



INJA Policies

Below is a **fully cleaned, standardized, and competitor-facing version** of your Competition Policies document. The language has been formalized, errors corrected, and structure clarified, while preserving INJA's authority, intent, and governance framework. This version is suitable for direct posting on the website.

INJA Competition Policies

Competitor Rights, Responsibilities, and Governance

These policies are published to ensure all competitors clearly understand their rights, the responsibilities of judges and organizers, and the systems in place to protect the integrity of INJA-sanctioned competitions.

Code of Conduct

INJA follows a strict Code of Conduct that all members, judges, organizers, and affiliated professionals must abide by at all times. Every member formally agrees to this policy and is expected to uphold it with honor and professionalism.

The Code of Conduct exists to protect everyone involved in the competition process, including competitors, judges, organizers, and the public. Maintaining these standards is essential to preserving the reputation, credibility, and integrity of the industry as a whole.

Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct will result in removal from the association in order to protect its members and the competitive process. Examples of conduct that may lead to formal disciplinary action or expulsion include, but are not limited to:

- Lying about other members
- Making false or defamatory accusations publicly
- Deliberate acts intended to harm another individual
- Deception or conspiracy to deceive
- Cheating in any form

Human error is recognized and may be forgiven. However, deliberate misconduct—regardless of who is involved—is not tolerated. Any serious violation will be formally reviewed by INJA's Honorable Judge Council (HJC) and may result in expulsion.

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Competition Results and Errors

As with all competitive events, errors in results can occur. Show organizers and judges make every effort to prevent mistakes; however, human error is sometimes unavoidable.

When an error is brought to attention, it is INJA policy to investigate promptly, correct the mistake, and ensure that the correct winners receive their well-earned trophies and recognition. INJA continually implements new policies and procedures to improve accuracy and ensure the most reliable results possible.

Honorable Judge Council (HJC) Responsibilities

INJA is governed by the Honorable Judge Council (HJC), which makes decisions on behalf of the association. The Council addresses issues arising from competitions worldwide.

To ensure fairness and eliminate bias:

- Council members from outside the country where an issue occurred will review and decide the matter
- Council members from the same country as the event are not permitted to participate in decision-making for that issue

If a request or concern is submitted from outside the association, the Council will collectively determine whether the issue warrants further investigation.

Example:

In a recent case requiring review, all HJC members were presented with the same information, including identical documentation and images. Each member independently reviewed the materials, and the Council reached a unanimous conclusion.

Advice to Competitors

Judges are encouraged to offer general advice and guidance to competitors when appropriate. However, judges are not responsible for rule interpretation or compliance.

It is the sole responsibility of the competitor to ensure they understand and follow the rules provided directly by the competition organizers. INJA has implemented improved systems to help prevent competitors from registering in incorrect divisions.

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Competition Responsibilities and Duties

The success of an INJA-sanctioned competition relies on three organizational branches:

1. Expo Organizer

Responsible for ensuring the competition arena is properly prepared, including:

- Electrical supply
- Tables and chairs
- Judging booths and physical setup

2. Competition Organizer

Responsible for all administrative and logistical operations, including:

- Competitor registration and communication
- Website management
- On-site registration
- Score entry and data management
- Trophies and certificates
- Control and distribution of score sheets
- Posting official results
- Correcting administrative or scoring errors

3. INJA Judge Association

Responsible for overseeing all judging operations. The Supervising Judge ensures:

- Proper arena management
- Accurate scoring procedures
- Verification of score sheets by assigned judges

The Head Judge and Director do **not** have possession of score sheets. All judges are qualified to perform all judging duties and may assume additional responsibilities if a judge becomes unavailable. Every judge takes an oath to uphold the INJA Code of Conduct.

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Head Judge Duties

The Head Judge holds significant responsibility and authority to ensure fair and efficient competition operations. Under the General Rules, the Head Judge is empowered to make decisions in situations not explicitly covered by written rules.

Relevant General Rules include:

Rule 4:

Universal and common-sense standards apply to matters not specifically addressed in INJA rules.

Rule 47:

In the event of a tie or dispute affecting placements from first through tenth place, the Head Judge will make the final determination.

Rule 48:

The Head Judge's decision is final.

Additional responsibilities include:

- Disqualification decisions when warranted
- Verification of correct score entry into the scoring system
- Assignment of duties to all judges

Competitor Rights

Competitors are encouraged to carefully read and understand all general rules to avoid confusion. Key rights include:

Rule 50:

If a competition has only four competitors, only a first-place trophy will be awarded.

Rule 51:

A competition must have a minimum of three competitors. If fewer than three are registered, the competitor may:

- Move to the next higher division, or
- Withdraw and receive a refund of competition fees

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Disputes and Complaints

Competitors who feel they have been treated unfairly may submit a formal complaint to the competition organizers or directly to the INJA Director. All disputes are reviewed by the HJC, which will address and correct any wrongdoing to the best of its ability.

If a competitor believes an arena judge is acting unfairly, they may request intervention from the Head Arena Judge. If there is strong evidence of cheating by a judge or competitor, the issue should be reported immediately to the Head Judge.

Teams Supported by Judges

Judges are permitted to bring teams to compete, provided full disclosure is made regarding:

- Team members
- Competitions entered

The Head Judge will restrict team-leading judges to scoring criteria that do not involve artistic evaluation. Arena judges must not communicate with or be physically near their team during competition.

Judges Who Compete

INJA has hundreds of certified judges worldwide. Members are permitted to compete; however, any judge who chooses to compete may not judge during that event. Competing judges receive no special privileges and are treated the same as all other competitors.

If you would like, I can next:

- Convert this into a **shortened public website version**
- Create a **competitor FAQ**
- Align this language exactly with your **Judge Code of Conduct**
- Format it into a **policy manual or downloadable PDF**

Just tell me how you want to use it.