

Special Notice to all Cutters of the USFG 2004 Single Stone Competition

The competition committee has finished the task of formalizing a written set of “Competition Rules and Judging Criteria for the Single Stone Competitions”

To run an orderly and professional competition both the competitor and the judges have to abide by the same rules. Both should study these rules thoroughly and understand their respective responsibilities to comply with them. These rules are constructed to assist the novice up through master cutter to understand and give guidance to competition cutting. In essence the “Rules” formally bring together published rules of past competitions and criteria used by judges to evaluate a cutters skill. This information is provided to have both parties working from the same set of common rules. Many thanks must go to Ralph Mathewson for providing the frame work for the judging system used by the USFG.

Highlights and Changes to the Rules for the Single Stone Competition

Terms and Definitions - An extensive list of terms and definitions has been added to address many of the questions commonly posed by both competitors and judges.

Classes - The entry classes still include; Novice, Pre-Master, and Master. The Master’s class has been updated to include Grand Master (previously referred to as Past Masters) and World Class Master (for exceptionally high scores via special USFG certification)

Restrictions - The Single Stone Competition is ONLY open to current USFG Members. In addition, No cutter may enter more than one class or stone at a time, i.e., this is a single stone competition.

Challenges - All cutters have the right to challenge higher classes. Remember ONLY one stone may be submitted! Be aware, that if you enter out of sequence (Pre-Master or higher as first entry) your stone can be ruled ineligible or disqualified because of cutting not representative of a higher class.

Entry Forms – To assist the process of handle entries, an entry form has been developed. Please include this form (or a copy) with your entry.

Anonymous Entry - Cutters may choose to enter as “Anonymous” competitors. This was done primarily to encourage cutters, whom for whatever reason, choose to decline entry in past “Public” style cutting competitions. If a cutter enters a single stone competition, under the Anonymous Entry provision, the fee shall be the same as a normal entry. The cutter will be treated as any other entrant and only the score shall be published. The only person that will be held in confidence will be the one person on the competition committee that disperses the stones to the judges. This is a controversial concept as some competitions are held anonymous with only the winner published and some demand all entrants be published; at another time this rule could change, but for now it will be open to both “Anonymous” or “Public” cutters. To enter, as "Anonymous" cutters shall submit a written request accompanied with the stone and full Single Stone Competition fees. All other conditions for entry shall apply, i.e., return postage, entry deadlines, etc. To expand upon the nature of

Anonymous entry, cutters may choose to have their names excluded from the traditional practice of public reporting of competition scores. The winning and certifying scores may still be publicly reported by the USFG, but shall be only identified as "Anonymous Entry". To select this option cutters must, without exception, submit a signed entry form selecting this option with their entry. If no entry form is received it will be assumed that cutters wish to enter as "Public" competitors.

Protest - If protest should arise the written rules shall prevail, if for some reason the protest is not addressed in the judging rules, the judge shall explain his reasoning to the person making the complaint. If the cutter is not satisfied, the competition committee will review the complaint, if the cutter is still not satisfied, the BOD will have the final say in the mitigation of all disputes. There will be a two-week time limit starting from the time the cutter receives his stone and judging sheet(s) for a formal protest to be filed. After a cutter receives their stone back, they must wait three (3) days to file and they have fifteen (15) days thereafter to file a protest.