

IFBB ELITE PRO GENERAL RULES



2017 EDITION

In sport, there are no limitations, no barriers of race, religion, politics, or culture. In sport, we are in touch with each other.

“BODYBUILDING IS IMPORTANT FOR NATION BUILDING” - Ben Weider, C.M., C.Q., C.St.J., Ph.D., Founder of the IFBB

IFBB ELITE PRO

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Article 1 - Introduction

1. General:

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Rules for Bodybuilding and Fitness consist of regulations, policies, directives and decisions intended to guide the **IFBB ELITE PRO** and its Members in the administration of all physique sports governed by the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.

2. Authority and Amendments:

Constitutionally, the Executive Council has authority to prescribe and amend the Rules. Between annual meetings of the Council, this authority is delegated to the following four officers: President, Executive Assistant to the President, Executive Director and General Secretary. Any decision made by the Council, or its delegated authority, has force and effect only until the next annual general meeting of the International Congress, at which time the decision will either be ratified or rejected. In an emergency situation, where time is of the essence and it is not practical to obtain the majority consent of the Council or its delegated authority, the President shall have power to prescribe or amend a rule.

3. Agreement:

Affiliated National, Regional and Continental Federations, their athletes, officials and others, join the **IFBB ELITE PRO** of their own free will and, in so doing, agree to abide by the Constitution and Rules. In becoming a Member of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**, Affiliated Federations and other Members accept that the Constitution and Rules exist for the good of the sports of Bodybuilding and Fitness. Should the Constitution and Rules be contravened by any Member, the **IFBB ELITE PRO** has authority to impose disciplinary measures against that Member.

4. Definitions:

The same definitions that are found in the Constitution also apply to the Rules. The Code of Ethics, which forms an integral part of the Constitution, also forms an integral part of the Rules and is attached as Appendix 1.

5. Interpretation:

It is recognized that the Rules cannot encompass every possible situation wherein written guidance might be sought in the resolution of an issue. In such cases, the President has sole authority to interpret any matter arising out of the Rules, or any matter not encompassed by the Rules, said interpretation to be final and binding.

6. Intent:

It is not intended that the Rules be considered as "cast in stone" but instead, as guidelines. Each and every issue arising out of the Rules must be judged on its own merits with the primary consideration given to that which is in the best interests of the sport of Bodybuilding.

Article 2 - Sanctioning of IFBB Elite Pro Competitions

1. Requirement for Sanction:

In order to host an IFBB Elite Pro competition, an Organizer must first obtain an official sanction from the **IFBB ELITE PRO**. To obtain an official sanction, the Organizer must file a Request for Official Sanction with the **IFBB ELITE PRO**. The request must include all of the pertinent information about the proposed competition. Official sanctions may only be issued to an Organiser, with the approval of the National Federation

2. Contract:

Once the Request for Official Sanction is approved by the **IFBB ELITE PRO**, a Contract will be forwarded to the Organizer. The Contract will outline the terms and conditions of the official sanction as well as the responsibilities of the Organizer towards the successful hosting of the competition.

3. Sanction Fee:

The Organizer will pay a sanction fee to the **IFBB ELITE PRO** for the right to host the competition. The amount of the fee will be set by the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.

All IFBB Elite Pro Competitions are the exclusive property of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.

The granting of an official sanction and the payment of a sanction fee does not transfer ownership of this property to the Organizer.

4. Payment of Sanction Fee:

The sanction fee will be paid according to a fixed schedule that is agreed upon by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** and Organizer. Once the Contract is signed by all parties and the sanction fee, in whole or in part, is received by the **IFBB ELITE PRO**, the fee will not be returned to the Organizer should the Contract, for whatever reason, be subsequently cancelled.

5. Failure to Abide:

Once the Contract has been signed by all parties, should the Organizer, for whatever reason, subsequently fail to abide by the Constitution and Rules, or the terms and conditions of the Contract, or the directives of the President, the President may withdraw the sanction and undertake whatever measures are deemed necessary, disciplinary or otherwise, in order to protect the interests of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.

6. Delegation of Authority:

The President may, at his discretion, delegate to a member of the Executive Council, normally the Executive Assistant to the President or the Executive Director, or the area Vice President, the authority to represent the interests of the **IFBB ELITE PRO** in granting an official sanction and signing a Contract for an IFBB Elite Pro Competition.

Article 3 - Liability of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**

1. General:

The organization of an IFBB Elite Pro Competition will be undertaken at the sole financial risk of the Organizer. The Organizer must agree in writing to accept this condition, as well as any other terms and conditions that may be detailed within the Contract.

2. Liability Regarding Failure to Abide:

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** will not be held liable for any financial or other loss, including any harm to the reputation of the Organizer or any associated parties, should the Organizer be disciplined for failing to abide by the Constitution and Rules, or the terms and conditions of the Contract, or the directives of the President.

3. Liability Insurance:

Members of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**, be they Affiliated Federations, athletes, officials and others, participate at IFBB Elite Pro Competitions by their own free will and, in so doing, agree that the

IFBB ELITE PRO will not be held liable for any accident or incident arising out of the organization or hosting of the competition. The Organizer of an IFBB Elite Pro Competition must agree in writing to make the necessary arrangements, either with the competition venue site or insurance agency, for their own liability insurance coverage.

4. Medical Personnel:

The Organizer of an IFBB Elite Pro Competition will ensure that accredited medical personnel are on duty and that emergency transportation is made available at the competition venue site throughout the duration of the Prejudging and Finals, at no cost to the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.

Article 4 - Sponsorship

1. Sponsorship:

The Organizer of an IFBB Elite Pro Competition may solicit the sponsorship of government and commercial companies; however, the sponsorship must be pre-approved by the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.

2. Exceptions:

The use of tobacco and alcohol companies for sponsorship of IFBB Elite Pro Competitions is strictly prohibited.

Article 5 – Advertising and Publicity

1. Advertising:

The organizer of an IFBB Elite Pro Competition may advertise at the competition by way of signage and/or banners so long as said advertising is not placed at the back centre of the stage and in such a manner as to obstruct the view of the judging panel. Signs and logos may be printed directly on the back cover of the stage or banners may be hung from the top front of the stage, on either or both sides of the stage, and/or along the front edge of the stage. Signs and logos may also be projected on the back cover of the stage or displayed on screens placed on the sides of the stage. Signs, screens and/or banners must not be placed in such a position as to be within camera-view when photographing the top six finalists.

2. Publicity:

The Organizer will be responsible for ensuring that the competition receives maximum publicity, before, during and after the competition. The Organizer should retain the services of a Public Relations consultant to ensure maximum media coverage through newspapers, radio, internet and television. Prior to the official registration/weigh-in or immediately prior to the Prejudging the Organizer should arrange a Press Conference at which the Organizer and the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Official may inform the public about the competition, the **IFBB ELITE PRO** activity and the sports of Bodybuilding and Fitness.

Article 6 - Television and Video

1. Exclusive Rights:

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** has the exclusive right to negotiate any and all contracts for television and/or video rights to an IFBB Elite Pro Competition. Should television and/or video rights become an issue in the hosting of the competition, the Organizer is obligated to immediately advise the **IFBB ELITE PRO** of this fact and will refrain from entering into any unilateral negotiations with any television and/or video agency without the expressed prior approval of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**. The

IFBB ELITE PRO has “first rights” to any videotape of the event and, upon demand, the Organizer will immediately forward to the **IFBB ELITE PRO** a first copy of the videotape for use as the **IFBB ELITE PRO** deems appropriate.

2. Liability:

Should the negotiations between the **IFBB ELITE PRO** and the organization offering the television and/or video contract fail to produce any fees, the **IFBB ELITE PRO** will not be held liable for any resultant financial or other loss to the Organizer, or any associated parties.

3. Breakdown of Fees:

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** will receive any and all fees for television and/or video and will normally apportion said fees as detailed in a separate written and signed Agreement or Contract with the Organizer.

Article 7 - Media Accreditation

1. Rights:

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** reserves the right to control any and all press accreditation, whether said accreditation be television, radio, website, print, photographic, or other media, at IFBB Elite Pro Competitions.

2. Press Passes:

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Press Commission, and/or its appointee, is responsible for issuing press passes to selected media personnel. To obtain a press pass, a journalist or his/her employer must file a Press Accreditation Application Form with the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Press Commission, which will issue the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Press Accreditation to him/her. Based on this document, the Organizing Committee office will prepare a press pass for that person, which will be given after payment of the press accreditation fee, determined by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Executive Council from time to time. During the Prejudging and Finals, only those individuals in possession of valid press passes are permitted access to those seating areas that are designated for the press. The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Official may dismiss any individual from the press area for just cause.

3. Event Coverage:

The possession of a press pass does not entitle the bearer to cover every IFBB Elite Pro Competition from the press area. Permission to cover a competition must be obtained on a competition-by-competition basis with accreditation normally being granted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Article 8 - Qualifications for Participation in IFBB Elite Pro Competitions

1. Eligibility:

Only National Federations duly affiliated to the **IFBB ELITE PRO** are permitted participation at IFBB Elite Pro Competitions. Any country which is not affiliated to the **IFBB ELITE PRO**, or any country which is affiliated but under suspension or disqualification, or any athlete who is under suspension by either the IFBB, the **IFBB ELITE PRO** or a National Federation, is not permitted to participate at any International or IFBB Elite Pro Competition worldwide.

2. Participation:

In order to qualify for participation in an IFBB Elite Pro Competition, an athlete must have a valid

IFBB ELITE PRO CARD. He or she must either be a citizen, or have landed immigrant or legal resident status, in the country that the athlete intends to represent. At the official registration/ weigh-in, the athlete must produce a valid passport, or landed immigrant or legal resident papers, or other documented proof of citizenship status from the current country of domicile.

3. **Dual Citizenship:**

An athlete, once having been declared a citizen, or landed immigrant or legal resident, of one country may not compete for another country without written permission from the National Federation of his/her current country of domicile. No athlete is allowed to compete for two different countries in any given year.

Athlete, who already represented any country, may change the represented country one time in his/her sport career only.

4. **Invitations to Compete:**

Organizers have authority to forward letters of invitation and entry forms to National Federations only. Organizers will not directly invite individual athletes from another country, or countries, to participate in an IFBB Elite Pro Competition.

5. **Nominations to compete:**

Except where otherwise noted, an athlete may not participate at an IFBB Elite Pro Competition without the prior approval of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**. Athletes are prohibited from directly contacting the Organizer for the purpose of obtaining participant status. Nomination of athlete for participation in the IFBB Elite Pro Competition must be done by his/her National Federation, by sending the Final Entry Form with the names of nominated athletes to the Organizing Committee of that competition, **IFBB ELITE PRO** Head Office and **IFBB ELITE PRO** Technical Committee.

6. **Extraordinary and/or Exceptional Circumstances:**

Where proven extraordinary and/or exceptional circumstances warrant, the **IFBB ELITE PRO** may authorize the participation of individual athletes in competitions sanctioned or recognized by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** when, at or around the time of the competition, the athlete's national federation is in conflict, dispute and/or debate not yet resolved by an **IFBB ELITE PRO** decision with the same **IFBB ELITE PRO**.

Article 9 – World Championships and other International Competitions

1. **Guarantee:**

Organizers of International Competitions must guarantee unconditional entry to all countries eligible to participate and to all athletes eligible to compete.

2. **Intent to Participate:**

National Federations must forward their intent to participate at International Competitions immediately upon receipt of the letter of invitation and/or Preliminary Entry Form and/or Final Entry Form so as to allow the Organizer the opportunity to properly plan and budget for transportation, accommodations, meals, and other expenses.

Article 10 - Prejudging and Finals Venue Requirements

1. **General:**

All IFBB Elite Pro Competitions will take place, wherever possible, in a theatre-like venue complete with an appropriately sized stage, professional lighting and sound, and tiered seating. The Organizer must pay special attention to the following critical requirements:

1.1. Staging:

The judging should be held on a raised stage with an optimum height of 80-100 cm, width of 16-24 m and 6-8 m depth. If the venue has a large, flat seating area without tiered seats, the stage must be at an optimum height of 1.0 meter. If the stage is any higher than that, the seats for the judges must also be raised so as to give them a full view of the competitors. The top of the stage should be covered by a plain grey carpet and the front and sides by cloth, paneling or paint.

1.2. Background:

The stage background should be of a neutral, non-distracting colour, preferably dark blue or black and matt. On it must be displayed the **IFBB** logo, **IFBB ELITE PRO** logo, **IFBB ELITE PRO** official sponsors' logos and the name of the event. The logo of the organizer and/or organizing national federation may also be displayed in this area; however, neither should be placed in such a position as to distract the view of the judges or photographers. The Organizer must not allow signage and/or banners to be displayed in this area, however, said signage and/or banners may be hung from the top front of the stage, on either or both front sides of the stage, along the front of the posing plinth, or along the front edge of the stage, and/or in any other area that does not interfere with the judge's and photographer's view of the competitors.

1.3. Sound:

The sound system will be of such quality so as to ensure that the competitor's music is reproduced in the best professional manner. The Organizer will also be responsible for ensuring that each competitor's music starts exactly where it should and on cue.

Where possible, the sound system controls/soundman should be located backstage, on the same side of the stage where the competitors enter, normally stage left (when viewed from the front).

Microphones must be provided for the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge, the Master of Ceremonies, and the onstage Expeditor (preferably hands-free).

1.4. Lighting:

The stage will be provided with one universal lighting system, evenly illuminating the whole stage. If this is impossible, two basic lighting set-ups are required. The first is needed to illuminate the complete line-up of all of the competitors when they are first brought before the judges. The second must be focused on the central area of the stage (10 m wide, from the front of the stage to the back wall) for the individual posing routines, comparisons, posedown and awarding ceremony. It is important to avoid the shadowed area on the stage. The average luminance on the stage should be at the level of 4500 – 5000 lux.

1.5. Seating:

The Organizer must ensure that all judges and spectators are afforded a clear and unobstructed full-figure view of all of the competitors who stand onstage. Judges and statisticians must be seated away from the spectators. Photographers and television and/or video personnel must not be allowed to obstruct the view of the judges.

1.6. Master of Ceremonies:

The Master of Ceremonies plays a significant role in the image that the **IFBB ELITE PRO** wish to present to the general public at all Competitions. For this reason, the MC should have a background in public speaking, or be comfortable in his or her role as "moderator" in front of an audience, and must be adept at handling impromptu situations. The MC should have a speaker's rostrum with a microphone, situated at the side of the stage from which the competitors enter.

1.7. Competitor Warm-up Area:

The Organizer will provide dressing rooms and washrooms/showers for the competitors. Next to the dressing room area, and adjacent to the stage, there should be an area where the Expeditors may assemble the competitors prior to leading them onto the stage. In the marshalling area, the Organizer will also provide an adequate amount of equipment for the competitors to warm up with before performing. There should be barbells of varying weights, several pairs of dumbbells of varying weights, adjustable benches, etc. Also a couple of mirrors are needed, especially at the women's competitions and a lot of paper towels plus waste-paper baskets.

1.8. Inspection:

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge should inspect the competition venue site prior to the commencement of Prejudging, for the purpose of ascertaining the readiness of the facility.

1.9. Communications:

The Organizer will be responsible for supplying sufficient communications equipment (i.e.: headsets/mics, walkie-talkies) for use by the backstage Expeditors.

1.10. Office/Photocopier:

The Organizer will be responsible for providing an office complete with computer/printer and photocopier with additional toner kept in reserve for use by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** throughout the duration of the IFBB Elite Pro Competition.

1.11. Water:

The Organizer will provide sufficient quantities of still (no gas) water for use backstage by the expeditors and athletes.

1.12. Medical Emergency:

The Organizer will ensure that medical personnel and emergency transportation is made available for use throughout the entire duration of the Prejudging and Finals.

1.13. Backstage Access/Dressing Room Access:

Access to the backstage area/dressing room area is strictly limited to essential personnel only. There will be no admittance given to spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, family members or relatives. Coaches and trainers who assist athletes in the dressing room area must be of the same sex as the athlete they are assisting. Under no circumstances will a coach, trainer, or any other individual be permitted in the dressing room area to assist any competitor of the opposite sex.

1.14. Cameras/Videotapes:

Cameras and videotape devices are strictly prohibited in the backstage area/dressing room area except when used by duly recognized press personnel and, in any event, these devices are strictly prohibited in the dressing room area.

1.15. Access Control:

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** reserves the right to control access to the backstage area during Prejudging and Finals.

Article 11 – Official Athlete Registration: Weigh-in and/or Height Measurement

1. Official Athlete Registration: Weigh-in and/or Height Measurement: The Official Athlete Registration (weigh-in and/or height measurement) at all IFBB Elite Pro Competitions will be controlled by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge and will normally proceed as follows:
 - 1.1. All competitors, regardless of their category, are required to present themselves at the Official Athlete Registration which will usually take place on the day prior to the Prejudging. Any competitor who fails to attend the Official Athlete Registration at the designated time may be eliminated from the competition.
 - 1.2. The Organizer will provide a suitable room for the Official Athlete Registration in which there will be a certified weighing machine, calibrated in kilograms, with accuracy up to 0.1 kg, as well as one back-up weighing machine, which should be made available to the competitors prior to the Official Athlete Registration, so that they may check their weight; tables and chairs for the Judges Secretary and assistants, and a suitable number of chairs for the competitors and delegates. A measuring device, calibrated in centimeters, with accuracy up to 1 mm, will also be made available to record the body height.
 - 1.3. All competitors will be required to have in their possession, at the time of the Official Athlete Registration, the following items:
 - a. A valid competitor's **IFBB ELITE PRO** Card; and
 - b. A valid Passport; or
 - c. Citizenship Identity Card with photography; or
 - d. Music CD, encased in a plastic protective case with the competitor's name affixed upon the case and CD, and the music properly cued at the beginning of the song title.
2. There are **five** categories in men's bodybuilding currently as follows:
 - MEN
 - BODYBUILDING UP TO 90 KG
 - BODYBUILDING OVER 90 KG
 - CLASSIC BODYBUILDING
 - MEN'S PHYSIQUE
 - MUSCULAR MEN'S PHYSIQUE
3. There are **two** categories in women's categories, currently as follows:
 - WOMEN
 - BIKINI-FITNESS
 - BODYFITNESS
 - WELLNESS
 - WOMEN'S PHYSIQUE
4. The classic bodybuilding competitions, with the following bodyweight limitations:
 - a. Class A: Up to & incl. 168 cm:

$$\text{Max Weight [kg]} = (\text{Height [cm]} - 100) + 0 \text{ [kg]}$$

- b. Class B: Up to & incl. 171 cm:
 Max Weight [kg] = (Height [cm] - 100) + 2 [kg]
- c. Class C: Up to & incl. 175 cm:
 Max Weight [kg] = (Height [cm] - 100) + 4 [kg]
- d. Class D: Up to & incl. 180 cm:
 Max Weight [kg] = (Height [cm] - 100) + 6 [kg]
- e. Class E: Over 180 cm:
 Max Weight [kg] = (Height [cm] - 100) + 8 [kg]

Note 1: For competitors with a body height of over 190 cm up and up to and including 198 cm, the following formula will be used:

$$\text{Max Weight [kg]} = (\text{Height [cm]} - 100) + 9 \text{ [kg]}$$

Note 2: For competitors with a body height of over 198 cm, the following formula will be used:

$$\text{Max Weight [kg]} = (\text{Height [cm]} - 100) + 10 \text{ [kg]}$$

5. The Official Athlete Registration start time will be published by the Organizer. All competitors, regardless of category, must be present for the Official Athlete Registration at the published start time.
6. Any competitor who fails to register within the time limits set for his or her category may be eliminated from the competition.
7. Any competitor who does not make weight will be given time to make the weight. If, for whatever reason, the competitor does not return, he or she will be eliminated from the competition. The onus is on the competitor to return within the deadline; the **IFBB ELITE PRO** is under no obligation to issue time warnings or to track down the competitor.
8. The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge, and his or her assistant(s), will control the weighing machine and measuring device and will verify the bodyweight and/or height of each competitor
9. All competitors must produce a valid athlete's **IFBB ELITE PRO** Card and other identity document
10. The Judges Secretary, and his or her assistant(s), will compile lists of all of the competitors, by category, once their body weight and/or height is verified by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge and will then prepare photocopies of these lists for the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge, the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Expeditor and his or her assistants, **IFBB ELITE PRO** General Secretary and his or her assistants (statisticians), the Music Control Judge, the Master of Ceremonies, **IFBB ELITE PRO** Press Commission representative, the various media personnel in attendance, and other individuals as required.
11. During the Official Athlete Registration, the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judges Committee will determine the order in which the competitors will appear before the judging panel. The

Judges Secretary, or an assistant, will issue each competitor with a competitor number, said number which will be randomly-selected by the athlete and which will thereafter correspond to the order in which that competitor will appear before the judging panel. This number must be attached to the left side of the posing trunks, or bikini, and must be worn throughout the Prejudging and Finals.

12. All competitors will be required to hand in their music CDs, properly cued at the start of the music, at Official Athlete Registration, said CD which must be housed within a protective plastic case with the competitor's name affixed upon the case and the CD. The Judges Secretary, or an assistant, will affix, on the music CD, a number corresponding to the same number that the competitor was given to attach to his or her posing attire.

13. The use of profane, vulgar or offensive language in posing music is prohibited.

14. Media Waiver of Liability:

By registering as a competitor at an International Competition, the participant agrees that his or her person and/or likeness may be filmed, videotaped, photographed and/or otherwise recorded, by electronic or other means, for use by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** in promoting the **IFBB ELITE PRO** and the sports of Bodybuilding and Fitness.

15. Access Control:

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** reserves the right to control access to the Official Athlete Registration room (Weigh-in and/or Height Measurement) as well as to the warming-up area during the Prejudging and Finals. The **IFBB ELITE PRO** may issue one or more access control passes (Green Cards) to each National Federation. These passes will normally be distributed at the Team Managers and Judges Meeting.

*The Green Card allows access to the restricted areas only and does not absolve the holder from requiring Prejudging and Finals tickets and/or passes.

12. Responsibility:

All National Federations and athletes, judges and officials are solely responsible for remaining current with competition rules. National Federations and their members are fully aware that these rules are available on the Official **IFBB ELITE PRO** Website, www.IFBB_ELITE_PRO.com. The **IFBB ELITE PRO** does not accept a member's claim of ignorance of the rules as a reason to act in a manner contrary to these rules.

13. General:

All judges wishing to judge at IFBB Elite Pro Competitions must be members of an affiliated National Federation and must first be qualified to judge at the national level prior to test judging or judging at the IFBB Elite Pro level.

1. IFBB Elite Pro Judges

Each National Federation is responsible for nominating qualified national judges to take an exam for IFBB Elite Pro class. Individual requests will not be accepted. Each test judge will have to pay a test judging fee, which fee will be in an amount as determined from time to time by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judges Committee.

2. IFBB Elite Pro Judges Cards:

Upon successfully passing the practical judging test at one of indicated **IFBB ELITE PRO** competitions and judges rules theoretical knowledge test at one of the **IFBB ELITE PRO** World

Judges Seminars and upon payment of a one-time fee for issuing the IFBB Elite Pro Judge Card, said fee which will be in an amount as determined from time to time by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judges Committee, the individual will be issued an **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judge Card

3. Judging at IFBB Elite Pro Competitions:

Every individual wishing to judge at an IFBB Elite Pro Competition must first be in possession of a valid **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judge's Card, must pay an annual judge's fee, which fee will be in an amount as determined from time to time by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judges Committee and must participate once per 3 years in the official judges seminar organized by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judges Committee. Judges Cards of all nominated judges must be surrendered to the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judges Committee at the Team Managers and Judges Meeting which will be held prior to the Prejudging. The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judges Committee will select those individuals whom they consider to be the most qualified to serve on the judging panels. The Cards will be returned at the Finals. Once selected for a panel, a judge must be present on the panel throughout the entire Prejudging and Finals.

4. Nomination Deadline:

A National Federation must provide on the Final Entry Form the names of all individuals who it nominates to judge at the competition, failing which the individual will not be allowed to judge. Names of judges nominated by a National Federation should also be sent to the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judges Committee Chairman, to his e-mail address provided in the Inspection Report for a given IFBB Elite Pro Competition.

5. Makeup of the Regular Judging Panel:

Nine judges are normally appointed by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judges Committee to serve on a regular judging panel. Every attempt is made to ensure that all qualified judges who are present at the Technical Meeting are given the opportunity to serve on a panel and that all countries are equally and fairly represented with no country having two or more judges on the same panel. Where it is not possible to appoint nine judges, seven **or five judges are** appointed. At no time will the number of judges on a panel be fewer than five. The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge is the final authority on the makeup of the judging panels.

6. Alternate Judges:

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge may, at his discretion, allow a number of alternate judges, not to exceed four, to sit on the panel. Information, which judges from the panel work as alternate judges will be provided by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge to the Statisticians just before the start of each category or group of categories.

7. Accuracy in Judging:

The following rules pertain to judging accuracy:

- 7.1. The Code of Ethics obligate our sport's officials to ensure that all athletes are adjudicated by the most qualified judges available. The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judges Committee is empowered to take whatever measures it deems necessary to ensure that this obligation is met by selecting and paneling only those judges who meet or exceed the minimum accepted standard of judging accuracy approved by the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.
- 7.2. The minimum acceptable standard is an overall average score of **70%** at Prejudging.
- 7.3. Judging accuracy is calculated using the "Deviation Method". This method calculates the "deviation" between an individual judge's placement of an athlete and the entire regular judge's panel placement of that same athlete.

Article 14 – Judges' Attires and Judging Panel

1. Judging Attire:

Judges shall be attired as follows:

- 1.1. The official **IFBB ELITE PRO** uniform for male judges at all IFBB Elite Pro Competitions consists of a blue blazer with the official **IFBB ELITE PRO** crest on the left breast pocket, pale blue or white shirt with the official **IFBB ELITE PRO** tie, grey dress pants, black socks and black dress shoes.
- 1.2. The official **IFBB ELITE PRO** uniform for female judges at all IFBB Elite Pro Competitions consists of a blue blazer with the official **IFBB ELITE PRO** crest on the left breast pocket, pale blue or white blouse official **IFBB ELITE PRO scarf**, grey skirt or dress pants, and black dress shoes.
- 1.3. The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge has authority to remove from the panel any judge who is not correctly dressed in the official **IFBB ELITE PRO** uniform.
- 1.4. The **IFBB ELITE PRO** may adopt a Relaxed Dress Code e.g. a polo shirt with **IFBB ELITE PRO** logo on the left breast, which may be worn by judges, expeditors and other **IFBB ELITE PRO** officials working at competition. The decision on when to wear Relaxed Dress is made by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Official on a case-by-case basis e.g. tropical climates or hot conditions.

2. Officials:

The following officials are needed to control IFBB Elite Pro Competitions:

1. An **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge;
2. An **IFBB ELITE PRO** Stage Director;
3. A Judges Secretary;
4. Judges from as many different countries as possible, with the quantity according to Article 13.8. If enough qualified judges are available, two or more panels of judges may be appointed.
5. Two statisticians;
6. An **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Expeditor and an appropriate number of assistants; and
7. A Master of Ceremonies, or Announcer.
8. A Music Control Judge cooperating with the Sound Operator to control the order of replaying CD's given by the competitors for the free posing routines and music backgrounds selected for the posedown.

3. **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge:

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge will coordinate and control all aspects of Official Athlete Registration, Prejudging and Finals. No other official will make any decision which might impact upon the smooth running of the competition without seeking the prior approval of the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge. The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge and his/**her** assistant will take seats in the center of the judging panel. Using his microphone and following the order of competition, the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge will give commands to competitors on the stage, will direct the comparisons and will control the procedure on the stage.

4. **IFBB ELITE PRO** Stage Director

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Stage Director should be nominated by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge

from among the most experienced judges available at the competition. He will assist the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge in directing and controlling the activity on the stage.

5. Judges Secretary

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Judges Secretary will coordinate the work of the panel judges, will distribute and collect judges score sheets and forms in each round and will cooperate with the statisticians. During the Prejudging and Finals, the Judges Secretary, together with the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge, will scrutinize the marks for the purpose of determining their accuracy. If any judge has awarded marks that are greatly at variance with those of the other judges, the Chief Judge may question that judge for an explanation of his or her marks. The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge has authority to remove from the panel any judge who is unfairly biased or incompetent, or who engages in misconduct or unacceptable behaviour.

6. Placement of Judges:

The placement of judges will proceed as follows:

- 6.1. The Judges Secretary will seat the judges at their respective tables, which will be located at the front center of the stage, and will then seat the two statisticians at their tables, which will be located at the end of the row of judge's tables nearest to the Master of Ceremonies.
- 6.2. Each judge's position on the panel will be numbered using a small card (black numbers on a white background) situated at the front of the judge's table. The numbers will be printed on both sides of the card so as to be viewed by the competitors and the judges. The regular panel judges will be seated so as to have the best view of the athletes; alternate judges shall be seated at one end of the regular panel.

7. Conduct of Judges:

Once the judging panel is seated, the Judges Secretary will remind the judges of the rules of conduct, said rules which must be strictly followed throughout the Prejudging and Finals. Under penalty of immediate dismissal from the judging panel, no judge will:

1. Converse with any other judge, or judges;
2. Attempt to influence the decisions of any other judge, or judges;
3. Take photographs while the judging is in progress;
4. Coach any competitor.
5. Judge while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or consume alcoholic beverages while judging.

8. Statisticians:

The Judges Secretary will ensure that the statisticians are seated, preferably on the same side of the stage as the Master of Ceremonies, and that they are in possession of the appropriate Statistician's Score Sheets or laptop with the **IFBB ELITE PRO** approved software to make the necessary calculations.

The statistician's score sheets and the competitor's scores must be kept strictly confidential and are known only to the statisticians, the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge, and the Judges Secretary who are obligated not to divulge any score, or scores, to any competitor, judge, other official, administrator, organizer, or member of the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Executive Council, except the President.

9. Refreshments:

The Organizer is responsible for ensuring that liquid refreshments (e.g. water) are made available to each judge throughout the Prejudging and Finals.

Article 15 – IFBB Elite Pro Competition Procedures (general concept)

1. The procedures of the IFBB Elite Pro Competitions are as follows:

1.1. Prejudging: Eliminations Round

When there are more than 15 athletes competing in a category, an elimination round will usually be held for the purpose of reducing the number to 15. **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge decides if the Elimination Round will be necessary. The judges will select the top 15 by placing an “X” beside their numbers, using Form 1, entitled “Elimination Round (Judges)”.

Using Form 2, entitled “Elimination Round (Statisticians)”, the statisticians will transcribe the judge’s selections onto this sheet and will then tally the judge’s scores to select the top 15 competitors.

If there is a tie between two or more athletes at the 15th place, the tied athletes will be brought back onstage, and will once again be called on stage for the purpose of breaking the tie. Only the top 15 competitors will advance to Round 1.

The details of Elimination Round for each **IFBB ELITE PRO** sports discipline are provided in a Section of rules for this discipline.

1.2. Prejudging: Semifinals

Semifinals (Round 1) will immediately follow the Elimination Round. Only the top 15 athletes may compete in Semifinals. Semifinals round(s) may not be held if there are 6 or less competitors in a category. Decision will be made by the Chief Judge and will be announced after the Official Athlete Registration.

Using Form 3, entitled “Judge’s Individual Placings (Prejudging)”, each judge will award each competitor an individual placing from 1 to 15, ensuring that no two or more competitors receive the same placing. The judges may use Form 4, entitled “Judge’s Personal Notes” to record their assessment about each competitor. The scores for the Semifinals will be used to place the top 15 competitors from 1st place to 15th place.

The top 6 competitors from the Semifinals will advance to the Finals.

The top 6 finalists may be announced after the Prejudging and before the Finals. The details of Semifinals for each **IFBB ELITE PRO** sports discipline are provided in a Section of rules for this discipline.

1.3. Finals

Only the top 6 athletes from the Semifinals will take part in the Finals. They will start the Finals with zero points. Each judge will award each competitor an individual placing from 1st to 6th, ensuring that no two or more competitors receive the same placing.

The statisticians will transcribe each judge’s placings onto Form 5, entitled “Score Sheet (Statisticians)”, under the Finals section. At the end of the Finals, the “FINAL SCORE” will be produced. Points from the Prejudging (Round 1 and Round 2) are not taken into consideration in the Finals. Each competitor begins the Finals with “zero points”. The competitor with the lowest “FINAL SCORE” is awarded 1st place while the competitor with the highest “FINAL SCORE” is awarded 6th place.

The details of the Finals for each **IFBB ELITE PRO** sports discipline are provided in a Section of rules for this discipline.

Article 16 – Awarding Ceremony

16.1 Procedures:

The Awarding Ceremony will normally proceed as follows:

1. The top 6 finalists will be called onstage to take part in the awarding ceremony.

The Master of Ceremonies, using Form 7, entitled "Top 6 Finalists (for MC)", will announce the number, name and country of the competitor in 6th place and that competitor will stand to the left side (when viewed from the front) of the victory pedestal and shall receive his or her award. The Master of Ceremonies will then announce the number, name and country of the competitor in 5th place and that competitor will stand to the right side of the victory pedestal and shall receive his or her award. The Master of Ceremonies will then announce the number, name and country of the competitor in 4th place and that competitor will stand to the left side of the victory pedestal and will receive his or her award. The Master of Ceremonies will continue to announce the results from 3rd, 2nd and finally, the winner.

If the victory pedestal is not used, competitors are placed in the center of the stage, on both sides of the center cross or point.

2. The President of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**, or his representative, will present the official **IFBB ELITE PRO** competitor's Gold Medal to the 1st-place competitor, the official **IFBB ELITE PRO** competitor's Silver Medal to the 2nd place competitor, and the official **IFBB ELITE PRO** competitor's Bronze Medal to the 3rd place competitor. The official **IFBB ELITE PRO** medals are mandatory prizes at all IFBB Elite Pro Competitions. In addition, the Organizer must provide six trophies for the six finalists, said trophies which will also be presented by the President, or his representative, as each place winner is called to the victory pedestal. The Organizer will also supply Certificates of Excellence to be presented to the 6th to 1st place finalists.

3. The finalists are obliged to remain onstage for a brief period of time for photographic purposes, and to follow the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Chief Judge or Stage Director commands. Four separate photographs are needed:

- top 6 (finalists) with officials,
- top 6 (finalists) alone
- top 3 (medal winners) and
- the winner

4. Competitors are expected to accept the Official Results of the competition and their places, medals and/or awards and to take part in the Awarding Ceremony to its end (photo session). Competitor, who ostentatiously manifests his/her disapproval and/or leave the stage prior to the end of the Awarding Ceremony, may be disqualified.

Article 17 - Cash Awards

17.1 Cash Awards:

The Organiser of an IFBB Elite Pro Competition will have to provide prize money to all finalist of the category. The amount will have be agreed before the event and added to the contract

Article 18 - Rules and Regulations

18.1 Visas

It is National Federations responsibility to obtain an entry visa for the country organizing the

championship. All National Federations could ask for an Invitation Letter either to the Championship Organizer or **IFBB ELITE PRO**. The invitation letter does not mean you are granted your visa. **IFBB ELITE PRO** and Championship organizer are not responsible of attendants' visas.

To receive invitation letter, the applicant should forward to the **IFBB ELITE PRO** or Championship organizer a copy (scan) of his/her passport. If the visa is not granted, the Cancellation Policies for the championship will still apply.

An athlete **or official**, who request and receive an invitation from the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Head Office or the Organizing Committee of an **IFBB ELITE PRO** sanctioned event for visa purposes, and uses that visa to unlawfully stay in the host country or any other country, will be subjected to the disciplinary proceedings and measures.

The relevant National Federation is responsible to carefully control the proper, legal use of the visa by his/her athlete and it will be subjected to a fine and/or a suspension, in case of any misuse and/or unlawful utilization of the same visa.

APPENDIX 1

IFBB ELITE PRO CODE OF ETHICS

Introduction:

The **IFBB ELITE PRO** Code of Ethics exist as a set of beliefs that have been written to serve as guidelines for the way in which all Members, be they athletes, judges, officials, administrators or others, should strive to conduct themselves as Members of the **IFBB ELITE PRO** family. National Federations and other Members join the **IFBB ELITE PRO** of their own free will and, in so doing, agree to abide by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Constitution and Rules of which the Code of Ethics forms an integral part. Any Member who is found to have contravened the Code of Ethics may be subject to disciplinary measures.

Athletes:

We, the athletes, realizing that our conduct reflects on the good name of the sport, and realizing the responsibility thereby placed upon us, pledge ourselves:

1. to fulfill our responsibility to society, to other athletes, judges, officials, and administrators of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.
2. to honour, dignify, and support the sport by competing in the best condition and to the best of our ability, and by being in top shape when giving an exhibition or a seminar.
3. to respect our opponents on equal terms in the spirit of friendly rivalry and good sportsmanship.
4. to respect the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Constitution and Rules as well as the rules of competition and to observe them honestly in cooperation with other competitors, judges, officials, administrators, and organizers.
5. to accept the decisions of the judges, officials and administrators in the spirit of good sportsmanship without descending to selfish recriminations, realizing that these

decisions have been made honestly, fairly, and objectively.

6. to assist the **IFBB ELITE PRO** in the promotion of the sport by acting as a goodwill ambassador of the sport, promoting the sport in a positive manner, and protecting the good image and integrity of the sport and the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.
7. to work for the **IFBB ELITE PRO**, not against it, in promoting its values, morals and ethics; to exercise our right of protest in a courteous, respectful manner, following the proper chain of command; to refrain from innuendo, malicious gossip and rumour-mongering; to refrain from personal attacks against any other Member of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.
8. to continue striving for bodily perfection and correct moral principles.
9. to honour the special trust conferred upon us by our participation in, and by our representation of, the **IFBB ELITE PRO** and our country, at IFBB Elite Pro events, and to adhere to the standards of personal conduct expected of us.
10. to recognize the value of the sport and to promote its future by serving as an example to inspire other people to participate.
11. to cooperate with our officials and administrators in the development of high standards, both moral and physical, for the sport and in the progressive furtherance of the objects of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.
12. to oppose the use of banned substances and methods and to compete drug free.
13. to refrain from any conduct that may be considered prejudicial to the **IFBB ELITE PRO**;
14. to conduct ourselves at all times in a manner that reflects positively upon the image of the sport and the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.

Judges:

We, the judges, realizing that our actions and decisions as judges reflect on the good name of the sport, and realizing the responsibility thereby placed upon us, pledge ourselves:

1. to apply honestly, impartially, and objectively all of the rules governing competitions.
2. to safeguard the interests of all competitors on equal terms.
3. to cooperate in providing the best possible conditions for the benefit of the competitors, other officials, and administrators.
4. to respect the feelings and competitive drive of the athletes, and to make reasonable allowances for their heightened emotions in the heat of competition.
5. to respect the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Constitution and Rules and the requirements of an effective administration and to cooperate willingly and promptly with the officially elected or appointed administrators and other officials in the carrying out of their duties and responsibilities.

6. to cooperate with the organizers of the competitions by rendering decisions clearly and promptly, and in accordance with the requirements of the competition or judging procedures.
7. to refrain from attempting to influence the decisions of other judges or officials, and to respect their individual opinions and decisions.
8. to assist the **IFBB ELITE PRO** in the promotion of the sport by acting as a goodwill ambassador of the sport, promoting the sport in a positive manner, and protecting the good image and integrity of the sport and the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.
9. to work for the **IFBB ELITE PRO**, not against it, in promoting its values, morals and ethics; to exercise our right of protest in a courteous, respectful manner, following the proper chain of command; to refrain from innuendo, malicious gossip and rumour-mongering; to refrain from personal attacks against any other Member of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.
10. to honour the special trust conferred upon us by our selection as judges, and to adhere to the standards of personal conduct expected of us.
11. to cooperate with the athletes, other officials, and administrators in the development of high standards, both moral and physical, for the sport and in the progressive furtherance of the objects of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.
12. to oppose the use of banned substances and methods and to take reasonable measures to ensure that all athletes are competing drug-free.
13. to refrain from any conduct that may be considered prejudicial to the **IFBB ELITE PRO**;
14. to conduct ourselves at all times in a manner that reflects positively upon the image of the sport and the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.

Officials:

We, the officials, realizing that our policies, decisions, and actions reflect on the good name of the sport, and realizing the responsibility thereby placed upon us, pledge ourselves:

1. to serve all members, be they athletes, judges, officials, or other administrators, according to their needs.
2. to promote, through the sport, an understanding of its objects, its values and achievements, uniting all those who participate, in whatever capacity, in the feelings of mutual respect and friendship.
3. to safeguard the health and physical fitness of the athletes.
4. to provide the athletes with the best possible conditions for achieving bodily perfection.
5. to provide the athletes, judges, officials, and other administrators, with the best possible conditions for the conduct of competitions.

6. to cooperate with the organizers, judges, officials, and other administrators, in the carrying out of their competition duties with the utmost of efficiency.
7. to respect the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Constitution and Rules and to observe all of the rules of competition and to apply them honestly and fairly when dealing with the membership of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.
8. to assist the **IFBB ELITE PRO** in the promotion of the sport by acting as a goodwill ambassador of the sport, promoting the sport in a positive manner, and protecting the good image and integrity of the sport and the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.
9. to work for the **IFBB ELITE PRO**, not against it, in promoting its values, morals and ethics; to exercise our right of protest in a courteous, respectful manner, following the proper chain of command; to refrain from innuendo, malicious gossip and rumour-mongering; to refrain from personal attacks against any other Member of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.
10. to recognize the value of the sport and to cooperate with the athletes in inspiring other people to participate in order to ensure the future of the sport.
11. to cooperate with all interested parties in the development of high standards, both moral and physical, for the sport and in the progressive furtherance of the objects of the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.
12. to oppose the use of banned substances and methods and to take reasonable measures to ensure that all athletes are competing drug-free.
13. to refrain from any conduct that may be considered prejudicial to the **IFBB ELITE PRO**;
14. to conduct ourselves at all times in a manner that reflects positively upon the image of the sport and the **IFBB ELITE PRO**.

APPENDIX 2 JUDGING FORMS

Judging Forms can be found online at [www.IFBB ELITE PRO.com](http://www.IFBB_ELITE_PRO.com)

Form 1 - Preliminary Assessment-{Elimination} (Judges) Form 2 - Preliminary Assessment-{Elimination} (Statisticians) Form 3 - Judge's Individual Placing (Prejudging)

Form 4 - Judge's Personal Notes Form 5 - Score Sheet (Statisticians)

Form 6 - Judge's Individual Placing (Finals) Form 7 - Top 6 Finalists (for MC)

Form 8 - Best National Team Form 9 - Final Score sheet

APPENDIX 3

DRUG TESTING CONSENT & WAIVER OF LIABILITY FORM

PLEASE READ THIS FORM CAREFULLY

In order to participate as a Competitor in this Event, I the undersigned Athlete do hereby agree to be bound by the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Constitution and Rules, the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Code of Ethics, the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Rulebook, and the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Anti-Doping Rules. I further agree to cooperate fully with the **IFBB ELITE PRO** and the Event Organizer. I understand, accept and agree to the following conditions:

DRUG TESTING CONSENT

1. That the **IFBB ELITE PRO** has the right to conduct drug testing at this Event, pursuant to the **IFBB ELITE PRO** Anti-Doping Rules.
2. That if I am selected for drug testing, I will cooperate fully with the drug testing officials at all times and will, under the direct observation of a witness, provide a sample of my urine without undue delay.
3. That if I am subsequently found guilty of a doping offence, I will respect and abide by the relevant rules and regulations governing results management, including those pertaining to the appeal process.
4. That I accept sole responsibility to remain current with the rules and regulations governing this Event, including those pertaining to drug testing and results management.
5. That I do hereby declare and make oath that I am competing in this Event free from prohibited performance-enhancing drugs.