



International Plastic Modelers' Society

2021 National Contest Rules

Changes from the 2019 & 2020 Contest Rules are shown in Red Text.

I. ELIGIBILITY

1. **The IPMS/USA National Contest** is open only to members of IPMS/USA or other national IPMS branches. Any current member of IPMS/USA or any other national branch of IPMS is eligible to enter any number of models in the National Contest. To enter the model contest, a member must be individually registered for the convention. This means, if they wish to enter the contest, each member of a Family Membership that so desires must register for the convention separately (this helps eliminate confusion about which of the Family members is the actual contest entrant). A member may also serve as a 'proxy' to enter models for an absent member who is not attending the convention. Entry fees for absentee/proxy entrants may be set at the discretion of the Host Chapter. All entries except Chapter/Group 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 will be ineligible.
 2. **Juniors.** Junior Division categories are limited to members 17 years and younger. Those categories will be split into two age groupings: Pre-teen for ages through 12 years; and, Teen for ages 13 through 17 years. Junior members may, at their own discretion, enter any or all of their models in Senior-Division categories; however, models entered in Senior categories will not be eligible for any special Junior-Division awards.
 3. **Prior Winners.** Models that have won First-, Second-, or Third-place, or Out-of-the-Box awards in any category of any previous IPMS/USA National Model Contest may not be entered in any subsequent IPMS/USA National Model Contest for awards, except as provided in **Section II, Rule 19** (last sentence) and **Section III, Rules 5--7**. Previous award winners can be used as noted in Dioramas, Collections, Triathlon and Group entries. Models that have won an award as part of a Collection, Triathlon or Group entry may also be entered individually in subsequent National Contests. However, models that have won individually, and as part of a Collection, Triathlon or Group entry, are not eligible for subsequent National Contests.
 4. **Pre-Production/Home-Production Models.** 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.

Both these examples will be entered as 'stock' kits, but not as 'scratch-built' models. (see also *Rule II. 3. below*) No distinction is made between a model designed *and* printed at home, versus a model designed by the modeler but sent out to a third party to print the model/parts.
 5. **Inappropriate Entries.** The Chief Judge will exclude/remove from competition any entry considered by Contest officials to be inappropriate or offensive to generally acknowledged standards of taste and acceptability.
 6. **Oversized or Special Display Requirements.** Modelers entering pieces that exceed three feet in either width or length, or that require special power support or special placement, must notify the Convention Contest Chairman at least one month in advance of the Convention. The limited space for the Contest requires pre-planning for such entries. 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).
- A. The following are prohibited in competition and may not be placed on display at any IPMS event:
 - i. There shall be no depiction of excretory functions depicting any human being or animal.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. 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.
 - B. The following may be entered in the competition or put on display but can be presented only behind opaque screens or similar visual barriers and only where visitors are provided with a fair description, in written format, 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:
 - i. Depictions of any nude human male or female figure, subject to the provisions of 5A, above.
 - ii. Models or dioramas of historic events (e.g. general 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. 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.

7. **Contest Duration.** Exhibitors are encouraged to leave their models in the display room until the awards banquet is over and attendees have had the maximum opportunity to view them. Entrants who remove their models and leave before the show's end will need to contact the hosting chapter's contest committee and pay to have any awards they leave behind shipped to them.

II. CONTEST DEFINITIONS AND JUDGING

1. **Judging.** Models will be judged for skill in construction, finish, realism, and scope of effort; accuracy may be used as criteria for determining final ranking for similar model subjects. Additional criteria are considered for special categories such as Dioramas, Collections, Conversions, and Triathlon. Models are judged as three-dimensional objects and are examined in all aspects. Entries will be handled by judges, both for proper category placement and for judging, as required. Models in the Contest Room may be covered by cases while on general-public display, but such cases must be removed from models for judging. Judges will not remove cases from models unless the modeler has given explicit, written approval in advance. Models in cases will not be judged, except in instances where removal of a case could cause damage, and in the judgment of the respective Head Judge, 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 Judge. The Head Judge will have the final and exclusive authority to allow or deny this exception.
2. **Composition.** The use of plastic is encouraged; however, the use of other modeling materials is allowed as the builder sees fit. 3D-printed models may be entered in the appropriate standard-subject Class. An entirely 3D-printed model may not be considered to be 'scratch-built' (per Rule II-3, below), even if the modeler is the designer of the model; such 3D-printed models are not the single, original 'master' model, but are copies generated from 'master' 3D drawing files. 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.
3. **Scratch-Built** models may incorporate parts from other kits, but these should be generally unrelated to their original identity, except for minor parts such as wheels, guns, etc. Computer-design/programming and 3D-machine printing are not considered as "scratch-building" for defining Scratch-Built entries in our national contests. Models determined to be scratch-built must be entered in the proper scratch-built category.
4. **Conversion** category entries must represent a version different from that provided by the basic kit. The conversion must contain significant structural modifications to the basic kit involving extensive changes in contour or configuration. In addition to the normal judging criteria common to the entire contest, judges of the Conversion Category will give special consideration to the complexity of the conversion. A conversion accomplished with primarily commercial aftermarket parts will be at a disadvantage, therefore, against a conversion accomplished primarily by the builder's craftsmanship - assuming both are finished to similar standards. Simple conversions may be entered in regular categories. More extensive conversions, however, must be entered in the appropriate conversion category. The builder must describe in detail the conversion changes made to the base kit on the entry sheet or accompanying documentation. Judges have the ultimate authority to determine a model's category placement, and such decisions by judges will be final.
5. **Scratch-Built and Conversion – Military Vehicles.** Any Scratch-Built or Conversion model (Cat 228) must be constructed or must have its silhouette substantively changed by the modeler, using scratch-building supplies (i.e., sheet plastic, sheet brass, tin or wood). Any Kit-Bashed Conversion model (Cat 229) will have its silhouette substantively changed by the modeler using any pre-existing kit parts from another model or manufactured conversion parts/pieces designed for such

change by the manufacturer, whether or not they're intended for the particular model to which they are applied.

6. **Markings.** Aircraft categories are generally defined as Military Aircraft unless otherwise noted. Entries carrying only civil markings will be placed in the appropriate Civil Aircraft category. They do not need to be marked with a national civil registration (e.g. N-number for the USA) to be entered in a Civil Aircraft category. Models of CIA, NASA, Treasury Department, and other government-marked (but non-military-marked) and operated aircraft will normally be placed within the Civil Aircraft categories. Movie planes, war birds, and those with combined civil and military markings (e.g. NASA band and USAF titles) likewise will usually be placed in Civil Aircraft categories.

The same general principle applies for entries in the other Classes: markings will determine the category in which a model is entered.

7. **Missiles.** Winged 'airplane-type' missiles will generally be entered in a UAV Aircraft category. 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 Armor category. 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/Agena, Jupiter C) will be entered in the Real Spacecraft category.
8. **Jets.** Jet Aircraft categories include manned, rocket-powered aircraft such as the Me-163, X-1, X-15, X-24, etc.
9. **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).** The UAV categories are to include drones, flying bombs, winged missiles and other aerial vehicles, powered or glider, designed to fly without carrying a crew. Aircraft originally designed for manned control but converted to remote-control operation (e.g., F6F-5KD, QF-104, DeHavilland Queen Bee) will not be considered as UAVs for the purposes of this contest, and shall be entered in the appropriate regular Aircraft categories. Conversely, a pilotless machine does not have to meet the 'modern' definition of UAV to be entered in this category. Qualifying UAV models, regardless of markings, shall be entered in the appropriate UAV category.
10. **Elevated Entries / In-Flight Aircraft (Aircraft on a Pole).** Any Aircraft model (regardless of scale) that is mounted in an 'elevated' position (i.e., on a stick, pole, or other forms of support) will be entered in this category. Crew figures are optional, not required. Also, spinning props or jet exhaust emissions may be simulated, but are not required. This is not an "in-flight diorama" category; models will be judged solely as individual aircraft. **Correspondingly, this category will not include any model display that is intended to be, or constructed as a diorama.** Those entries will be entered into their respective Diorama categories, unless the Dioramas-class head judge thinks a particular entry may be better served in this Elevated Aircraft category, due to a lack of story or other issue.
11. **Automotive - Documented Replicas.** This category is for models built as a *precise replica* of a *specific* real-world vehicle. The competitor must also display documentation to authenticate the actual vehicle upon which the model is based (can include photographs, copies of brochures, magazine articles, etc. -- materials should be collected in a standard 3-ring binder or file folder, for judges' review). Evaluation of the model may include the completeness of the documentation and how well the model agrees with the information presented. As usual, the builder's basic construction skills will still be the primary judging criteria. Adding more documentation will not make a poorly built model compete better than a less-documented better-built model.
12. **Automotive Technology and Culture.** This category is for models of automotive subjects that do not meet the definitions or requirements of the more specific auto categories. It can include: automotive toys, such as pedal cars; caricature or cartoon vehicles; small motorized vehicles not intended for on-road use and not derived from road-capable vehicles (go-karts, mini-bikes, quad-runners, powered skateboards, etc.); 'slammer-style' models (models of a complete vehicle with painted-over windows and no interior or mechanical components); stand-alone engines or other mechanical components; cut-away/engineering models meant to show the internal construction / operation of an automobile or

part of an automobile; wrecked or 'junk' vehicles that are no longer complete or drivable (e.g. drive-line and/or body panels have been visibly removed); bicycles.

13. **Automotive Curbside.** This category is judged as if the vehicle is parked at the curb. The model must be displayed with hood, trunk, all doors, etc. closed. No engines allowed. No motorcycles are allowed in this category, as the engine is visible. If the engine is included or visible, the model will be moved to the appropriate automotive category. Judges will ignore any detail on the bottom of the model (mirrored bases are not allowed). Body detail will be judged by the basic construction criteria. There will be no additional credit given to models with added body/structure details.
14. **Bases – in General.** Bases will be allowed in all categories and will not be considered in the judging, except in the Vignette/Diorama Categories. A base may be a piece of undecorated wood, plastic or glass or it may simulate the natural surface on which the prototype would be found. However, nothing other than that basic surface may be used. Aircraft and military vehicles may rest on simulated ground or paving, and aircraft that need beaching gear or dollies may be so equipped. Ships may be displayed in water (no dry docks). The base must not be the predominant feature of the entry and must be of a size proportionate to the model. The Contest Chairman and Judges reserve the right to exclude oversize bases. The model may include primary crew figures. 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 or Diorama, which must then be entered in the proper Diorama category (see Rule 19, below). So, if you want to compete in a single-subject category, don't make a Vignette, to see how far you can push the boundary!
15. **Bases – Military Vehicles.** Any AFV model that is displayed upon a base may have 'basic' groundwork; i.e., dirt, grass, roadway, a low stone wall, etc. No part of that groundwork may extend taller than the topmost portion of the body of the model; i.e., no trees, buildings, structure, chimney, water-tower etc. Any vehicle entry that has more than basic groundwork will be defined as a **Vignette** (see Rule 19, below), and will be transferred to the appropriate Category for judging there. Any model entered into an AFV category 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 Vignette, and will be transferred to the appropriate Category for judging there.
16. **Multi or Towed Vehicles – Military Vehicles.** Any grouping of two (2) or three (3) vehicles (no more), attached to each other. For example: 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 AFV model entries, if the multi-vehicle display has groundwork that extends past the highest point of the basic body of the model(s), and/or has more than two (2) figures, as defined in Rule II-19, the entry will be defined as a Vignette, and will be transferred to the appropriate Diorama Category for judging there.
17. **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.
18. **Space & Sci-Fi Categories.**
Category Definitions:
 - **Star Trek & Star Wars subjects (Category 605):** Only spaceships and vehicles from *Star Trek* and *Star Wars* media.
 - **Gundam subjects (Category 606):** Only characters and vehicles from the *Gundam* media multiverse.

- **Mecha subjects (Category 607):** Powered sci-fi robots, armor or machines, with limbed features or humanoid construct. Such models 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 appropriate **Fantasy** or **Sci-Fi Figures** category.

19. **Dioramas – Vignettes.** In Classes I through IV, the number of subjects (vehicles and/or figures) will determine in which category an entry is placed. Entries with no more than five (5) figures and/or a single vehicle subject will be placed into the **Small Composition** or **Vignette** categories (710, 712, 720, 730, 740). Entries with two or more vehicles and/or more than five figures will be placed into the Large Composition categories (714, 722, 732, 742). Dioramas are story-centric, specifically built to tell a story or convey a message. Storyline will be considered equally to construction and finish of the individual subjects, figures, and other presentation components; a technically well-done diorama with a weak story line will be at a disadvantage to one with a strong storyline. Vignettes may also tell a story, or may simply depict a 'moment in time/location'.

A previous national contest winner may be used as part of a diorama, so long as it is not the primary focus of the diorama.

20. **Judges.** A Chief Judge must be chosen, and he must brief all judges before the contest judging. Only Judges fully registered at the Convention are eligible to join judging teams. Junior members may not serve as voting judges, but may be assigned to judging teams as participating observers.

Judges may not judge a category in which they are entered. Nor may any contest entrants attempt to solicit judges to select their entries to receive any awards, at any time during the annual convention. Nor may any contest entrants attempt to solicit the public-at-large to select their entries to receive votes for Most Popular Model, at any time during the annual convention (in this case, the public-at-large function as *de-facto* judges).

Judging teams will be composed of multiple judges, preferably representing different regions. Strict impartiality will be observed, and violators will be removed from judges' lists for future National Conventions. Any judges disqualified for cause may not assume any role related to the contest at future IPMS/USA National Conventions and may not be present in the room during the judging for any reason. This will include, but not be limited to, administrative, scoring, photographic and other support responsibilities. Judges will be provided with a special ribbon or other device to allow their easy identification during the convention. Specially designated judging teams will monitor the contest room prior to judging to ensure models are in the proper categories for judging. They will also move models to accomplish the "splits" required in the larger categories.

21. **All Judges' Decisions Are Final.** Contest registrars will help determine proper entry categories for models during registration, but final category placement is at the discretion of contest judges. Judges may split categories during final judging.
22. **NCC Rules.** The IPMS/USA National Contest Committee (NCC) is solely responsible for the creation, modification, addition and deletion of all Rules and Categories for the IPMS/USA National Contest. Any exceptions sought by the Host Chapter must be submitted for consideration by the National Contest Committee at the time the Convention is bid. The Host Chapter will provide a sufficient number of trophy packages to account for all categories and preplanned splits. It may also provide up to (but no more than) 5 trophy packages for additional, unplanned splits at the Convention. At its discretion, the Host Chapter may also add up to 5 additional "theme" or local-interest categories into the contest for that year only. These categories must be announced at the preceding Convention.
23. **No liability.** No liability for loss or damage to contest entries is implied or assumed by IPMS/USA, the Host Chapter, the convention hotel, or the contest judges.
24. **Waivers.** The Chief Judge may waive any rule if circumstances warrant.

III. SPECIAL CATEGORIES

1. **Out-of-the-Box (OOB), General Guidelines:** The IPMS/USA National Contest will include separate categories in selected Classes for Out-of-the-Box entries. An exception to this is the Junior Class: since most Junior entries are regularly built out-of-the-box, and since the numbers of Junior entries are relatively low, no separate OOB awards will be provided for the Junior Class. The model builder should note that building a model for entry specifically in any of our OOB categories is a choice. Models in these categories have limitations applied to them that are not applied to entries in the rest of the categories. The 'spirit' of building OOB is two-fold: First, to limit yourself to using only those components supplied by the kit maker (besides the few exceptions listed in these rules, below) and yet get the best result regardless of any shortcomings in the base kit, be that in its detailing or accuracy. Second, to compete at a more basic level, knowing that basic modeling skills are the only difference-maker; not what is supplied by the kit manufacturer, or aftermarket detailing, nor more advanced scratch-building skills. **The intent of the OOB categories is to provide the option for contest entrants to be able to build an older or more basic model as it is provided by the manufacturer – one that is not the 'latest' or 'best' kit -- and not have to enhance or improve it, outside of basic modeling skills in construction, painting, and overall finish.**

- A. Models that meet the OOB criteria (outlined below) may be entered in the OOB categories, but they are not required to be entered there. Modelers may, therefore, choose to place their model in a standard category, where it will be judged against the other entries with no reference to it being OOB. And in such a case, it will not be considered for an OOB award.

The general OOB approach is to build what came in the kit box. In some cases, however, this may result in an incomplete or inaccurate model. For this reason, the OOB requirements allow for some exceptions beyond what was strictly in the box. Exceptions vary from Class to Class, but allow for commonly accepted construction techniques and standards, while still maintaining the general OOB approach. These include but are not limited to:

- Add antennas, rigging wires, seatbelts to Aircraft, as may be noted in kit instructions;
- Add antennas and closed sponsons to Military Vehicles, as may be noted in kit instructions;
- Add antennas, railings, rigging, and flags to Ship models, as specifically noted in Rules III.2.F&G (below);
- Add seatbelts to Automobiles, as may be noted in kit instructions.

- B. All possible exceptions and "*can I do . . . ?*" cannot be pre-defined, so modelers who are unsure of whether their work falls under these representative exemptions are strongly encouraged to check prior to the contest judging with the respective Class Head Judge to avoid being removed from an OOB category and moved to a standard category. In complex cases, the Head Judge will initial the entry sheet to inform the judges of his decision and prevent subsequent errors or reinterpretations.
2. **Out-of-the-Box (OOB), Specific Guidelines:** Those entries will be governed by the following rules:
 - A. **Kits.** Any commercially available kit may be used. Any parts provided in the kit may be used, regardless of their material (e.g., brass, resin, plastic, etc.). Generally, only parts that are included with the kit and found in the bag or box may be used. As provided above in **Rule III.1.A & B**, exemptions may be allowed but must be approved by the respective Head Judge in advance of the judging
 - B. **Construction.** The modeler may fill seams and gaps; sand off rivets; drill out gun ports, exhaust pipes, or other appropriate openings; thin to scale such parts as trailing edges, flaps, and doors; re-scribe panel lines lost in construction; and add rigging and antennas.

- C. **Decals:** Decals other than those included with the kit may be used. They may be used to replace old/damaged/missing kit decals. They may also be used to provide alternative insignia and markings to those originally provided with a kit. However, their use for OOB entries is restricted to 2-dimensional water-slide or dry-transfer products. 3-dimensional products such as 3D-printed or resin-dot printed instrument panels, access panels, fasteners, bolts, rivets, stitching, etc, are commercially offered as after-market improved-detailing products, and so fall outside of the intended/ accepted usage as decals for OOB entries.

- D. **Finish.** All finishing techniques are allowed. Insignia, markings, and instrument panels may be hand-painted instead of using decals. Weathering is permitted.

- E. **Exclusions.** It is not permitted to vacuum-form, manufacture, or replace any part, or substitute parts from another kit; cut or separate canopies, surfaces, hatches, doors, etc. (no major surgery); combine a standard kit with a conversion kit; add anything other than specified on the instruction sheet, except as shown in **Section B** above or specifically exempted by the respective Head Judge.

- F. **Instruction Sheets.** Modelers must attach at least the first page of the kit instruction sheet to the entry form and have the rest of the instruction sheet accessible to the judges for review during judging (preferably, directly under the table from the model). Models entered without an attached kit instruction sheet cannot be considered for an Out-of-the-Box award, since judges then cannot verify if the builder used only kit-supplied parts.

- G. **Ships Out-of-the-Box Category 425 – Multi-media or "High-Tech" kits:** Entries in this category shall be in accordance with Rules **III.2.A--E** (above). Any commercially available kit may be used, but only the parts which are included with the kit (e.g. wood decks, photoetched details, resin parts, and/or turned metal barrels, etc.). No separate aftermarket upgrade sets either generically or specifically designed for the base kit are allowed. For verification, the kit's whole instruction sheet must be provided.

The modeler may choose to modify a kit from a whole-hull to a waterline presentation. The modeler may cut and remove parts from the base kit and replace them with any kit-included detail parts, in accordance with the instructions. Otherwise the modeler is not permitted to manufacture, replace, vacuum-form, or substitute parts from another kit.

- H. **Ships Out-of-the-Box Category 426 – Single Media or "Legacy" kits:** The modeler shall use only the primary material provided in the kit for the construction and detailing of the entry. Primary material is defined to be: plastic, resin, wood, paper, or cast metal, and comprises the majority of the material provided within the kit. No secondary materials may be used, even if provided with the kit, with the following exceptions:

- For kits which direct the use of wire to replicate items which may be beyond the limitations of the primary material (e.g. resin masts or gun barrels), wire material may be used. This wire may be either provided with the kit or supplied by the modeler.
- The modeler may use thread, wire, or stretched sprue to rig the ship or fabricate lifelines. In no case may photoetched material, including separate stanchions, be used.
- Paper/decals flags or ensigns may be used.
- For OOB verification, the kit's whole instruction sheet must be provided. The modeler may choose to modify a kit from a whole-hull to a waterline presentation, but may not otherwise make changes to the configuration of the kit's subject. The modeler may not remove/replace molded fittings (hatchways, gun tubs, deck bolsters, etc). The painting and decaling of the entry shall be in accordance with Rule III.2.C, D (above).

3. **Humor (Category 810):** Models entered in the Humor category will be judged on both their humor content and the degree of modeling skill which they present.
4. **Hypothetical (Categories 820, 821):** In general, models that do not represent a factual, physical prototype will be entered in one of these hypothetical categories. Each Class has its own definition of hypothetical, dependent upon the tradition and practice within that Class. Class Head Judges will determine whether models will be judged within the regular Class categories or moved to one of the Hypothetical categories. Entrants may choose to enter their model in either the overall Hypothetical categories (820 and 821), or in the regular categories in their Class (armor, aircraft, etc.). Final placement, however, will be determined by the Class Head Judge. Models placed in category 820 are based on kits, with the 'hypothetical' component being the result of markings, finish, etc. Models placed in category 821 are 'hypothetical' as a result of **changes to their structure**, being kit-bashed or scratch-built.
5. **Triathlon (Category 830):** 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 following Classes: **I, II, III, IV, V, VI**, and Categories **800, 820, 821, and 860**. No more than one of the three models comprising this entry may have won as an individual entry in a previous National Contest. To be eligible for an Out-of-the-Box award, all three models must be Out-of-the-Box. Models constituting a Triathlon entry may not, simultaneously, be competing in other parts of the contest. Models comprising a winning Triathlon entry may subsequently be entered individually, if they were not themselves previous winners.
6. **Collections (Category 840):** A Collection is any group of five or more closely related items. Past National Contest winning models may be included as part of a collection, if they comprise no more than 40 percent of the 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. For example, a collection based on variants of a single airframe is a tighter relationship than one of different aircraft operated by a unit. Models comprising a winning Collection may subsequently be entered as individual entries, if they were not themselves previous winners.
7. **IPMS Chapter/Group Entries (Category 850):** The Chapter/Group entry shall be the only exception to **Rule I-1** calling for the model-making work to be done by a single individual. The intent of this category is to provide an option for displaying a project that is too extensive or complex for a single individual to complete in a reasonable time. It is also intended to provide a vehicle for an IPMS chapter or a group of IPMS members to exhibit a project that may have been prepared for an event or display other than the IPMS/USA National Contest. Subject-matter, time-frame, scale, location, etc., are open. Models comprising a winning chapter/group entry may subsequently be entered individually if they were not, themselves, previous winners. *(A separate 'special award' is no longer offered along with First Place in this category; it was redundant and out of the norm from all other contest class/category special awards.)*
8. **Display Only.** Where space and finances permit, conventions are encouraged to add a Class IX, "Display Only." This should be open to any model by any registered entrant, regardless of its having won or not at a previous convention. No awards will be given in this class, nor will it be judged. It will serve to exhibit the full range of work accomplished by IPMS modelers. Space restraints could limit or eliminate this option, which should not impinge on the space required for a full and safe contest.

IV. AWARDS

1. **No monetary value.** 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 and scholarships tied to placement in the contest are expressly prohibited.
2. **No Sweeps.** First-, Second-, and Third-place awards will be given in each category. Individual contestants are eligible for only one award per category entered, that is, no category "sweeps" are allowed, even if a category has only three entries, but only one or two entrants.
3. **Theme Awards.** Additional theme awards ("Specials") may be presented at the discretion of the host chapter. The host chapter is encouraged to make use of incentive awards or other non-trophy items as it sees fit to develop and encourage participation in the Junior categories. The host chapter may add up to five theme special awards for its convention only. These additional theme special awards must be identified to and approved by the Executive Board at the initial bid presentation for that Convention. Special awards will be judged by IPMS National Judges working for the Head Judge, Miscellaneous. The sponsoring committee, however, may at its discretion ask that qualified judges who are members of their local group be included on those teams, so long as they do not constitute a voting majority of the assigned team.
4. **Honorariums.** Special awards may be named in honor of individuals, with the approval of the National Contest Committee. Such awards will remain named for a period of three years, after which they will either be renewed for another three-year period, be renamed in honor of another individual, or revert to their standard-class name. Selection criteria will be very high and named awards will remain the exception.
5. **Class Awards.** Besides the **Judges Grand Award** and **Popular Best of Show**, 'Best' awards will also be presented for each class in the contest and are listed below. The 'Best' entries in each class will be determined by a vote of the judges assigned to that class, led by the Class Head Judge. The **Judges Grand Award** will be chosen from among the Class Best award recipients by vote of the Class Head Judges, led by the Chief Judge. Models entered in Senior categories by Junior members are not eligible for special Junior awards. The **Judges Grand Award** must be the final award presented at the Awards Ceremony.
6. **Show and Class Award Names. Best Awards.** The following 'Best' Awards will be presented at the National Convention:
 - George Lee Judges' Grand Award**
 - Popular-vote Best-of-Show Award**
 - Tom Kolk Best Junior Model Award**
 - Ken Robert Best Aircraft Award**
 - Art Gerber Best Military Vehicle Award**
 - Best Figure Award**
 - Best Ship Award**
 - Best Automotive Award**
 - Best Spacecraft Award**
 - Best Diorama Award**
 - Best Miscellaneous Award**
 - Best Use of IPMS Convention-Special Decals**

Manufacturers' or Special Interest Group (SIG) Awards. Various manufacturers or organizations and interest groups can present other awards each year. These awards must conform to **Rule IV-1**, above. As the screening/selection for these awards is not accomplished by IPMS/USA judging teams, they will be chosen while the contest room is open to normal viewing, and the awards placed/presented prior to the banquet at the convenience of the sponsor. Any such awards expected to be announced by IPMS at the Convention or in its *Journal* Magazine must be accompanied by sponsorship of at least one regular trophy package.