



Judging Rubric

To the judges:

Thank you for joining us for the Inaugural Artisans Cup. We are honored to have your skill and expertise as our panel of judges for our maiden voyage. We are undoubtedly breaking new ground in the world of bonsai and your roll in the continued evolution of American bonsai will be forever represented by the credibility and professionalism with which you judge. Our mission is to provide the most objective and non-biased selection of the highest level of bonsai creation and craftsmanship presented in the show.

THE BIG PICTURE:

- Judges will be given an hour and forty-five minutes to judge the exhibition
- Judges will not be permitted to view the exhibition before judging and will only have your assigned host present in the exhibition as you judge
- Each tree will be awarded one, single score (criteria is outlined below)
- Upon completion of judging your judges form must be turned in to our event coordinator before you leave the exhibition
- Scores will be tallied and the highest and lowest score for each tree will be dropped. The remaining 3 scores will be averaged to determine each tree's final score (In the event a tie exists when determining the winning trees Michael Hagedorn and Ryan Neil will act as the tie breaking decision to determine placement of winning trees)
- All scores will be made public
- The first, second, and third place trees will be moved to the Award's Brunch at Departures restaurant on Sunday morning for the unveiling of the winning trees.
- First place-\$10,000 Second place- \$5,000 Third place-\$3,000

EXPECTATIONS:

- Judges are expected to be in front of the Mark building 15 minutes prior to your scheduled judging time properly fed and hydrated. You can have water and a snack with you which your host can carry as you judge. If you have additional needs please communicate them to your host and if necessary to Chelsea and myself (ryan@bonsaimirai.com, chelsea@bonsaimirai.com)
- Judges are requested to not discuss details or thoughts regarding trees and the show until every judge has finished their duty and submitted their judging form
- Judges are expected to conduct themselves professionally and to provide the most objective, educated, and non-biased assessment of each display. Politics and personal issues/agendas do not belong in the show during judging and should not be reflected on your judges form in the shape of an altered score (please keep in mind your scores will be made public)
- Judges are expected to judge each composition in its totality including the tree, pot, stand, accent, and quality of overall composition. (ie a good tree with a crappy display should not win this show. Winning trees should exhibit quality from

head to toe in every aspect of the display as it's presented in the exhibition)

- Judges are expected to be honorable and consistent in their assessment and scoring of the compositions. (Consistency in your expectations of the composition and your evaluation in each's merits is what quality, objective judging is based on. You are all professionals and were selected for this reason. Don't let us down)

RUBRIC:

- Trees will be scored on a scale ranging from 0-60.
- Judges are responsible for allocating priority and scoring weight to all aspects of the composition as they view each aspect's significance. (We are not telling you what is most important, we are only telling you to be consistent in how important you think each aspect is)

TECHNICAL VS. ARTISTIC

Technical

- Compositions should display a high level of technical proficiency in all its forms
- Health
- Density- as it is appropriate for the species, size, shape, design of tree
- Craftsmanship- as it pertains to cleanliness (dead or broken needles removed and pot free of debris), development (maturity, quantity of wire, quality of ramification, consideration of nuances of species and difficulty to achieve presented results), pruning (cuts visible, clean pruning sites, detailed pruning of ramification, etc.), wiring (quantity, cleanliness, proficiency, guy wires obvious or not/present or not, etc.), oiling of pots and stands, attention to detail, application of moss or appropriate topical treatment to maximize aesthetic quality (well done, appropriate feel, conscious application, etc.), presence and selection of accent pieces (size appropriate, well considered, functional, meaningful, etc.)

Artistic

Compositions should display a high level of artistry and proficiency in design

1. *Tree*

- Material is of quality and value/interest
- Design is a good representation of the species as it occurs in the natural environment, OR design is a good representation of a shape as a bonsai. (Some trees look like trees in nature, other trees look like a bonsai. Both are equally as valid. Is the design well executed? Personal opinions and personal preferences are not welcomed or permitted. Judge Objectively!)
- Features of tree are well considered and utilized in design
- Design flaws may exist but have been addressed

2. *Container*

- Container is 50% of composition
- Tree/container combination is flattering, proportional, and appropriately selected for color and finish.
- Quality of container is equivalent to quality of the tree
- Features of container highlight and maximize features of tree

3. *Stand*

- Stand is proportional and size appropriate to hold tree and display the tree at the correct height for proper viewing
- Color and shape of stand are well considered and elevate aesthetic quality of overall composition
- Quality of stand is equivalent to quality of container and quality of tree

4. *Accent*

- Accent piece is proportional and size appropriate to accent is accompanying tree and the display space
- Accent piece is well-thought out and representative of season, environment, or hints/insinuates/tells a story relative to the tree and the composition
- Accent piece is equivalent to quality of stand, container, and quality of tree.