



Encapsulated Nail Art

RULES & GUIDELINES

Get ready to unleash your creativity and test your technical skill! Encapsulated nail art is not just a challenge, it's a wild adventure where your imagination can run free! You have 1 hour and 45 minutes to transform your ideas into a single hand masterpiece. With no theme or shape holding you back its time to dive into a world of bold colors, glitzy glitters, gel paints, and charming embellishments that are sure to take your design to the next level. Just remember, while those eye-catching surface designs can add a sprinkle of pizzazz, they should only play a supporting role in your fabulous, encapsulated creation. This isn't just about nails, it's about pushing the bounds of creativity and showcasing your unique flair!

- This is a live arena floor category.
- Competitors have 1 hour and 45 minutes to complete one hand.
- The competition will be judged based on a combination of artistic and technical criteria, assessing both nail structure and creativity. While there are no limits to artistic expression, your design must be contained within the nail.
- Competitors may choose any nail shape.
- Competitors can utilize tips or forms, but dual forms are not permitted.
- Competitors may use either acrylic or gel.
- Competitors can use products in any color, including glitters, and a variety of elements such as gel paints, charms, gems, microbeads, flowers, etc.
- This is an encapsulated category; however, a small amount of surface design work may be added. The surface design must enhance the overall aesthetic in an artistic manner and should not exceed 5% of the total design. Any 3D or raised elements must be no taller than 5mm.
- A topcoat must be applied.
- Electric files are permitted.
- Oils are allowed.
- Pinching tools and C-curve sticks are permitted.
- Natural nails may be prepared before the competition for product application.
- Tips may be pre-sized and prepared, but they should not be applied to the nail. Forms may be pre-cut.
- Pre-made art or decals are prohibited; all artwork must be created on-site.
- All general rules apply and NZ Nail Competition terms and conditions apply.

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JUDGING CRITERIA - PART 1



- **SURFACE CURVATURE**

The aim here is to have the nail surface perfectly symmetrical, displaying a uniform curvature without any irregularities.

- **UNDER NAIL CURVATURE**

The underside of the nail should exhibit a smooth and symmetrical curve. This ensures that the nail has a balanced structure and contributes to its overall strength and durability.

- **NAIL APEX**

The apex, or the highest point of the nail, must be positioned correctly in relation to the nail structure. It should neither be too subtle, which could compromise the nail's strength, nor too pronounced, which could lead to an unnatural appearance.

- **TIP OR FORM FIT**

When applying a tip or form, it is essential that it fits snugly against the natural nail without any gaps or excessive product accumulation at the junction. The placement of the tip should align flush with the lateral nail fold, ensuring a seamless transition. Additionally, the nail extension should maintain a consistent angle, neither drooping downward nor tapering upward.

- **FREE EDGE**

The free edge of each nail should maintain a consistent thickness across all five fingers, not exceeding 1.5 mm. This uniformity is important for both aesthetic balance and structural integrity.

- **SIDEWALLS**

The sidewalls of the nail should extend straight from the lateral fold, creating a parallel appearance on both sides when looking down the barrel of the nail.

- **SMOOTHNESS**

The nail's surface must be completely smooth, free from any file marks or rough patches. A high-quality topcoat should cover the entire nail, enhancing its shine and providing a protective layer.

- **NAIL SHAPE**

The overall shape of the nails should be consistent and uniform across all five fingers.

- **LENGTH**

All nails should be of equal length, measured from the cuticle to the free edge.

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JUDGING CRITERIA - PART 2

- **UNDER NAIL**

Ensure that the area beneath the nail is meticulously clean, free from any dust, debris, or leftover product. The underside of the nail should be smooth, without any ridges.

- **CUTICLES**

The skin surrounding the nail should be well-maintained, showing no new cuts or abrasions. This reflects a careful approach during the manicure process.

- **PRODUCT CONTROL**

A solid and even application of nail products with no shadows or dull spots. No excess product on the surrounding skin. If glitter was used, was it controlled and sitting where intended. Does the nail show any bubbles or pitting.

- **HIGH SHINE FINISH**

The Nails should have a high-shine, glass-like finish that effectively reflects light. Ensure that any inhibition layer from gel products is completely removed to enhance the shine.

- **CREATIVE DESIGN**

Do the nails show a creative collaboration of artistic and technical elements. Is the encapsulated design well thought out and do any elements on the surface of the nail compliment the overall design.

- **OVERALL IMPRESSION**

Looking at the total artistic expression of each nail, and the over design. Ensuring that it is evenly distributed throughout the entire set. This attention to detail will contribute to a cohesive look.

- **EXPERTISE**

Evaluate the complexity of the design and execution based on the skills required for the specific division.

- **UNIQUENESS**

Does the set show uniqueness. The set should stand out by showcasing originality from the other entries.

- **Colour Theory**

Colour has the ability to evoke feeling and direct focus.

Consider how the colour palette works in harmony to complement the overall design. For example, in creating contrast or to showcase the design in a way that epiphyses any key elements or feelings.