Authenticity and Accuracy: To the greatest extent possible within the constraints of the competition, the evaluation of the structural outlines and contours of a model, the colours, textures and patterns of its finish, and the

correctness of the model's markings. Kit corrections and "accurizing" are evaluated as part of this criterion. Note: While "historic" accuracy is an important part of the judging criteria, it is considered secondary to other criteria, and should only be considered when the judge's degree of knowledge is equally applicable to the models under consideration.

- d. Complexity: Evaluation for the inherent difficulty of assembly or finish determined by the intricacy of the subject being modelled, or the difficulty factor of the kit used.
- e. Weathering: Although there are several accepted methods and styles of weathering, the resulting appearance of the model and the context in which it was built are the key considerations, and not necessarily the manner in which that appearance was obtained.

SECTION 5 - SPECIAL CATEGORIES

5.1 Out of the Box (OOB). The following comments apply to the OOB categories:

- a. It is recommended that competitions include separate categories in selected classes for OOB entries. An exception to this rule is the Junior Class, where OOB awards will be selected from among the entries in the standard categories. Juniors must indicate on their entry form if they are entering their model as OOB;
- b. Models that meet the OOB criteria (outlined below) may be entered into the OOB categories, but they are not formally required to be there. Modellers may, therefore, choose to place their model in a standard category, where it will be judged against the other entries with no reference to it being OOB. It will not, in that case, be considered for an OOB award;
- c. The general OOB approach is to build what came in the kit. In some cases, however, this may result in an incomplete or inaccurate model. For this reason, the OOB requirements allow for some exemptions beyond what was strictly in the box. These include but are not limited to, for example, the addition of rigging wires, seatbelts and antennas on aircraft, antennas and closed sponsons for military vehicles, and rigging and deck railings on ships. Exemptions vary from Class to Class, but allow for commonly accepted construction techniques and standards while still maintaining the general OOB approach; and
- d. All possible exemptions cannot be pre-defined, so modellers who are unsure of whether their work falls under these representative exemptions are strongly encouraged to check prior to the judging with the respective Head Judge to avoid being disqualified in the OOB categories. In complex cases, the Head

Judge will initial the entry sheet to inform the judges of his decision and prevent subsequent errors or reinterpretations.

5.2 The following criteria are applied to OOB entries:

- a. Kits: Any commercially available kit may be used. Only parts that are included in the kit may be utilized, including resin and/or photoetch details, provided they are indicated in the kit's instructions;
- b. Finish. All finishing techniques are allowed. Weathering is permitted. Decals other than those included with the kit may be used. Insignia and markings may be hand-painted instead of decaled;
- c. Construction . The modeler may: fill seams and gaps; sand off rivets; drill out guns, gun ports, exhaust pipes or other appropriate openings; add rigging and antennae; thin to scale such parts as fenders, trailing edges, flaps, hatch covers and doors; restore lost detail (e.g. during filling and sanding) to match the original kit detail; and rescribe doors, hatches and panel lines;
- d. The following is not permitted:
 - (1) modifying the surface in any way (e.g., apply zimmerit);
 - (2) adding extra stowage,
 - (3) substituting parts from another kit,
 - (4) vacuforming, manufacturing or replacing any part,
 - (5) cutting or separating canopies, surfaces, hatches, doors, etc.,
 - (6) combining a standard kit with a conversion kit,
 - (7) using commercial details to restore lost detail, or
 - (8) adding anything other than what is specified on the instruction sheet.
- e. Instruction Sheets. Modellers must attach the kit instruction sheet to the entry form. Models entered without an attached kit instruction sheet will not be considered for an Out-of-the-Box award.

5.3 Humour. Models entered in the Humour category will be judged on both their humour content and the degree of modelling skill that they represent.

5.4 Collections. A collection is any group of five or more closely related items. Past contest winning models may be included as part of a collection, if they comprise no more

than 40 percent of the collection. The entire collection must be the work of one person. The closeness of the relationship within the collection is a significant factor in judging. For example, a collection based on variants of a single airframe is a tighter relationship than one of different aircraft operated by a unit. Models comprising a winning collection may subsequently be entered as individual entries if they were not, themselves, previous winners.

5.5 Group Entry. The Group entry is the only exception to the rule calling for the work to be done by a single individual. The intent is to provide a forum for displaying a project that is too extensive or complex for a single individual to complete in a reasonable time. It is also intended to provide a vehicle for an IPMS chapter or a group of IPMS members to exhibit a project that may have been prepared for an event or display other than the competition. Subject matter, time frame, scale, location, etc. are open. Models comprising a winning chapter/group entry may subsequently be entered individually if they were not, themselves, previous winners.

5.6 Display Only. Where space and finances permit, conventions are encouraged to add a “Display Only” category. This should be open to any model by any registered entrant, regardless of its having won or not at a previous convention. No awards will be given in this class, nor will it be judged. It will serve to exhibit the full range of work accomplished by IPMS modellers. Space restraints could limit or eliminate this option, which should not impinge on the space required for a full and safe contest.

SECTION 6 - AWARDS

6.1 No awards associated with placement in the competition will have any intrinsic monetary value beyond the cost of their materials and production. This does not preclude, for example, the donation of kits or other modelling items by a sponsor for awards as designated by the Competition Committee.

6.2 First, second, and third place awards will be given in each category. Individual contestants are eligible for more than one award in each category, up to the maximum of three. Accordingly, it is possible that one contestant may win all three prizes in that category (this is colloquially known as a “sweep.”) At least two entries in a category are required in order for the category to be judged. If only two entries are present, they would compete for the first and second prizes in that category. Ties may be allowed at the judges’ discretion.

6.3 Additional theme awards (“Specials”) may be presented at the discretion of the host chapter. The host chapter is encouraged to make use of incentive awards or other non-trophy items as it sees fit, to develop and encourage participation in the junior categories. It is the modeller’s responsibility to identify eligibility for any special or theme awards as indicated on the model forms. Models that are not identified as such by the builder prior to judging will not be considered for those special or theme awards.

6.4 Besides the Judges Grand Award and Popular Best of Show, "Best" awards will also be presented for each class in the contest and are listed below. The "Best" entries in each class will be determined by a vote of the judges assigned to that class, led by the Class Head Judge. The Judges Grand Award will be chosen from among the Class Bests by vote of the Class Head Judges, led by the Chief Judge. Models entered in senior categories by junior members are not eligible for special junior awards. The Judges Grand Award will be the final award presented at the Awards Ceremony.

SECTION 7 - DEFINITIONS

7.1 **AFV (Armoured Fighting Vehicle):** A wheeled or tracked fighting vehicles with armour plate to protect its crew. AFVs may be subdivided into "Closed Top" vehicles (a fully enclosed turret such as a Leopard II) and "Open Top" vehicles (a partially enclosed turret such as an M10 tank destroyer).

7.2 **Collections:** Defined as five or more models with a single theme. Past contest winning models may be included as part of a collection, if they comprise no more than 40% of the collection. The entire collection must be the work of one person.

7.3 **Conversion:** Any model that represents a version different from that provided by the basic kit. A "MAJOR" conversion should contain complex structural modifications to the basic kit involving extensive changes in contour or configuration. A "MINOR" conversion should contain simple structural modifications to the basic kit. Conversions may or may not include the use of commercially-available conversion items, at the discretion of the Competition Committee and the Chief Judge.

7.4 **Dioramas:** One or more models with associated buildings, accessories, or figures which form a complete design and story. Figure dioramas are defined as 6 or more single figures, which form a complete design.

7.5 **Modified Die-Cast:** Any die-cast cars/vehicles that are customized with added detail, revised paint schemes, modifications, etc.

7.6 **Presentation:** An evaluation of the techniques used in displaying a model, collections or dioramas. Considerations are bases, backgrounds, context, titles and labelling, etc.

7.7 **Realism:** An evaluation of how realistic a diorama appears. Considerations are unity, colour and shading, scale and perspective, texture and animation.

7.8 **Scope of Effort:** Evaluation for the total amount of work required, (e.g. a major conversion would "score" higher than a minor conversion).

7.9 **Scratch-Built:** A model that predominantly incorporates parts from other kits, but these parts should be generally unrelated to their original identity, except for minor parts such as wheels, guns, etc. Parts may also be made from suitable primary materials such as

plastic, wood, resin, metal, or epoxy. In order to be defined as “scratch-built”, a model must be comprised of such parts, including the majority of the main structure (aircraft fuselage, tank hull etc.). Models determined to be scratch-built must be entered in the proper scratch built category.

7.10 Substantial Interiors Category: This category is for those armour models with a “substantial” amount of interior detailing. “Substantial” means the extent of the interior that is detailed, and the complexity of the interior detailing. Models with interior detailing may be entered in the regular categories, but will not have their interior detailing advantageously weighed during judging.

7.11 Theme: An evaluation of the story, plot or situation being portrayed. Considerations are human interest and historical accuracy.

7.12 Turret Category: A model that represents a “Gun Turret” as the main subject. Note that turrets that are a smaller portion of another larger structure (e.g., tank hull, ship) are not eligible. While there will only be one “Turret” category that is listed within the armour categories, turreted models from other subjects such as aircraft or ships, are also eligible for entry in this category.

7.13 Vignette: Defined as between 2 to 5 single figures and no more than one piece of equipment which form a complete design and story.

Gary Barling
IPMS Canada C-0014
Chapter and Member Liaison
June 27, 2011