

AEHT General Competition Rules

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1. Preliminary remark:

Since the creation of AEHT in 1988, the competitions organised during the Annual Conference have evolved and now have a dominant position in the event. With the steady increase in participants and their ambitions and desires to win, competition rules and regulations must be constantly adapted and updated.

Creating mixed teams of students from various countries aims to prioritise engaging and communicating with young people from all corners of Europe and beyond rather than focusing solely on the desire to win. To avoid outside influences, procedures are established to minimise the potential for conflicts of interest between jury members and candidates.

Various changes were implemented from the 2012 Annual Meetings onwards to limit external influence on juries and to enhance the overall organisation of the competitions by independent Head Judges. These general competition rules outline this organisation.



2. Preamble

For the students, the competitions represent the highlight of the Annual Conference. One distinctive aspect of the AEHT competitions is the opportunity to collaborate in a team with students from different countries and cultures while communicating in a foreign language. This is a unique experience, truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that only the AEHT platform can offer. As we like to give this opportunity to as much students as possible, each participant is permitted to compete in a category only once in their lifetime, making every entry a unique and unrepeatable experience. This exclusivity elevates the significance of the competition, encouraging participants to perform at their highest level while valuing the rare chance to represent their institution, country, and professional aspirations on an international stage.

The rules for these competitions have been established through extensive discussions and ongoing adaptations, drawing on evaluations and experiences from previous years. These competition rules offer students a consistent and fair framework for competing in an international context.

3. Head Judges (HJ)

To guarantee fair competition during the Annual Conference, the AEHT Presidium appoints Head Judges to adapt the rules of the different competitions continuously. They are responsible for the competition's content, assist the organiser in preparing it, and monitor its progress. To reflect the European diversity of the AEHT Head Judge Team, the appointed HJ are preferably from different European countries with a maximum of two HJs per country.

To take responsibility, the Presidium appoints one of its Vice Presidents to guide the HJs. This Presidium member will be in close contact with all HJs and support them in all possible ways. HJs need approval for all significant changes in the competition and can ask the Presidium for assistance during the competition when needed.

If the competition rules are not followed, the HJ or Presidium members have the authority to instruct judges to ensure their implementation.

Concerning the position of Head Judge:

- ▶ Teachers of regular AEHT member schools can apply for the HJ position. Applicants should be experts in the professional field of the specific competition and have at least two years of experience on one of the AEHT competition jury panels.
- ▶ After a selection process, the AEHT Presidium nominates the HJ for the respective competition. The nominated HJ cannot have students from his/her school in the competition.
- ▶ The HJ's mandate lasts for five years; the position becomes vacant after this period. The Presidium determines the starting date of the vacancy based on the consistency of the Head Judge Team. All AEHT members will be informed regarding this date and invited to apply. A HJ may be appointed for a maximum of two mandates.
- ▶ The vacancy is indicated in the up-to-date list of HJs mentioned below. As a starting point, the application process will be launched only once a year, preferably around the beginning of the academic year.



Competition	Name Head Judge	Start mandate
Bakery	Jef Bruynseels (BE)	AC 2025
Barista	Vito Cariello (IT)	AC 2025
Cocktail	Thomas Gasteiner (AT)	AC 2013 *
	Breda Hickey (IR)	AC 2027
Culinary Arts	Alexandre Ferreira (PT)	AC 2013 *
Decathlon	Jordy Ramakers van Praag (NL)	AC 2026
Front Office	Paolo Ciafardini (IT)	AC 2026
Hospitality Management	Paulo Vaz (PT)	AC 2020 *
	Kevin Hemsworth (PT)	AC 2027
Pastry	Rose Šošić (HR)	AC 2022
Restaurant Service	Guillaume Staquet (FR)	AC 2017 *
Strategic Thinking	An Winnepenninckx (BE)	AC 2025
Tourist Destination	Emil Juvan (SI)	AC 2019 *
Vegetarian Cuisine	Shaun Leonard (CH)	AC 2024
Wine Service	Henk van der Meer (NL)	AC 2020 *

** 2nd mandate*

4. Entry Requirements

- Students registered in a course of study at an AEHT member school can participate in the competition. Students temporarily registered at a school for an exchange are not permitted to compete on behalf of their host school.
- The age limit for participating in a competition at the Annual Conference is 26 years. This means the student is 26 years of age until the final day of the conference.
- Participants must communicate in English during the competition. The required level of English is specified upon registration and in the competition details. Additionally, the HJ and judges are not permitted to provide explanations to participants in another language during the competition.
- To ensure fairness, a student who has previously participated in a competition at an AEHT Annual Conference cannot register for a second time at any of the AEHT Annual Conference Competitions.
- It is advisable that students who are registered for the competition have at least one year of training in the specific area of the competition.



5. Registration

All sections of the registration forms should be fully and accurately completed in the registration platform by the required dates inclusive of full payment.

Please note: Only fully completed registration forms will be processed for competitions. The annual conference organiser is not responsible for the consequences of incomplete or inaccurate registration forms or those not accompanied by payment.

- Each school is allowed to enrol only one student per competition. Only schools who paid their membership fee are able to registrar on the platform for the annual conference.
- Each participating country may fill a maximum of 25% of the available places per competition. This percentage differs only when the diversity of countries in a team is guaranteed.
- Places will be allocated to those who completed their registration on the platform accurately and entirely and paid their entire registration fee. Registration is done on a “first come, first served” base.
- The organiser retains the right to reject a registration after consulting the AEHT Presidium. Should a registration be rejected, the relevant school will receive a written explanation.
- The AEHT Presidium has the right to cancel a competition if not enough participants are enrolled; the organizer will inform already registered candidates within an acceptable timeframe, and the registration fee will be refunded.

6. Competition Specifications

- In all competitions, competitors must work in multinational teams. The composition of the teams will be managed by the HJ, ideally with the consent of their panel of judges.
A team can have only one participant from the same country.
- Competitors must present themselves in their appropriate professional uniforms during the competition.
- Competition specifications should be as detailed and precise as possible. They should encourage creativity, innovation, communication, and teamwork while providing students with sufficient professional challenges.
- The competition specifications must be written in English and published on the AEHT website when the registration platform opens. If applicable, a detailed list of equipment and ingredients is added to the competition rules.
- The marking criteria and marking scheme for each competition must be written in English and ideally published on the website along with the competition specifications.
- No significant changes will be made to the competition details, marking criteria, or marking scheme within 30 days of the start of the annual conference.

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7. Judging Panel

- The HJ will ensure that the competitions are conducted in a manner that is favourable and fair to all participants. To support this, the organisers and all members of the judging panels must be thoroughly familiar with the rules and ethos of the competition. The HJs are required to select jury members in advance or during the judges' briefing on the first day of the annual conference. During this meeting, which will be publicised in the official programme, the HJs will explain the competition rules and marking criteria to the appointed judges.
- The role of the judging panel is to ensure that the competition is conducted with fairness and integrity, in accordance with the rules.

Concerning the responsibilities of the Judging Panel:

- The jury will consist of several teachers from AEHT member schools attending the annual conference. The organisers will also propose a professional from the field to join the jury. The HJs will announce the required number of judges for the various competitions.
- The HJ will not mark any of the participants. A jury member is not allowed to judge their own student and must leave the competition area when their student is competing. In these instances, the Head Judge will be available to take over.
- Each member of the judging panel must be fluent in English.
- Confidentiality binds the judging panel at all times.
- In the spirit of the competition, members of the judging panel should exercise respect, tolerance and support for the participants.
- Before the competitions, the jury must familiarise themselves with the rules and specifications, the marking criteria, and the note scales.
- The HJ, accompanied by the panel of judges and the organiser, will thoroughly brief the competing teams on all aspects of the competition, inclusive of marking criteria and marking schemes.
- The HJ, accompanied by the panel of judges will check that:
 - The competition area and equipment comply with the brief. If not, the HJ should contact the local coordinator of the specific competition to rectify the situation.
 - The teams do not bring any unauthorised equipment or ingredients to the competition.



8. The medals and awards

Medals will be awarded based on points earned in the contest. The HJ calculates the points awarded by the jury. The result is discussed with the jury members to ensure that it reflects the arrangements that have been established. The HJ has the final call.

The Presidium determines the number of medals to be awarded per competition before the start of the annual conference based on the number of teams in each competition. Each competition will have only one golden-winning team and at least one silver and one bronze winner. In some competitions, the HJ is allowed to hand out extra silver or bronze medals. This is not obligated but a decision made by the Head Judge based on the results of their competition.

Each competition participant will receive a certificate specifying, where appropriate, the medal obtained.

The decision of the Head Judge cannot be disputed.

9. Disqualification

The HJ may declare a team disqualified for one or more of the following reasons:

- Prompting of teams by teachers or members of the public.
- Assistance or guidance of teachers during the preparation phase of the competition during the Annual Conference.
- Use of equipment and materials other than those permitted mentioned in the competition details.
- Violation of competition specific rules as explained in the competition details.

The HJ may declare a student disqualified for one or more of the following reasons:

- Violation of the entry requirements as mentioned in this document.
- Not showing up during the scheduled competition