

# Best in Show Competition Rules

In their simplest form the rules are short; everyone gets one entry.

Of course, it's slightly more complicated than that, but only slightly. There will be four categories. Each category will not compete head to head with the other categories. Each competitor will be able to enter all four categories, but only once (i.e. you can't be a part of two separate group entries in a single category). All judging will be first to worst. Lowest average ranking from the judges will win the category.

The categories are single items entered by individuals, single items entered by groups, unlimited items entered by individuals and unlimited items entered by groups.

We do encourage entrants to, for instance, serve the meal or model the garb being judged. However, the entrant him or herself does not have to be the one doing the serving or modeling. If an individual entering enlists the help of others in the presentation, the entry is still that of an individual unless those helping are being judged on their performance.

In the single item categories, each entrant is allowed one item. It can be anything from a belt favor to an entrée, a weapon to a tunic. The basic guideline is that multiple items, for instance a knife and sheath, that would normally be one entry in a traditional cultural tourney would still be considered one item. Obviously, anything that would have to be entered into multiple traditional categories would not be eligible. The autocrat is the ultimate arbiter of what is considered a single item. Any entries judged not to be single items will be reclassified to the appropriate unlimited category.

Judgment of these categories will be based on:

Excellence of the workmanship	50%
Aesthetic impact	50%

Individual judges will be instructed to weight their scores on this basis but will only publish an ordinal ranking for each item.

The unlimited categories will allow any person

or group of persons to submit as many items in as many traditional categories as they like, provided they are unified by a single theme. Simple examples of this would be a meal presented in its entirety, the garb for a juggling team, a group of songs or performances with a unifying theme, a photo essay or portfolio of artwork, or a collection of essays and stories. However, since these entries are not limited to single categories or genres, more ranking weight would be given to entries such as an entire meal in which the ceramic dishes were created by the entrant, a juggling team's uniforms and complete set of weapons, a photo essay or art portfolio accompanied by supporting documentation and essays, or a performance of songs and skits for which the costumes were made specifically. This summary of entries is by no means a complete list. In fact, one of the reasons to hold such a contest is to see the very creative ways in which our artisans can group what would normally be separate.

Judgment of these categories will be based on:

Excellence of the workmanship	35%
Aesthetic impact	35%
Variety and diversity of media	20%
Unity and cohesion of the entry	10%

Individual judges will be instructed to weight their scores on this basis but will only publish a ranking for each item.

Each of the four categories will produce a winner. If a category does not draw at least three entries, it will be eliminated. Entries that would have been judged in that category will be added to the judging of the other division in its category. So, if there are only two unlimited group entries, they would be added to the unlimited individual entries, and all will be judged together.

There will also be a "Best in Show" winner. That entry, regardless of category, will be the entry the judges found to be the best thing they'd seen that day. It will be entirely at their discretion and will be a consensus decision.