

Competition Rules & Judging Guidelines Changes for 2011-12

No new rules this year, just clarifications in certain categories.

-All Scores must be between 4 and 10 points.

-Under Rules of Competition

Revised/Clarified November 2010

- **Rule 10 Helper Rule: Care and organization of tools, this includes handing, fixing and prepping tools for the carver.**
- **Rule 20 Aluminum Rule: Helpers may touch the ice or the aluminum to help the carver create a fuse.**

- NICA Judging Criteria Addendum for Crashed or Incomplete Sculptures:

Passed: June 24, 2009

We all have had difficult carving days in the past and will have them again; when sculptures are very likely to crash or be incomplete before judging. A crashed or incomplete sculpture cannot be judged in the same manner as a finished piece and therefore should not be assigned a score comparable to those of a finished sculpture. New guidelines:

1. That any level crashed or incomplete sculpture not score higher than a 64. It is not a finished piece--- why should it even receive honorable mention or medal if the carver did not “pull it off”
2. That a crashed sculpture with nothing left to show receive a 44.
3. That a crashed or very incomplete* sculpture with some elements remaining receive no higher than a 54.
4. That a crashed or incomplete** sculpture with most elements remaining but an integral arm or leg missing receive no higher than a 64.

*** Very Incomplete: Missing main parts of a sculpture, I.E. A head (animal or human), large portions of a body or pieces pertaining to a story line or scene. Use your discretion.**

**** Incomplete: Missing a accessory parts of a sculpture, legs, fingers, toes, any welds that have broken off and have not been repaired or reworked to complete or fix the final sculpture.**

Any carver that worked hard to get a piece up that failed in the end should not receive a zero as if they hadn't carved at all but neither should they receive a medal because they didn't succeed on that particular day. Asking a judge to judge all elements of a crashed or incomplete piece fairly is nearly impossible and asking a carver who just worked solidly for 4-5 hours in difficult conditions to accept a zero is also completely unfair.

This addendum in no way suggests that a judge can use one of the above lower scores if the sculptor had a crash during the process but recovered. In other words it would be improper for a judge to say, “well, I saw you crash 2 hours in and therefore I'm only going to give you a maximum of a 64”. With this in mind it is imperative that the judge, judge the finished piece. And it is also imperative that if a sculptor has a crash and wants to get into medal scoring level they must recover. Case in point, if a sculptor carves a bee and two of six legs fall off the carver has a couple of recovery choices---a) fix the legs and weld them back on, b) or finish the area without legs in another manner—i.e. hide them in the flower the bee is sitting on or provide another effect that justifies having only 4 of 6 legs. A recovered

piece is not necessarily a crashed or incomplete piece. There will still be some gray area a lead judge may have to address to decide whether a crash has been recovered or is still considered incomplete.

The ten point rule or swing, stating that all scores must be within ten points of each other does not apply for scoring crashed or incomplete sculptures. For example if two members of the judging team judge the sculpture before it crashes, and the sculpture crashes before the last judge is able to score it, then all scores stand and are added up.

- Category 1 - Judging Order Changes

Passed September 1, 2009

- All judges are assigned a separate carving site to start judging at. This will be assigned by the lead judge.
- This eliminates requiring or suggesting that all judges go around and judge "First Impression" at each sculpture site as a group or individually.
- This aims to keep the judging panel as independent as possible and gives every carver fair judgement order.

-Category 6- Structural Technique

Revised/Clarified November 2010

This description has been amended to be used for any number of blocks in a small block competition. The use of structural skills can give the sculpture a shape or size that is not restricted by the original size or shape of the ice block. Cutting into multiple pieces for reassembly can greatly increase the size, complexity, difficulty, and dramatic impact, but must be done well to minimize the effects of seams, or joints. Seams should be located to fit the design, and should be necessary to the benefit of the design, and should fit tightly and smoothly, without gaps or excessive fillers. Structural techniques should be planned to utilize gravity, balance, and the natural strength of ice, which may give the illusions of motion, defying gravity, or other effects.

Top quality seams will be nearly invisible and will not detract from the natural appearance of the design subject. Vertical seams that support considerable weight are considerably more difficult to execute than horizontal gravity support seams and may be worthy of a higher score if done properly.

As a rule of thumb a less visible seam is a higher quality seam because it is less able to detract from the design. Design elements such as natural divisions such as a belt line between torso and legs or by a wrist between sleeve and hand or between two geometric figures such as a sphere and a pyramid might be an excellent place to place a seam since the visible gap follows the design, while a seam in the middle of a torso sphere might detract from the look of the finished sculpture. Also, placement of seams can sometimes be "hidden" by the placement of appropriate garnish and while not a popular approach in more recent technique, notch seams are allowed but may not be preferable because they provide such a visible seam often with poor fitting and excessive slush filler.

A score of 6 or less would be given for sculptures with one horizontal seam per block that have a poor fit with excessive air pockets or slush filler. Or do not include any structural reassembly, but are simply carved within the original confines of the blocks.

A score in the 7's would be given for sculptures with one or more simple horizontal seams per block that are seamed with slight air gaps or are located in such a way as to detract from the design. Or no structural seams but having delicately carved interior structures, and/or hanging or suspended features.

A score in the 8's would be given to sculptures with 2 or more seams per block used. These seams should be complex, or non-horizontal, or nearly invisible ("Non-horizontal" may be any angle but horizontal) and are located in such a way as to detract slightly from the design.

A score in the 9's would be given to sculptures with 2 or more seams per block used. These seams should be complex, or non-horizontal, or nearly invisible ("Non-horizontal" may be any angle but horizontal) and capable of supporting considerable weight in relation to their size, and are located to blend well with the design.

So a single block sculpture would need 2 seams while a 2 block sculpture would need 4 seams, a 3 block sculpture 6 seams and so on and so forth. So a for a 2 block sculpture to score in the 8's the sculpture would at least 4 complex, non-horizontal or nearly invisible seams that may detract from the design slightly because of their placement or because they were not appropriately "hidden" by the design or garnish.

In the case of canned ice being used for a competition the placement of ice cores can also detract from the design and though sometimes their placement is unavoidable, strategic placement of a core can bode well in this category. If a core could have been placed to the benefit of the design but was not, a judge may deduct up to half a point for the entire category score.

If an integral seam breaks and the sculpture is not adjusted to avoid this issue other categories such as First Impression, Technical Skill, and Artistic Impression and this category will be adversely affected and may cause the sculpture to fall under guideline 11.