

DAMASCUS WORLDCUP RULES

Article 1 – Aim of the Competition

The Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie (Chamber of Commerce and Industry) Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole (CCI) with its headquarters at 148 Boulevard Lavoisier, is holding a world Damascus steel competition on 17 and 18 May 2025.

This competition is being held during an International Knife Festival known as "Festival Coutellia," 2025.

The theme of the 2025 competition is "**The Art of Metalworking and Damascus Steel**"

Article 2 – Eligibility

This competition is open to any team of a maximum of 2 to 3 people, at least one of whom is a professional knife-maker or metalworker, which team respects the conditions set out below:

One person could participate alone only if he/she is a professional knife-maker or metalworker

- Conditions pertaining to entrants:

- Entry into this competition by any person aged under 18 years will be taken as confirmation of the prior agreement of that person's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

- Conditions relating to the competition process:

- The blade must satisfy the following conditions:

Type of blade: free choice

Blade size:

- Length: 12–15 cm
- Width: 3–5 cm
- Thickness: 0.5–1 cm
- The blade shall be ground and polished on at least one side.
- The blade won't need to cut.
- The blade will have to be drilled with a hole of about 3 mm in order to harmonize the revelation to the public.

Number of pieces: 1

Materials used: as provided for all finalist teams

The blade must be made entirely by hand and by the team only, with no use of suppliers.

Any blade that is not in compliance with the conditions in this article will be disqualified.

Article 3 – Submission of Entry Applications

Application for entry is made up of the following elements:

The duly completed competition entry form must be submitted no later than **5 pm on 14 February 2025**;
The completed description form - including the name of the team, a sketch and explanatory description of the various metalworking stages and technical details - must be submitted no later than **5 pm on 14 February 2025**

Entry is subject to the payment of a contribution to the administrative and organisational costs of the Competition, to be paid by cheque, **in the sum of €150** per team.

All these documents must be submitted to Mme Clémentine ALBOUY at the headquarters of the Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie du Puy-de-Dôme, 148 Boulevard Lavoisier, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand, France.

Article 4 – Selection of Finalists

The competition can accommodate a maximum of 8 teams taking part in the contest on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May 2025.

Thus, if the number of registrations exceeds this number, elimination rounds will be organized on Friday, May 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Pôle Formation Auvergne – Centre National de la Coutellerie à Thiers - 28 rue du Forez Zone d'Activités de, Chem. de Matussière, 63300 Thiers.

To make the selection, the panel will look at the following criteria:

- Creativity: indicate on the completed description form the motivation behind your creative approach (10 lines, maximum). This form must be returned to us.
- Aesthetics
- Technical details: indicate on the completed description form the technical details of the blade.

Incomplete applicants will not be selected for the final stage and will have the entry fee cheque sent with their submission returned to them uncashed.

Finalists selected for the competition will have their entry fee cheques cashed and will no longer be entitled to reimbursement under any circumstances.

Once the selection has been made, the finalists' entries come into effect and they will not be reimbursed any sums paid should they subsequently withdraw; such sums will remain the property of the CCIT. Confirmation of the team's entry is subject to the cheque clearing into the CCIT's bank account.

The Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie du Puy-de-Dôme will anonymise all projects before their transmission to the judging panel in order to ensure objectivity.

The panel's decision will be communicated to the entrants on **Friday 14 March 2025** by email, with a request for confirmation of receipt of said email.

The panel's decisions on the ten finalist projects selected for the next stage of the competition are final.

Article 5 – Competition Process

The blade creation contest will take place during the International Knife Festival known as "Festival Coutellia" 2025 on 17 and 18 May 2025.

Elimination rounds

Thus, if the number of registrations exceeds this number, elimination rounds will be organized on Friday, May 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Pôle Formation Auvergne – Centre National de la Coutellerie à Thiers - 28 rue du Forez Zone d'Activités de, Chem. de Matussière, 63300 Thiers.

The elimination rounds will take place with a coal forge only with a duration of 1h30.

The subject of the competition will be announced on the day of the preliminary rounds.

The panel's decisions on the ten finalist projects selected for the next stage of the competition are final.

Blade creation round

The blade creation contest will take place during the International Knife Festival known as "Festival Coutellia" 2025 on 17 and 18 May 2025.

Team members are asked to wear dark-coloured clothing; they will be provided with an apron in competition colours.

The working time allowed for each team will be a maximum of three hours (excluding polishing and etching the finalised knife-shaped steel bar).

The material made available to each team will be:

- An air hammer
- A gas forge (+ 2 new gas bottles)
- A coal forge (+ coal)
- A anvil + heat treatment oil
- A workbench with welding equipment
- A belt grinder, borax, and board.
- A vice
- A hydraulic press available for both teams on the space.

The steel supply available to each team on site will be made up of a choice of 4 types with the following dimensions:

- 40 x 6 mm: 90MCV8
- 40 x 2 mm: 15N20
- 40 x 3 mm: XC45
- 18 x 18 mm: 100MNCRW4

The finalists must use **only** the materials and steel supplied by the competition organisers. The finalists could bring their own little materials/equipment (hammer, clamp, ...) with the exception of power tools.

The contest will take place over the 2 days of Festival Cutellia, 17 and 18 May 2025. The schedule for each team's time slot will be established as below:

- Saturday 17 May 2025:
 - Time slot 1: 8 am – 11 am – Team 1, Team 2
 - Time slot 2: 11am – 2 pm – Team 3, Team 4
 - Time slot 3: 2 pm – 5 pm – Team 5, Team 6
- Sunday 18 May 2025:
 - Time slot 4: 9 am – 12 noon - Team 7, Team 8

Each team will be able to polish their blade in a space dedicated to this purpose after the 3-hour contest.

The possibility will be given to the teams to arrive maximum 30 minutes before for the preparation. After the 3 hours of competition, the teams will have to carry out the finishing touches in a reserved area outside the forge area with a given time of 1 hour.

Any breach or infringement of the rules set out above will lead to the disqualification of the whole team.

Article 6 – Selection of Winners

To make the selection, the panel will look at the following criteria:

- Technical expertise
- Innovation and creativity (after the blade is revealed)
- Quality of welding
- Adherence to the initial project
- Compliance with the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), safety instructions, and the equipment provided

The Panel's decisions will be final.

Article 7 - Prize-Giving

The prizes are:

- 1st prize – World Damascus Steel Prize: A cheque for €1,500 (one thousand five hundred euros), a trophy, and a seat on the judging panel for the next world Damascus steel competition.
- 2nd prize – Prize for Originality: A cheque for €900 (nine hundred euros)
- 3rd prize - Popular Choice Prize: A cheque for €600 (six hundred euros)

No exchange of the cheque for the equivalent cash sum or any other prize will be possible.

Prizewinners must be present at the prize-giving ceremony, which will take place on **Sunday 18 May 2025 at 3 pm** in the exhibition centre's VIP area. Notwithstanding this, the prize may be sent to any prizewinner who is absent on the day due to force majeure, that is an unforeseeable event beyond his/her control.

With the exception of force majeure, any prizewinner not present will be considered to have renounced his/her prize and will not be able to claim it at any later time or date. Any prizewinner may also expressly renounce his/her prize.

Should a prizewinner renounce his/her prize, whether expressly or by default, the following rule shall apply:

- If the prize renounced is 1st prize, it shall be awarded to the winner of 2nd prize, with 2nd prize being then awarded to the winner of 3rd prize, as selected by the panel.
- If the prize renounced is 2nd prize, it shall be awarded to the winner of 3rd prize, as selected by the panel.
- If the prize renounced is 3rd prize, it shall be awarded to the winner of 4th, as selected by the panel.

The winner of the 1st prize will have to make the trophy for the next Damascus World competition.

Article 8 – Guarantee Clause

The entrants declare that the blade created for the current competition is original, does not borrow from any existing protected creative work and guarantees the organiser against any legal action, claim, or other third-party proceeding.

The candidate declares that the creation is free of rights. He/she remains the owner of the copyrights which are reserved to him/her in the respect of the conditions of the present rules. The CCI Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole, organizer of the contest, will be the owner of the blade created for the realization of a collection of the works realized within the framework of the present contest.

For composite works, the entrant(s) grant, free of charge, to the CCI Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole the right to reproduce and distribute images of the prizewinning works under the conditions set out in Article 10.

The name of the creator or creative team and the title of the piece shall appear on any document that includes one of the prizewinning creations.

Article 9 – CNIL

The data requested is required for entry into the competition. It will be held for a duration in compliance with the regulations in force. Unless any entrant(s) object, this data may be used to send them information concerning the CCI Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole's events, activities, and services.

The CCI Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole undertakes to respect the regulations in force in respect of protection of personal data, specifically the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It undertakes to implement all appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure its handling of data meets regulation requirements and guarantees the protection of the rights of the persons concerned.

In accordance with the regulations in force, every entrant has the right to access, modify or rectify any of his/her personal data. He/she can also oppose or limit the holding or deletion of data concerning him/her or make a complaint to a regulatory authority such as the CNIL.

Any entrant wishing to request information or to exercise his/her rights can do so by contacting the Délégué à la Protection des Données [Data Protection Officer] at the CCI Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole at the following address: Service Événementiel - 148 Bd Lavoisier, 63037 Clermont-Ferrand Cedex 1, France or at the following email address: evenements@puy-de-dome.cci.fr

Article 10 – Image Rights

Entering this competition implies complete and unreserved acceptance of these rules and authorisation of the CCI to circulate and reproduce any photographic works created in the context of the 2025 edition of Festival Coutellia.

Entrants authorise the CCI Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole to set, use, reproduce, circulate, and modify these photographs by any technical means and by way of any medium worldwide for a duration of 5 years from the date of the event.

The photographs may also be used under the same conditions by any third party authorised by the CCI Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole.

For entrants under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian's authorisation regarding image rights must be supplied using the template in the attached appendix.

Article 11 – Acceptance of the Rules

Entering the competition implies full and unreserved acceptance of these rules; completion and submission of the entry form shall be taken as confirmation that entrants are aware of and accept the same.

The rules are available from the CCI Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole and will be sent, free of charge, on request to any interested party. The rules can be downloaded from the Coutellia website at the following address: <http://www.coutellia.fr>

Article 12 – Organiser’s Decision

The CCI Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole reserves the right, should there be cause, to nullify and/or cancel all or part of the contest if it appears that fraud or malfunction has taken place in any form whatsoever, in particular any technology-based fraud or malfunction relating to entries or the judging process. In such a case, the CCI Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole reserves the right to withhold any prize(s) from those suspected of fraud and/or to take any appropriate legal action against the perpetrators of such fraud. Any person engaged in fraudulent behaviour will be immediately disqualified.

Article 13 – Lodging and Consultation of the Rules

Entering the competition shall be taken as full and complete acceptance of these rules, lodged with l’Etude de la SCP BARNIER Thibaut - BREHM Eric, Huissiers de Justice Associés à CLERMONT-FERRAND, 43 Avenue Julien.

The said rules may also be consulted on the website of Festival Coutellia, the address of which is given in Article 11 of these rules, and on request at the offices of the CCI Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole, 148 Boulevard Lavoisier, 63000 Clermont-Ferrand, France, or on request by post, subject to payment of postage costs or sending an SAE to the CCI Puy-de-Dôme Clermont Auvergne Métropole, at the following address: 148 Boulevard Lavoisier, 63000 CLERMONT-FERRAND, France.