

GRAND JURY ROUND OF JUDGING

The Grand Jury round is the final stage of the judging process for each competition. The Grand Jury is made up of permanent members and local invited experts and guests. The Grand Jury usually consists of around 6-8 members, including 2 - 5 permanent members supplemented by local or regional guest members, according to availability at each competition. Grand Jury members are encouraged to attend as many of the Selection and Main round judging sessions as possible for the current competition, to give the best possible overview of the range of entries. We aim for at least three Grand Jury members to attend every session of the competition.

The Grand Jury round is held in a single session (with breaks) after the Main round has completed. In exceptional circumstances, the session may be delayed or samples with a longer shelf life may be taken away for further checking.

Grand Jury round entries

Entries progress to the Grand Jury round after the Main round scores have been compiled and analysed. The statistically significant highest group in each category of Main round judging will be passed through to the Grand Jury round, allowing for scores from potential Golds through to potential Bronzes. The demarcation point is not based on an exact score or a set percentage, but instead ensures that entries with similar scores in each category are all considered.

Grand Jury judging role

Once the Grand Jury round candidate are determined, the Grand Jury will examine and check:

- **Technical factors** – final checking of technical issues that may not have been picked up in the Selection or Main rounds, for example, due to the number of entries tasted. This is to ensure that the quality of the winners lives up to the standards of the International Chocolate Awards. The Grand Jury can vote down or disqualify entries on this basis for significant technical flaws, provided a reason is given in writing.
- **Qualification checking** – because of the numbers of samples normally received, it is not always possible to examine all entries at the beginning of judging to check if they fully comply with the rules, eg for type of ingredients. (Though the organisers will try to spot any discrepancies if possible.) The Grand Jury can disqualify entries at the Grand Jury round if they are found not to comply with the competition rules. The Grand Jury can also change the category of an entry, if required according to the rules.
- **Product information:** during the Grand Jury round, all tasting is blind and the Grand Jury is not told the company name and product name of the entries. An exception is only made if it is necessary for qualification checking (eg. if the entry has been entered into the correct regional competition or has been entered under an incorrect name, for example as a distributor). In this case the Grand Jury head can access and retrieve the requested information. There will also be access to the ingredients list and chocolate used in each product, if requested for qualification checking. This information will remain confidential.

Grand Jury judging process

- **Presentation:** for each category, the entries passed through to the Grand Jury round are presented to the Grand Jury in turn, in descending order of Main round score. Each product

will be presented, summing up its position in the Main round scores and any relevant statistical data (eg the range of scores given) and the key points of the product. This information will also be presented on the electronic private voting form for each category.

- **Review and discussion:** For categories with more than four finalists in the Grand Jury round and where the winners are not clear cut from the main scores, each product will be presented by a different Grand Jury member. This will be followed by a short optional discussion about technical points of the product, its merits and its score.
- **Main round scores:** The Grand Jury must take into account the Main round scoring and for entries with no qualification issues or technical flaws, should cast their votes respecting the Main round scores. The Grand Jury may not vote an entry down or up more than one position (ie Gold to Silver or Bronze to Silver) unless there is a technical or rule issue with the entry. Individual Grand Jury members may not vote down an entry by more than one position without giving a technical or rule based reason on their voting form.
- **Voting:** After the presentation stage, the Grand Jury will privately vote on each entry using the grand jury form. The voting system is:
 - Vote for Gold (3 points)
 - Vote for Silver (2 points)
 - Vote for World Finalist nomination (1 point)

Each Grand Juror votes for each product using the private electronic voting form. Half points are allowed. The votes will then be totalled, averaged and compiled before final consideration of the prizes.

Awarding of prizes

- **Candidate winners:** After votes have been totalled for the current category, the potential winners will be presented to the Grand Jury, during the current session or at a later date, depending on available time and timing of the competition prize announcement. This presentation will be discretionary and not obligatory if the Grand Jury overall scores meet the following guidelines without any tied scores or anomalies.

The following awards can be made in each category:

- **Gold:** a single Gold can be awarded in each category where the highest scoring entry scored 2.00 or more in the Grand Jury voting.
- **Silver:** Up to a maximum of 5 Silver awards can be given in each category to the next highest scoring entries with a score of 1.50 or more
- **Bronze:** Up to a maximum of 3 Bronze awards can be given in each category to the next highest scoring entries with a score of 1.0 or more

These mark positions are a guideline and can be varied at the Grand Jury's discretion, for example if an entire category was marked low or high.

- **Additional Golds:** can be given for product criteria such as Organic, Chocolate Maker, Directly Traded cacao, etc, according to the rules for each category.
- **Country Gold:** can be given to the best product entered from a given country, provided the best product is within the Grand Jury round and there at least 10 products from country entered into the category.