

Ice Alaska & World Ice Art Championships

JUDGING CRITERIA



Last modified 22nd August 2025

CATEGORIES & SCORING

**** The total score will be out of 1000 = 10 categories x 100 points each ****

The highest score for each category is 100.

- Scores of 900 or higher are of extraordinary work.... that of a master craftsman.
- Scores of 800 to 899 are of exemplary work.... that of a true professional.
- Scores of 700 to 799 are of exceptional work.... quality but needing refinement.

Categories

- ❖ Initial Impression
- ❖ Originality, Creativity & Artistic Intent
- ❖ Composition, Balance & Flow
- ❖ Degree of Difficulty
- ❖ Utilization of Ice
- ❖ Completion of form and appearance
- ❖ Proportion, Symmetry & Scale
- ❖ Advanced Techniques and Craftsmanship
- ❖ Accuracy & Precision of Details
- ❖ Overall Impact

DETAILED CRITERIA

Initial Impression - 100 points

When examining the whole of the sculpture, what is conveyed from the artwork?

- Are the parts of the sculpture harmonious with each other?
- How well does the title compliment the finished sculpture?
- Does the sculpture have a dramatic profile?
- Does the sculpture move you in any way or have a "Wow" factor?
- Is there beauty and grace in the form?

Originality, Creativity and Artistic Intent - 100 points

Sculptors are encouraged and will receive higher scores for creative, new and innovative designs. Repetitive use of a design is also not seen as creative. (Especially, when the design and sculpture is not being improved each time.)

- How creative is the subject matter?
- How original is the idea, theme, or technique?
- Has this been carved before?
- Is this an exact duplicate of another artist's work?
- If the competition has a theme, how well is it represented in the design?

Composition, Balance and Flow - 100 points

- How well does the sculpture flow?
- Is there harmony amongst the lines?
- How is the composition amongst the design elements?
- Is the design well balanced?
- Does the sculpture have a powerful silhouette?
- How well does the design and sculpture transfer to the medium of ice?
- Does the sculpture look life-like or static?
- Is there sufficient negative space incorporated into the design?

Degree of Difficulty - 100 points

Is the design or subject matter easy or difficult?

- Are there complex procedures in the design, the stacking or fusing?
- Was there an inherent amount of risk to the design?
- Are there elements of perfection, fragility, balance, and counter balance?
- Determine if the sculpture is 2-d or 3-d and judge accordingly.

Utilization of Ice - 100 points

How much of the ice is used and what did the sculptor get out of it?

- Is the block broken down into components and re-attached?
- Are the fuse lines incorporated into the design?
- Is the sculpture 2-D or 3-D? *(this criteria continued on next page)*
- Are the crystalline-like properties of a clean block of ice shown in the finished sculpture?

- How much ice is sculpted and detailed in relation to the ice and time given?

Completion of Form and Appearance - 100 points

- Does the sculpture look complete? Now figure in the complexity of design
- Is there visible tool marks, snow or slush left behind?
- How clean is the base and floor around the sculpture?
- Can you see dirt, saw dust, template paper or magic ink still left on the sculpture?
- Are all the elements of the sculpture finished to an equal standard of craftsmanship?
- Has the sculpture been rinsed off, torched, sanded, polished or buffed?
- Is the piece completely finished from a 360 view, not just from the front?

Proportion, Symmetry & Scale - 100 points

Determine what type of sculpture you are looking at.

- Is it realistic, stylized or abstract?
- For parts that are the same, are they equal in length and thickness?
- Are the parts in proportion to the whole of the sculpture?
- Is the anatomy of the sculpture or the design correct? The size and shape of a human can vary greatly, the rules of composition dictate uniformity throughout.

Advanced Techniques & Craftsmanship - 100 points

There are a multitude of tools and techniques that one can use to manipulate the ice to bring out its natural beauty. Each tool and technique used correctly will allow the carver to produce a high-quality sculpture and receive high marks in this category. However, a carver does not need to have a bunch of tools, just the right ones with the proper techniques.

Details of the sculpture will be evaluated.

- Is there uniform spacing amongst the details?
- How crisp is the detail?
- Is the size of detail consistent?
- How fine or intricate are the details?
- Are the details life-like?
- How do the details compliment the sculpture?
- Are there various types of details or textures?
- What methods are used for joining the ice? Handsaw, aluminum, peg and notch etc..
- Are they the proper techniques for the design?
- How clear are the fuses?
- Do the fuses detract from the overall design?
- Are there vertical seams? How many load bearing seams are there?
- Is the sculpture 3-Dimensional or extremely larger due to fusing techniques?
- What strategies are used to put the sculpture together?

Accuracy and Precision of Details - 100 points

When incorporating details to a sculpture, are they uniform, consistent and appropriately placed according to the design?

- Do the details compliment the sculpture or design?
- Has the sculptor used a variety of details and textures on his sculpture?
- Did the sculptors use the right tools and techniques used to administer the details on the sculpture?
- Is the chisel detail crisp, the details uniform?
- Are the lines straight?
- Can you find chipped edges on the detail or visible unnecessary tool marks left on the sculpture?

Overall Impact - 100 points

- Does the sculpture stand apart from the rest of the sculptures?
- Do you see visually stimulating aspects of the sculpture?
- Are you moved by the sculpture or the meaning that is portrayed?
- With your Initial Impression, combined with the other criteria, which sculptures are on another level than the rest of the competition?

Important Extra Information	
<i>Non-compliance of the following will result in a deduction/s off your final score -</i>	
<p>Stanchions - 100x points off your total amount -</p> <p>3-5 stanchions per site. Each stanchion must be 24" x 30" (61-76cm) high</p> <p>Rope must be used to string between the stanchions by the end of the competition.</p> <p>This is to ensure public safety after the Artists have left the site.</p> <p>Whilst your stanchions will not be included in your art piece score,</p> <p>you will be penalized for NOT completing this step.</p> <p>This stanchion rule DOES NOT APPLY to the Collegiate & Youth competitions.</p>	
<p>Height - 100x points off your total amount -</p> <p>If your piece goes over the allocated height (see Site Set-Up Definition), your piece will be penalized.</p>	
<p>Everything INSIDE the roped area will be judged and scored. Everything OUTSIDE the roped area will not BUT, you will be penalized if you do not include your rope & stanchion obligations.</p>	
<p>Title plaques must not be more than 30" (75cm) tall if they are outside the roped area.</p>	

NOTE * - to change these Rules, there must be Unanimous Consent from the Ice Alaska Board.**