

Iron Skull

PAINTING COMPETITION 2026



IronSkull

Organised and presented by Siege Studios, the IronSkull Painting Competition is an annual miniature painting competition held in the United Kingdom.

The competition is open to miniature painters of all levels, skill and experience with a range of awards up for grabs. The competition attracts participants from all over the world, including professional miniature painters, hobbyists, and enthusiasts. Featuring 13 public categories, winners can expect to receive awards in the form of trophies, commended coins and finalist pins offering a chance to win for all levels of painter.

The IronSkull Painting Competition is an amazing opportunity to meet other miniature painters and some of the world's best in the competitive painting scene. Once your miniatures are entered into the competition, relax, get some food and drink and browse our trader stands where you can purchase miniatures, painting materials, hobby supplies and much more. The event includes demonstrations, workshops and the opportunity to see some amazing entries into the competition.

Contents

This document covers all information about IronSkull, competition categories, rules and entry guidelines.

Throughout the document you will be provided further information on:

- **General overview**
- **How to enter**
- **Entry guidelines**
- **Categories and description**
- **FAQ**

If you have any questions, please contact info@siegestudios.co.uk.

Please allow up to 7 working days for a response.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

IronSkull has 13 public categories and a staff category for team members of Siege Studios. The categories cover all manner of miniatures, sizes, types and settings from Sci Fi to Fantasy and Historical.

AWARDS

Each category will have the following awards:

- **Distinguished Entry Card** – Entries which stand out to the judges but do not make it past the first round of judging. The first step on the ladder for aspiring competition painters to achieve.
- **Finalist Pin** – Any entry which is selected by a judge for further review in the second round of judging for over the overall category winners will receive an IronSkull finalist badge.
- **Commended Entry Coin** – 4th place for any entry which is under consideration to make the top three but just misses out on a trophy will receive a 4th place IronSkull commended entry coin.
- **Bronze IronSkull trophy** – 3rd Place in the category.
- **Silver IronSkull trophy** – 2nd place in the category.
- **Gold IronSkull trophy** – 1st place in the category.

BEST IN SHOW

The overall best in show entry is decided by the judges based on all the Gold category winning entries. The best in show winner will be awarded the IronSkull trophy.

STAFF CATEGORY

Along with the 13 public categories, the competition also features a staff category for the Siege Studios team. Staff may enter single figure entries only. Here you will see miniatures painted by the team from all manner of game systems and settings.



HOW TO ENTER

To enter the competition, you must purchase a Competition Entry Ticket.

To do so, simply head over to the Ironskull.co.uk or siegestudios.co.uk for more information.

Whether this is your first competition or your 50th, we understand planning for a new event can be filled with uncertainty, so we've laid out these simple steps for you to follow:

1. Purchase a Competition Entry Ticket – available on www.siegestudios.co.uk.
2. Receive the entry form via email by the middle of April.
3. Submit entry forms for each relevant category – Before 1st July.
4. Arrive at the event with your models prepared and once your entry ticket has been checked head straight for the entry desk area.
5. Event staff will assist with arranging your models with their entry numbers.
6. Relax! Check out all the other entries and browse the many trader stalls.

ENTRY GUIDELINES

- Each category can only be entered once by an entrant. Multiple entries to one category by a single entrant are not permitted.
- All entrants must complete an entry form for each entered model in advance of the event. Late entries and entries will not be accepted.
- Entrants must bring their own competition entries to the IronSkull painting competition in-person on the day of the event.
- Entries will not be accepted if they are sub assembled. All entries must be fully built at the time of the event.
- Conversion and sculpting of models is allowed but must be solely completed by the entrant and not via third parties.
- No AI (Artificial Intelligence) is allowed to create any part of an entry.
- 3-D printed replications of models or parts that infringe of a company's IP will not be permitted in the competition. Models and all associated pieces must be official and original from the manufacturer.
- 3D printed miniatures, or parts, produced from STL's of legitimate creators are allowed.
- Entries must be attached and fixed in place with adhesive to a gaming base, plinth or display base.
- Entries must be complete and not damaged, or part painted.



CATEGORIES

Miniature height is determined by a measurement from foot to eye. Details like banners, basing height, plinths and additional details do not come into consideration when determining a miniature height for categories.

Please note It is the judge's discretion to move entries to another category should they feel it more appropriate.

CATEGORY 1 - Sci Fi Single Miniature:

For miniatures up to 54mm in height, not including banners or base / plinth by any manufacturer. Miniatures can be mounted either onto a plinth or gaming base. *Miniatures mounted on large creatures or vehicles need to be entered into Category 6 Sci Fi / Fantasy / Historical Large.*

CATEGORY 2 - Sci Fi Squad:

For any squad comprising of 3 – 20 miniatures up to 54mm in height, not including banners or plinths by any manufacturer. Each miniature must be based on an individual base. These can be sunk into a display base but must be removable. *Any entry with models fixed to the base will be moved to Category 12 – Diorama OR Scene.*

CATEGORY 3 - Historical Figure Single Miniature:

For miniatures up to 54mm in height, not including banners or base / plinth by any manufacturer. Miniatures can be mounted onto a plinth or gaming base. *Miniatures mounted on large creatures or vehicles need to be entered into Category 8 Historical Vehicle/Creature*

CATEGORY 4 – Fantasy Single Miniature:

For miniatures up to 54mm in height, not including banners or base / plinth by any manufacturer. Miniatures can be mounted onto a plinth or gaming base. *Miniatures mounted on large creatures or vehicles would need to be entered into Category 6 Fantasy / Vehicle Large.*

CATEGORY 5 – Fantasy Unit:

For any unit comprising of 3 – 20 miniatures up to 54mm in height, not including banners or plinths by any manufacturer. Each miniature must be based on an individual base. These can be sunk into a display base but must be removable. *Entries with models fixed to the base will be moved to Category 12 – Diorama OR Scene*

CATEGORY 6 – Fantasy Monster / Vehicle Large:

For miniatures above 54mm in height by any manufacturer. Miniatures can be mounted either onto a plinth or their gaming base.

CATEGORY 7 - Sci Fi Vehicle / Creature Large:

For miniatures of any size or scale by any manufacturer. Miniatures can be mounted onto a plinth, on their own or on a gaming base.

CATEGORY 8 – Historical Vehicle / Creature:

For miniatures any size or scale by any manufacturer. Miniatures can be mounted either onto a plinth, on their own or on their gaming base.

CATEGORY 9 – Busts:

For busts of any size, scale and genre by any manufacturer.

CATEGORY 10– Small Scale:

For entries of 10mm in height or less by any manufacturer. Entries must include a minimum requirement of a single miniature, vehicle or unit. This includes Adeptus Titanicus, Aeronautica and Epic 40,000. Miniatures can be mounted onto a plinth or gaming base.

CATEGORY 11 – Duel

For entries with a minimum of two miniatures at any scale by any manufacturer on a base or plinth. Maximum base or plinth size of 300mm x 300mm.

CATEGORY 12 - Diorama OR Scene

Entry involving a minimum requirement of 1 miniatures at any scale by any manufacturer on a maximum base or plinth size of 300mm x 300mm and a height of no greater than 300mm.

CATEGORY 13– Junior Single Miniature:

For entries of a single miniature, figure, vehicle or monster of any scale by any manufacturer. Miniatures can be mounted onto a plinth or gaming base. *Only enter this category if you are 16 or under.*

CATEGORY 14 – Staff Single Miniature Sci Fi / Fantasy / Historical:

For a single miniature up to 54mm in height, not including banners or base / plinth by any manufacturer. Miniatures can be mounted onto a plinth or their gaming base.



FAQs

WHO CAN ENTER?

Absolutely anybody! Whether you're a professional commission painter, hobbyist painter of 40+ years or picked up a brush yesterday, you can enter.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE THE ENTRY FORM?

Entry forms will be sent via email to entrants Mid-April. The email address given for the ticket purchase will be contacted. Please ensure you have access to this email.

WHEN IS THE CUT OFF FOR SUBMITTING MY ENTRY FORM?

You have until midnight on the 1st July 2026 to submit your entry forms. Forms submitted after this time will not be considered.

I FORGOT TO SUBMIT MY ENTRY FORM, CAN I DO THIS ON THE DAY?

We completely understand that things can get forgotten when life gets a little busy, but unfortunately, we cannot allow any entry form submissions on the day.

For the event to run smoothly, all submissions need to be organised prior to the day.

DO MY ENTRIES NEED TO BE 'GAME LEGAL'?

Not unless you'd prefer them to be!

All entries are welcome as long as they adhere to our competition guidelines and category descriptions.

WHAT ARE THE JUDGES LOOKING FOR?

The judges will be looking for a range of aspects across all entries. This includes, but is not limited to, technical skill, overall quality and narrative.

I HAVE OTHER COMMITMENTS DURING THE AWARDS CEREMONY, CAN MY AWARD BE SENT IN THE POST?

Unfortunately, no. We kindly ask that if you are planning to enter the competition, that you make prior arrangements to ensure you can be present during the awards ceremony. If you have any concerns about this, please contact info@siegestudios.co.uk.

HOW MANY TIMES CAN I ENTER THE COMPETITION?

IronSkull has 13 categories. You can enter every category (if you fit the criteria) but you can only have one entry per category. If you're not sure on the criteria, check our category descriptions.

I'VE MADE AN ERROR ON MY ENTRY FORM, WHAT DO I DO?

Don't panic! Contact info@siegestudios.co.uk and simply provide the correct information.

MY MODEL BROKE ON ROUTE TO THE EVENT, CAN I STILL ENTER IT?

All entries must not have any loose or broken parts during the competition. We suggest giving yourself enough time to arrive and fix any suffered breakages during transit prior to handing your models in. There will be suitable space for you to do so at the event.

Please note, we will not have any equipment available to use.

DO I NEED A GENERAL ADMISSION TICKET WITH MY COMPETITION ENTRY?

Nope! If you have a Competition Entry ticket, this is all you need. This ticket permits entry to the venue just like General Admission.

