

VO AWARDS REGULATIONS – JANUARY 2026 EDITION

Preamble

The Regulation is drafted to safeguard the purposes of the Contest and ensure its proper conduct. The Regulation establish the methods and criteria for the operation of the Contest for the January 2026 edition and are valid and effective solely for this edition.

This document aims to regulate the participation procedures and provide all the necessary information to Participants interested in taking part in the initiative.

Participation in the Contest, expressed through the submission of one's proposals and the sending of the participation request, implies full and unconditional acceptance of this Regulation by the participants.

1. General

The VO Awards 2026 edition is a Contest promoted and organized by Italian Exhibition Group S.p.A. (hereinafter also referred to as the "Organizer"), which can only be entered by companies exhibiting at the Vicenzaoro January 2026 event (hereinafter also referred to as the "Participants").

The Contest consists of the submission by Participants of one single piece of jewelry in one of the categories listed in point 3. The Participant may take part in the Contest in one of the eight categories mentioned in point 3. Participation in the Contest is free of charge.

The Contest aims to recognize one winner per category.

No cash prizes or other benefits are provided.

2. Eligible Participants

All companies of the Communities of ICON, THE DESIGN ROOM, CREATION, LOOK, THE GLAMROOM exhibiting at the 2026 edition of the Vicenzaoro January trade show, which will take place at the Vicenza Exhibition Center from January 16 to 20, 2026, are eligible to participate in the VO Awards.

Each company may only apply within the categories related to its community.

3. Competition Categories

The competition categories are as follows:

ICON – High End Jewellery

ICON – One of a kind Jewellery

CREATION – Gold Manufacturing

CREATION – Silver Manufacturing

LOOK – Fine Jewellery

LOOK – Fashion Jewellery

SPECIAL – Chains

SPECIAL – Young (designer under 30)

4. Participant Admission Criteria

Entities referred to in point 2 interested in participating in the Contest must submit an application as indicated in point 5.

Each participant may submit only one piece of jewelry for each category referred to in point 3. In the event that a Participant submits multiple applications per category, only the latest application received by Italian Exhibition Group S.p.A., based on the date and time of receipt, will be considered.

Applications whose ownership is attributable to the following parties are not admissible:

- Members of the Judging Panel, their spouses, relatives, and in-laws up to and including the 2nd degree;
- Members of the Organizing Secretariat.

5. Participation Procedures

Interested companies must:

- Send a participation request to the following email address: marketing.jewellery@iegexpo.it. The final deadline for receipt of participation requests by the Organizer is 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2025. The date and time of receipt by the Organizer will be considered valid. Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted under any circumstances;
- In the confirmation email, a link to a Google Drive (or similar platform) must be included, allowing the Organizer to download the product sheet complete with high-resolution images, videos, and 3D renders. Please do not send links that expire quickly (e.g., WeTransfer with a two-day expiration);
- Complete the product sheet in Italian or English. Images must be uploaded along with the image release form, prepared and sent with these Regulations by the Organizer, duly filled in and signed for acceptance (one release form is required for the jewelry pieces participating in the Contest and one release form for the representatives of each company, who, in case of winning, may be photographed. Subsequently, their images and those of the jewelry may be

published on the IEG websites and social media, and possibly shared with trade press outlets).

By sending the participation request email, Participants explicitly accept the execution of all necessary verifications concerning data, company profiles, and biographies, in full compliance with trade secrecy.

All information collected regarding the company and candidate profiles will be processed in accordance with EU Regulation 679/2016, GDPR, and solely for the purposes of participation in the Contest.

By registering for the Contest, candidates guarantee that the submitted proposal is original and does not infringe any copyright or third-party rights, including proprietary rights, intellectual property rights, etc. In this regard, each participant undertakes to fully indemnify the Organizer and all parties involved in the Contest from any claims by third parties.

Winners commit to ensuring their attendance and that of the legal representative or, in case of inability, an official delegate (for companies) at the award ceremony and agree to appear in journalistic features and possible video and photographic recordings of the event, without claiming any compensation in terms of personal or company rights.

The submission of untruthful, inaccurate, or incomplete data and failure to comply with the participation procedures established in these Regulations and the eligibility requirements will result in the exclusion of participants from selection or the return of any prize received.

Submitting the participation request via email implies the Participant's acceptance of all the clauses in these Regulations and authorizes IEG to make their image public for publication, reproduction, dissemination, and distribution through communication activities, the press, the website, events, and public places, and to associate it with their trademarks and promotional activities. The participant also declares and guarantees to the Organizer:

- To waive any compensation (in any form) from the Organizer for image rights, photographic recordings, or footage transmitted via the web or through any present or future technological means resulting from participation in the contest;
- To guarantee the Organizer that the submitted piece of jewelry does not violate any third-party rights of any kind (e.g., trademark, patent, distinctive signs, unfair competition, copyright, etc.).

6. Organizing Secretariat

The Organizing Secretariat is located at Via Oreficeria 16 (36100, Vicenza, Italy) and performs organizational and promotional functions for the Contest.

7. Jury

The jury is composed of twelve voting members, each designated to represent a specific thematic area, as follows:

- Damiano Zito – Tech & Innovation area
- Nicolò Rapone – Production & Manufacturing area
- Carolina Bucci – Designer area
- Rui Galopim – Gemological World area
- Paola De Luca – Trends Expert area
- Alice Vanni and Iris Van Der Veken – Sustainability Expert area
- Kyle Roderick and Federica Frosini – Media area
- Stephanie Hernandez Barragan, Costanza Operti, and Candido Operti – Retail area

Each Jury member will be asked by the Organizer to complete and sign the image release form, to allow for the publication of photos and a short biography of each member. These images and biographies will be used in Vicenzaoro's communication channels (website, social media, newsletters). They may also be shared with third parties that could promote the Awards (e.g., journalists, influencers, bloggers).

8. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation of the jewelry pieces is the exclusive responsibility of the Judging Panel, which carries it out under its own responsibility and with unappealable and indisputable judgment, considering the following criteria:

SUSTAINABILITY – weighted at 20%

INNOVATION – weighted at 30%

EXCELLENCE – weighted at 30%

SELLING POINTS – weighted at 20%

9. Voting and Winner Proclamation

The evaluation procedure will be carried out in three distinct phases:

Phase 1: First jury vote

During the first evaluation phase, the jury will examine all the submitted projects, based solely on the materials provided by the exhibitors during the application. The following will be evaluated:

- Technical sheet
- High-resolution images, videos, and 3D renders

This evaluation aims to select three finalist jewelry pieces for each category, which will be exhibited during Vicenzaoro January 2026.

The three finalist companies in each category commit to physically delivering the selected jewelry pieces to the Vicenza Exhibition Center by Thursday, January 15, 2026, to allow for their display in the designated exhibition area, located in the Welcome Lounge at the entrance of Pavilion 7.

Phase 2: Second jury vote

On Thursday, January 15, 2026, the three finalist jewelry pieces in each category will undergo a new in-person evaluation by the jury, which will select one winner per category.

Phase 3: Visitor and buyer vote

The third evaluation phase consists of voting by visitors to Vicenzaoro January 2026. Visitors present at the event may vote from Friday, January 16, 2026, until 12:00 noon on Sunday, January 18, 2026. Voting will occur via scanning a QR code (which will link to the full list of all competing jewelry) placed next to each displayed piece.

While the jury will base its decision on a grid of technical and qualitative criteria defined in the "Evaluation Criteria" paragraph, visitors will cast their votes based on the so-called "wow effect," i.e., a subjective assessment founded on aesthetics and the brief descriptive information displayed under each product.

The final vote will be based on the sum of the jury votes and the visitor votes. The jury vote will have a weight of 70%, while the public vote will account for the remaining 30%.

The winners in each category will be officially announced during the award ceremony, which will take place on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at the Palladio Theater within the Vicenza Exhibition Center.

Until the official announcement, the evaluation results for all submissions will remain strictly confidential. Selected candidates will be notified by email before the award ceremony begins.

10. Nature, Value, and Assignment of Prizes

The prizes consist exclusively of ceremonial plaques that will be produced by IEG.

11. Usage Rights

Italian Exhibition Group reserves the right to use, free of charge, the images and videos relating to the submitted and selected products. Such content may be published on the official Vicenzaoro website and disseminated through the event's communication channels (including but not limited to social media and newsletters), both for communication and promotion of the current edition and for promotional activities related to future editions of the VO Awards. Therefore, IEG reserves the right to collect image release forms duly completed and signed for acceptance by each interested party.

12. Liability and Transport

The exhibited jewelry pieces will be kept in display cases equipped with an alarm system and shatterproof glass.

The exhibitor, as the owner of the jewelry, may choose to keep it on display for the entire duration of the event or move it, during the event's closing hours, into their own secure safe. In any case, the handling of the jewelry remains the sole responsibility of the exhibitor.

It is the exhibiting company's responsibility to provide insurance coverage for the displayed jewelry.

To this end, it is mandatory to provide a release declaration that absolves Italian Exhibition Group of any liability in case of theft and/or damage.