



IFAGG GENERAL RULES

IFAGG OWNS THESE RULES AND HAS A COPY RIGHT OF THESE RULES.

International Federation of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics IFAGG Kansainvälinen Joukkuevoimisteluliitto is the International Federation who rules Aesthetic Group Gymnastics, defines the Rules for IFAGG and AGG Competition Rules and organizes AGG Competition and Training Activities.

1. IFAGG SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS OF AESTHETIC GROUP GYMNASTICS

- 1.1 The main principle of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics (AGG) in all its events and activity is fair play. Conduct, at all times, should reflect honesty, good sportsmanship, courtesy, and respect.
- 1.2 The IFAGG general rules expressed in this document are to be followed in all competitions, events and activity organized under IFAGG for instance:
- in the IFAGG World Championships
 - in the IFAGG Junior World Championships
 - in the World Cup competitions
 - in the World Challenge Cup competitions
 - in the EUSA Cup
 - in other official international competitions.
- 1.3 In AGG competitions sanctioned by IFAGG (World Championships, Junior World Championships, World Cup competitions, World Challenge Cup for Juniors, EUSA Cup, official international competitions, and open championships hosted by the Federation or one of its members), IFAGG's General rules, Code of Discipline, the AGG competition rules and Regulations for competition organizer (Competition Manual) are to be followed.

2. AESTHETIC GROUP GYMNASTICS

- 2.1 Aesthetic group gymnastics is stylized, natural total body movement where the hips form the basic movement center. A movement performed with one part of the body reflects in the whole body. The philosophy of the sport is founded on harmonious, rhythmic, and dynamic movements



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performed with natural use of strength. Harmonious movements flow naturally from one movement to the next as if they were created by the previous movement. All movements must be performed fluently. Execution must show amplitude, variety in the dynamics, and speed.

2.2 Aesthetic Group Gymnastics is defined in the Competition Rules of AGG of IFAGG.

2.3 IFAGG is responsible for establishing the AGG rules for competition for all age categories (seniors over 16, juniors 14 – 16, children 12 – 14 and 10 – 12; boys are allowed in all categories). The AGG competition rules, and other rules and official additions concerning competition activities are the responsibility of the Technical Committee. These rules must be approved by the board of IFAGG.

2.4 IFAGG is responsible for establishing the AGG competition calendar and calendar of events. The Calendar will be published in IFAGG web pages and/or other official IFAGG announcement. The IFAGG Calendars will be published yearly at the latest 1st of August. IFAGG members are obligated to send their national competition calendars and event calendars to IFAGG Office yearly at the latest 31st of July and updates or adding during the year.

3. RIGHT TO HOST THE COMPETITION

3.1 World Championships

The permission to host The World Championships competitions will be granted by the Board of IFAGG. The General Assembly, which meets yearly, elects the organizer of the World Championships at least two years prior to the event. Applications to organize World Championships must be made to the Board of IFAGG by using the competition application form (available from the IFAGG office or IFAGG web pages) with required attachments. The deadline for such application is March 31st minimum two years in advance of the event.

3.2 Other IFAGG Competitions

The permission to host IFAGG Junior World Championships, World Cup competitions, World Challenge Cup for Juniors, EUSA Cup, official international competitions, and open championships will be granted by the Board of IFAGG. The Board of IFAGG decides the organizer of the event 6 – 12 months prior to the event. Applications to organize IFAGG Junior World Championships, World Cup competitions, World Challenge Cup for Juniors, EUSA Cup, official international competitions, and open championships must be made to the Board of IFAGG by using the competition application form (available from the IFAGG office or IFAGG web pages) with required attachments.

An application must include at least date, location, name of the event, competition form (preliminary day, final day, official arriving and departure dates), description of the competition hall, training possibility, preliminary program of the competition and other required attachments mentioned on the application or IFAGG web pages. The deadline for such application is March 31st minimum one year prior to the event.



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3.2.1 Any member of IFAGG may organize international AGG competitions for seniors (age over 16), for juniors (age 14-16) or for Children (ages 10-12, 12-14). Technical Committee is responsible for the rules being followed and for all the judges being appropriately qualified. Judges registration for available judge for a certain competition must be made by using the official form (available from the IFAGG Office or IFAGG web pages) and to the due date mentioned in the competition invitation. The judge's registration must be made through the member of IFAGG and it is sent to IFAGG Office and Competition organizer. The registered judges must have valid judges license.

3.2.2 Competition categories

A-category: World Championships, IFAGG Junior World Championships, World Cup competitions, World Challenge Cup for Juniors, EUSA Cup, official international competitions

B-category: Other international competitions

C-category: National Competitions f.ex. National Championships

3.3 Minimum requirements for hosting an international competition

3.3.1 IFAGG rules are to be followed.

3.3.2 A minimum of 10 countries and altogether at least 16 groups must participate in the World Championships that it can be nominated as World Championships.

3.3.3 A minimum of 5 countries and altogether at least 8 groups must participate in the World Cup and World Challenge Cup competition that it can be nominated as the World Cup or the World Challenge Cup competition.

3.3.4 A minimum of 3 countries and altogether at least 6 groups must participate in the EUSA Cup that it can be nominated as a EUSA Cup competition.

3.3.5 A minimum of 3 countries/category and 2 groups/category must participate in the competition that it can be nominated as an official international competition (TC approved competition).

3.3.6 A minimum of 2 countries/category and 2 groups/category must participate in the competition that it can be nominated as an international competition.

3.3.7 Judges have been trained according to competition rules of AGG.

3.3.8 Head judges of the different panels (technical value, artistic value, execution) must be nominated by the judge's level system.

3.3.9 A responsible judge must be nominated by TC in every international competition.

3.3.10 The organizers are obliged to inform the IFAGG Office of the results and score sheets (with signatures).



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- 3.3.11 All international competitions should be reported to the IFAGG Office which maintains and updates the competition calendar.
- 3.3.12 A minimum number of the judges in international competition is nine (9).
- 3.3.13 A minimum number of the judges in World Championships, World Cup Finals and Challenge Cup Finals is twelve (12).
- 3.3.14 Full panel is strongly recommended in every international competition.

3.4 The cancellation of the competitions and events

- 3.4.1 IFAGG Board can cancel the competition or event without any compensation to the competition organizer or to the participants in case of any force majeure situations:

for example strike, war, political situation, lockout, industrial action, revolt, and catastrophe of nature, or if the participant's security is somehow compromised or other overwhelming obstacle that can be proved to influence that the competition cannot be organized like mentioned in the point of 3.3.

- 3.4.2 IFAGG Board can cancel the competition or event without any compensation to the competitions organizer or to the participants in case of 3.3.2 – 3.3.6. or 3.3.12 – 3.3.14 at the latest three months before the competition or event.
- 3.4.3 The organizer of the competition or event can cancel the competition or event without any compensation to IFAGG or participants five (5) months before the agreed competition date (preliminaries) or event. If the organizer cancels the competition or event five (5) months before the agreed competition date or event date IFAGG is not responsible of any compensation for participants.
- 3.4.4 If the group/person cancels their participation of the competition or event IFAGG is not responsible to compensate any possible costs of cancellation.
- 3.4.5 Special cases
 - 3.4.5.1 The organizer of the competition or event must prepare and deliver all necessary documentation for participating group/person for getting the visa on reasonable time. Participating group/person is responsible for getting the visa early enough.
 - 3.4.5.2 Definitive entry needs to be sent by the due date and through the member by using the official form. In the case of delay the entry can be accepted but the participation fee is 1½ more.
 - 3.4.5.3 IFAGG is strongly recommending that the participating delegations will consider purchasing of cancellation insurance in case that if the competition or event will be cancelled IFAGG is not responsible of any costs associated with the travel arrangements of individual teams.

3.5 Regulations for competition organizer



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The competition organizer (World Championships and Junior World Championships) is obligated to have negotiations with IFAGG about the competition arrangements that have been determined by these General Rules and Regulations for competition organizer (always the current rules). The agreement of the competition circumstances will be signed and the possible sight inspection will be made by the authorities of IFAGG. IFAGG will be the contacting party. The cost of sight inspection will be covered by the competition organizer.

4. COMPETITION PERIOD

4.1 The competition period for World Championships is 1.4. – 31.5. The competition period for the World Cup and World Challenge Cup is 1.9. – 30.6. The competition period for the IFAGG Junior World Championships is 1.1. – 30.6.

5. FEES AND LICENSES FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

5.1 The organizing fees, participation fees and licenses will be determined yearly by the board of IFAGG. The organizing fees and participation fees will be sent to all members and published in IFAGG web pages and/or other official IFAGG announcement.

5.2 Penalties

Teams do not have permission to compete if they have not paid the participation fee, the membership fee of IFAGG and the gymnast license for each gymnast.

5.3 Other payments

Every country and team participating in the competitions is responsible for their own costs.

The organizers of the competition and events must provide information about possible accommodation and meals at various price ranges.

6. INSURANCE

6.1 Everybody who participates in IFAGG competitions and events must have their own insurance.

IFAGG is not responsible for any insurance.

The organizer takes care of the liability insurance, but doesn't have to insure participants (each participant/team is responsible for their own insurance).



Organizer must show the receipt of the liability insurance when required from IFAGG Office or IFAGG Official.

7. LICENSE

7.1. Gymnast licenses

Every gymnast participating in A-category competitions must have valid gymnast license. IFAGG member takes care of the license payment for IFAGG. IFAGG member delivers the list of the names of the gymnasts with birth dates, club and possible team name. The member of IFAGG is responsible to make the payment to IFAGG for licenses.

7.2. Judges licenses

Every judge evaluating in IFAGG competitions must have valid judge license. IFAGG member takes care of the license payment for IFAGG. IFAGG member delivers the list that consists the names of the licensed judges with their contact information.

8. PARTICIPATION RIGHTS

8.1 Invitation and competition entry

Competition invitation concerning A-category competitions is published according to the Regulations for competition organizers (organizer and IFAGG is responsible for publishing the invitation and information needed).

- 8.1.1 Competition entry must be made by using the IFAGG/organizer official form by the due date stated in the official invitation. In the case of delay the entry can be accepted (approval of the delayed entry will be made by the organizer and IFAGG) but the participation fee is 1½ more.

8.2 Gymnasts

Age categories:

Children Category girls age 10 – 12 and age 12 – 14 (gymnasts during competition year 10, 11 and 12 or 12, 13 and 14 years old)

Junior Category girls age 14 – 16 (gymnasts during competition year 14, 15 and 16 years old)

Exception alternatives for age limits:

- Maximum two (2) members of group may be one (1) year younger or (1) year older than the minimum or maximum given age.



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Senior Category women over 16 years old

Exception alternative for age limits:

- Maximum two (2) members of the group may be one (1) year younger than the given minimum age.

According to AGG competition rules:

AGG rules: 1.3.1. Number of the gymnasts

Group consists of 6 – 12 nominated gymnasts during the year and reserve gymnast belongs to the group. For every specific competition a team consists of 6 – 10 gymnasts on the competition carpet from 12 nominated gymnasts during the year.

Nomination to each competition (preliminaries and/or finals) must be done among nominated gymnasts.

1.3.2 A group/team can have a name (for ex. club name, group name).

8.3 Federations / clubs

The participating teams in AGG competitions shall represent their country.

The clubs may belong to different gymnastics associations and federations on both the national and international levels. The participants in World Championships, World Cup and IFAGG Junior World Championships, World Challenge Cup and other international competitions must be members of IFAGG (Possible exceptions will be determined by separated agreements (F. ex. IFAGG – FIG agreement)).

The number of teams that may take part in World Championships and Junior World Championships is limited to three (3) teams from each country. The number of teams that may take part in World Cup and World Challenge Cup is four (4). There are following exceptions:

- The number of teams from the country hosting A-category competitions may/will be four (4).
- The previous World Champion team will have a wild card and the right to participate in the next World Championships. The majority of the nominated team that won the last World Championships must be the same (for example 7 gymnasts of 12 nominated gymnasts must be the same or 6 gymnasts of 10 nominated gymnasts must be the same).
- It is up to each country whether qualifying national championships are required, and if so, how they are arranged.
- The IFAGG member nominates and registers teams to IFAGG competitions.
- In open international competitions, the organizer decides if there is a need to restrict the number of participating teams.

9. FOREIGNER'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

- 9.1 A gymnast who is not a citizen of the country that the team represents, still has the right to represent the team and country if at least one of the following conditions is fulfilled:
- 9.1.1 The gymnast has lived in the same country as the rest of the team for at least 6 months.
- 9.1.2 The gymnast has not competed in her own country, nor represented her own country during the past year.

10. THE JUDGES PANELS AND THE MEDALS

- 10.1 The Technical Committee of IFAGG will propose to the IFAGG Board the judging panels for the A-category competitions. The Technical Committee proposes as well the Responsible Judge.
- 10.2 Panels of judges in the competition

Defined in the International Judging System:

Formation of judging panels in A-category competitions

- The judge's license list of IFAGG will determine the level of each judge. When judges have same license level each country decides which judge is 1st and 2nd etc.
- When there are enough countries with qualified judges, the draw of judges will be held between the judges from the highest level.
- When there are not enough countries, the next qualified level judges will also be included in the draw.
- IFAGG can call on judges from any country that is a member of IFAGG.
- IFAGG can make exceptions to the points mentioned above when nominating the judges list based on objectivity and fair play.
- A country that is a member of IFAGG may propose judges even if the country hasn't got a team in the competition.
- Judge **can** not be a coach or a choreographer of a team. (see Code of Ethics)

Superior Jury/Responsible Judge/Judges' director



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- IFAGG Board decides and nominates the Superior Jury/Responsible Judge/Judges' director when needed.
- The Superior Jury/Responsible Judge/Judges' director/Responsible Judge/Judges' director is a part of the panel of judges. The Superior Jury/Responsible Judge/Judges' director/Responsible Judge/Judges' director may evaluate the programs as part of the panel of judges, but their scores are not included in the official scores depending on the competition.
- The Superior Jury/Responsible Judge/Judges' director/Responsible Judge/Judges' director may consist of 3 to 4 judges of first level. A Superior Jury/Responsible Judge/Judges' director has the right to interfere in the work of the panel of judges when needed.
- The Superior Jury/Responsible Judge/Judges' director's role in competition can also be ethical jury and IFAGG Board decides and nominates this kind of ethical jury when needed and this jury can consist also other suitable persons than first level Judges.
- The Superior Jury/Responsible Judge/Judges' director supervises that the actions of the panel of judges are according to IFAGG rules and regulations. Superior Jury/Responsible Judge/Judges' director mainly observes the judging work and listens the negotiations and only in extreme cases will give her advice. These cases must always be reported.

The IFAGG Office maintains a Judges License register of authorized international judges.

Each country is responsible for the expenses of its judges.

- 10.3. IFAGG's medals will be delivered during World Championships, IFAGG Junior World Championships and during the last competition of World Cup and World Challenge Cup. The organizer will take care of the costs and producing the medals. IFAGG will pay the costs of the Cups/Trophies for the medalist teams. The organizer will take care of producing the Cups/Trophies. There can be exceptions when agreed. It is recommended that the organizer will deliver World Cup I - III and World Challenge Cup I – II medals and trophies and possible other prizes to the teams.

11. DOPING – RULES

- 11.1. As a condition for participating in IFAGG events, a person must follow the anti-doping rules.

All gymnasts, coaches, assistants of the gymnasts, and officials are required to become acquainted with the doping rules. Information about the banned substances and methods can be found from the WADA pages: <http://www.wada-ama.org/>.

- 11.2. The assistant of the gymnasts is anyone who improves the gymnast's performance, such as coaches, supporters, doctors, and managers.



11.3. Disciplinary actions, minimum:

1. Official warning.
2. Temporary suspension (suspension terminates 2 years after the first doping offence).
3. Lifelong suspension due to repeated doping offence.

11.4. The procedure for penalties is clarified in the Code of Discipline of IFAGG.

12. YEARLY STATISTICS TO IFAGG

- 12.1. IFAGG members are obliged to send yearly (Administrational Information) statistics to IFAGG Office by the form provided by IFAGG Office.
- 12.2. IFAGG members are obliged to send the list of their international and national judges by 1st of January each year.
- 12.3. IFAGG members are obliged to send immediately after the competition the results of the competition and the list of judges who have evaluated in the international competition that they have organized.
- 12.4. IFAGG member who is arranging an international competition must send the definitive entries and participation lists at least one week before the competition begins to the IFAGG Office.

13. ADVERTISEMENTS AND TRADEMARKS

13.1. Limited to IFAGG events.

- 13.1.1. There may be a logo and/or a print on the gymnastics leotard, provided it is in good sportsmanship and in keeping with good customs of the sport, and has a maximum size of 50 mm x 80 mm.
- 13.1.2. The Superior Jury/Responsible Judge/Judges' director or the head judge (in that order) of the competition decides if the print and/or logo are appropriate. Any of these four bodies may measure the size of the print and/or logo if needed. Any of these three bodies may prevent the gymnasts (team) from competing if the rule mentioned above has been violated.
- 13.1.3. In case of disagreement, the IFAGG's Board will decide whether the print and/or logo are appropriate, after the Technical Committee has brought the matter forward to the Board.



- 13.1.4. Besides the print and the logo mentioned above on the gymnastics leotard, there may also be the original logo or trademark of the manufacturer of the leotard, provided that it does not conflict with AGG rules.
- 13.1.5. The gymnast is not allowed to compete with a gymnastics leotard that deviates from the rule mentioned above and the AGG competition rules.

14. ETHICS CODE

14.1. Fair Play

- 14.1.1. The gymnasts, teams, coaches, other assistants of the gymnasts, judges, managers, clubs, delegation members and competition organizers will be on their best behavior during the competition by acting in the spirit of Fair Play. The disturbance of other gymnasts or teams during their performance and intentionally misleading the judges and/or officials is against the IFAGG code of ethics. The participants of the competition event must follow the IFAGG regulations.
- 14.1.2. The violation of the IFAGG code of ethics will be discussed and penalties decided by IFAGG's Board based on the report by the Superior Jury/Responsible Judge/Judges' director or the head judge of the competition, the competition director or other person legally responsible.

14.2. There will and may absolutely not be any collusions of the results of any IFAGG sanctioned competition.

- 14.2.1. Any member of participating delegations that is found to collude in the results beforehand will be sanctioned by the IFAGG Code of Discipline.

14.3. The gymnasts and/or the members of the team such as coach or director of the club is prohibited from betting, either personally or with the help of an agent, on the competition event in which they are participating.

- 14.3.1. The persons who have engaged in betting on IFAGG's competition events will be sanctioned by the IFAGG Code of Discipline.

14.4. Judges

- Judges must work individually.
- Results may not be negotiated beforehand.
- During the competition event, the judging panelists are not allowed to discuss evaluation aspects among each other or with coaches, gymnasts or other officials.



- 14.4.1. The judges who have violated these rules mentioned in point 14.4. will be sanctioned by the IFAGG Code of Discipline.

15. BREAKING THE RULES

- 15.1. Members of IFAGG, clubs, the members of their boards, the officials of the clubs, the officials of the competitions and events, gymnasts and their assistants and representatives, coaches, choreographers and judges are required to follow the General rules, the Code of Discipline, the AGG competition rules of IFAGG, the Regulations of Competition Organizers and other IFAGG Rules. Possible violations of the rules will cause sanctions to be issued based on the IFAGG Code of Discipline.
- 15.1.1. Any loss of the right to compete or the right of representation will be decided by the Board of IFAGG.
- 15.1.2. The right to compete will be restored after the terms of the sanction have expired, and after permission to compete again has been applied for, and when it is determined that the party is in good standing with all aspects of IFAGG policy.
- 15.1.3. The person subject to the allegations of wrong-doing is entitled to a hearing before sanctions are decided upon, but if the person waives this opportunity, the sanction may be decided without providing an explanation.
- 15.2. The person subject to the allegations of wrong-doing has the right to complain to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland. The time limit for appeal is 21 days after the receipt of the decision.

16. APPROVING AND AMENDING THE RULES

- 16.1. The board of IFAGG will approve the General Rules.
- 16.1.1. The approving of the general rules will be announced in the AGG International bulletin and on the website www.ifagg.com. These rules will come into force one week after the announcement.
- 16.2. The Technical Committee of IFAGG can propose changes to the General Rules.

17. MARKETING AND VISIBILITY OF THE IFAGG

17.1. Materials

- The IFAGG logo will be displayed according to the graphical instructions for all the marketing material like posters and brochures and invitations etc. (paper versions and electronic versions).
- IFAGG's office or person responsible for marketing will deliver the model of the logo. The organiser is responsible for the use of the logo as mentioned above.
- IFAGG has the right to deliver to the competition IFAGG's own marketing material like brochures and/or advertisements of its products and/or events. The organiser is responsible for putting out the material delivered and return of the material in its original condition.
- IFAGG will pay the costs when the organiser sends the material back to IFAGG's office by mail.
- Graphical instructions are available from IFAGG office.

17.2. Decoration

The IFAGG outlook/image will be used in the decoration of the competition area/hall.

- IFAGG banderols
- IFAGG posters
- IFAGG quick screens
- IFAGG Expanders (movable wall)
- IFAGG balloons
- Other possible IFAGG material for decoration

All the material delivered and mentioned above will be used as much as possible considering the size of the competition area/hall and other material of decoration but always some IFAGG material mentioned above must be shown.

The organiser and IFAGG official will agree on the decoration matters in adequate time beforehand. All the decoration needs of the IFAGG material will be agreed upon together as faithfully as possible. An IFAGG official or office will deliver all the IFAGG decoration material needed to the competition organiser.

17.3. Visibility and the sponsors or partners

When the competition event is broadcasted, IFAGG must get the same logo visibility as all the other sponsors or partners.

IFAGG official or office will deliver the available material for the competition organiser. The organiser is responsible for putting out the material delivered and return of it in its original condition. IFAGG will pay the costs when the organiser sends the material back to IFAGG's office by mail.



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If the competition event is to be broadcasted, IFAGG official will negotiate all visibility matters with the organiser.

More information is available from IFAGG Office or IFAGG official.

17.4. The visibility of the IFAGG's sponsors or partners

IFAGG

- Must inform organisers of its own partners 3 months prior to the competition event.
- Will let the organisers know the established IFAGG company partners, and any changes to this. The IFAGG main partners are granted equal visibility regardless of their relative contributions.
- Will review with the organiser the gifts and awards or other benefits that IFAGG's company partners have promised to give for the competition.

IFAGG and/or the partner itself

- Will deliver the marketing material such as possible posters, brochures, product samples etc...
- Is responsible according to each contract for inventing, producing and delivering its own materials.

The organiser

- Is responsible for putting out the marketing material and return it in its original condition. The organiser is not responsible for the costs of returning the material.
- **Can obtain own partners for the event provided that they don't restrict the visibility of IFAGG's partners meant for that event or be in conflict with them (= no companies from the same brand).** In unclear cases the organiser must contact IFAGG office.
- Takes care of the announcements that IFAGG and its partners wish.
- Gives time when needed to the greetings of partners.
- Helps when needed to find premises for IFAGG's partners for possible customer events. The partners themselves are responsible for the costs of such premises and refreshments.

17.5. International AGG competitions that are broadcasted via TV or Internet

International or national broadcasting company:

- IFAGG owns the broadcasting rights of Aesthetic Group Gymnastics.
- There will be organised negotiations of the event together with IFAGG officials, in which the visibility matters are discussed and the required specific decisions are made.
- The IFAGG's partners, in whose contract this has been defined, get visibility to the main hall of the competition event (background wall and/or kiss & cry –corner).
- IFAGG negotiate with the organizer the price level (%) that comes to IFAGG for the broadcasting.



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- IFAGG will always get the original master tape of the broadcasted competition or event.

17.6. International AGG competitions that are not being broadcasted

- The IFAGG's partners, in whose contract this has been defined, get visibility to the main hall of the competition event. IFAGG reserves for its partners side advertisement space in the most visible place.

Further enquiries through IFAGG's office.

Some issues are being defined in the regulations for competition organiser.

THESE RULES ARE APPROVED BY IFAGG BOARD 9TH OF JUNE 2011.