

NJHMA Expo Judging Rules and SOP's

Overview:

In the past NJHMA has operated with an open judging system, like many other figure shows. As this form of model competition has become more popular, it has become necessary to review the procedures of the NJHMA competition. This is to ensure that it is fair and to give a framework in which the judges can operate.

Judging Teams:

Judging teams should be made of three members, with a senior judge as a team captain. It is the team captain's job to keep the group focused, average scores, fill out and review all paperwork. It is also the team captain's job to return all score sheets to the chief judge upon completion of the category.

Judging team members, under the direction of the team captain, are responsible for judging all entries in a given category (or category section) and giving impartial, constructive scores and making constructive comments. Judges should have some modeling experience, although one member of a team can be a freshman in order to learn the skills necessary to become a full-fledge judge.

Categories:

- I. Models
 - a. Air
 - i. Military
 - ii. Non-Military
 - b. Land
 - i. Military
 - ii. Non-Military
 - c. Sea
 - i. Military
 - ii. Non-Military
 - d. Science Fiction
 - i. Military
 - ii. Non-Military
 - e. Miscellaneous
- II. Figures
 - a. Painters
 - b. Open
- III. Dioramas
 - a. Overall Displays (all subjects)
 - b. Open
- IV. Toys Soldiers
- V. Juniors (has not reached driving age)

Depending on the number of entries in a category, it may be necessary to "split" a category for administrative and/or judging purposes.

Judging Criteria:

	Models	Figures	Dioramas	Toy Soldiers
Group	Point Value	Point Value	Point Value	Point Value
Construction	3	2	2.5	0
Paint & Finish	3	4	2.5	2
Composition	3	3	4	7
Risk	1	1	1	1

Point Breakdown:

Construction

3 Points (Perfect Construction)

- No seams
- No gaps
- No sink marks/ knockout marks
- No glue marks
- No flash
- All parts properly aligned

2 Points (minor issues)

- Entry looks good from a distance

1 Point (significant issues)

Paint & Finish

3 Points (Perfect Finish)

- Smooth finish (no globs)
- Smooth gradation of paint from highlights to lowlights
- Coherent weathering
- No brush marks
- No silvering of markings

2 Points (minor issues)

- Entry looks good from a distance

1 Point (significant issues)

Composition

3 Points (Perfect)

- Balance
- Focused center of interest
- Artist did their homework
- Research is evident
- Reality has been taken into account
 - Equipment/gear properly secured
 - Gravity taken into account (items have “weight”)

2 Points (minor issues)

- Entry looks good from a distance

1 Point (significant issues)

Risk

1 Point

- The artist did something creative and original and carried it off

0.5 Points

- The artist did something creative and original and was not totally successful

0 Points

- The artist did not do something creative and original (followed instructions)

Scoring:

All Categories (except Juniors)		
Medal	Score	
	Low	High
Gold	9.0	10.0
Silver	8.0	8.99
Bronze	7.0	7.99

Juniors		
Medal	Score	
	Low	High
Gold	8.5	10.0
Silver	7.0	8.49
Bronze	5.5	6.99

Scoring is obtained by taking the average of the three judge's scores. This is not a lovefest, this to recognize outstanding work and reward creativity. The medals lose all value if they are given to entries that do not merit them. Since this an "open" judging system, there is no limit to the number of awards that can be given out.

Comments:

This section is probably the most important from the artist's standpoint. It allows for feedback from the judges to the artist. Here it is crucial for the comments to reflect the score. For example, an average score of 6.5 and comments "great model" are incongruous and do not help the artist. Conversely, an average score of 8.5 and comment "left arm of figure misaligned" is constructive. Also, unless the entry is truly outstanding, "Great Job!" is useless. Under no circumstances should phrases like "this sucks" EVER appear on a judge's comments. Remember, as judges you are representing NJHMA as an organization (even if you are not a member) and all discretion should be taken to appear as impartial and fair as possible.