



American Culinary Federation
The Standard of Excellence for Chefs

ACF Ice Carving Competition Manual

Chapter 1: **Traditional Competition Category (Professional)**

Category H – Ice Carving, Professional

HD Ice Carving Showpiece

"Ice Carving" showpiece will be prepared prior to the competition and brought to the competition area for display.

- One blocks (300 lbs.)
- Must provide your own ice pan with a drip tube and drip bucket to catch water.
- 6 foot display table with adequate support (show to provide)
- Please keep safety in mind during assembly, display time and removal of sculpture from the table and the competition venue display area.

Live Action

Live Action Ice carving is an exciting category where culinarians and artists mingle. There are five different sub-categories, depending on the number of carvers and the amount of ice to be carved.

Buffett

H-1: Single Block Individual/ Buffet

- Setup time of 30 minutes.
- Individual
- One block (300 lbs.)
- 1 hour of work.
- Will be judged after 1 hours after completions of work.
- Must be moved from work space to display table. No changing form at the table.
- Clean up time of 30 minutes.

H-2: Multiple Blocks, Two-Member Team Buffet

- Setup time of 30 minutes.
- Two-Member Team
- Three blocks (300 lbs. each)
- 2 hours of work
- Will be judged after 2 hours of work.
- Must be moved from work space to display table. No changing form at the table.
- Clean up time of 30 minutes.

Freestyle

H-3: Single Block Individual Freestyle

- Setup time of 30 minutes.
- Individual
- One block (300 lbs.)
- 1 hour of work
- Will be judged at competition of work.
- Clean up time of 30 minutes.

H-4: Multiple Blocks, Two-Member Team Freestyle

- Setup time of 30 minutes.
- Two-Member Team
- Three blocks (300 lbs. each)

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- 2 hours of work
- Will be judged at competition of work.
- Clean up time of 30 minutes.

H-5: Multiple Blocks, Three-Member Team Freestyle

- Setup time of 30 minutes.
- Three-Member Team
- Five blocks (300 lbs. each)
- Three hours
- Will be judged at competition of work.
- Clean up time of 30 minutes.

WH-6 Exhibition Carving

- Setup time of 30 minutes.
- Two-Member or Three-Member Team freestyle as determined by the Show Chair/Organizer
- 15–20 blocks (300 lbs. each)
- 48-hour time limit
- Outdoor Setting
- Freestyle categories should be done outside and a specific base requirement should be given; for example can present directly on the ground or on a flat piece of plywood or stands provided by the host site.

General Guidelines-Live Action Ice Carving

- Live Action carving officials place safety as the single most important rule for competitors and spectators.
- Judges will be observing for safety violations during work.
- The first safety violation may result in a verbal warning at the discretion of the judges. Competitors who receive a second warning will be disqualified. (Defined as putting yourself or others in harm.)
- All competition ice is to be carved on the premises, within a specified time limit, and only by the competitor who entered the category.
- No helpers are allowed for individual or team freestyle competitions.
- Display tables for individual freestyle carvings (if provided by the exhibition officials) should have a surface of 48" x 48" and have adequate stability and braces.
- For H-1 & H-2 ADD Must provide your own ice pan with a drip tube and drip bucket to catch water.
- The decision of the judges is final.
- The lead judge is responsible for conducting the carvers' meeting before the start of the competition. The shows organizing committee should also participate in this meeting and introduce all officials, helpers, etc. to the competitors.
- Helpers will be allowed for individual live action categories only. Helpers can not cut or shape ice in any way but are allowed to hold ice for fusing and help lift when necessary.

Platforms For Carving

- The platforms should be non-skid, preferably wood. Wood pallets are readily available in any convention area. Exterior grade plywood ½" x 4' x 8' will cover two pallets.
- Each carver will need a minimum of two pallets, covered in such a manner and spaced to avoid participants working too close together.
- A base of six pallets covered with three sheets of plywood would accommodate a two-or three man team event and could also be used for two single carvers working simultaneously. Since most competitions have both single and team events, this should be the standard.
- The surface on which the platforms are placed should be ideally cement or non-skid flooring; plastic sheeting on flooring is dangerous and thus not acceptable.

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Power Supply

- The power supply must be adequately grounded. The power should accommodate several 120-volt chain saws operating at once (one per competitor).
- The connections for the power supply should not be placed in or near standing water.
- The engineering staff of the facility should be available during the whole competition to successful show.

Lighting

- Lighting should be bright enough to ensure a safe environment for the competitors as well as provide good visibility for spectators.
- White lights only

Drainage

- The area where the carvings are composed and displayed should provide drainage so that no standing water is evident.

Judges Panel

- The judges' panel should have a minimum of three judges, experienced ice sculptors and artist(s), and at least one ACF-approved ice-carving judge. It is always advisable to encourage the use of judges from out of town, particularly for the lead judge position.
- The use of media or celebrity judges should be employed for special awards, but should not be part of the official score.
- The lead judge should be indicated on the score sheets; he or she should be accomplished in the field of ice carving.
- The members of the jury should be available for a critique with the competitors after the judging. This is an important step in the learning and advancement of ice carving and is consistent with ACF procedures for food competitions.

Safety Guidelines

- Protective clothing
- Steel-toed boots
- Safety glasses OR face shields
- Gloves—cold weather protection
- No loose scarves, etc.
- Ear plugs
- Electrical equipment, grounded
- Proper lifting, moving of ice blocks and finished pieces weighing 300–400 pounds
- Adequate drainage

Non-Authorized Ice Carving Tools

- Gas Saws
- Colored lights
- No props
- No molds

Show Organizer's Responsibilities

- Issue a liability waiver to each competitor (Appendix) at the time of application, and issue the same waiver to each helper, apprentice, or persons who will be in the working areas. The waiver should relieve ACF or organizers of any responsibility if an accident should occur. This waiver could also include a clause for rights to photograph or film the contest for future advertisement or promotion.
- Secure necessary materials for the setup and construction of the work areas, adequate power supply, drainage, lighting, etc., specifications are outlined herein.
- Arrange for personnel to emcee the event, talk to the audience; provide an official time clock visible to all competitors, proper signage for the competitors and their establishment, as well as a scoreboard to post the competitors final scores.
- Provide staff to assist the judges in totaling, averaging scores, preferably with calculators or computers to ensure accuracy.

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Assessment for Categories HD and H

Artistic Achievement and Strength of Design - 25 Points

- Is the piece artistic in nature?
- Does the piece have a strong design?
- Is the subject matter apparent?
- Is it structurally sound and will it retain its beauty as it melts?

Craftsmanship and Work Involved - 25 Points

- Does the piece have nice detail and precision in the carving technique?
- Are there strong lines in the piece and does the piece have a balanced look?
- Does it have symmetry, depth, and uniformity?
- Is the piece designed with safety in mind as it melts?
- Judge the amount of time and work involved in achieving the piece.

Finished Appearance - 25 Points

- Does the piece have a finished look?
- Free of template paper, cracks, chips or excess slush
- Does it have beauty and appeal?

Originality and Degree of Difficulty - 25 Points

- Uniqueness of the design
- Is it an original design or a new design or composition?
- How difficult of a design is it?
- How many different techniques were used?

Chapter 2: **Traditional Competition Category (Student)**

Category SH – Ice Carving, Student

Ice carving is an exciting category where culinarians and artists mingle. There are four different sub-categories, depending on the number of carvers and the amount of ice to be carved:

Category SH-1 – Single Block Individual Freestyle

- One person, one block, three hours

Category SH-2 – Multiple Block, Two-person Team Freestyle

- Two-person team, three blocks, three hours

Category SH-3 – Multiple Block, three-person Team Freestyle

- Three-person team, five blocks, three hours

Category SH-4 – Exhibition Carving

- Two-or three-person team, 15–20 blocks, 48-hour time limit, outdoors

General Guidelines for Category SH

- Exhibition carving officials place safety as the single most important rule for competitors and spectators. A first safety violation may result in a verbal warning at the discretion of the judges. Competitors who receive a second warning will be disqualified.
- All competition ice is to be carved on the premises, within a specified time limit, and only by the competitor who entered the category.
- In exhibition carving, one helper may be used by each competitor. The helper must register with the competitor and sign all waivers. The helper can handle the ice and tools, but may not alter the ice in any way. No helpers are allowed for team competitions.
- Display tables for individual freestyle carvings (if provided by the exhibition officials) should have a surface of 48" x 48" and have adequate stability and braces.
- The decision of the judges is final.
- The lead judge is responsible for conducting the carvers' meeting before the start of the competition. The shows organizing committee should also participate in this meeting and introduce all officials, helpers, etc. to the competitors.

Platforms for Carving

- The platforms should be non-skid, preferably wood. Wood pallets are readily available in any convention area. Exterior grade plywood ½" x 4' x 8' will cover two pallets.
- Each carver will need a minimum of two pallets, covered in such a manner and spaced to avoid participants working too close together.
- A base of six pallets covered with three sheets of plywood would accommodate a two-or three-man team event and could also be used for two single carvers working simultaneously. Since most competitions have both single and team events, this should be the standard.
- The surface on which the platforms are placed should be ideally cement or non-skid flooring; plastic sheeting on flooring is dangerous and thus not acceptable.

Power Supply

- The power supply must be adequately grounded. The power should accommodate several 120-volt chainsaws operating at once (one per competitor).
- The connections for the power supply should not be placed in or near standing water.
- The engineering staff of the facility should be available at the beginning of the contest to ensure a successful start.

Lighting

- Lighting should be bright enough to ensure a safe environment for the competitors as well as provide good visibility for spectators.

Chapter 2: **Traditional Competition Category (Student)**

Drainage

- The area where the carvings are composed and displayed should provide drainage so that no standing water is evident.
- The show organizers are responsible for providing one assistant for every four participants on the floor. Assistants will clear the area of any ice debris and keep the area clean.

Judges Panel

- The judges' panel should have a minimum of three judges, experienced ice sculptors and artist(s), and at least one ACF- approved ice-carving judge. It is always advisable to encourage the use of judges from out of town, particularly for the lead judge position.
- The use of media or celebrity judges should be employed for special awards, but should not be part of the official score.
- The lead judge should be indicated on the score sheets; he or she should be accomplished in the field of ice carving.
- The members of the jury should be available for a critique with the competitors after the judging. This is an important step in the learning and advancement of ice carving and is consistent with ACF procedures for food competitions.

Safety Guidelines

- Protective clothing
 - Steel-toed boots and safety glasses
 - Gloves – cold weather protection
 - No loose scarves, etc.
 - Ear plugs
- Electrical equipment, grounded
- Proper lifting, moving of ice blocks and finished pieces weighing 300–400 lbs
- Adequate drainage

Authorized Ice Carving Tools

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Ice tongs | • Large compass | • Round inside cut |
| • Handsaws | • String | • Round outside cut |
| • Chainsaws* | • Wood ruler | • Level carpenters |
| • Steam wand | • Extra bars | • Dividers |
| • Table with circular saw* | • Large flat chisels, long handle | • 5-prong shaver |
| • Dremel* | • Medium flat chisels, long handle | • Ice pick |
| • Router* | • Small flat chisels, long handle | • Spare chains – new |
| • Alcohol/propane burners | • Large V-chisels, long handle | |
| • Drawknife | • Small V-chisels, long handle | |

*Power tools only

Show Organizer's Responsibilities

- Issue a liability waiver to each competitor (Appendix) at the time of application, and issue the same waiver to each helper, apprentice, or persons who will be in the working areas. The waiver should relieve ACF or organizers of any responsibility if an accident should occur. This waiver could also include a clause for rights to photograph or film the contest for future advertisement or promotion.
- Secure necessary materials for the setup and construction of the work areas, adequate power supply, drainage, lighting, etc., specifications are outlined herein.
- Arrange for personnel to emcee the event, talk to the audience; provide an official time clock visible to all competitors, proper signage for the competitors and their establishment, as well as a scoreboard to post the competitors final scores.
- Provide staff to assist the judges in totaling, averaging scores, preferably with calculators or computers to ensure accuracy.

Chapter 2: **Traditional Competition Category (Student)**

Assessment for Category SH

Displays are judged in four areas, each worth a possible 25 points:

- Artistic achievement and strength of design
- Craftsmanship—work involved, detail and precision, strong lines, symmetrical, of even depth, uniformity, safety
- Finished appearance—the piece has a finished look and is free of cracks, chips or excess slush
- Originality and degree of difficulty, unique, of a new design or composition

Ice Carving Score Sheet

Categories HD and H

Show: _____ Competitor: _____

Date: _____ Team: _____

Carving: _____

Criteria	Possible Points	Actual Points
Artistic Achievement/Strength of Design	0-25	
Craftsmanship and Work Involved <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detail, precision, and strong lines (0-10)• Proportion, symmetry, uniformity, and depth (0-10)• Safety (0-5)	0-25	
Finished Appearance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beauty and eye appeal (0-15)• Free of cracks, chips, excess slush, and template paper (0-10)	0-25	
Originality and Degree of Difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uniqueness and new design (0-10)• Difficulty to produce and use of different techniques (0-15)	0-25	
Total	100	

Note: First safety violation will result in a verbal warning. Second violation will result in disqualification.

Comments:

Judge's Signature: _____

Judge's Printed Name: _____

Award Guidelines	
100 points	Gold with Distinction
90 - 99.99 points	Gold
80 - 89.99 points	Silver
70 - 79.99 points	Bronze
60 - 69.99 points	Diploma
Below 59.99 points	Certificate

Student Ice Carving Score Sheet

Category SH

Competitor: _____ Team: _____

Date: _____ Category: _____

Carving: _____

Criteria	Possible Points	Actual Points
Artistic Achievement/Strength of Design	0-25	
Craftsmanship, Work Involved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detail and precision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong lines Proportion Uniform Safety 	0-25	
Finished Appearance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does piece have finished look? Free of cracks, chips, excess slush? Free of template paper 	0-25	
Originality and Degree of Difficulty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is carving unique? Good design or composition? 	0-25	
Total	100	

Note: First safety violation will result in a verbal warning. Second violation will result in disqualification.

Comments:

Judge's Signature: _____

Judge's Printed Name: _____

Award Guidelines	
100 points	Gold with Distinction
90 - 99.99 points	Gold
80 - 89.99 points	Silver
70 - 79.99 points	Bronze
60 - 69.99 points	Diploma
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