

2024 International Turquoise Finals Rules

Judges' and contest officials' have final ruling on all contests and disputes

Photography Contest Rules

1. Entries Allowed: Up to 4 photographs, per person. Color or Black & White.
2. Entry Fee: \$10 per image
3. Signature, Photographer name, Business names or any identifying marks are not allowed on photo.
4. Each photograph may be entered once and cannot be entered again in future years.
5. Youth Division - 18 years old or younger.
6. Open Division – All ages
7. All entries must be submitted as digital .jpeg files on the Turquoise United website.
8. Entries must be submitted no later than 11:59pm Mountain Time on June 15th, 2024
9. Photos submitted must be originals that he/she has created, composed, and any special effects were done by the entrant. Copy work not allowed, the Turquoise United officials reserve the right to remove any work that is a copy.
10. The International Turquoise Finals is a family-oriented event. Images found offensive or in bad taste will be removed by officials.
11. Artists recognize that marketing of the Turquoise United and its events require use of photography and video. Artist hereby expressly grants to Turquoise United the irrevocable, assignable right and license to take, use and publish Artist images and property and publish Artist images and property without the need for any other approval.
12. All photos must include turquoise and follow the standards set forth for the category
13. Failure to comply with division rules will result in disqualification from being judged.

Categories

1. Section 100: Studio Photography

Studio photography is defined as “photography of item(s) taken on a solid colored background”

- a. Category 101: Single Cut stone
- b. Category 102: Multiple Cut Stones
- c. Category 103: Single Rough Specimen
- d. Category 104: Multiple Rough Specimens
- e. Category 105: Rough and Cut Turquoise
- f. Category 106: Before and After Lapidary
- g. Category 107: Before and After Treatment
- h. Category 108: Turquoise used in “end-use art”

2. Section 200: Creative Photography

Creative photography is defined as “Photography taken inside or outside, that may include other “props” in the photo with the item(s)”

- a. Category 201: Single Cut stone
- b. Category 202: Multiple Cut Stones
- c. Category 203: Single Rough Specimen
- d. Category 204: Multiple Rough Specimens
- e. Category 205: Rough and Cut Turquoise

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- f. Category 206: Before and After Lapidary
- g. Category 207: Before and After Treatment
- h. Category 208: Turquoise used in "end-use art"

Identification Contest

This contest is designed to celebrate and showcase the skill of identifying a turquoise mine source and condition.

1. Goal
 - a. Contestants will specifically identify 30 individual turquoise pieces by their mine source name and condition.
 - b. Contestants will not be allowed to have their phones out in the arena
 - c. Sharing of information about the pieces is strictly prohibited
2. Definitions
 - a. Condition: The classification of the turquoise, whether natural or not natural.
 - b. Conditions of the 2024 stone selection will include: Natural, Stabilized, Enhanced, and Plastic.
3. Format
 - a. List the condition of the stone first, followed by the mine source.
 - i. Examples: "Natural Number Eight" or "Stabilized #8" or "Enhanced Sleeping Beauty" or "Plastic"
4. Known sources
 - a. All pieces have been verified by the Turquoise Museum as to their specific conditions and mine sources.
 - b. A list of all included mine sources will be posted in the arena for competitors to reference during the contest.
5. Entries
 - a. A contestant may only enter the contest one time per year
 - b. All contestants must pay a \$5 cash entry fee
 - c. A pen must be used to fill out all forms
 - d. Each contestant may only receive one form
 - e. Contestants will have up to 2 hours to complete their entry form, during this time contestants cannot leave the competition arena or talk to anyone other than contest officials.
6. Scoring
 - a. Each correctly answered field will be scored as three (3) points
 - b. If the field has the correct mine source but incorrect or missing condition, that field will receive one (1) point
 - c. If the field has the correct condition but incorrect or missing mine source, that field will receive one (1) point
 - d. If the judges cannot read the handwriting, the field will be scored with a zero (0)
 - e. Any empty field will receive a score of zero(0)

2024 International Turquoise Finals Rules

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- f. In the event of a tie score, the competitor that completed their identifications the fastest will win
 - g. Spelling does not need to be perfect, as long as the judges can understand what the contestant was trying to spell
7. Equipment
- a. This is a knowledge based competition, not testing based, not chemical or destructive testing can be done on the samples.
 - b. Competitors are allowed to use their naked eyes (including any vision correction), hand-held loupes, and/or touch and feel the samples.

Collections Contest Rules

The purpose of the collections contest is to celebrate and showcase the skill of finding, and collecting the world's highest grade turquoise.

1. The Collections Contest is for natural turquoise entries only.
 - a. Definition of natural
 - i. Natural turquoise means a piece of turquoise either rough or cut that has had no treatments, enhancements, or changes to the color caused by man. If the piece has been cut into a stone, the cutting process can only include changing the stone's shape and polish.
 - ii. Doublet cut stones are natural
 - iii. Stones with dyed matrix are natural
 - iv. Stones that have limited filled matrix are natural
2. 2024 Divisions
Contestants are responsible for entering their turquoise into the appropriate division.
 - a. Number Eight
 - b. Bisbee
 - c. Lander Blue
 - d. Lone Mountain
 - e. Yungaisi
 - f. King's Manassa
 - g. Godber Burnham
 - h. Royston
 - i. Kingman
 - j. Sleeping Beauty
 - k. Neyshabur
 - l. Any Mine
3. Categories
 - a. Rough turquoise 0-3 grams
 - b. Rough turquoise 3.1-10 grams
 - c. Rough turquoise 10.1-20 grams

2024 International Turquoise Finals Rules

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- d. Rough turquoise 20 grams and above
 - e. Cut turquoise 0-3 carats
 - f. Cut turquoise 3.1-10 carats
 - g. Cut turquoise 10.1-20 carats
 - h. Cut turquoise 20 carats and above
 - i. Turquoise stone used in end-use art piece
4. Ownership
 - a. Any piece entered in the contest must be owned by the contestant, you may not enter a piece that does not belong to you.
 5. Number of entries
 - a. Contestants may enter as many pieces as they would like in the contest
 - b. Each entry will have a fee of \$15
 6. Declaration
 - a. Contestants shall sign a declaration of the piece's condition, source, and ownership at time of entry.
 - b. If a piece is classified incorrectly (wrong division, not natural, wrong weight, etc), the judges may remove the stone from judging
 7. Judges' decisions are final
 - a. Judges' placement of pieces cannot be questioned
 - b. Judges' may reclassify or disqualify any pieces they deem necessary
 8. Deadlines
 - a. All entries must be entered with entry form and declaration between 30-60 minutes before division's scheduled judging
 - b. Judging for divisions A-F will begin at 12:15pm on Saturday August 10th, 2024
 - i. Best of mine items will be retained for best of show judging
 - ii. All other entries may be picked up by owner beginning at 2:30pm
 - c. Judging for divisions G-I will begin at 2:30pm on Saturday August 10th, 2024
 - i. Best of mine items will be retained for best of show judging
 - ii. All other entries may be picked up by owner beginning at 2:30pm
 - d. Best of Show Judging will begin at 3:30pm on Saturday August 10th, 2024
 - e. All pieces must be picked up by contestant by 4pm on Saturday August 10th, 2024
 9. Presentation of entry
 - a. All entries shall be submitted by themselves, with no packaging/displays or any other items.
 - b. Entries may not have any identifying marks to disclose the owner
 - c. Entries may not have any sort of residue on them (sticky, chalky, flakey, etc.)

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Grading Contest Rules

The purpose of the grading contest is to celebrate and showcase the skill of grading turquoise, learning to distinguish high grade and low grade turquoises and explain their differences.

1. General

- a. After completing all classes, contestants will take turns giving oral reasons to judges
- b. During competition, competitors should refrain from talking to anyone other than contest officials
- c. Awards will be announced during the Hall of Fame Banquet
- d. Entry fee: \$10 per contestant
- e. Contestants will not be allowed to have their phones out in the arena
- f. Sharing of information about the pieces is strictly prohibited

2. Classes

- a. The turquoise grading contest will be made up of ten (10) classes of turquoise
 - i. Classes will consist of four (4) cut stones from the same mine
 - ii. Competitors will enter the arena and will have five (5) minutes to judge each class
 - iii. The contest will include two (2) reasons classes, competitors will receive an extra five minutes when grading reasons classes
 - iv. Each class is worth a possible 50 points for a perfect placement

3. Reasons

- a. After completing all classes, contestants will take turns giving oral reasons to judges.
- b. Reasons will be no less than 2 minutes and no more than three.
 - i. A 10 point deduction will be assessed for contestants that do not fall within the time limit.
 - ii. Contestants that grossly exceed the time limit may be stopped by the judge.
- c. Due to limited translator availability, all reasons will be given in English
 - i. Contestants with English as a second language can apply for extra time to present their reasons to account for English language difficulties.
- d. Each set of reasons is worth a possible 100 points

4. Equipment

- a. Contestants are welcome to bring the following equipment to help with their grading:
 - i. Notebook
 - ii. Pencil/Pen
 - iii. Loupe