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1. INTRODUCTION

A Concours event refers to the gathering of prestigious and/or cherished vehicles and their owners for the purpose of having the vehicles judged, and prizes awarded, based upon the judging rules as determined by the event organiser.
There can be many interpretations of what constitutes a Concours event. It can range from globally prestigious International events where rigorous judging, by accredited experts, and documented proof of vehicle provenance are critical elements.
For many of these events there will also be an expert selection panel whose task is to establish that each submitted vehicle meets the rules and regulations as defined by the organiser. If it does not, then the entry can be rejected.

At the other end of the scale it can be an informal gathering by enthusiasts and the judging is made by those present, and/or by members of the public.

For each event the Judging method chosen is decided by the Organiser and their appointed Chief Judge. All methods are valid and will continue to evolve over time. FIVA does not recommend, nor interfere, with the Judging method chosen for any Concours event.

Concours d'Elegance and Concours d'Etat

Vehicle judging at a prestige Concours d'Élegance event is much more demanding than that of a general vehicle show. Experienced judges, selected by the Organiser and Chief Judge, examine the vehicles thoroughly and in their entirety. They inspect mutiple components and only those vehicles that are judged perfect (or very nearly so) are considered eligible for a Class Trophy.

Often the competitiveness of a Concours d'Élegance or Concours d'Etat encourages restoration of a vehicle to surpass 'mint' condition. Mint condition would be the state of the vehicle when it originally left the factory.
Concours-quality vehicles often are given upholstery, paint, chrome (or nickel) plating, and mechanical restoration greatly exceeding that of the vehicle when new.

For these events the FIVA 'Best Preserved Vehicle' award is judged as much on originality as condition. The general aim is to present a vehicle that is in the same condition that it was when it left the production line.
Unless original, modifications are not allowed and components must be appropriate for the year and model of the vehicle.
Even components or features fitted to vehicles of the same type, but in a different production year or trim level, are penalised or disqualified.
Original-equipment-accessories from the manufacturers own range is allowed and some organisers allow after-market equipment and accessories, provided they are of the correct period.
Often at these events the vehicles are not driven, except for short distances, from their trailers to the show fields or for a parade, if required by the organisers. Typically the vehicles are not used as daily drivers and often are not seen outside of museums or private collections.

Concours d'Lemons, Concours of the unexceptional

A concours event for non-prestigious or otherwise unexceptional vehicles. These are gaining popularity internationally and tend to be much more informal.

County, Town and Village Shows

These tend to be organised locally, often for charity purposes. The shows usually feature local vehicles and judging and prizes may be awarded. Often the 'winner' is selected by public voting at the event.

Cars and Coffee, Show and Shine

These are generally informal events where like-minded enthusiasts meet for a social gathering with their cherished vehicles. These do not normally require an entry form or entry fee, and therefore minimal organisation is required, apart from announcing a location, date and time – often via social media.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Standard Rules

These Standard Rules must be respected in all Concours Events which will be organised under the authority and control of FIVA and will be the basis for the rules of an ANF and/or an organiser.
Any case not provided for in these Standard Rules will be studied by the EC of FIVA that has the authority to decide.
The EC may modify these Standard Rules by publication of a special bulletin which will be published on the FIVA Website at www.fiva.org.
These Standard Rules are applicable as of 1st January 2026.

Official Language

For **FIVA World Events** and **FIVA Premier Events**, the official languages are English and French and, if required, the language of the host country. Only the English or French text will be binding.
For national **FIVA Events**, the language of the host country will be the official language.

FIVA Identity Card

For **FIVA World Events** and **FIVA Premier Events** participating vehicles are expected to have a valid FIVA Identity Card and it is expected to be presented at Scrutineering.

However, organisers may, in their Regulations, make the presentation of a valid FIVA ID Card a mandatory requirement.

For all FIVA Events the organisers should encourage entrants/crews to obtain FIVA Identity Cards for their vehicles.

3. DEFINITIONS

Regulations of the event

Official written document issued by the organiser laying down the details of the event.
Any case not foreseen in the Regulations of the Event during the running of the event will be judged by the Steward(s) and a decision made.

Crew

A crew is normally made up of at least one person.

Day

Each part of the event, separated by an overnight halt.

Bulletin

An official written communication issued to modify or complete the Regulations of the Event. Bulletins must have been approved by the organising committee before the start of the event or by the Chief Judge during the event. The Bulletin must be published on the Official Notice Board (ONB) and/or the Digital Notice Board (DNB).

4. OFFICIALS

FIVA Steward

The EC will appoint one or more FIVA Steward(s) for **FIVA World Events** and **FIVA Premier Events**. The FIVA Steward(s) will monitor and review all aspects of the event for compliance with the FIVA Events Codes. Post event the Steward will complete and submit the FIVA Steward report to the EC.

For a **FIVA Event**, then a national Steward or Observer may be appointed.
The Steward/Observer will monitor all aspects of the event. Post event the Steward/Observer will complete and submit the FIVA report to the EC Chairman.

Chief Judge

The Chief Judge is charged with the application of the Regulations of the Event and their provisions during the event.
He/she will manage the judging process via nominated Class Judges and Jury Members.

Disputes

The Organising Club must stipulate the rules relating to Disputes.
Disputes must be brought before the Chief Judge in the presence of the FIVA Steward.

Public Relations Official (PRO)

The organiser may appoint a public relations official (PRO). The PRO must be easily identified by the participants. His/her name, phone number and photograph should be included within the Regulations and/or bulletin.

5. DESCRIPTIONS OF THE EVENT

The organiser must provide details of the of the event in the Regulations of the Event.
For example: location of the start and finish, time schedule of the whole event, number of days, classes etc.

Entry Opening and closing dates

The opening and closing dates for entries must be mentioned in the Regulations of the Event.

Entry List

A complete entry list of participating vehicles must be sent to the FIVA Steward once entries have closed. The list should identify vehicles which have a FIVA ID Card, and if possible, include the number of the FIVA ID Card.

Entry fees

The Currency and entry fees must be specified in the Regulations of the Event.
The organiser may specify in the Regulations of the Event conditions to fully, or partially, refund entry fees.

Number of entries

The maximum / minimum number of entries will be specified in the Regulations of the event.

Refusal of an entry

In case of an entry being refused by the organisers, they must notify the applicant of such refusal.
The organisers have the right to refuse an entry without giving a reason.

6. ELIGIBLE VEHICLES

Vehicle period classification

In all events on the FIVA calendar, only vehicles which are in accordance with the FIVA Technical Code can take part.
Other forms of classification may be used and sub-divisions are allowed. The acceptance of an entry for a certain class is at the discretion of the organiser.

7. INSURANCE – INDEMNITY DECLARATION

Insurance of the Organiser

The Regulations of the Event must give details of the insurance company, policy number and cover included or excluded.

Insurance of the crew

It is the responsibility of the participants to ensure they have appropriate insurance covering them and their vehicles as necessary.

Indemnity declaration

By signing the entry form, or by signing the indemnity declaration at the administrative checks, the crew declares that they accept following:
I have been given the opportunity to read the regulations of the Event and agree to be bound by them. I declare that I am physically and mentally fit to take part in the Event and I am competent to do so. I acknowledge that I understand the nature and the type of the Event and the potential risk and agree to accept that risk. I declare that to the best of my belief the driver(s) possess(es) the standard of competence necessary for an Event of the type to which this entry relates and that the vehicle hereby entered is suitable and roadworthy for the Event and that it is in conformity with the traffic laws and regulations for the use on public roads. I declare that the use of the vehicle entered will be covered by insurance as required by the law of the crossed country (countries). I declare that I am in the possession of a valid driving licence.

8. STANDARD DOCUMENTS - PROCEDURES

Publication of Regulations

The definitive Regulations of the Event must be published at least one month before the start of the event. Digital Copies should also be made available to the FIVA Steward (or FIVA Observer) via email or by download from the organiser's website.

9. AWARDS – PRIZE CEREMONY

The Regulations of the Event shall contain information about the time, location and dress code of the prize ceremony.

Awards

Normally any FIVA Award(s) such as **FIVA World Event**, **FIVA Premier Event**, **FIVA Best Preserved Vehicle** or **Spirit of FIVA** award will be presented by the FIVA Steward or FIVA Observer at the event.

FIVA VIP Invitation

The Organising Club may choose to invite the FIVA President, or his/her delegate, to attend the event and to present the FIVA Award(s). In which case any associated travel and accommodation costs will be covered by the organiser.

10. FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions or require further information please email events@fiva.org.