

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

SPECIAL Z DIVISION

Members may compete in as many classes within the Special Z division as they qualify for.

Awards received in Special Z will **not** count towards member advancement in **any** way

CATEGORY Z

Class 1: **Seniors** - Anyone 65 years of age or older.

Class 2: **Beginners** - Anyone with less than two (2) years experience in leathercraft.

Class 3: **Handicapped** - Anyone having visual or motor skill difficulties.

Class 4: **Partnerships** - Any item made by two (2) or more members ^{12&14}

A member can compete in ONLY ONE of the following:

4-O - Open Division - The highest rated member is in Open Division

4-A - Advanced Division - The highest rated member is in Advanced Division

4-M - Masters Division - The highest rated member is in Master Division

4-GM - Grand Masters Division - The highest rated member in Grand Master Division

4-SZ - Special Division - All members are competing in Special Z Only.

END OF SPECIAL Z DIVISION**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-9, H-7, Q-6, & GM-Q-6)
2. Definition of uncolored: Nothing added to the leather in the form of dye, paint, stain, antique or colored finishes. Any add 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.