

## ModelFiesta 43 Contest Rules

### ***Special Note to all Contestants and Attendees.***

Please note that in ModelFiesta 43 Alamo Squadron is transitioning from the traditional IPMS comparative judging format and 1-2-3 awards protocol to an open-style judging system and a gold/silver/bronze awards protocol. This process will evaluate a model entry against a defined standard rather than against the competing models on the table.

***To accommodate this transition, please note that there is a limit on the total number of models you may enter in the contest this year. Contestants will be limited to entering five (5) total entries with no more than one (1) of the five being entered as a collection in the Miscellaneous class.*** In these new judging and award processes, categories remain useful as a means to group models for judging and viewing. Categories will not be used to determine 1-2-3 placement or awards.

Related to this, ModelFiesta will have tables available for the display of models not entered in the contest. Attendees may display a non-competing grouping of their work (unlimited number of models) in proximity to the modeler's name placard. A modeler's display may include subjects from any or all of the contest classes and any awards they may have won. **Display models will not be eligible for awards.**

### ***Purpose.***

Alamo Squadron's purpose is to advance the scale modeling hobby, and its ModelFiesta contest is one aspect in which the club does this. The contest seeks to highlight excellent modeling as well as encourage modellers to improve their skills with judging experience and feedback.

### ***Contestant and Entry Eligibility.***

**General Eligibility.** ModelFiesta 43's contest is open to all modellers, regardless of their affiliation(s) with other hobby-related organizations.

**Number of Entries.** *In light of the implementation of this new judging and award format, contestants are limited to no more than five(5) total entries in the ModelFiesta 43 contest with no more than one (1) collection entry in the Miscellaneous class.* The number of Display models is unlimited.

**Proxy Entries.** A person may also serve as a 'proxy' to enter models for another who is not attending the contest. Entry fees for absentee/proxy entrants are the same as those attending in person. All modeling forms for proxy entries must indicate "Contestant's Name - by Proxy - followed by the attending person's name."

**Work of One Individual.** All entries must be the sole work of the individual whose name is on the model entry form. Commercially built and/or finished models that do not require significant additional work by the modeler are ineligible.

**Displays.** Display-only tables will be available for all attendees to display their work that is not entered in the contest at no charge. The same rules for Inappropriate and Regulated Entries (below) shall apply to models on the display tables.

**Juniors.** Entry in Junior Division categories are limited to contestants 17 years and younger. Junior contestants may, at their own discretion, enter any or all of their models in Senior-Division classes; however, models entered in Senior classes will not be eligible for any special Junior-

Division awards.

**Prior Winners.** Models that have won first, second, or third place awards (prior to 2025) or gold/silver/bronze awards (beginning January, 2025) at a ModelFiesta contest may not be entered in the contest, except in Collections, Triathlons, and Dioramas as described below. Previous award winners may displayed on a display-only table free of charge. See *Displays* below.

Previous winning models which have won individually at a ModelFiesta may be used as noted in Dioramas, Collections (40%), Triathlons (33%). Models that have won an award as part of a Collection, Triathlon or Group entry may also be entered individually in subsequent ModelFiesta Contests. However, models that have won individually, and as part of a Collection, Triathlon, or Diorama entry, are not eligible for subsequent ModelFiesta Contests.

**Documentation.** Contestants are encouraged to provide documentation for the judges which explains the specifics of their entry's construction and finishing. This documentation (text, photos, diagrams, etc.) is given consideration in the evaluation of the Overall Presentation of the entry. Any documentation should be consistent with the model in quality and should enhance the presentation. *For efficiency with table space and judging, no more than two 8.5" x 11" sheets may be provided per model. For Collection and Triathlon entries, the limit is one 8.5" x 11" sheet/collection element. Font size shall be no smaller than 12 point. Any documentation beyond these limits will be disregarded.*

**Pre-Production Kits.** Pre-production kits, whether from major or limited-run manufacturers, may be entered in the contest. A pre-production kit is one which is not yet generally available for retail purchase. Home-production models (specifically, home-produced 3D-printed models) may also be entered in the contest. No distinction is made between a model designed and printed at home, versus a model designed by the modeller but sent out to a third party to print the model/parts.

**Inappropriate Entries.** The Chief Judge will exclude/remove from competition any entry considered by the ModelFiesta Planning Committee officials to be inappropriate or offensive to generally acknowledged standards of taste and acceptability. The following are prohibited in competition and may not be placed on display at ModelFiesta:

- 1) There shall be no explicit depiction of excretory functions depicting any human being or animal.
- 2) 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 regardless of whether any figures present in the model are clothed.
- 3) 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 the touching of the breasts or genitals or other erogenous zones of any depicted figure.
- 4) There shall be no depiction of any nude human male or female figures where the genitalia of the figure are exposed where the clear intent of the same is to portray a sexual scene.

**Regulated Entries.** The following may be entered in the competition or put on display but can be presented only behind opaque screens or similar visual barriers (provided by the contestant) and only where visitors are provided with a fair description, in writing, of the contents of the models behind the screen. This screened presentation covers competitors and the general public, but no person younger than 18 will be admitted except in the presence of an adult responsible for the young person, subject to the provisions of governing local law:

- 1) Depictions of any nude human male or female figure, subject to the provisions of above.
- 2) Models or dioramas of historic events (e.g., generally dioramas or specific depictions of the result of the activities of the communist Cambodian Pol Pot regime, a Soviet Gulag, or a Nazi death camp) where the suffering of human beings, or the result of a pogrom, is depicted.
- 3) Where the theme, content or subject matter of presentations is graphic or would violate any provisions cited above, then the presentation is prohibited in any setting.

## ***Special and Class-Specific Issues.***

**General Note on Categories.** Categories in this judging format are merely for providing a convenient and organized method for the modelers to present their entries. They are also an aid to the judges for keeping track of the entries. However, as there is no judging of models against other models within a category, it is not critical where the contestant places their model as long as it is in the correct class. Therefore, there is no need for any category splits.

**Composition Media.** The use of plastic is encouraged; however, the use of other modeling materials (paper, metal, etc.) is allowed as the builder sees fit. 3D-printed models may be entered in the appropriate class. 3D kits, conversion sets, and detail parts are considered the same as other aftermarket products - be they plastic, resin, or metal. Judging standards of finish, attention to detail, and authenticity will be the same, regardless of the materials used.

**Scratch-Built, Vacuum-formed or Major Conversion Models.** ModelFiesta does not provide a separate class for scratch-built, vacuum-formed or conversion entries. All models are judged in the appropriate class most closely matching the model's subject.

**Oversized or Special Display Requirements.** Modellers entering pieces that exceed thirty inches in width, length or height, or that require special power support or special placement, must notify the ModelFiesta Chief Judge at least one month in advance of the event. Failure to provide advanced notification for such models could result in them being unable to be displayed, compete, or not having adequate special support (e.g., power hook-up). The Chief Judge and Head Class Judges reserve the right to exclude oversize bases.

**Bases - General.** Bases are encouraged to facilitate easier manipulation by judges to view all aspects of the entry and will be allowed in all classes. ***Bases will not be considered in the evaluation of the model's construction or finish, except in the Vignette and Diorama Categories. Bases and anything else that is part of the presentation of the model to the judges (mirrors, documentation, backdrops, etc.) will be included in the evaluation of Overall Presentation and Degree of Difficulty for all entries.*** The model may include primary crew figures (see rules below for Military Vehicles). The addition of any other figures or equipment outside or not attached to the model (e.g., support equipment, shell splashes, or buildings) will make the model a Vignette (Moment in Time) which must be entered in the Figures class or a Diorama (Telling a Story), which must be entered in Miscellaneous class.

**Bases - Specific to Military Vehicles (MV).** Any MV model that is displayed on a base may include 'basic' groundwork such as concrete, tarmac, dirt, grass, roadway, a low stone wall, etc. Any model entered into the MV class that is displayed upon a base, permanently or temporarily, may have no more than two (2) figures in total and the figure(s) must be a crew member; only one (1) figure may be affixed to the base off the vehicle; a second figure must be affixed to or within the vehicle model. If there are more than two figures total, the entry will be defined as a diorama and judged within the Miscellaneous class. MV entries may include any grouping of two (2) or three (3)

vehicles (no more), attached to each other. Examples include: any towed artillery and prime mover; an artillery piece with a limber; a tank trans-porter/trailer, with or without a load vehicle; or any other combination of two or three vehicles that are attached to each other. The attachment system can be a ball & hitch, fifth wheel, whiffletree, or tow chain/cables specifically designed for such purpose. The model(s) may be displayed on a base with or without basic groundwork, either temporarily or permanently affixed to such a base. Like other MV model entries, if the multi-vehicle display has more than two (2) figures will be defined as a Diorama and must be transferred to the Miscellaneous class for judging there.

**Bases – Specific to Aircraft.** Any Aircraft model that is displayed on a base may include ‘basic’ groundwork, i.e. concrete, tarmac, dirt, grass, roadway, a low stone wall, etc. Any model entered into the Aerospace class that is displayed upon a base, permanently or temporarily, may have no more than two (2) figures in total and the figure(s) must be a crew member; only one (1) figure may be affixed to the base off the vehicle; a second figure must be affixed to or within the vehicle. If there are more than two figures total, the entry will be defined as a diorama. It will be judged within the Miscellaneous class.

### **Aerospace.**

**Missiles:** Winged ‘airplane-type’ missiles will generally be entered in the Aerospace class. When a missile’s transport vehicle or launcher is the predominant portion of the system (e.g., Patriot, SCUD), the model will be entered in the appropriate Military Vehicle class. Military launch vehicles (e.g., V-2, ICBM, IRBM), civilian launch vehicles (e.g., Scout, Saturn), and military launch vehicles modified for civil missions (e.g., Atlas/Agema, Jupiter C) will be entered in the Aerospace class.

**Jets:** Jet aircraft in this class include manned, rocket-powered aircraft such as the Me-163, X-1, X-15, X-24, etc. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are included in the Aerospace class.

In-Flight Entries are included in the Aerospace class.

**Figures.** Figures class entries will not be classified as vignettes or dioramas by the inclusion of bases and/or accessories supplied in the original figure kit. Vignettes (Moment in Time) will be included in the Figures class whereas Dioramas (Tell a Story) entries will be include in the Miscellaneous class.

### **Fictional Vehicles.**

Mecha subjects (Powered sci-fi robots, armor or machines, with limbed features or humanoid construct may contain or display an operator figure as long as it is not the dominant part of the model, mechanical features should predominate. Otherwise, an entry will go in the Figures class.

**Anime Subjects** are animated characters unique to the Japanese genre. Animated cartoon characters (i.e.: Popeye, Felix the Cat, Disney cartoon characters, etc.) shall be entered in Figures class.

**Gunpla Subjects** include only those characters and vehicles from the Gundam media multiverse.

**Dioramas.** Dioramas are story-centric, specifically built to tell a story or convey a message. Storyline will weigh heavily in the consideration of Overall Presentation for dioramas; a technically well-done diorama with a weak story line will be at a disadvantage to one with a strong storyline. Alamo Squadron makes no separate categories for Vignettes (typically, a depiction of a moment in time), except in the Figures Class, where the figure(s) is/are the dominant subject. A previous ModelFiesta contest winner may be used as part of a diorama, so long as it is not the primary focus of the diorama.

**Hypothetical Subjects.** Models that do not represent a factual, physical prototype will be entered in the class most closely matching the subject. For example, a Luft-46 drawing board concept or similar aircraft would be entered in the Aerospace class whereas a completely fictional science fiction vehicle would be entered in the Fictional Vehicle class.

**Triathlon (Triple Play).** These entries include three models of different classes grouped and displayed as a *single entry*. The models will be judged as a group, with overall quality determining placement. Credit will be given for diversity of entries. Entries must be composed of three models selected from three of the classes (II-IX). Models constituting a triathlon entry may not, simultaneously, be competing in other parts of the contest. No more than one previous winner (33%, as defined above) may be included in a triple play entry. Models comprising a winning triathlon entry may subsequently be entered individually if they were not themselves previous winners.

**Collections.** A collection is any group of five or more closely related models, and *is considered one (1) entry*. Past ModelFiesta Contest winning models may be included as part of a collection. The entire collection must be the work of one person. The closeness of the relationship within the collection is a significant factor in judging of Overall Presentation. For example, a collection based on variants of a single airframe is a tighter relationship than one of different aircraft operated by a unit. No more than 40% of any collection entry may be comprised of previous winners (as defined above). Models comprising a winning collection may subsequently be entered as individual entries if they were not themselves previous winners.

**Club or Group Entries.** Clubs or groups that wish to enter a group build collection may do so in the Miscellaneous class.

## ***Display Area.***

**Purpose.** ModelFiesta encourages modelers to present their works to the community. The intent is for modellers to display their works and the awards they have won with those works and to share their craft with other modellers.

**Registration for Display Models.** The display area will not be part of the judged contest. There is no fee to display your models and any related awards. Entrants may wish to present a photo and/or a list of awards in lieu of the actual awards. Modelers are not limited in the number of models they display. The rules regarding decency (above) also apply to all displayed models. If the modeler wishes to display models, during registration the modeler will be assigned a table space for the display. If the modeler chooses to not participate in the contest and only display models, the modeler must pay the general admission fee.

**Procedure.** An individual's display will be placed on the designated table space. Modelers are encouraged to place their name (and contact information if preferred) by their display to facilitate discussions and learning.

**Awards.** Display models are ineligible for awards.

## ***Judging Criteria and Procedure.***

**General.** Entries will be judged on the quality of Construction, Quality of Finish, Overall Presentation, and Degree of Difficulty. Additional criteria are considered for special categories such as Dioramas, Collections, and Triathlon. ***All entries are assumed to be accurate, and accuracy will not be considered in the judging evaluation.***

**Process.** Entries will be evaluated using the judging process developed by Alamo Squadron. Specific *class-specific evaluation criteria* are articulated for each class. A class-specific evaluation form will be left folded beside each entry to provide feedback to the contestant. A document describing the form and evaluation criteria for each class is available on the ModelFiesta website.

**Judging Aids.** Judges may use prescription glass, reading glasses (up to 2x), and laser pointers. Magnifying glasses, magnifiers, auxiliary lights, cellphone lights, penlights, flashlights, cellphone cameras, etc. are *not allowed* for judging models.

**Handling of Models.** Models are judged as three-dimensional objects and are examined in all visible aspects ***as they sit on the table***. To prevent damage, judges will not physically pick up models to examine undersides but may carefully rotate them (while maintaining contact with the table) for a complete examination. Contestants are encouraged to display their entries on bases to facilitate such manipulation. Models not attached to bases should be clearly noted on the entry form. Mirrors are encouraged for models with detailed undersides that the contestant wishes to highlight.

**Food and Drink** are not allowed in the Contest Room. Judges are asked to clean their hands prior to judging.

**Relocation of Entries.** Contest registrars will help contestants to determine the proper classes and locations for their entries during registration, but final placement is at the discretion of the contest judges. Judges may carefully relocate models after first attempting to contact the contestants to relocate their own models to the appropriate class. However, in most cases the entry will be judged where it sits.

**Display Cases.** Models in the Contest Room may be covered by cases while on public display,

but the cases must be removed from models for judging. Judges will not remove cases from models unless the modeller has given explicit, written approval in advance. Models in cases will not be judged, unless the Head Class Judge decides that removal of a case could cause damage and that the case will not impede effective judging; in such instances, a display case may be left on during judging. Such an arrangement must be made prior to judging and noted in writing on the entry form by the Head Class Judge. The Head Class Judge will have the final and exclusive authority to allow or deny this exception.

**Contest Duration.** Exhibitors are encouraged to leave their models in the Display/Contest room until the judging is completed, and attendees have had the maximum opportunity to view them. Models removed from the contest tables prior to the completion of judging are disqualified from further consideration for higher tier awards. Entrants who remove their models and leave before the show's end will need to contact the ModelFiesta Event Director, and pre-pay to have any awards they leave behind shipped to them.

### ***Awards.***

**Thresholds.** Awards will be given to adult entries earning 90+ points (gold), 80+ points (silver), and 65+ points (bronze). Awards will be given to youth entries earning 30+ points (gold), 20+ points (silver), and 10+ points (bronze).

**Financial Awards.** No awards associated with placement in the contest will have any intrinsic monetary value beyond the cost of their materials and production. Monetary awards, certificates, or scholarships tied to placement in the contest are expressly prohibited. However, sponsors may give gift cards as part of their individually sponsored award packages.

**Multiple Awards.** In this judging system, a contestant may have multiple models which may earn gold, silver, or bronze awards in a given class, within any restrictions on the number of entries in the contest and specific classes. Given that there is no judging within categories, sweeps do not exist.

### **Special Awards (Theme, People's Choice, and Sponsored Awards).**

Alamo Squadron typically designates at least one theme award for each year's contest. The specific criteria for the theme award(s) are described on the ModelFiesta website. To be eligible, entries must be logged into the theme award registration notebook near the contest registration area. Display models are not eligible for these awards.

Individuals and other entities often sponsor special awards in each ModelFiesta contest, usually numbering from 5-8/event. The specific criteria for the special awards are described on the ModelFiesta website. Arrangements for special awards must be completed by October 1 with the contest's Award Coordinator. To be eligible, entries must be logged into the theme or sponsored award registration booklets near the contest registration area. The screening/selection for these awards is not done by ModelFiesta judging teams or with the contest judging protocol. Instead, they are subjectively selected by teams chosen by or representing the sponsors. As such, the awards shall not contain the word "Best" in the name of the award. They will be chosen while the contest room is open to normal viewing, and the awards will be presented during to the awards ceremony. For any ISA awards presented during the awards ceremony, descriptive preambles by the sponsor are limited to no more than thirty seconds.

**"Best of" Awards.** The following "Best of" awards will be presented at ModelFiesta based on the scores determined by the judges:

- Best Young Modeller
- Best Aerospace
- Best Military Vehicle
- Best Automotive
- Best Ship



Best Figure

Best Fictional Vehicle

Best Gunpla

Best Miscellaneous

Best of Show (Note that this winner's name will also be inscribed on the Alamo Squadron Memorial Trophy.) This award will be determined by scores and consensus by the Chief judge and the Head Class judges.

**Publication of Results.** The Chief Judge will be responsible for posting the contest results on the Alamo Squadron website within 60 days of the contest.

## **Judges.**

**Eligibility.** Preference will be given to those contestants who have been trained on the judging protocol prior to the event. Training may be arranged with the Chief Judge prior to the contest, preferably no less than two months before the event. Judge candidates with poor eyesight or significant color-blindness are asked to recuse themselves. Judges do not have to be members of Alamo Squadron.

**Chief Judge.** The Chief Judge is responsible for the conduct of the contest and resolve any conflicts. This judge will make any necessary decisions regarding eligibility and results. The Chief Judge is also responsible for updating these rules and the training head class judges and team leaders prior to the contest. This judge will also lead the team Head Class Judges to select the Best of Show entry based on scoring and consensus.

**Head Class Judges.** Head Class Judges are responsible for the proper implementation of the judging procedures, provision of feedback, and validation of model scoring for their class. The Head Class Judge will resolve conflicts with the class. This judge will also lead the team leaders to select the Best of Class entry based on scoring and consensus.

**Team Leaders.** Team Leaders are responsible for leading their team in the proper and consistent execution of the judging process, scoring, and provision of feedback. They are also responsible for placement of the proper award and elevation feedback sheet by the entry.

**Other Judges.** Other judges will be assigned (normally as 2-4 person teams) to evaluate and score models under the direction of the team leader judges. Junior members may not serve as voting judges but may be assigned to judging teams as participating observers.

**Training.** The Chief Judge will select and train Head Class and Team Leader Judges prior to the contest. This may be done in person and/or via electric media. All judges and contestants are encouraged to practice the judging protocol on their own models before they come to the contest. Every effort will be made to train prospective judges on the judging standards and procedure prior to the contest. The Chief Judge may conduct briefing sessions on the morning of the contest, prior to the judges' lunch on the rules and procedures as needed.

## ***Integrity and Governance.***

**Personal Entries.** Judges may not judge their own entries. Judges shall recuse themselves from any and all judging conversations related to their entries and keep themselves beyond earshot of such conversations. "Hovering" around the judges is not allowed.

**Politicking.** Contest entrants and judges may not attempt to influence the scoring or judging of their or their friend's entries at any time during ModelFiesta. Contestants shall not attempt to influence the judging of any entry in any way.

**Impartiality.** Strict impartiality will be observed.

**Confidentiality.** Judging results will not be discussed with anyone other than other judging team members prior to the Awards Ceremony.

**Judging Teams.** The judging of an entry will be done by a team of not less than two (2) judges. The Chief Judge may assign judging teams of 2-4 judges depending on the availability of trained judges and the number of entries.

**Accountability.** Any judge or contestant disqualified for cause will be asked to leave the contest room and may not assume any role related to the contest at future ModelFiesta events for at least one year. This will include competition and judging, as well as administrative, scoring, photographic and other support responsibilities. Flagrant violations of this rule may lead to a permanent ban from future ModelFiesta events.

**Identification.** Judges may be provided with a special ribbon or other device to allow their easy identification during the event. The Chief Judge and Head Class Judges will monitor the contest room prior to judging to ensure models are in the proper classes and categories for judging.

**Decisions.** All judges' decisions are final. Concerns regarding the judging results must be discussed personally with the Chief Judge and have the evaluation sheet and entry present. The Chief Judge and two other judges may review the complaint and attempt to resolve the issue before leaving the venue.

**Rules.** The ModelFiesta 43 Planning Committee is solely responsible for the creation, modification, addition and deletion of all Rules and Classes for the ModelFiesta Contest. The Chief Judge shall act as the steward of these rules. Any exceptions or clarifications sought by any participant must be submitted for consideration by the ModelFiesta 43 Planning Committee not later than 90 calendar days before the event.

**No Liability.** No liability for loss or damage to contest entries is implied or assumed by Alamo Squadron, to the event venue, or the contest judges.

**Waivers.** The Chief Judge may waive any rule if circumstances warrant.

DLM  
10/2/24