

Contest Rules

General

- By submitting a model entry for competition at any Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo (SOSME), Contest or Event, the Entrant agrees to abide by all Southwestern Model Expo Rules, Regulations and Guidelines and those of the hosting Facility.
- The Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo show committee assumes no responsibility for the transportation, handling, entry, loss, damage or storage after the show of any model.
- Any modeller who deliberately or intentionally omits, falsifies or misrepresents any information on the Entry Forms will be subject to disqualification. This includes but is not limited to names, materials used, kit used or kit descriptions.
- Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo contest judging is done per the IPMS Canada's "Recommended Chapter Contest Rules" with any deviations noted within this document.
- Any entry (Model or Base) or display deemed to pose a potential or actual threat of damage or injury to other entries, the public or the hosting facility may be removed at the Chief Judge's discretion.

Eligibility

- Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo is a contest for plastic-based scale models and is open to everyone; membership in an IPMS chapter or other national body is not required to enter a model into the competition.
- All entries must be the sole work of the person whose legally recognized name is on the corresponding Entry Form. Entries with fake or inappropriate names may be removed from the competition and may not be judged and/or awarded prizes.
- Entries without the correct Validation Stamps will not be considered in the Judging.
- The Entrant's full and proper name must appear on each corresponding Entry Form and Entrant Information Sheet.
- A non-Junior entrant (over 16 years of age) must be present to enter their model into a competition; no one else may enter a model on their behalf. However, regarding Junior entrants (16 years of age or younger on the event date), a parent/guardian may enter a model into a Junior Division category on behalf of their child who built the model if that child cannot attend the event.
- An entry must be entered in the proper category, or it may not be judged. Entrants should check with contest Registrars, Head Judge, or Section Judges if advice is needed for selecting the appropriate category.
- Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo reserves the right to limit the number of entries per Entrant.
- Each entry may be entered in only one (1) category, and the entry shall be eligible for all applicable special/theme awards. (For example, an aircraft model can be entered in one aircraft category, but it will not be considered part of a separate Collection, Diorama, or Vignette entry.)
- Persons planning to submit **oversized entries** (or entries requiring special support such as AC power) must notify the Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo Executive Committee at least two (2) months before the event, as we require time to pre-plan to accommodate such entries. Failure to provide advance notification for such entries may result in those entries being placed apart from the general display area or not having adequate special support.
- Persons planning to submit a **large number of entries in a single category** – which could reasonably be considered to overwhelm table space availability for the category – must notify the Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo Executive Committee at least one (1) month before the event.

Prohibited Entries

- 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 of the community and/or the host facility. The following are examples of entries prohibited in competition or on display at any IPMS Canada or IPMS Canada Chapter event:
 - There shall be no graphic depiction of any human being or animal excretory functions.
 - There shall be no depiction of sadomasochistic activity, equipment, settings or situations, to any degree, regardless of whether there are figures in the model and whether any figures present in the model are clothed.
 - 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
 - There shall be no depiction of any nude human male or female figures where the genitalia of the figure are exposed.
 - There shall be no entry depicting the overt sexualization of any subject, regardless of gender.
- The Chief Judge will exclude/remove from competition any entry considered by Contest Officials to not emphasize scale accuracy or fidelity. The following are examples of entries prohibited in competition or on display at any IPMS London or Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo event:
 - Flying models (any material or power source)
 - Radio Control (RC) aircraft, armour, auto, or ship
 - Models constructed of materials or by methods that do not present an accurate 3-dimensional representation of the subject. (LEGO®-based models, Foam core/board, Balsawood, etc.).
The sole exception is metal figures entered into the Figures division.
- Entries that have placed or won prizes/awards in any previous Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo event.
- Group-built (2 or more modellers collaborating on a single entry) models are Not Eligible.
- Incomplete or partially completed models.
- Commercially built or commercially pre-finished models that do not require significant additional work by the modeller (for example, Tamiya Masterwork models)
- Re-finished models (for example, refinished die-cast metal models)

Special Entry Considerations

- **3D Printed Models**
 - Models with 3D-printed components may be entered into any category.
 - A model with two or more separate 3D-printed component parts combined may be entered into standard categories (except in the Newcomer Division); such a model is considered equivalent to a cast-resin model. A figure which is a single 3D-printed item may be entered into the Figures division.
- **Scratch-built categories:**
 - Fully 3D-printed models may be entered into Scratch built categories only if the entire 3D-printed model was entirely and solely designed, printed, and assembled by the Entrant (Chief Judge may request proof).
3D models downloaded from public sites (for example, Shapeways, Thingiverse, etc.) and then have their designs tweaked are not eligible for entry into Scratch-built categories.

Model Show Display Guidelines

- **General**
 - Individual category areas will be marked on tables with signage. **Entries must be placed into their correct category areas** to be considered for judging. Each Entry Form must be placed adjacent to its corresponding entry, not beneath it, to allow the judges to view or take the Entry Form without touching the model.
- **Size Limitations:**
 - No one entrant's (Person entering) total entries may exceed ½ of a display table in area. This includes collections, large subjects and displays.
- **Bases**
 - Bases will be allowed in all categories; however, the bases **will not be considered** in the judging except in the Dioramas & Vignettes division. The base must not be the predominant feature of the entry and must be of a size proportionate to the model. The model may include primary crew figures (maximum 2). Adding any other figures or equipment outside or not attached to the model (e.g., support equipment, service platforms, or buildings) will make the model a Diorama, which must be entered into the proper Diorama category. The Chief Judge reserves the right to exclude oversize or elaborate bases.
- **Diorama – Vignettes**
 - Dioramas and Vignettes are judged not only on the technical merit of their construction (vehicles, figures, and Groundwork will be initially judged based on the standard IPMS Criteria) but also on the strength of the theme or story they present. Therefore, a previous regular contest category winner may be used as part of a diorama as long as it is not the primary focus of the diorama. Entries with no more than five (5) figures and/or a single vehicle subject will be placed into the Vignette category. Entries with two or more vehicles and/or more than five figures or have been determined by the Chief Judge to be an elaborate Base, will be placed into the Diorama categories.
- **Models Under Glass:**
 - The Modeler may display their entry under a protective glass or cover before and after judging. Models will not be judged unless the glass or cover has been removed. It is up to the entrant to monitor the schedule and announcements and remove the covering before Judging. Judges will not remove coverings.
 - 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 before 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.
 - "Shadow Box" Dioramas are exempt from this rule.
- **Splits:**
- Judges may, at their discretion, combine or split categories as required before judging. The Chief Judge must approve splits or combining.
- **Figures**
 - Each separately entered figure must be placed into its own separate, corresponding category area.
 - Figures of different categories may not be combined into a single display (for example, a multi-level display).
 - A single, separate Entry Form must accompany each figure and be placed adjacent to the figure (not beneath it). Multiple Entry Forms must not be combined together.
- Persons planning to submit oversized entries (or entries requiring special support such as AC power) must notify the Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo Executive Committee at least two (2) months before the event, as we require time to pre-plan to accommodate such entries. Failure to provide advance notification for such entries may result in those entries being placed apart from the general display area or not having adequate special support.

- Persons planning to submit a large number of entries in a single category – which could reasonably be considered to overwhelm table space availability for the category – must notify the Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo Executive Committee at least one (1) month before the event.
- Exhibitors must leave their entries in the Model Room until the Awards Ceremony ends and the attendees have had maximum viewing opportunity. Entry Forms **MUST** be left in the Model Room for our record-keeping purposes

Contest Judging

- **General**
 - 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
 - Models are judged as three-dimensional objects and are examined in all aspects. Models will not be touched unless, when necessary and deemed so by Chief Judge or by a Head Judge, entries may be handled carefully by judges both for proper table placement and for judging, as required. If the model is not on a base, gloves will be worn.
 - 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
- **Judging Criteria**
- The following criteria will be used to judge entries in the competition:
 - **Workmanship:** Evaluation of how well a model is assembled and finished. Assembly criteria include: parts fit, seam and joint treatment, parts alignment, removal of flash and rough finish, decal application, and 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.
 - **Construction Techniques:** Evaluation of the modelling methods used to create an authentic and/or realistic subject. This criterion particularly applies to conversions, scratch-built models, and diorama constructions. "Credit" for hand lettering and custom marking is considered a construction technique.
 - **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 "historical" accuracy is an integral 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. The accuracy of an entry is important, but **accuracy cannot be checked during the competition**; unless an entry is very obviously inaccurate in markings or construction, it will be assumed to be accurate.
 - **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.
- **Reasons Entry May Not be Judged**
- An entry may not be judged for any of the reasons listed below, subject to the discretion of Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo and/or event judges. (There may be reasons other than those listed below.)
 - The entry is in the incorrect category.
 - The entry is considered inappropriate or offensive to generally acknowledged standards of taste and acceptability. For more information, see the "Rules of Decency" section.

- Failure to adhere to the display guidelines, particularly for Figures.
 - Failure to remove cases covering entries before judging.
 - An entry will not be considered for Theme Awards or Special Awards if those awards are not explicitly selected on the associated Entry Form.
 - If anyone interferes with the judging process or attempts to sway the outcome of judging in any manner.
 - The Entry Form is found to contain improper or inappropriate information, such as misrepresenting the proper name of the Entrant or the actual builder of the entry
- **Judges**
 - **Chief Judge** will be selected by the Show Executive Committee. They will be responsible for the following:
 - The selection of Head Judges and Judges,
 - The briefing of all judges on the methods and criteria of judging before the contest judging begins,
 - Approving any “splitting” of larger categories,
 - Being the final arbiter of any area of concern within the judging activity, and
 - (Any other aspect of the judging activity as assigned by the Competition Committee.
 - **Head Judges** will be selected by the Chief Judge. They will be responsible for:
 - The judging of categories as assigned by the Chief Judge,
 - Bringing the requirement for category splitting to the attention of the Chief Judge as soon as possible for his approval,
 - Implementing any approved category split,
 - Being prepared to assist the Chief Judge and other Head Judges in any aspect of the judging activity.
 - **Judges** will be selected by the Chief Judge. They will be responsible for:
 - The judging of assigned categories with a Head Judge, as assigned by the Chief Judge, and
 - Being prepared to assist Head Judges and the Chief Judge in any aspect of the judging activity
 - **Judging Teams.**
 - Each judging team will consist of a Head Judge and at least one other judge, and preferably two others (if the numbers of judges allow) to avoid a tie in judging.
 - **Judge Eligibility**
 - All participants may volunteer to be judges, except for anyone actively vending at the event.
 - All judges must attend the Head Judge's briefing.
 - Head Judge and Section Judges are responsible for assembling the judging teams.
 - A judge may not judge a category in which they have an entry or if they have intimate knowledge of a model entered into the category.
 - Strict impartiality in judging must be observed; violators will be removed from the judging process.
 - **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.

Awards

- Category sweeps are allowed.
- It is the responsibility of the Entrant to indicate on the Entry Form which Theme Awards and/or Special Awards the entry should be considered for. If awards are not selected on the Entry Form, the entry will not be considered for those awards.

- Each entry will automatically be considered for appropriate and corresponding "Best of" summary awards. (For example, all aircraft category winners will be considered for the "Best Aircraft" summary award.)
- Entrants are responsible for claiming all prizes/awards won by their entries. Suppose an Entrant knows that s/he must depart the event before the Awards Ceremony. In that case, the Entrant is responsible for informing members of the Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo Executive Committee beforehand and arranging for someone to accept prizes/awards on their behalf. Suppose a suitable person cannot be found to accept prizes/awards. In that case, the departing Entrant is responsible for making arrangements with the Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo Executive Committee (before their departure) to have the awards delivered (at the Entrant's expense).
- Entrants are responsible for claiming all their model entries by the end of the event. The event organizers are not responsible for any items or entries left behind by entrants. Suppose any entries are left behind at the event. In that case, the Entrants of the left entries are responsible for contacting the Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo Executive Committee to inquire about the left entries. If any left entries are picked up by the Southwestern Ontario Scale Model Expo Executive Committee, those persons DO NOT assume any responsibility for the safe transport or storage of the left entries, nor do they take any responsibility for any damage to the left entries while in their possession. The Entrant who left the entry is responsible for arranging the return of the entry to them; if any costs are incurred in the return of a left entry, the Entrant is responsible for paying for those costs.

Silent Auction

- Persons who win Silent Auction items must pay for & collect their won items in person.
- Payment for items won in the Silent Auction must be made in cash only. No other forms of payment (cheque, credit card, debit card, etc.) will be accepted.
- A person who makes a winning bid on a Silent Auction item is responsible for paying the entire winning bid.
- Failure to fully pay a winning bid will result in the person forfeiting their won item. If a person has winning bids on multiple items, failure to pay the full total amount of all winning bids will result in the person forfeiting all won items.
- Silent Auction items that are unclaimed — by non-payment by the winner or other circumstance — will not be awarded/offered to the 2nd highest bidder, nor any other bidders.

Definitions

- **Collections:** Defined as five or more models with a single theme. Past contest-winning models may be included in a collection if they comprise no more than 40% of the collection. The entire collection must be the work of one person.
- **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 using commercially-available conversion items at the discretion of the Competition Committee and the Chief Judge.
- **Dioramas:** One or more models with associated buildings, accessories, or figures which form a complete design and story. Figure dioramas are defined as six or more single figures which form a complete design.
- **Ordnance:** Towed Artillery, with or without a prime mover, Portees, Rocket Launchers, a Tank transporter/trailer, with or without a load vehicle, etc. Any combination of two or three vehicles must be attached to each other by a means designed specifically for such purpose. If not attached,
- entry will be moved to the appropriate Diorama category.
- **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. 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.

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