



# CONTEST RULES

Rev. September 2025

## SUMMARY

The HeritageCON plastic scale model show and contest is presented by the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum and supported by the IPMS Hamilton Modellers Club. The rules outlined herein govern the contest portion of HeritageCON.

# Contest Wide Rules & Guidelines

## General

- By submitting a scale model entry for competition at HeritageCON the Entrant agrees to abide by all HeritageCON rules, regulations, and guidelines as well as those of the hosting facility, the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum (CWHM).
- The HeritageCON show committee and CWHM assumes no responsibility for the transportation, handling, entry, loss, damage or storage before, during or after the show of any model, storage container, etc.
- Any entrant who deliberately or intentionally omits, falsifies, or misrepresents any information on their entry form(s) will be subject to disqualification. This includes, but is not limited to, names, materials used, kit used, or kit description.
- HeritageCON contest judging is structured in accordance with IPMS Canada's "Recommended Chapter Contest Rules" with specific deviations noted within this document.
- Any model entry or display that is deemed to pose a potential or real threat of damage or injury to other entries, the public, or the hosting facility may be removed at the Head Judge's discretion.
- Prior to judging, the Head Judge or delegate may move an entry to an alternate category, as the Head Judge deems fit.
- All decisions of the Head Judge are final.

## Eligibility

- HeritageCON is open to anyone who wants to enter their scale model for competition or display. 'Display Only' entries must be entered in the appropriate category.
- Affiliation with an IPMS chapter or any other club is not required to enter the contest.
- All models must be entered under the legally recognized name of the actual modeller.
- All entries, except Group entries, must be the sole work of the individual whose name is on the model-entry form.
- Entries without a completed Entry Form and the correct validation stamp will not be considered in the judging.
- Models that have won a 'Best Of' or a first place in an IPMS Canada, IPMS USA, or other competition prior to and including the previous year's HeritageCON (i.e., March 23, 2025) are not eligible for judging, except as follows:
  - Past contest winning models may be included as part of a Collection or Group Build.
  - A model included as part of a Collection or Group entry that wins an award, may subsequently be entered into an individual category.

## Bantam and Junior

- Bantams are those 12 years of age and younger.
- Juniors are those between the ages of 13 and 17 years old.

- Junior modellers may choose to enter any or all of their models in regular categories. Models entered in regular categories will be judged accordingly and will not be eligible for any Junior awards.
- Bantam and Junior modellers may be supervised and/or coached by an adult during building. The adult cannot complete or re-do any part of the model. All hands-on work must be by the Bantam or Junior modeller.

## Prohibited Entries

- The Head Judge will exclude/remove from competition any entry considered to be inappropriate or offensive to generally acknowledged standards of taste and acceptability of the community and/or the host facility. The following are examples of entries prohibited in competition or on display at any IPMS Canada or IPMS Canada chapter event:
  - There shall be no graphic depiction of any human being or animal excretory functions;
  - There shall be no depiction of sado-masochistic 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;
  - 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 children, and the touching of the breasts or genitals or other erogenous zones of any depicted figure.
  - There shall be no depiction of any nude human male or female figures where the genitalia of the figure are exposed.
  - There shall be no entry depicting the overt sexualization of any subject regardless of gender.
- The Head Judge will exclude/remove from competition any entry that does not emphasize scale accuracy or fidelity. The following are examples of entries prohibited in competition or on display at HeritageCon:
  - Flying models
  - Radio Control (RC)
  - Models constructed of materials or by methods that do not present an accurate 3-dimensional representation of the subject (e.g., Lego models of any kind, foam core/board, Balsa wood, etc.).

## Awards

- Each category will be presented with a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place award (number of entries permitting).
- Any single entrant is eligible for multiple awards in a category (i.e., “sweeps” are permitted).
- Special awards will be determined by the category judges consensus or as selected by the award patron.
- “People’s Choice” will be determined by popular vote of the attending public.

## Materials

- Models may be constructed from any material with the restrictions noted in the “Prohibited Entries” section above or specific “Special” category descriptions below.

## Number of Entries

- Modellers may enter any number of models in the competition or display only category subject to size limitations and other restrictions as outlined herein.

## Size Limitations

- No one entrant's (person entering) total entries may exceed ½ standard table in area (approx. 30" wide x 48" long). This includes collections, large subjects, dioramas, and displays.

## Oversized or Special Display Requirements

- Modellers entering pieces that are considered oversized or require special placement must notify the Head Judge at least 4 weeks in advance of HeritageCon. The limited space of the contest area requires pre-planning for such entries.
- Failure to provide advanced notification for such entries could result in the model being located away from its category or not being able to be displayed at all.
- Contact the Head Judge via email at [ipms.hamilton.contests@gmail.com](mailto:ipms.hamilton.contests@gmail.com) to make the necessary arrangements.

## Contest Duration

- Entrants are requested to leave their models on the contest table until the awards presentation is over.
- IPMS Hamilton will make every reasonable effort to distribute awards to Winners who depart the contest early but make no guarantees. Postage charges may be applicable.
- Similarly, reasonable efforts will be made to reunite orphaned models left behind on the contest tables with the Entrant but no guarantees are made.
- Ultimately, it is the Entrants responsibility to collect any awards given and models from the contest tables before departing the show.

## Category Selection

- The Entrant is free to enter the most appropriate category. In the case where an entry could be entered in more than one category, the Entrant may exercise their preference.
  - For example, a 1/72 Fairey Swordfish Torpedo Bomber could be entered in Category No. 11 Military Single Engine Prop (Radial) - Allied / Neutral - WW-II & Earlier or Category No. 28 Multi-Winged and Rugged.
- Prior to judging, the HeritageCON Head Judge may re-assign/move an entry to an alternate category if it has reasonably been determined that the entry has been entered into the incorrect category (i.e., based on scale or other identifiable factors).
- The HeritageCON Head Judge has the right to make the final decision on any model's category placement.

## Bases

- Reasonably sized bases will be allowed in all categories but will not be considered in the judging except in the diorama or vignette categories.
- The base may be a piece of uncoated wood, plastic, or glass or it may simulate the natural surface on which the subject would be found. Aircraft, military vehicles, and the like 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 only (no dock or dry docks).
- No part of the base or groundwork may obscure, or hide from view, any portion of the model.
- Trees, telegraph poles, and other similar elements may extend taller than the topmost portion of the body of the model as long as they do not obscure the subject.
- The base must not be the predominant feature of the entry and must be of a size proportional to the model.
- The Head Judge reserves the right to exclude oversized or elaborate bases.

## Models Under Glass

- The Modeller may display their entry under a protective glass or covering prior to and after judging.
- Models will not be judged unless the glass or cover has been removed. It is up to the entrant to monitor the schedule and announcements and to remove the covering prior to judging. Judges will not remove coverings.
- “Shadow Box” dioramas are exempt from this rule.

## Splits & Combined Categories

- A category may be combined or split at the discretion of the Head Judge and Lead Judge for a category prior to the start of judging of a category.

## Display Only Entries

- A Modeller who does not want to participate in the contest portion of HeritageCon can display their completed or in-progress work in Category 100 – Display Only.
- Display Only entries are still to be registered in the HeritageCon registration system and checked in for record purposes.
- All entry and registration fees are still applicable to Modellers placing models in the Display Only category.

# Category Specific Rules & Guidelines

## Catch-22

- Any entry that does not fit into another category.

## Conversion

- A significant change in the mark or variant of a subject by scratch building or kit bashing techniques.
- Commercially available conversions are not eligible for this category.

- The entry must include a detailed description of the conversion process undertaken.

## **Cold War vs. Modern**

- Cold war subjects (i.e., aircraft or military vehicles) are those operated between the end of WWII and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. This includes subjects developed in WWII or earlier but used in a Cold War setting (e.g., Sherman tank use in the Korean war).
- Modern subjects are those operated from 1991 to present, which may include subjects developed prior to the end of the Cold War but used in a modern context.
- The differentiation between Cold War and Modern subjects will be based on markings and time period/setting being depicted by the modeller (e.g., MiG-23 used by Libyan Air Force).

## **Collections**

- Collections must consist of five (5) or more clearly related models (note size limitations).

## **Primary Crew Figures**

- Primary Crew Figures (PCF) (e.g., pilot and navigator, SPG gun crew, race car driver, etc.) will be allowed in all categories, but will not be considered in the judging except in the diorama categories.
- PCF are considered the primary operators of the aircraft, vehicle (military or civilian), ship, or science fiction subject.
- PCF must be located on or within (e.g., pilot in cockpit, gun compartment, etc.) or immediately adjacent (e.g., driver standing beside car, etc.) to the model.
- Additional figures located on (e.g., soldiers on rear deck of a tank), adjacent (e.g., maintenance crew), or surrounding a model are not considered 'Primary Crew Figures' and will require the entry to be moved to the appropriate diorama category.
- PCF shall not be the predominant feature of the entry and shall not obscure, or hide from view, any portion of the model.

## **Dioramas**

- Dioramas are judged not only on the technical merit of their construction (i.e., vehicles, figures, and groundwork, etc.), but also on the strength of the theme, composition, and story they present.
- A previous regular contest category winner may be used as part of a diorama as long as it is not the primary focus of the diorama.

## **Gunpla**

- Gunpla may be free standing or mounted on a kit supplied or aftermarket/ custom base or stand. The base or stand will not be considered in the judging process except in the diorama process.

## **Inline vs. Radial Aircraft Engines**

- WWII & Earlier aircraft, both Allied and Axis, are to be entered into the appropriate category based on their engine type.

## Major Conversions

- Major conversions consist of a substantial alternation to a base-kit that significantly changes the original characteristics of the subject being depicted.
- Each entry is to include documentation describing the intended subject and the work undertaken to complete the conversion.

## Modified Die-Cast

- Modified die-cast is no longer a HeritageCON contest category. Modified Die-Cast can still be entered in Category 100 – Display Only.

## Ordnance:

- Ordnance includes towed artillery (with or without a prime mover), portees, rocket launchers, a tank transporter/trailer (with or without a loaded vehicle), etc. Any combination of two or three vehicles must be attached to each other by a means designed specifically for such purpose.
- Naval ordnance includes stand-alone gun turrets, cannons, or weapons systems (all eras).

## Out-of-the-Box:

- There are no longer Out-of-the-Box sub-categories in the main categories of HeritageCON.

## Scratch Built

- Scratch built entries may be made of any materials but must contain less than 25% commercially available parts.
- Models created from largely 3D self-designed, printed, and constructed components will be entered in the appropriate Scratch Built category (excludes commercially printed 3D models).

## Wargaming Figures:

- Wargaming figures consist of any commercial table-top gaming figures (e.g., Warhammer 40K, Bolt Action, D&D, etc.).
- Figures can be entered either as a single miniature or as a cohesive squad of up to 10 related miniatures.
- Entries consisting of multiple squads or a cohesive army are to be entered as a Collection. Entries with elaborate bases, depicting combat between two or more foes, or are otherwise conveying a story are to be entered as a Diorama.

## What If:

- Includes aircraft, military vehicles, cars, ships, etc. that were conceptual in nature only (e.g., Luftwaffe '46, paper panzers, etc.).
- Are models that bear markings never actually never worn (e.g., RCAF F-14)
- Models that never existed anywhere but in the imagination of the modeller.