

# ALL ABOUT THE COMPETITION: The Cannabis Cup - Jamaica 2015

## The Official Rules, Regulations & FAQ

### Competition Categories:

*Indica* Flowers

*Sativa* Flowers

HASH

### Flowers:

#### Category Description

We limit the *Sativa* and *Indica* flower entries to genetic lineages that are greater than 70 percent in either species. If possible, competitors will be asked to provide the lineage of their entries back to the grandparents (two generations) to ensure they are properly categorized. For reference, *indicas* will grow short and stocky and have a sedated stone. *Sativas* grow tall and thin and possess a cerebral, up high.

#### Competition Packaging Details

**\*\*\*Please separate your 56-gram entry into fourteen (14) 4-gram increments. These increments may be placed in plastic jars or plastic bags. Please do NOT label the individual jars or bags of 4-gram increments as judging is conducted blind and removing these labels creates more work for us.\*\*\***

**IMAGES AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT SHOW HOW ENTRIES SHOULD BE PACKAGED.**

**All containers must be unmarked.** Please label your entry clearly with the name of the strain, category and company name. This should be done **ONLY ONCE** on the exterior of the box/ bag/ container that holds your entry—individual samples should not have any labels. Please attach completed entry forms to the main entry bag and securely seal bag.

HT reserves the right to change the category of entry if the entry is deemed misplaced.

#### Judging and Scoring Info

The five categories on the *Qualitative* side to be scored by each Judge are as follows: **Aroma; Taste; Visual Aesthetics; Stone/ High; and Burnability/ Flush.**

Judges score these categories 1 through 5 (five being the highest) in our digital, online scoring system known as the HIGH TIMES Scorebook. The Scorebook system weights each category using a multiplier, thus making some categories more important than other.

There are two categories on the *Quantitative* (LAB) side that Flowers will be scored on:

- For Flowers: THC levels and CBD levels will be measured and scored.
- This component is based solely on lab results. Points are awarded in each category based on a scale that gives scores of 1 through 5 for the various ranges of cannabinoid levels. These categories are also weighted.
- LAB will also conduct visual inspections (using a 60x lenses) to check for mold or pests. Entries deemed to be unhealthy for consumption may be disqualified.
- For more info on how the scoring works see notes below on the Judging Process.

## **Non-Solvent Hash:**

### **Category Description**

Non-solvent hash category encompasses all non-solvent concentrates including, but not limited to, dry sieves, hand-rubs, and water extractions (bubble hash). Competitors are required to provide strain information on the material used to create their entry.

*Under no circumstances are non-cannabis derived materials allowed to be infused into hash entries. Competitors found adulterating products with anything other than cannabis will be disqualified and barred from competition for a period of one year.*

### **Competition Packaging Details**

**\*\*\*Please separate your 28-gram entry into twenty-eight (28) 1-gram increments. We recommend using small vials for oils, liquids or any other viscous concentrates and using small plastic containers or parchment envelopes for wax or butter entries. Please do not label the individual jars or bags of 4-gram increments as judging is conducted blind and removing these labels creates more work for us.\*\*\***

### **IMAGES AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT SHOW HOW ENTRIES SHOULD BE PACKAGED.**

- **All containers must be unmarked.** To ensure fairness, HT cannot allow customized containers such as dab dishes, blown glass jars or anything else that may reveal a specific competitor's entry to judges. Please attach completed entry forms to the main entry bag and securely seal the bag.

- We ask that you place your 28 containers into a box or large plastic bag that is clearly labeled with the name of the product, category and company name. However, **please do not label or sticker the individual samples**, ONLY the bag or box you deliver them in.

### **Judging and Scoring Info**

The five categories on the Qualitative side to be scored by each Judge are as follows: **Aroma; Taste; Visual Aesthetics; Stone/ High; and Burnability/ Flush.**

Please note that while these categories are the same in nature as those used for flowers, the weighting of these categories will be different within the scoring algorithm.

There are several categories on the Quantitative (LAB) side that Concentrates and Non-Solvent Hashes will be scored on:

- For Concentrates and Non-Solvent Hash: THC levels, CBD levels, and residual solvents (RS) will be measured and scored. RS for Non-Solvents are simply Pass/Fail. Non-Solvent Hash with detected chemical solvents will be disqualified.
- This scoring is based solely on lab results. Points are awarded in each category based on a scale that gives scores of 1 through 5 for the various ranges of lab values.
- For more info on how the scoring works see notes below on the Judging Process.

# **The Judging Process: How It Works**

HIGH TIMES scoring system for cannabis competitions employs a two-tiered digital (online) score sheet (a.k.a the HT Scorebook) that includes a Qualitative score and Quantitative score.

The Qualitative score will account for approximately 75 percent of the total score. This may vary slightly by competition category. This score sheet will be scored by each Judge and will measure his or her professional opinions of each entry. Categories are scored 1-5 by each judge (5 being the highest score). The categories are weighted using a multiplier ranging from 1x to 5x is used in the final tally of each judging category. These values are not made public, meaning that both Judges and Competitors are not given the weighted values (the HT Scorebook system will automatically calculate these values when score sheets are submitted).

The Quantitative score will account for 25 percent of the total score. This may vary slightly by competition category. This score sheet measures scientific data provided by laboratory testing. This data will be evaluated by the HT Competition Director and then uploaded into the Scorebook system. The results of this score sheet will not be made available to Judges until after their final score sheets have been submitted. The HT Competition Director is in no way a Judge and is only in place to manage the Judges, the judging process and ensure the integrity of the competition.

On the final day of judging, all Judges from each category will reconvene with the HT Competition Director. By this time they will have electronically submitted their final score sheets. The HT Scorebook will calculate each Judge's score for each entry, and then take an average of the Judges' scores for each entry. Each entry score average will then be added to its correlated quantitative lab score produced by the uploaded lab data. The system then combines the Judges' average qualitative score with the quantitative lab score giving a final Total Score out of 100 possible points.

As HIGH TIMES strives to create the most accurate and comprehensive scoring system in the cannabis industry, your participation and feedback as a competitor is integral to the process. We hope you are proud to be a part of the process and we thank you for your support and patience as we continually evolve this system into the world's ultimate cannabis scoring index.

# **FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What Are Entries Scored On?**

The five categories on the Qualitative side to be scored by each Judge are as follows: **Aroma; Taste; Visual Aesthetics; Stone/ High; and Burnability/ Flush.**

There are several categories on the Quantitative (LAB) side that will be scored and they vary by category.

- For Flowers, THC levels and CBD levels will be measured and scored.
- For Concentrates and Non-Solvent Hash, THC levels, CBD levels, and residual solvents (RS) will be measured and scored. RS for Non-Solvents are simply Pass/Fail. Non-Solvent Hash with detected chemical solvents will be disqualified.
- For Edibles, THC levels, CBD levels and THC-A levels are measured and scored. We also score the ratio of what is listed on package versus the actual THC/CBD levels reported by the lab.
- For CBD categories, the same criteria applies as above, however the weighting of this values changes, putting more emphasis on the CBD values. CBD categories also are scored on their CBD:THC ratio, with more points being awarded for entries closest to a 1:1 ratio.

This scoring is based solely on lab results. Points are awarded in each category based on a scale that gives scores of 1 through 5 for the various ranges of cannabinoid levels.

## **How Many Judges Are There?**

There are between four and eight judges PER CATEGORY. This depends on the city we are in and how many categories we run for that particular Cup. In Jamaica, each category will have at least one local Jamaican judge (independent and unaffiliated) as well.

The HT Competition Director oversees all Judges and Labs as well as the intake and processing of entries, the scoring process itself, score tabulations and finalizing of winners.

## **Who Are The Judges & How Are They Selected?**

All Judges are experts or professionals from the cannabis industry. We go to great lengths to ensure that the Judges selected have demonstrated exceedingly high levels of cannabis knowledge and are extremely dedicated to both the cause and the task of judging.

Beginning in 2014, HT utilizes an online application process to select judges from around the world to participate. We invite and welcome winners and competitors from past Cups to apply for judging (in a city far away from their own) to see our process from the inside! Please ask a HT staff member for more details on how to apply.

## **How Are the Lab Results Compared and Used in Scoring?**

The primary reason for using two labs is to ensure fairness for all competitors involved in the competition. Having two separate and unaffiliated labs testing all entries not only serves in keeping those labs honest, it also protects against any systematic error in the testing.

It is at the discretion of the Competition Director as to how the lab results are used. In the past, if the results came from the same methods, standards, calibrations and equipment and each set of lab results are relatively similar in comparison, the two sets could be merged, with an average of the two taken for a final value. However, after six years of using labs, we have accumulated a large database that we can now use for cross-referencing results from random or selected entries to verify the accuracy of results. This allows us to select one set of lab data to us, rather than averaging two sets.

If the two separate lab sets show a large degree of variation from each other, only one set will be chosen to use in the quantitative scoring. (In the latter scenario, the Competition Director would choose the more accurate results set by comparing them to the averages of results of same strains tested by several other labs, in several cities, over several previously held Cup competitions.)

## **What Are The Rules Regarding Number of Entries Per Company?**

- **Competitors may enter up to five entries, per category. This includes collaborations.**
- **Only one name will be allowed on any entry form.**
- **A competitor may only win ONE award per category, regardless of how many entries they have in a category.**
- **This rule is in place to prevent competitors from “stacking the field” and ensures a level playing field for everyone involved.**
- **Competitors will only be eligible to receive one award. The higher of the awards will be awarded and the rest dropped from award consideration.**

## **What Are the Rules Regarding Disqualifications?**

### **\*\* Notes Regarding Disqualifications:**

- HIGH TIMES reserves the right to disqualify (DQ) entries for any rules violation and in cases where HT deems the entry, or practices of the competitor therein, to be against the spirit of fair competition.
- **Entries that have been adulterated with non-cannabis derived products will be disqualified.**
- Entries that have high incidents of mold, bacteria, or pesticides as identified either by either the competition committee or our partner labs will be privately disqualified and the competitors immediately notified.
- If any entry is found to have been tampered with, adulterated or doctored in any way using any synthetic or artificial substances, that entry will be disqualified. This includes,

but is not limited to, any substance that did not originate from the original source material, including additives such as terpenes or oils, even when derived from natural or organic sources. This does NOT apply to entries in the “Edibles” category.

- HT is not out to publicly embarrass any of our competitors and these rules are solely in place for the safety and welfare of our judges and the community at large. As such, disqualification will not be made public and will be privately handled between HT and competitors.
- HT does not offer refunds in the rare event of a disqualification.

## **Thank You and Good Luck!**

Lastly, we’d like to thank all of our participants for supporting our event, the competition and the movement overall. We will continue to tweak our HT Scorebook judging system and strive to make the competition as fair and accurate as possible as science and technologies continue to evolve within this new industry. However, make no mistake about it - this cannabis scoring system is the best in the world and is unmatched anywhere else! We pledge to not lose sight of the overall goal of promoting the best medicine and cannabis possible for the world.

To this end, we hold the human element of the judging system as the most valuable component to the process, even more so than the measurable science component. This is why the Qualitative side of the score sheet accounts for approximately 70 percent of the scoring while the Quantitative side accounts for approximately 30 percent. That being said, we will give preference to the judges’ panels in terms of the final placing of the Top-5 winners in our Scorebook system. We appreciate your understanding, patience and feedback as we continue to develop the HT Scorebook into the most comprehensive cannabis scoring system in the world!

Best of luck to all our competitors and thank you for inviting HIGH TIMES to Jamaica to host your first-ever Cannabis Cup.

## Packaging Photos Below:

We also thank you for following our packaging guidelines and helping us ensure a fast intake process as well as a fair competition!

Please be sure to only put ONE LABEL on the outside of your primary entry bag/box/ case. DO NOT PUT ANY LABELS ON THE INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES.

If you cannot separate your entry into smaller entries that is OK. We will divide the entries up for you, however your help in this regard saves us a lot of time as we prepare the kits for judges, labs and photographer.



# Proper Flower Packaging

- \* Outer Packaging Labeled with Company Name and Strain Name
- \* (10) 4 gram samples in the bag unlabeled



## Properly packaged concentrate entry

- \* Outer packaging labeled with company name and product name
- \* Inner samples in unmarked 1 gram increments



# Properly packaged concentrates



**Properly packaged 1 gram samples**



ROFLBOT

**Also acceptable concentrate packaging**

