



# The National Ice Carving Association

International • Education • Industry • Competitions  
P.O. Box 3593 • Oak Brook, IL 60522 • PH: (630) 871-8431 • [www.nica.org](http://www.nica.org)

## National Ice Carving Association Judging Grievance Process

If a competitor has a problem with his or her score, placement, or anything at a competition these are the steps he or she should take to address the issue:

Firstly, he or she should talk to each and every judge on site. Judges need to make themselves available to explain scores and rules. This should be done in a polite and courteous manner by both the competitors and the judges.

If the problem still exists the competitor should address the Judging committee (the NICA board of directors) in writing no later than 15 days from the date of the competition.

At this point the NICA Judging committee needs to discuss the grievance and decide whether the complaint is valid. The NICA Judging committee may take up to 30 days to talk to the various judges to find whether or not the complaint is valid.

If the complaint is found to be without sufficient conclusive support, the competitor should be addressed with a letter thanking him for his or her participation and explaining why his or her complaint lacked support.---ie, Judge A said pinocchio was not an original idea and therefore gave you a 6 under Creativity/Originality---but Judge A is entitled to his opinion in this Subjective category.

If, however the complaint is found to be full of evidence indicating favoritism, or just incorrect judging: A letter should be sent to the offending judge(s) indicating his or her error. This letter should be put into the judge's file. This judge should not be selected for future competitions if he or she has 3 such letters of valid complaints against him or her until he or she can recertify as a NICA judge therefore requiring that they be reminded of the judging criteria.

A letter will be sent to the initiator of the complaint stating that sufficient evidence was found to support his or her claim. The participant will then be compelled his entry fee and encouraged to compete again. In an extreme case (the NICA board will decide how blatant the offense was), prizes may be reordered at the discretion of the NICA judging committee.

Please send grievances to:

NICA  
PO Box 3593  
Oak Brook, IL 60522-3593

Please include the date, event and judges.