

# Ice Alaska & World Ice Art Championships

## RULES & GUIDELINES



### 2026 WORLD ICE ART CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fairbanks, Alaska

Multi-block (MB), Double Block (DB) & Single Block (SB)

### COMPETITION SCHEDULE

DETAILS	TIME	MB	DB	SB
Arrival of participants	your own time	Feb 14	Feb 22	Feb 27
Final Check-in on Site	12.00pm - 5.00pm	Feb 15	Feb 23	Feb 28
Site set-up	AFTER final check-in	Feb 15	Feb 23	Feb 28
Orientation & Safety Meeting	4.00pm	Feb 15	Feb 23	Feb 28
Design and Title <u>DEADLINE</u>	No changes after Feb1	<i>Feb 1</i>	<i>Feb 1</i>	<i>Feb 1</i>
<b>Competition START TIME</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Feb 16</b>	<b>Feb 24</b>	<b>Mar 1</b>
<b>*Competition Hours: 24 hours a day, except final day is 12 hours*</b>				
<b>Competition END TIME</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>Feb 21</b>	<b>Feb 23</b>	<b>Mar 3</b>
Site Cleanup & set lights	8:00-9:00pm	Feb 21	Feb 21	Mar 3
Judging starts	9:15pm	Feb 21	Feb 21	Mar 3
Sculpture lights & colour adjustments	Before/after awards	Feb 22	Feb 27	Mar 3
Awards Ceremony	8.00pm	Feb 22	Feb 27	Mar 2
Departure Day	your own time	Feb 23	Feb 28	Mar 4

## **REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY**

- Participants must be 18 years of age to enter the competition.\*
- Applications will be available online on the Ice Alaska website by September 1st.
- Participation will be confirmed by email within 7 days of receiving your **PAID** application.
- Standard registration charges will apply until January 1st then the **application fee will double**.
- Accommodation after this time is **NOT GUARANTEED** (See ACCOMMODATION, TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL ASSISTANCE for more information)
- Teams will be accepted and site selection determined on a “1<sup>st</sup> come basis” - (first to complete **ALL** the registration requirements for the team), which are as follows -
  - Application, short biography (50 words or less) & entry fee from **EACH** team member
  - Drawing of sculpture and artist statement (intentions & context) from the captain.
- Teams will be notified of their site location once -
  - final title has been received
  - the “original artwork” has been received
  - liability waiver forms have been hard-copy signed.
- If you are a new applicant, include a summary of your ice carving experience and a sample of your work.
- Last minute registrations - your design is due with registration

\*All minors are required to have written parental or guardian consent

## **SITE SET-UP DEFINITION**

**No equipment or tools are permitted onto sites** until the day prior to the Competition AND registration is completed. Once registration is complete, Artists may work in their site to do the following -

- Build and organize their worktable
- Hook up their power
- Request to have ice blocks positioned
- Choose and label additional blocks (if required) for sculpture.
- Set up scaffolding
- Remove snow and debris if necessary - no power tools allowed.
- Manicure their site as needed, including watering the ground if desired.

**NO SCULPTING OF THE ICE BLOCK/S** is permitted, and disqualification will apply.

## **COMPETITION REGULATION**

COMPETITION	MB	DB	SB
Max number of sites	12	20+	20+
Max Team size (Artists)	4	2	1
Max number of blocks	9	2	1
Allotted time in hours <sup>1</sup>	130	60	60
Maximum height <sup>2</sup>	18' (5.49m)	12' (3.66m)	10' (3.05m)
Site size <sup>3</sup>	30'x 30' (9.1m x 9.1m)	20'x20' (6.1m x 6.1m)	15'x15' 4.6mx4.6m)
Block Size <sup>4</sup>	Minimum 6'x 4'x 26-30" (1.8m x 1.2m x 7.9-9.1m) 63 cubic feet of clear ice.		

<sup>1</sup> Ice Alaska reserves the right to reduce the total time due to severe weather.

Allotted time DOES NOT INCLUDE CLEAN-UP time.

<sup>2</sup> Maximum height depends on how far the front of your sculpture is from the front edge of your site. Keep public safety in mind. (*See Judging Criteria & Scoring*).

<sup>3</sup> Not all sites are square, and the extra work area is usually limited.

<sup>4</sup> Ice thickness is determined by weather conditions and different harvest times  
Teams will be notified of the final thickness within 1 week of the start of the MB.  
Teams may request additional ice to compensate for thinner ice.

## **COMPETITION EQUIPMENT**

- Water barrels - Insulated water barrels (4-5) are scattered throughout the work area.
- Blue rope is available for separating your site from the public.
- Sleds, snow scoops, grain shovels, and rakes can be checked out if desired.
- Use of heavy equipment is available during all competitions, temperature permitting.
- Operators will be available between noon and 10:00 pm, or earlier if the temperature is above -20° F (-29° C), and later by arrangement with the operator.
- A drying rack and a warm-up area will be available 24 hours a day.
- Extra consumables - chain, bars, electrical cords, etc, are available for purchase from the Sharp shop and will be charged to the Artists from the Tool Shop Manager(s).
- Electrical Winterization and/or repair of personal tools - \$15.00 per item.

<b>COMPETITION supplies provided per team</b>	<b>MB</b>	<b>DB</b>	<b>SB</b>
<b>Scaffolding frames <sup>1</sup></b>	10	5	3
Workbench – made from scaffolding	1	1	1
<b>Power - 120 volts, 60-amp spider box with min 4 outlets<sup>2</sup></b>	1	1	1
Work Lights -1 work stand, 2 LED, 1000 lumen per sculptor	1	1	1
<b>Display lights<sup>3</sup></b>	6	3	2
Water buckets	1	1	1
<b>16-gauge electric cord <sup>4</sup></b>	4	2	2
<b>14-gauge electric cord <sup>4</sup></b>	4	2	2

<sup>1</sup> There are 2 types of scaffolding. It will be explained at the Safety Meeting.

<sup>2</sup> 240 volts can be made available upon request when you apply.

<sup>3</sup> Some display lights are color programmable. No embedding of lights within your sculpture.

<sup>4</sup> Each cord comes with 1 three-way splitter. The 16-gauge cords are used for lighting only. They will destroy your equipment. The 14-gauge cords can be used for both equipment and lights.

### **SITE SELECTION**

*\*See Registration and Eligibility\**

Ice Alaska's sculptor support team will do their best to accommodate close or adjacent locations for your sites if you are competing in multiple events. Teams requiring 240 volts of electricity are limited to sites with the new electric installation. No team will be told the location of their site until their registration packet is completed in full.

### **JUDGING CRITERIA & 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.

### **Judging Categories**

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

### **\*\*\*Important Extra Information\*\*\***

***Non-compliance with the following will result in a deduction/s from your final score -***

#### **Stanchions - 100x points off your total amount**

3 - 5 stanchions per site. Each stanchion must be 24" - 30" (61-76cm) high  
Blue rope must be used to string between the stanchions by the end of the competition. This is to ensure public safety after the Artists have left the site.

Whilst your stanchions will not be included in your art piece score, you will be penalized for NOT completing this step.

Everything INSIDE the roped area will be judged and scored. Everything OUTSIDE the roped area will not be scored. BUT, you will be penalized if you do not install your rope & stanchions.

#### **Height - 100x points off your total amount**

If your piece goes over the allocated height (see Site Set-Up Definition)  
your piece will be penalized.

Title plaques must not be more than 30" (75cm) tall if they are outside the roped area.

### **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

Teams and/or individuals may be disqualified from that Competition for the following reasons-

- Sculpting the ice block before the starting horn is sounded.
- Staying or re-entering their competition site without permission after the ending horn has sounded. Or re-entering while judges are working.
- Carving or creating ice or snow pieces by team members or non-team members, off

the competition site and/or out of competition time.

- The use of extra or replacement team members during the Competition. All team members must be registered before the Competition. Changes or replacements will render the team ineligible for judging. A team may continue with fewer members and still be eligible for judging.
- Additional items, if they come up, will be discussed at the Safety Meeting.
- The use of colored lights during the judging process.

Teams and/or individuals may be disqualified from both the grounds and the rest of the Competition for the following reasons -

- The use of alcohol, drugs, and/or smoke-related items on the Tanana Valley State Fairgrounds is prohibited. Both Ice Alaska and the TVSF have a **Zero Tolerance** for the illegal use of drugs and alcohol consumption on site. This includes marijuana, even though it is legal in Alaska.
- Acts of Violence against another person, whether they be an Artist, Volunteer, Administrator, or the Public, that the Board deems intolerable.
- Willful damage to others' property.
- Additional items, if they come up, will be discussed at the Safety Meeting.

### **COMPETITION JUDGES**

We are committed to achieving the highest level of judging excellence. To ensure fairness and consistency, we are actively working to eliminate artificially high or low scoring. Judges will now be selected from a broad pool of qualified candidates, regardless of their geographic location, and we will maintain a backup pool to step in when needed.

From this point forward, judges' names will be publicly associated with their scores to encourage accountability and transparency. All judges will be held to the highest standards in performance and professionalism.

There is a mandatory induction meeting for all new judges with the Head Judge for those who have not judged at Ice Alaska in the last 3 years. If required, 3 information sessions before the MB starts and 1 session while the MB is in progress for judges to be updated on judging criteria and understanding. Judges will work and score independently, but in the case of a tie, the judges will confer and decide on one winner.

Judges' results are final.

You will receive your score sheets after the Awards Ceremony.

### **AWARDS**

The World Ice Art Championships has four types of awards: The Participation Award, the Jurists' Choice Awards, the People's Choice Award, and the Online Viewers' Choice Awards.

#### **The Participation Award,**

Everyone who participates in one of the competitions gets a certification of participation award.

#### **The Jurists' Choice Awards**

The winners are determined by a panel of three trained Judges. Medallions and cash awards will be awarded to the three highest scoring teams in the Multi-block, Double Block, and the Single Block

Classics. Those who participate in all three competitions will compete for the title of Champion OF ICE. The person with the highest cumulative total score from the three competitions will become the Champion OF ICE.

All the competitors will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony following their competition. See the Ice Alaska website for the amounts, which can change yearly.

## The People's Choice Award

The viewing public can choose the one sculpture they like best. Voting begins in March after the three competitions are over and continues until the Ice Park closes. The winning team will receive a monetary award. The amount will be announced later.

## The Online Viewers' Awards

Online viewers can choose the best sculptor in each of the three competitions by voting on IceAlaska's Facebook page after each competition. The winners will be announced at the appropriate Awards Ceremony. (<http://facebook.com/icealaska>)

COMPETITION	2026 SEASON*						TOTAL
MB TEAM	1 <sup>ST</sup>	Total	2 <sup>ND</sup>	Total	3 <sup>RD</sup>	Total	\$25,200.00
4 persons	\$3500.00	\$14,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$7,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,000.00	
DB TEAM	1 <sup>ST</sup>	Total	2 <sup>ND</sup>	Total	3 <sup>RD</sup>	Total	\$12,600.00
2 persons	\$3,500.00	\$7,000.00	\$1,800.00	\$3,600.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	
SB TEAM	1 <sup>ST</sup>	Total	2 <sup>ND</sup>	Total	3 <sup>RD</sup>	Total	\$6,300.00
1 person	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
CHAMPION OF ICE		TDB					
							\$44,100.00

\* If additional funds become available, they may be increased.

## SAFETY

Only Artists, Judges & Sculptor Support staff are allowed into the carving sites. Due to the size restrictions and the use of equipment, everyone else must stay on the public walkway. Any exceptions to this rule MUST be approved by the Event Coordinator.

The following conditions can and will stop your work until the problem is rectified -

- The height of the highest point of your sculpture must be equal to the minimum distance from the front of the sculpture to the front of your site where viewers can stand (*see Site Set-Up Definition*).
- If you are working more than 6 feet above the ground, you must use stabilizers (scaffolding feet) and handrails.
- Excessive debris ice in your site.
- Only 1 tool at a time, per carver, can be running.
- Cold weather and safety clothing and protection are recommended.
- Safe and proper lifting techniques are to be used when lifting heavy objects. There are Sculptor Support staff and Equipment Operators to assist you with your lifting requirements.
- Failure to sign the "Originality Artwork" Form and the "hold harmless" statement (the Waiver Form) at final check-in. This waiver form excuses Ice Alaska from all liability for potential injuries, including death, theft, or damage to personal gear and equipment, and Artistic infringement. It also gives Ice Alaska the ownership of all sculptures and exclusive rights to all pictures, photographs, videos, or reproductions, in any commercial application.
- Children and other public viewers are **NOT** allowed in the Artists Hall during the Competition times due to the high-risk equipment that is stored in the building. This building is reserved for Artists, Admin, and Ice Alaska Volunteers only.



## **MEALS**

- Breakfast will be provided. Details coming. Where and hours to be determined.
- Lunch and dinner will be provided in the Artist Hall at the Fairgrounds. Hours will be posted.  
Snacks and drinks are provided in the same area around the clock.
- Non-sculptor add-ons (spouses or friends) who are not volunteers need to pay **\$20.00** per meal eaten in Artists Hall. Please arrange this with Sculptor Support or the Event Coordinator.

## **ACCOMMODATION, TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL ASSISTANCE**

Both flights into Fairbanks and hotel rooms are very limited.

**Ice Alaska will only book your accommodation** when you have completed & paid the competition registration. Ice Alaska has a limited number of sponsored rooms. If your registration is late and we cannot accommodate you, you will be responsible for organizing and paying for your room.

- Acceptance letter will include information about transportation around Fairbanks (To & from airport, hotel, & completion site)
- Teams are responsible for arranging their transportation to and from Fairbanks, Alaska.
- Foreign teams that require entry letters to the United States, please email your needs when you apply.
- Please see the Accommodation Policy for more details

## **FINAL WORDS**

This is the last page of the 2026 World Ice Art Championship Rule and Guidelines. Thank you for taking the time to read through it. If you have any questions about the content of this document, please contact Sculptor Support. We look forward to hosting you this year and wish everyone the best of luck!