

British Firework Championships

Plymouth - August 16TH and 17th 2016



Rules and Guidance

The Event Services Association (TESA)

British Firework Championships

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Guidance

Background

The British Firework Championships is an annual competition, first established in 1997, in which six professional firework display companies perform a 10-minute firework display in front of a panel of judges to win the title of “British Champions” together with a trophy and prize money. The competition is fired from the Mountbatten Breakwater and viewed from the Plymouth Hoe area by an audience of up to 200,000 people. The Championships are owned and organised by The Event Services Association (TESA) and run by TESA in partnership with Plymouth City Council.

Entry Requirements

The competition is open to any professional firework display company that is a current member of the British Pyrotechnists Association (BPA), TESA or the CBI Explosives Industry Group (EIG). Competitors must have been trading within the display sector for at least two years, or be able to demonstrate to the organisers that they have sufficient experience, knowledge and ability to take part.

Each competitor must have at least one crew member on site who holds a current BPA senior firer's or a similar qualification, a copy of which must be supplied to the Adjudicator prior to the event taking place. Competitors must also provide evidence of full insurance for their activities. All competitors must have public liability insurance of at least £10 million.

Entry Procedure

Eligible firework display companies may enter the competition by completing and signing a copy of the ‘Competitors Agreement’, which must be forwarded to TESA prior to the closing date. A draw for competitors and their firing order will be undertaken independently by the Mayor, a leading member of Plymouth City Council, or an independent person nominated either by TESA or Plymouth City Council who will make a signed declaration as to the result of the draw.

Although the draw for positions will be undertaken at the same time, teams will not be told which day or position they have until all the entry paperwork has been received. Competitors should, therefore, base risk assessments on the assumption of being in a central location on the firing site.

Payment to Competitors

Each competitor will receive a contribution of £9030 + VAT towards the cost of materials and accommodation expenses. Each competitor must invoice Plymouth City Council six weeks prior to the event, to the address below. Payments are made electronically by the Council shortly after the event.

Events Department, Plymouth City Council, Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth PL1 3BJ

Prizes

The overall winner of the competition will receive a prize of £5000. Overall 2nd and 3rd place will receive a prize of £1000 each.

An optional Special Innovation Award of £1250 may also be awarded by the Professional Judging Panel to a display which demonstrates an innovative or new firework sequence or technique. In the event of this not being awarded, the money will be added to prize money given to the overall winner of the event.

Judging

The panel of judges will be made up of a mix of professional and lay judges, with each group accounting for 50% of the available marks. This will be achieved by averaging the points across each group.

Professionals: Three professional judges will be appointed, each of which will be a senior professional from within the firework display industry or will have extensive experience of organising or judging professional firework displays. It is intended, if possible, that this panel of judges should remain in place for the six year sequence of competitions leading up to and including the Champion of Champion events in the sixth year.

Lay Judges: A panel of up to 6 lay judges will be appointed, drawn from local dignitaries and members of the public. Three of these judges will be local dignitaries appointed by Plymouth City Council and three will be members of the public chosen either by Plymouth City Council, by poll or competition.

Every judge will be required to declare any financial or other interest with the competitors that could influence their judging. They are also required to declare any contact they receive from competitors in advance or during the competition.

Scoring

Professional Judges:

The professional judges will be asked to score each display on the basis of their technical merit and creative impact, taking into account:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Professional standards – compliance marks* | 10 marks |
| The quality of the show design and performance | 10 marks |
| Symmetry, patterns and timing | 10 marks |
| The overall artistic impression | 10 marks |

* These marks will be allocated based on entry information being provided on the dates required and the plans submitted for each show matching the materials and displays fired to the submissions. Two points will be given for meeting each of the pre-set deadlines and 4 points if materials match the manifests provided.

In addition to the above, the professional judges may deduct points for unprofessionalism such as: failure to comply with the rules (see Rule Breaches); failure to keep to the times allowed for displays (see Competition Rules) or if anything is seen to be unprofessional or illegal on site (such as the illegal packaging of material on transport). Penalties will be given totally at the discretion of the professional judges.

Lay Judges:

The lay judges will be asked to score each display on the basis of their Wow factor but taking account of factors such as

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Variety of fireworks and sequences | 10 marks |
| Rhythm of the display | 10 marks |
| Use of colour | 10 marks |
| The overall impression (Wow factor) | 10 marks |

Judges Scoring Guide

The following guide may be used to assist judges when scoring each element:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Outstanding: | 9-10 marks |
| Very Good: | 7-8 marks |
| Good: | 5-6 marks |
| Below Average: | 3-4 marks |
| Poor: | 1-2 marks |

Judges may score anywhere from 1 to 10 marks for each category.

No fractions of scores should be used.

Judging Process

Each judge will be provided with a written brief of how to score the event and a representative from TESA will go through this with the judges on each night – see Addendums 1 and 2

Each night, after viewing the displays, judges will enter their scores onto their own individual master score sheet. At the end of the first night, score papers will be held by TESA for safe-keeping, and will be returned to judges the following day.

At the end of each night, judges will have the opportunity to review all of their individual scores.

Each judge will be asked to write a short comment on each display they view and why they have scored them the way they have.

Scoring Totals

A representative from TESA, using a computer, will collate the scores from both the professional and lay judges to decide the results. This process will be monitored by a representative from the CBI Explosives Group or another independent representative from the industry plus a representative from Plymouth City Council

To achieve the results, the average scores from each judging panel – both professional and lay - will be added and the display with the highest average score will be declared the winner and so forth.

In the case of a tie, the average quality scores from the professional judges and the average ‘overall impression’ scores from the lay judges will be added to reach a decision.

If for any reason this does not result in a clear winner, the professional judges will be asked to meet and decide on the result.

An example of a scoring sheet is attached – see Addendum 3

Adjudication

Adjudication will be undertaken by an independent expert in fireworks display health and safety appointed by the organisers. The British Pyrotechnists Association (BPA), or another independent firework industry representative, will also be invited to send a monitor to oversee the competition.

Both the Adjudicator and representative of the BPA must have no commercial or other relevant connections to any of the competitors and will sign a declaration to this effect. The Adjudicator will be assisted by a representative from TESA.

The role of the Adjudicator is to ensure compliance with the rules and to assist in ensuring a safe event. In the event of a breach of rules or unsafe practice being discovered, the Adjudicator will firstly request that the matter be rectified, and if considered appropriate, report this verbally to the professional judging panel at the end of each night who will each determine whether the breach merits affecting the competitors score. The professional judging panel may disqualify or deduct points from a competitor they consider to have seriously breached the competition rules. Where points are lost for breaches of the rules this will be noted on score sheets under the comments section and published with the results.

Competitors must submit their health and safety paperwork and show firing plans to the health and safety expert for checking for compliance with the rules at least a Calendar month in advance of the competition date. The information will be reviewed by the Adjudicator and clarification or amendments will be sought until the Adjudicator confirms the proposals and safety plan are satisfactory.

The Adjudicator will remain at Mountbatten until the completion of the event each evening. The Adjudicator is responsible for making all on-site decisions the safety of the event. Where a dispute arises over interpretation of the rules, the Adjudicator will consult with TESA and, if necessary, the professional panel of judges will be asked to adjudicate. All decisions by the panel will be by majority.

Publication of Scores

Scores and judges' comments will be supplied to each competitor no later than 5 working days after the event. The scores will include a breakdown of scores from each judge together with summary comments, with judges names removed. The organisers will publish the same information on the British Firework Championships website.

Annual Debrief

Each year TESA will organise a debrief to allow for any issues arising from the previous year's event to be discussed with the industry. This will generally take place in the late Autumn or early New Year.

2016 Competition Rules

The reputation of the Event, the Organisers and the hosts, Plymouth City Council, will be uppermost. All competitors must act in a safe manner. Any breaches of the rules putting operators, fellow competitors, members of the judging panel, Adjudicator, members of the media or the general public at unnecessary risk, or any action likely to bring the reputation of the competition into disrepute will lead to summary disqualification from the competition.

Health and Safety (General)

Each competitor must make their own assessment of the site and prepare a suitable risk assessment, method statement, site plan and firing order, which must be submitted in accordance with the 'Competitors Check List', together with any other requested documents. The Adjudicator or Plymouth City Council may request further information or revisions not less than 10 days prior to the display.

The following risk assessment guidelines are provided to help competitors but this is for guidance only and should be treated as such. Each competitor is responsible for assessing the risk of their own show.

RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES 2016

Your risk assessment **must** be based on the assumption that you will be positioned in the firing site closest to the crowd line and buildings. The crowd line at this location is approximately 222 metres away and the nearest building (where there may be residents and spectators) is 130 metres away.

Your risk assessment must include every aspect of Health and Safety that is required by you to work safely, from arrival onsite to leaving following the competition, and is to include but not be limited to the following

- The crowd line
- The location of buildings with possible spectators
- The wind direction and strengths – most likely and worst case scenarios
- The calibres, firing angles and types of fireworks being fired
- Fallout calculations for the above, including failure distances
- Proposed actions that would be taken given the worst conditions

Each competitor is responsible for their own health and safety and compliance with the law, and the ultimate decision as to whether to fire a display or not rests with the competitor once the Adjudicator has determined that the display may proceed. Competitors are expected to follow all guidance and best practice used within the industry, and must fully comply with any local authority requirements, or requirements from the Adjudicator in relation to health and safety. In accepting the rules for the competition, each competitor takes full responsibility for the use and consequence of all their pyrotechnics and equipment.

Each competitor will be allocated a 35 metre x 7 metre firing area along the hand-railed section of Mountbatten Breakwater. The Adjudicator will decide the precise location in which each competitor will be placed on the day subject to weather conditions which may affect the event. A 'clearway' must be maintained to allow access for vehicles and other competitors, and to facilitate the potential evacuation of, and emergency access to, the site.

Details of any lifting equipment, plant, structures or specialist rigging together with evidence of appropriate operator training and certification, methods and risk assessment must be provided to the Adjudicator with the display risk assessment.

Access

Each competitor may bring a crew of up to 20 individuals to the competition. The names of each crew member must be supplied in advance in accordance with the 'Competitors Check List'. All those working on the site must be over the age of 18 and must be supervised by suitably qualified staff.

Access to the firing site will be controlled by named passes, with only crew, Adjudicator, event organisers or accredited visitors being granted access. Visitors will only be permitted by prior agreement with the Adjudicator or event organiser. Visitors will be accompanied at all times, must follow any instructions given by the Adjudicator and will only be permitted during a formal visiting period at 12 noon and 3pm each day.

Set-up

The site will be open for set-up from 7am each day. Out of respect for other competitors and to avoid unnecessary vehicle movements, competitors are requested to ensure that all vehicles that need access to site arrive at site at 7am so that vehicles may enter and subsequently park on site in the firing order. All equipment and pyrotechnics must be on site prior to a 3pm. An inspection by the Adjudicator will take place after this time. All vehicles must be removed from site by 4pm at the latest unless special permission has been granted by the Adjudicator.

A competitors briefing will be held on site by the Adjudicator at 10am each day to discuss the weather forecast, tides and any special precautions to be taken by competitors.

Competitors must submit details of the firing angles they will use for their fireworks, together with valid justification, as part of their health and safety submission. The firing angles must take into account the safety distances to the viewing audience and the apartment block at the end of the breakwater. Competitors must specify alternatives to these firing angles in the event of inclement weather conditions.

The Adjudicator will check that the declared angles are not exceeded.

Competitors are strongly recommended to take full and proper account of all properties and boats in the vicinity of the breakwater to avoid the need to terminate a show early on safety grounds.

Fireworks content

Between 300kg and 550kg Net Explosive Mass (NEM) of product must be used by each competitor. Only items currently classified within the European Community as Fireworks or Articles Pyrotechnic may be used in the competition. The use of any other special effect is not permitted. Each competitor must submit a breakdown of their display in accordance with the 'Competitors Check List'. Where the precise NEM of each item cannot be ascertained, a default value in accordance with a spreadsheet issued by the organiser may be used.

The following items are not permitted in the displays:

- Shells over 200mm calibre
- Aquatic shells
- Rocket or shell parachute products

(Note: The use of plastics is being allowed but will be closely monitored by Plymouth City Council with regard to environmental issues. If the Council deems the use of plastics to be detrimental to the environment a ban on their use may be re-imposed in future years. Competitors should take this into account in planning and cleaning up after their displays.)

The use of products with long duration stars (including strobes, kamuro, willow, brocade and glitter effects), other parachute items, flying saucers, flight rockets and aquatic items (other than shells), is permitted provided that the risk presented by the products to the safety of the audience, other competitors and boats, has been assessed and written justification is supplied by the competitor for their safe use. A full safety evaluation and rigging details must be provided where competitors propose to use other aquatic materials. Competitors should be aware that any of these items may have to be withdrawn if weather conditions dictate.

Sub-contracting

The sub-contracting of displays to other firework companies is strictly prohibited.

Site checks

The Adjudicator will carry out random checks on displays during set-up to ensure compliance with submitted health and safety documentation and to determine that the correct materials are being used.

Display firing

Each display should last exactly ten minutes. The display must start with three maroons fired at five-second intervals, and conclude with a further three maroons fired at five-second intervals. The ten minute timing will be from the burst of the third maroon at the start of the show to the burst of the third maroon at the end of the show. The professional judges may deduct points for a show that is shorter or longer than ten minutes in accordance with the following scale:

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| 5 - 10 seconds | 1 point |
| 10 - 20 seconds | 2 points |
| Over 20 seconds | 3 points |

Overall display timing will be done by computer managed by TESA in view of the judges. The signal to start each display will be made based on a countdown by the TESA computer. Displays will also be independently timed by the Adjudicator.

Displays must be fired electrically and display crews must not enter the firing area during the display. The firing area must be cleared of personnel no later than ten minutes prior to the firing of the first display. A minimum ten minute delay will occur between each display to allow smoke to clear and firing systems to be checked.

In the event of burning debris from one competitor's show causing part of another competitor's show to fire, an appeal may be lodged with the Adjudicator no later than two minutes before the start of the display. The Adjudicator will report this at the end of the evening, together with their view on the matter, to the professional judges who may then deduct points or award compensatory points as they feel appropriate. In the event of a misfire from a previous competitor, personnel may access the site to check their own display upon specific authorisation from the Adjudicator.

Any incidents or injuries must be reported to the on-site Adjudicator immediately.

Judging Brief

Each competitor must submit a brief for the professional judges stating their planned firing order. This must not exceed one side of A4 and must be submitted to TESA at least a week in advance of the competition taking place.

Vehicles and Parking

Where possible TESA will arrange secure vehicle parking for teams at the Plymouth Naval Yard. However, competitors must notify TESA at least four weeks in advance of the competition if they want to use this and must ensure that their vehicles carry all the appropriate placarding, equipment and paperwork.

The registrations of all vehicles to be parked overnight at the dockyard must be provided to TESA at least a week in advance.

Miscellaneous

All competitors must have current public liability insurance of at least £10 million.

Any rule breaches, deviation from the declared firing scheme, incidents of poor sportsmanship or similar behaviour will be reported by the Adjudator to the professional judges for their consideration at the end of each night, who will each determine whether the breach merits affecting the competitors score.

The taking of photographs or video of other competitors' sites is not permitted on Mountbatten Breakwater, unless specifically authorised by the competitor and Adjudicator.

All competitors, their employees and crew members must undertake not to contact the judges either before or after the event about anything in relation to the event.

Competitors are entitled to display banners or signs advertising their company provided these are safely located in relation to their firing position and do not interfere with other competitors. The Adjudicator may require any banners or signs to be removed.

Each competitor must provide TESA with a short article of up to 200 words to be used for marketing purposes, describing their company and team. Each competitor shall also provide TESA with the number of sandbags they would like provided by the organisers (up to a maximum of 250). Both pieces of information shall be submitted in accordance with the 'Competitors Check List'.

A draw for competitors and their firing order will be undertaken independently by the Mayor, a leading member of Plymouth City Council, or an independent person nominated by either TESA or Plymouth City Council who will make a signed declaration as to the result of the draw. The Adjudicator may modify the firing order on the day of the event to take account of the prevailing wind conditions.

Competitors must not make any direct contact with the judges prior to the event.

The decision of the judges is final and judges will not enter into any correspondence or discussion over the results. Any discussion regarding the results with competitors will be solely through the event organiser.

A member of the management team from each competitor must be present at the presentation ceremony, which will take place at a designated venue at the conclusion of the event on the second night (approximately 10.45pm)

The BRITISH FIREWORK CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

COMPETITOR AGREEMENT

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Name of Company | |
| Address (including postcode) | |
| Contact name at company | |
| Telephone | |
| Mobile | |
| Email | |
| Fax | |

I confirm receipt of the British Firework Championships 2016 Rules and Guidance and confirm that as a competitor in 2016, my company will undertake to abide by them in their entirety.

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Signature | |
| Print name of person signing | |
| Position in company | |
| Date | |

Note: This form must be signed by a director or principal of the business taking part

Please return to:
Kevin Minton (Event Organiser)
The Event Services Association
Association House
18C Moor Street
Chepstow NP16 5DB

ADDENDUM 1

JUDGING NOTES FOR PROFESSIONAL PANEL

Over the next two nights you will see six firework displays – three on each evening. Using the judging sheets provided, we ask you to score each display on the following factors:

- 1. Professional standards – compliance marks**
- 2. The quality of the show design and performance**
- 3. Symmetry, patterns and timing of the display**
- 4. Overall Artistic Impression of the display**

Judges Scoring Guide

You are asked to score each of the above factors out of 10 using the following guide:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Outstanding: | 9-10 marks |
| Very Good: | 7-8 marks |
| Good: | 5-6 marks |
| Below Average: | 3-4 marks |
| Poor: | 1-2 marks |

Care should be taken by judges not to over-score early displays and leave themselves nowhere to go if a later display is even better. No fractions of scores should be used. Judges may review their marks at the end of each evening but should mark any changes clearly and give reasons for making them in the notes section.

Your Comments

After each display is completed, you are asked to write down a comment on your overall impression of the display. What was good about it – what let it down in your view etc.

Adjudicator's Report

At the end of each evening you will be given a report from the Adjudicator on any rule infringements or other issues they have noted in relation to the competitors. You will be asked to consider these and have the option of disqualifying or deducting points from a team if you feel this is merited. In such situations the majority view will stand.

Arbitration

If a situation arises where the Adjudicator and a team are in disagreement over an issue, such as the interpretation of a rule, you may as a panel be asked to adjudicate. In such situations the majority view will stand.

ADDENDUM 2

JUDGING NOTES FOR LAY PANEL

Over the next two nights you will see six firework displays – three on each evening. Using the judging sheets provided, we ask you to score each display on the following factors:

1. **The variety of fireworks and sequences:** Was there enough variety in the different effects that you saw and did the way they worked together impress you?
2. **Rhythm of the Display:** Did the flow of the display work to hold your attention and did it run smoothly?
3. **Use of Colour:** Was the use of colour in the display effective in grabbing your attention and adding to the quality level of the show?
4. **Overall Impression:** What was your overall impression of the Wow factor of the show in its entirety?

Judges Scoring Guide

You are asked to score each of the above factors out of 10 using the following guide:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Outstanding: | 9-10 marks |
| Very Good: | 7-8 marks |
| Good: | 5-6 marks |
| Below Average: | 3-4 marks |
| Poor: | 1-2 marks |

Care should be taken by judges not to over-score early displays and leave themselves nowhere to go if a later display is even better. No fractions of scores should be used. Judges may review their marks at the end of each evening but should mark any changes clearly and give reasons for making them in the notes section.

Your Comments

After each display is completed, you are asked to write down a comment on your overall impression of the display. What was good about it – what let it down in your view etc.

ADDENDUM 3

JUDGING CALCULATION

1. Each judge will individually score the displays under the judging headings
2. The combined scores of each panel's judges under each heading will then be dividing the total scored by the number of judges. This figure will give an average score for each judging panel.
3. The averages for each panel (professional and lay) will then be added to arrive at a team score.
4. The scores by each team will then be compared to arrive at a result

JUDGING EXAMPLE

Display A

| Professional Panel | Compliance* | Quality | Symmetry | Overall Impres- sion | Average Scores |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Judge A | | 5 | 7 | 8 | |
| Judge B | | 8 | 6 | 6 | |
| Judge C | | 9 | 5 | 3 | |
| Average (Subtotal/3) | 6 | 7.33 | 6.00 | 5.67 | 25 |
| Lay Panel | Variety | Rhythm | Colour | Overall Wow factor | |
| Judge A | 6 | 8 | 9 | 8 | |
| Judge B | 7 | 6 | 5 | 6 | |
| Judge C | 3 | 9 | 8 | 5 | |
| Judge D | 8 | 5 | 6 | 6 | |
| Judge E | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 | |
| Judge F | 7 | 8 | 7 | 8 | |
| Average (Subtotal/6) | 6.17 | 6.67 | 6.33 | 6.67 | 25.83 |
| | | | | Score | 50.83 |
| | | | | Less Penalties | 0.00 |
| | | | | TEAM SCORE | 50.83 |

*Awarded by Adjudicator