

COMPETITION RULES FOR THE USFG 2003 NORTH AMERICA FACETING CHALLENGE

HOSTED BY THE
UNITED STATES FACETERS GUILD

Rules and definitions are unique to the USFG and the NAFC with some changes from the Australian rules and the rules from different guilds in North America. There is much in them that is universal to rules and regulations from all guilds. We have tried to eliminate excessive subjectivity.

1. For the purpose of keeping this competition affordable to hobby faceters, the NAFC will be a **two (2) stone** competition, with one Natural Material and one Synthetic Material. Designs, materials and sizes will be chosen by the Competition Committee and will change for every event.
2. Entry and registration of an "Entry" shall constitute acceptance of the rules and agreement to comply with them. Competitors are to comply with conditions contained in this set of rules and any special conditions such as size, color, or material, which may be specified in the schedule by the Competition Committee. Refusal to comply with the rules or any unsportsmanlike conduct displayed before, during or after the competition may result in one or more of the following options: disqualification of the entry, revocation of any award given, and/or disbarred from future NAFC competition, depending on the severity of the situation.
3. The time, date and place for submitting Entry Forms, actual entries, and return of entries, shall be set by the Competition Committee and included in the schedule.
4. Entries must be the entrant's own work without help of critique or pre-judging from anyone else.

ELIGIBILITY

5. The North America Faceting Challenge shall require entrants to show proof of proficiency, either through local club verification (subject to revision) or a published score of 94 in an advanced division, masters certification or any form of proof deemed appropriate by the competition committee. All entrants from the 1992 through 2000 International Faceting challenge will qualify.

AWARDS

6. For individual awards, each stone shall be ranked, and total for each pair of stones shall be ranked. Awards will be given for both categories. A minimum of six entries should be received; otherwise it MAY be declared "No Competition." Where there are less than six entries, only one or more awards shall be given. It will not be permissible for a judge to use greater magnification to break a tie. If there are 3 or more equal 1sts, all 1sts receive award and will have no effect on awarding 2nd and 3rd places, even if there are ties at these

levels.

DEFINITIONS

Natural Lapidary (stone type) material which has been formed in nature. Natural material which has been dyed, heat or otherwise treated to change or enhance the color, transparency or other feature, may be used unless specifically stated otherwise for a particular part of the Competition Schedule.

Man Made and Synthetic Lapidary material is material which owes its existence to operations of man. It includes reconstituted material such as Mt St. Helen Ash Glass.

GENERAL NOTES

Angle changes may be made only if it does not change the "plan view." Angle changes are not recommended as the committee has chosen patterns with angles for the material designated. Minor changes may need to be made for meet points or to keep facets uniform.

Lighting for judging will be optional. As a single 40 watt incandescent non-frosted lamp with a bell-shaped metal shade works well for judging surface blemishes such as scratches, inclusions or fractures that break the surface, herring bone effect in quartz, pitting, grooved facets, flat facets with sharp edges and chips, it also works for checking girdle uniformity, table parallel to girdle and girdle thickness. The judge may want a different kind of lighting for checking meet points. Adjacent facets with a single light source can create an illusion of one facet looking longer than another. A broad light source can help to alleviate that problem. A ring light or fluorescent light can work well. A series of three or more single lights with the bell-shaped metal shade so the light can be directed also works well.

MAGNIFICATION

A 10x hand loupe or eye loupe will be the only magnification allowed for judging! **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

MAILING THE STONES READ CAREFULLY!

The cutter should encase each stone in a round clear plastic box with NO IDENTIFICATION ON IT. Mail the encased stone or stones in a cardboard box in a heavily padded mailer. The member of the competition committee who receives the stones will code the round plastic boxes with letters and numbers chosen at random in order to insure complete anonymity.

Inside the original package, the cutter needs to send a SELF STAMPED, RETURN ADDRESSED cardboard box or a heavily padded mailer. Be sure the SASE packet has RETURN POSTAGE on it. The return packet should be large enough to hold the gem stone box and four (4) papers: The score sheet, the judge's comments, the "pattern-error" sheet and a copy of the final results of the competition. §