

COMPETITION RULES FOR CZECH AND SLOVAK GOLDpanning CHAMPIONSHIP 2022

The current rules are available on the World Goldpanning Association (WGA) website.

1. CATEGORIES OF PARTICIPANTS

A. OFFICIAL CATEGORIES

- a. Men (Proficient Men)
- b. Women (Proficient Women)
- c. Juniors (under 16 years at the start of the junior competition, both sexes)
- d. Veterans (60 years and over at the start of the veterans competition, both sexes)
- e. Classic Pan (Batea)
- f. Two Persons Team
- g. Three Persons Team
- h. Five Persons Team

B. UNOFFICIAL CATEGORIES

- a. Children (under 12 years at the start of the children competition, both sexes)
- b. Karel Kozluk's Memorial (Two Persons Team; at least one member of the team must compete with a classic pan Batea which will be provided by the organisers)

2. THE COMPETITION SITE

A. THE ARENA

1. The boundary of the competition area must be clearly marked and competitors and officials are permitted to enter this area during the contest.
2. The arena for National Championships must have a minimum of 10 panning pools.
3. The practice area for National Championships must contain a minimum of 1 practice pool. The pools shall be provided with competition gravel.

B. PANNING POOLS

1. Each individual panning pool must have the following measurements:
 - a. Breadth (width) between 90 and 120 cm
 - b. Length between 140 and 170 cm
 - c. Depth of water in pool between 20 and 30 cm
2. Each pool must have an area for the competitors to put down their pans and buckets (with stands for the Bateau pans) and a secure place for the tube.
3. Each pool must have a permanent number board clearly displaying its number.
4. The movement of water in any pool must not disturb competitors in other pools.

C. VIDEO

Each heat in every round in all the official competitions must be filmed. The picture must clearly show all the competition pools. These recordings must be available to the Jury should a protest be lodged.

D. THE TIMING CLOCK

A timing clock must be in a location that can be seen by the competitors, spectators and the video. The official time is kept by the Board of Judges' Timekeeper.

E. COMPETITION GOLD (SAMPLE)

A sample of the size and type of the gold being used must be clearly displayed for all competitors to see throughout the competition.

F. NOTICE BOARDS

1. Boards for displaying heats and results must be in a prominent position close to the arena. A separate display board next to the heats/results board should be provided for general information.
2. The heats time-table for each day must include all start times and be published at a minimum of two hours before the first heat. Once published, a heat cannot be run earlier.
3. The results must be published within 1 hour of ending of the heat.

3. EQUIPMENT FOR THE COMPETITION

A. THE PAN

1. Each competitor is allowed to use their own pan, but this must conform to the following:
 - a. Maximum diameter of the pan 50 cm.
 - b. Maximum height of the pan 15 cm.
 - c. Internal overhangs or grooves in the pan must not exceed 15 mm.
2. The pan must be a gold pan of traditional design. Gold pans that have the correct measurements, but are not of traditional design, must be submitted to the Chief Justice for its approval.
3. Competitors may not use any other equipment or tools of their own.
4. The organizers will supply competitors of the Classic Pan with one of the two approved pans and all competitors will have the same pan.

B. THE SAND AND GRAVEL

1. The Bucket of Sand/Gravel will be the same mix and weight in each round.
2. Proficient and National Team Competitors will get a bucket containing between 15 and 20 kg of sand/gravel.

3. Juniors and Veterans will get a bucket containing between 10 and 12.5 kg of sand/gravel.
4. The sand/gravel mixture must not contain any gold except that placed there by the organizers.
5. The recommended mixture of the sand/gravel should be 5 parts sand to 2 parts gravel. (Gravel must not exceed 25 mm in size).

C. THE TUBE

1. The tube can be made of either glass or plastic.
2. Tube size minimum is 5cm x 1cm and maximum is 9cm x 1.5cm.
3. The tube must have a push-in cap.

D. THE COMPETITION GOLD

1. The minimum size of the gold flakes is 1.0 mm. The gold flakes used must be natural alluvial gold flakes and equal to or more than 18 carats. The gold must not be mechanically processed (e.g. hammered).
2. The number of gold flakes for each competitor in a single heat must be the same. The number of gold flakes between each heat and each round may differ, but in the same qualification round only by 1-2 gold flakes if time comparison is used.

The number of gold flakes must be between the following amounts:

- a. All individual competition heats between 5 –12.
 - b. All individual competition finals between 7 –12.
 - c. All team competitions between 10 –20.
3. The gold flakes must be seeded into a bucket, pre-filled with the correct amount of sand/gravel, under the official supervision of the Board of Judges' Sand Supervisor. The seeding must be out of all competitors' sight.

E. CLEAN WATER

Clean water must be available for the competitors to put into their tubes.

F. IDENTIFICATION

The organizer must provide numbers for the competitors to wear for each heat. These numbers must be seen from the front and back and correspond to the pool number that the competitor is in.

4. RULES FOR THE COMPETITION

A. DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF ROUNDS

1. For any category with more competitors than the number of panning pools more than one round will be organized.

2. A minimum of 1 in 2 competitors must qualify for the next round. In each round, heats should have the same number of competitors, +/-1. 'No shows' in a heat will count as being present in respect of this rule.
3. All competitors in a heat must compete at the same time and place.

B. THE DRAW

1. The draw for each round must be completely random and all competitors for a round must be part of the draw.
2. All heats in a round must be displayed together once they have been drawn.

C. PRELIMINARIES

1. The Call: A competitor must arrive at the bibbing area in time to prepare to compete. A competitor failing to arrive at the competition bibbing area 2 minutes before the heat is due to start may be disqualified.
2. Identification: Each competitor must wear their identification number.
3. Selection of Sand/Gravel: Each competitor will choose a bucket of sand/gravel from those reserved for that heat.
4. The Tube: Each competitor will be given a tube in which they will place clean water.
5. The competitor moves to their numbered panning pool and prepares for the start. The pan must be clean and empty.
6. A competitor in the children category can have an assistant for pouring sand/gravel into their pan. Other assistance (except verbal) to the competitor is not allowed. If the assistant will be providing further not allowed assistance to the child competitor, they will be warned by the judges. In case of repeated warnings, the child competitor will be disqualified. The competitor will be allowed to finish the heat, but their time will not be evaluated.

D. THE START

1. During the start if a competitor is having any problems they must raise one arm to alert the pool-side officials.
2. The start is by three commands:
 - a. "Take Your Place"
 - b. "Get Ready"and
 - c. Start signal.

Once competitors are at their pools the starter will command, "Take your place" this is to alert the competitors that they are about to start. Then the command will be given to "Get Ready". Competitors at this point should be ready to start and not touching the pan or bucket. A clear signal to start will then be given and competitors are free to start panning. The competitors may sit or stand.

3. The False Start: If no competitor has poured any sand/gravel into their pans the Chief Justice can stop the contest and order a restart. (Competitor(s) responsible for the false start will be given a warning. If any competitor gets another false start warning at any time during the competition, they will get a 2 minutes penalty.) If competitors have already started to pour sand/gravel into their pans the competition will not be stopped. (The competitor(s) who committed the false start offence will get a 2 minutes penalty.)

E. THE EVENT

1. Using the water in their pools and their pans the competitors will wash the sand/gravel from their buckets to extract the gold flakes as quickly as they can.
2. The competitors may transfer the gold flakes from their pan to the tube at any time.
3. Sand/gravel already washed into the pool or spilled must not be taken back into the pan. Competitors will be disqualified instantly for this offence.
4. When a competitor has finished panning they must:
 - a. Close the tube by placing the cap on securely.
 - b. Give the finishing signal, which is to raise the pan above the head or push the button according to the timekeeping system. From this moment they are not allowed to remove the cap from the tube.
 - c. Leave the pool immediately without disturbing the other competitors. A competitor who disturbs other competitors could face disqualification.
 - d. The competitor must then place their tube in their pan and move to the verification area as directed by pool officials.
5. The total panning time allowed in a heat is 15 minutes.

F. CAPPING

1. If a competitor gives the finishing signal and the cap is not on the tube they will get a 2-minutes penalty.
2. If a competitor has placed the tube in their pan and then the cap comes off the competitor will get a 2-minutes penalty. The competitor must not touch the tube or the cap but must signal for assistance. Any gold flakes out of the tube will not be counted. The official will replace the cap.
3. Any competitor removing the cap from the tube after giving the finishing signal will be instantly disqualified.

G. TEAM COMPETITIONS

(This is a relay of two, three or five individual competitors)

1. Each team will occupy 1 panning pool and only one person may be in the pool or panning at any time. Team members must not significantly disturb any other team. Verbal advice only may be given to the one panning by the other members of the team.
2. Each team member has their own bucket of sand and gravel. They must only pan their own sand and gravel. They are not allowed to pass any sand and gravel or gold (unless in the tube) between team members.

3. Each team member must bottle their own gold. A team member must leave the pool before the next person enters. If a team member touches the water in the pool before his team-mate has completely left the water in the pool, the team will get a 2-minutes penalty. If a pan is to be passed between team members it must be washed upside down by the panner in the panning pool before it is passed on.
4. No team member is allowed to touch the bucket, pan or sand and gravel of the person who is panning. The others are permitted to prepare to pan.
5. Competitors 1 (for a two-persons team), 1 and 2 (for a three-persons team) and 1 to 4 (for a five-persons team) do not have to place the cap on the bottle. The last competitor is the one who caps, under capping rules, and any penalties will be added to the team time.
6. The last competitor (wearing the number) will finish and verify following the normal rules. Only the last competitor will line up for verification. Once finished panning, other team members should leave the pool area.
7. The total panning time for two and three-persons team competitions is 20 minutes and for five-persons team competitions is 30 minutes.
8. A competitor is allowed to start only in one team in every team category. If the composition of a team has to be changed due to special circumstances (illness, accident, etc.) a competitor may be replaced by another competitor who has not panned in that category. Competitors panning in more than one team in a category will be disqualified together with their teams.

J. VERIFICATION

1. On leaving the panning pool the competitor must put their tube into their pan and carry it in that position until they reach the gold counting area. Please note Capping rules. When competitors are in line they may count the gold in their tube by holding the pan in one hand and lifting the tube with the other hand. The tube must be kept over the pan. Once the gold is counted the tube must be returned to the pan. The pan with the tube in it must be offered to the scrutineer.
2. The scrutineer must be able to see and count the gold flakes in the tube. This means that the water in the tube must be clean and the gold must not be obscured by other materials in the tube.
3. The competitor must inform the scrutineer how many gold flakes they believe are in the tube. The scrutineer will check the tube and if they agree, this number is recorded and the competitor signs. This signature means that they agree with the count and once signed it is final decision.
4. If the scrutineer disagrees with the competitor they will inform them of this and will give the competitor the chance to recount the gold in the tube. If, after recounting, the competitor and the scrutineer now agree, this number is recorded and the competitor signs.
5. If the competitor and scrutineer still do not agree or the gold flakes cannot be counted because of dirty water or sand in the tube, the Chief Justice will be called. The tube will then be opened, and the gold flakes counted. The competitor may request someone to be present on their behalf. The Chief Justice is responsible to tell the scrutineer how many gold flakes are to be recorded. This decision is final.

6. Once an agreement is reached, or a decision by the Chief Justice is made, the competitor must sign the sheet. If he does not sign, he may be disqualified.
7. A competitor is given back the tube with gold in, after he has signed the count.
8. If the gold flakes could not be counted because of dirty water or sand in the tube, then the competitor will be given a warning and “yellow card”. This means that if the same happens in any round of the same championship the competitor will receive a 2- minutes penalty each time.
9. For each flake of gold lost a penalty time of 3 minutes will be added to the competitors’ finishing time.
10. If a competitor or team finds more gold flakes than were seeded, the heat is declared void by the Chief Justice. The heat will be re-run as soon as possible. In the case of re- runs the organizer will publish that the heat was void and the time of there- run. No results for this heat will be published.
11. Cheating. If a competitor is caught cheating, or is reasonably suspected of cheating, the Chief Justice will be called immediately and will suspend the competitor until a hearing can take place. This hearing must be held as quickly as possible so that if the competitor is found to be innocent, they may continue in the competition. The Chief Justice will summon the Jury. If, at the hearing, the competitor is found guilty, he will be disqualified immediately and banned from any competition in this championship.

5. OFFICIALS AND PROCEDURES

A. PROTESTS

1. There are two types of formal protest:
 - a. Protest against a disqualification.
 - b. Protest against a published result.
2. A competitor may formally protest to the Jury in written about a disqualification or published result within 30 minutes of the disqualification decision or the result being published. Their letter must explain their case and include the 500 CZK protest fee. If the protest is successful the money will be refunded, if not the money goes to the CAZ Treasurer.
3. Once the organizers have received a formal protest, they will summon the Jury for the hearing.
4. The Jury’s decision is final and there is no right of appeal.
5. The Jury must announce the result as soon as possible to the protesting competitor.
6. This protest procedure does not apply to verification of gold flakes.

C. THE JURY

1. The Jury will be appointed by the organizers and will be made up of the following members who must be familiar with the WGA competition rules:
 - 2 male panners from the proficient category and from different Nations
 - 2 female panners from the proficient category and from different Nations
 - 2 members of the Competition Committee.

2. The Jury's role is to sit in judgement on all protests. For any hearings, the number of Jury members required will be four. One male panner, one female panner and 2 from the Competition Committee. These members must not be from the protesting nation. This will allow for protests from nations who have supplied Jury members. The Jury spokesperson will be a member of the Competition Committee. All Jury decisions are final for this competition.

D. THE BOARD OF JUDGES

1. The following people will be appointed by the Organizer and will be the Board of Judges. Their function is to ensure that the rules and spirit of the competition are followed in all times. They have the power to report any competitor to the Chief Justice if the competitor breaks the rules.

Chief Justice

His decision in all matters is final if this decision is not changed by the Jury under a protest hearing. He has the power to discipline any competitor for breaking the rules.

Time Keeper

The official responsible for timings during the championships.

Pool Supervisor

The official responsible for the problem-free running of the panning pools area.

Chief Scrutineer

The official responsible for the verification counting of the gold flakes at the end of each heat.

Sand Supervisor

The official responsible for the preparation and seeding with gold of the buckets of sand/gravel used in the competition.

Bibbing Supervisor

The official responsible for the allocation of numbered bibs to the competitors.

Tube Supervisor

The official responsible for giving out the empty tubes before the start.

Data Supervisor

The official responsible for the output of data and for publishing the heats and results.

2. The names of the Board of Judges, the Jury and reserves must be displayed for all to see before competition starts.
3. The following members of the Board of Judges are barred from competing:
 - Chief Justice
 - Chief Scrutineer
 - Sand Supervisor

