



AQUASCAPING WORLD COMPETITION JUDGING CRITERIA

Planted Aquariums Judging Criteria

1) Layout Design/Composition (25 Points)

- ▶ Overall impression is of balance and harmony
- ▶ Visual balance present from colors, plant arrangement, and hardscape
- ▶ Layout space is used effectively without distracting shadows, gaps, or a feeling of confinement in the layout, plant arrangement and/or hardscape.

2) Artistic Creativity (25 points)

- ▶ Imaginative Layout
- ▶ Impression of depth throughout layout
- ▶ Plants are planted, trimmed and maintained purposefully and effectively
- ▶ Special finishing techniques for final photo i.e ripples, removed equipment, lighting effects, etc.
- ▶ Innovative use of plants, hardscape, and/or visual elements
- ▶ Photo captures natural activity and movement of fish and fauna

3) Plant Health/Aquarium Conditions (20 points)

- ▶ Layout contains healthy aquatic plants
- ▶ Plants grown to maximize their color, leaf density and texture
- ▶ Algae is not present

4) Hardscape Use and Impact (20 points)

- ▶ Proper choice and use of hardscape materials, stones, driftwood etc.
- ▶ Would a hardscape-less aquascape benefit from adding composition materials
- ▶ Hardscape is naturally integrated with plants and layout design
- ▶ Arrangement of hardscape is appropriate and benefits the layout

5) Aquarium Ecology (10 points)

- ▶ Proper selection of fish and inverts to complement aquascape
- ▶ Schooling fish are photographed in schooling formation
- ▶ Solitary/dominate fish are photographed at best angle
- ▶ Fish appear comfortable and natural in the layout

Biotope Aquariums Judging Criteria

1) Layout Design/Composition (40 points)

- ▶ General impression is of balance and harmony
- ▶ Visual balance present from colors, plant arrangement, and hardscape
- ▶ Layout space is used effectively without distracting shadows, gaps, or a feeling of confinement in the layout, plant arrangement and/or hardscape.
- ▶ Biotope appears natural

2) Biotope Accuracy (30 points)

- ▶ Fish/invertebrates are native to Biotope's region
- ▶ Plants (if any) are native to Biotope's environment
- ▶ Other elements of the Biotope composition (stones, water color, sand, gravel, driftwood, dead leaf etc.) are accurate to Biotope's authenticity

3) Aquarium Ecology (20 points)

- ▶ Proper selection of native fish and inverts for the biotope
- ▶ Any Plant and fauna live are visually healthy
- ▶ Schooling fish are photographed in schooling formation
- ▶ Solitary/dominate fish are photographed at best angle
- ▶ Fish appear comfortable and natural in the layout

4) Overall Impression (10 points)

- ▶ Wild and natural feeling contained in the layout
 - ▶ Representative of a native waterway
 - ▶ Level of difficulty
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SCORING METHODOLOGY

The AquaScaping World Competition will contain multiple winners as decided by the Judges Score and Public Vote. The combination of the Judges' Score and the Public Vote will determine the Aquascape of the Year. The competition process and voting process is depicted and described below.

QUARTER FINALS: JUDGES' PICK The AquaScaping World's International Judging Panel will score and rank each aquascape layout within the four respective categories. Category winners will be determined by the judges tallied scores, and will receive a "Category Award".

The TOP 3 from each of the four categories will be brought into the "Semi-Finals" For Public Vote (12 layouts total).

SEMI-FINALS: PEOPLE'S CHOICE The Public will vote of the TOP 12 to decide their favorites. The aquascape that receives the largest number of votes wins ASW's "People's Choice Award".

FINALS: AQUASCAPE OF THE YEAR The final ranking of the TOP 12 Aquascapes will be determined by combining the Judges Votes and Public Vote.

From the TOP 12, we will work out the share they got of the points given by the judges, and the share they got of the public's votes, and we add these two shares together. This will determine the overall Ranking.

For example if aquascape 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 receive 95, 75, 85, 80, 86, 87 88, 89, 90, 92, 93, 94 points from the judges, we calculate what share these points represent of the total awarded by the judges. In this case the judges gave 1,054 points in total, and each aquascape share of 1,054 points breaks to a percentage score (judges score / total score).

Similarly, the public votes will be tallied using the same methodology (# of votes / total votes).

To determine the final ranking, we combine these two shares with a weighted score. Judges Score are valued at 60% and Public Vote valued at 40%. The combined weighted score (judges score + public vote) will determine the Final Ranking.

The Aquascape of the Year will have the highest combined scores.

[Aquascaping World Competition](#)

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