

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LEATHER GUILDS, INC.



2026 Established Competition Classes & Competition Rules UPDATES AND CHANGES

Changes to classes and categories to increase uniformity across all divisions, and allow new categories and classes to be added as needed.

*****PLEASE NOTE***** The only changes are to the Category/Class identifiers. You will still register as always, Division/Category/Class.

It is hereby recognized that these competition rules and established classes have been approved and certified for use in the 2026 competition.



Roger Bligan, Chairman, Tracking Committee



Rebecca Hay, Chairman Competition Committee



Randy Cornelius, Executive Director

CATEGORY A: PICTURES ¹

****ATTENTION**** - **ALL** pictures **MUST** be ready for hanging by a single point located top center of the back of the picture. The hanger **MUST** be secure. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!** No other method will be accepted or allowed. No standing/leaning pictures will be allowed in this category.

- Class: A-1: Pictures, uncolored ², flat, **under** 100 square inches ³. Absolutely **NO** color; not even the size of a pin head.
- A-2: Pictures, uncolored ², flat, **over** 100 square inches ³. Absolutely **NO** color; not even the size of a pin head.
- A-3: Pictures, colored, flat, **under** 100 square inches ³.
- A-4: Pictures, colored, flat, **over** 100 square inches ³.
- A-5: Pictures, embossed ⁴, **under** 100 square inches ³.
- A-6: Pictures, embossed ⁴, **over** 100 square inches ³.
- A-7: Portraits, embossed ⁴, with an individual subject or in a group activity. Any size or dimension. The use of animals only as a secondary subject.
- A-8: Pictures, 3-dimensional ⁵, **under** 100 square inches ³.
- A-9: Pictures, 3-dimensional ⁵, **over** 100 square inches ³.
- A-10: Pictures, leather-framed ^{1&17}. Leather pictures, any size, any technique, with or without color. Both picture **and** frame will be judged.
- A-11: All pictures that have been created by means other than "hand tooled/carved/engraved" or pictures that have no other class ¹⁸.

CATEGORY B: CASES ¹⁷

- Class: B-1: Large carrying cases. Examples: luggage, briefcases, laptop, camera, etc.
- B-2: Large sporting cases. Examples: Scabbards, quivers, etc.
- B-3: Small carrying cases: Cell phone, tablet, handcuff, snuff can, etc.
- B-4: Small sporting cases: Cartridge holders, ammo magazine, black powder, etc.
- B-5: Holsters not attached to a belt or strap. No sets, pairs, or combinations.
- B-6: Holsters attached to a belt or strap.
- B-7: Sheaths not attached to a belt or strap. No sets, pairs, or combinations.
- B-8: Sheaths attached to a belt or strap.
- B-9: Purses, carved. Handbags, shoulder bags, fanny packs, sporrans, etc.
- B-10: Purses, stamped ⁶. Handbags, shoulder bags, fanny packs, sporrans, etc.
- B-11: Purses, other ⁷. Handbags, shoulder bags, fanny packs, sporrans, etc.
- B-12: Books/Binders⁸: Any item designed to hold a notepad, loose leaf paper, picture sleeves or bound books.
- B-13: Book cover⁸: Any item that is designed for a book to fit into.

CATEGORY C: POCKET ITEMS ¹⁷

- Class: C-1: Billfold/wallets, carved. Examples: Checkbook, pocket secretaries, etc.
C-2: Billfold/wallets, stamped⁶. Examples: Checkbook, pocket secretaries, etc.
C-3: Billfold/wallets, other⁷. Examples: Checkbook, pocket secretaries, etc.
C-4: Pocket items, carved. Examples: Card cases, key cases, key fobs, eyeglass cases, coin purses, or any item which may be carried in a pocket.
C-5: Pocket items, stamped⁶. Examples: Card cases, key cases, eyeglass cases, coin purses, or any item which may be carried in a pocket.
C-6: Pocket items, other⁷. Examples: Card cases, key cases, eyeglass cases, coin purses, or any item which may be carried in a pocket.
C-7: Clutch purses, carved.
C-8: Clutch purses, stamped ⁶.
C-9: Clutch purses, other ⁷.

CATEGORY D: WEARING APPAREL ¹⁷

- Class: D-1: Belts⁹, carved.
D-2: Belts⁹, stamped⁶.
D-3: Belts⁹ or belt strip braided, laced, or appliqued not to exceed 50% of the total surface area.
D-4: Belts⁹, other⁷.
D-5: Head: Hats, caps, etc.
D-6: Upper body: Clothing items that are worn on the upper body. Examples: Shirts, vests, jackets, tops, etc.
D-7: Lower body: Clothing items that are worn on the lower body. Examples: Pants, chaps, etc. Not to include footwear.
D-8: Footwear: Examples: Boots, shoes, etc.
D-9: Accessory items¹⁸: Examples: Hat bands, wristbands, spur straps, collars, jewelry, leather buckles, necklaces and lanyards any style, etc. Must be predominantly leather.
D-10: Miscellaneous¹⁸: Any item that does not fit in other wearing apparel classes. Examples: Gloves, suspenders, etc.
D-11: Utility straps for personal use. Removal, on-off attachments, special purpose when used for rifles, guitars, golf bags, camera bags, etc. All types of slings for sport use. All styles and techniques. Inclusive of "long gun" stock cover when attached. NO braided items or belts in this class.

CATEGORY E: HORSE GEAR ¹⁷

- Class E-1: Saddles. Carved or stamped; minimum 12 inch tree ¹³.
E-2: Saddles, no tooling, stamping, etc. Minimum 12 inch tree ¹³.
E-3: Breast collars.
E-4: Halters, harnesses, bridles.
E-5: Reins.
E-6: Nose bands, hobbles, and other misc. horse gear.
E-7: Sets. Any group of 3 or more items from E-1 - E-6 that are made as a set.
E-8: Carrying cases. Items that can be attached to a saddle or used while riding a horse to hold personal items.
E-9: Crops, whips, quirts.

CATEGORY F: HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, ART OBJECTS & OTHER ¹⁷

- Class F-1: Molded leather items. Leather items molded or formed over any medium other than leather.
- F-2: Sculpted leather items. Must be 95% leather and cannot be formed over any other medium except leather.
- F-3: Household items^{11&18}. Anything that can be used in the home, office, etc. These items will not qualify in any other class.
- F-4: Beverage holders/cases. Examples: Wine bottle holder, drink huggies, etc.
- F-5: Table Items. Examples: Valet trays, serving trays, etc.
- F-6: Wall hangings. Leather art made to hang on a wall that is NOT framed.
- F-7: Pet items. Items to be used with pets. Examples: Collars, leashes, etc.
- F-8: Flowers. Must be predominantly leather. May be displayed in a non-leather vase.
- F-9: Furniture. Examples: Tables, chairs, stools, desks, etc. Leather must be visible on at least 50% of the exterior surface of the piece.
- F-10: Miscellaneous¹⁸. Leather items for which there is not a specific class.

CATEGORY G: MOTORCYCLE GEAR ^{15&17}

- Class G-1: Seats, saddle bags, touring luggage, etc. Attached or removable.
- G-2: Motorcycle accessories. Examples: Grips, tank covers, utility bags, tool bags, etc. Attached or removable.
- G-3: Wearing apparel. Examples: Chaps, jackets, vests, leather clothing, boots, helmets, etc.

CATEGORY H: COSTUME/COSPLAY

- Class H-1: Full body armor (Full body armor must consist of at least 5 pieces of body armor from the following classes)
- H-2: Helmets, Headgear, etc
- H-3: Cuirass, Breastplate, etc
- H-4: Spaulders, Pauldrons, etc
- H-5: Bracers, Gauntlets, Rerebraces, Vambraces, etc
- H-6: Greaves, Sabatons
- H-7: Weapons & Shields
- H-8: Other Armor pieces not listed in other classes, such as Gorgets, Tassets, etc

CATEGORY I: Braiding¹⁶

- Class I-1: Braided items^{16&18}. Walking sticks, canes, vessels, containers, baskets, & any other items which there is no other braided class. Including pet items: collars, leads, foot/body covers, etc.
- I-2: Wearing apparel, braided¹⁶. Round or flat. Examples: Suspenders, belts, waist wraps, sleeve cuffs and others.
- I-3: Accessory items, braided^{16&18}. Round or flat. Hat bands, wristbands, spur straps, collars, jewelry, buckles, necklace, and lanyards.
- I-4: Pocket items, braided¹⁶ ONLY. Examples: Key fobs, covered pens, any item which can be carried in a pocket.
- I-5: Horse gear, braided¹⁶. Examples: Bridles, breast collars, harness, hobbles, whips, quirts, crops, reins, and any similar items used to outfit or control a horse. Braided flat, round or blended.

FOOTNOTES & GUIDELINES

1. All pictures must be hand tooled, properly hung or displayed. The frame and/or mountings will not be considered as part of the picture. (Except in class A-10)
2. Definition of uncolored: Nothing added to the leather in the form of dye, paint, stain, antique or colored finishes. Any addition of a color pigment or tint is an intentional process and will give cause to a disqualification. The use of a protective coat or top finish that is clear and has no tint is permitted. Absolutely no color or added synthetic part to this uncolored entry. Not even the size of a pin head.
3. Picture sizes are determined by multiplying the average width by the average height in inches. Example: 9"x11" picture = 99 square inches; 9"x12" picture = 108 square inches
4. Definition of embossed: One visible layer of leather only. Raised by undercutting, stretching, etc.
5. Definition of 3-dimensional: Use of more than one layer of leather or other material. Visible parts of picture must be 90% leather.
6. On all stamped articles, swivel knife cuts for accent only, not to exceed 10% of the total surface area. Knife cuts not to be beveled except as border. Beveling is accepted in conjunction with stamps. Each stamp tool can not exceed three (3) square inches.
7. Not carved or stamped. Any type of leather. May be decorated by any combination of color, stitching, burning, beadwork, hardware, etc. NOT to include braiding. Lacing an edge is NOT judged as braiding.
8. Book covers & notebooks must contain book or paper pad. Ring binders must contain at least one sample page. Covers for digital devices must show evidence of operational capability.
9. Belts must include attached buckles and keeper(s) if necessary. Holes must be appropriately punched if a mechanical or trophy buckle is used.
10. Any technique including carving or stamping. Any leather combination. May be decorated by stitching, burning, beadwork, studs, conchos, etc.
11. Jewelry boxes, cigar boxes, humidors, picture frames (picture frames cannot contain a leather picture). If a piece is made to hold something specific (paper towels, etc.), please include it so that the piece will be functionally complete.
12. You can enter in the Z-5 Class in Special Z Division only once (one time). Switching partners (or teams) in order to enter several times is prohibited.
13. Please include a note listing what kind of horse & circumstance of use (roping, trail riding, cutting, etc.)
14. Items entered in Z-5 Class of Special Z Division shall be entered in the Division rating of the highest rated partner (Open, Advanced, Masters, Grand Masters or Special)
15. All and each item(s) entered for competition must be "theme" related to motorcycle equipment and/or motorcycle wearing apparel and must not be duplicated in any other category or class.
16. Braided items: Entry must incorporate braiding in the overall and total design. Braiding must incorporate 85% or greater of the competition item. Materials used for braiding should be genuine leather, rawhide, animal long hair, or a combination of these products only. No synthetics!
17. If braiding is used for joining parts of a competition item or as part of a genuine (primary) leather competition entry where braiding is NOT the overall design, then that braided (secondary) portion of the entry should only be 15% or less of the total entry. If judges estimate that the total braided portion is more than 15%, then this competition entry should not be disqualified because of a greater percentage of the secondary part(s). The braided portion should only receive the maximum of 15% toward the total judgement/score.
This footnote, #17, shall also apply to any braided entry using a genuine leather (secondary) portion of any kind as of the entry. Secondary genuine leather should be 15% or less. If this secondary portion is estimated to be greater than 15%, the judges' consideration should be maximized at 15% toward the total consideration. Said entry should not be disqualified because of the greater percentage of secondary leather part(s).
18. Miscellaneous classes can not be used to enter an item that should be in a different class in which the member already has a similar item entered.

JUDGING GUIDELINES

- A. Lacing (single technique) for an edged effect or used to join leather parts will not be judged as braiding.
- B. It is strongly recommended to remove any clear glass or plexiglass lens cover which might be a final part of a competition entry. If judging is made difficult as a result of a cover of any type, the entry might not be judged. The Competition Committee will not modify your entry.
- C. In the event of any misunderstanding, dispute, or interpretation of any *competition rule* at a time before, during, or after judging, the designated Head Judge shall and will have the final decision of said dispute. The Head Judge shall have the authority to disqualify any competitor to any extent due to ill mannered verbal or physical conduct.