



GLOBAL NAIL DESIGN AWARDS

Rules & Categories

MELBOURNE
13th SEPTEMBER 2026
Novotel Preston
215 Bell Street

Important Dates

EVENT DATE

Sunday, 13th September 2026
Competition doors will open at 8am
Expo to the public will open at 10am

REGISTRATIONS OPEN

Thursday April 30th 2026

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE

Sunday 9th August 2026

SUBMISSIONS

ARENA CATEGORIES - will take place on the day of the event

PHOTOGRAPIC - Posters will be due on Sunday 9th August and emailed to
gndaqld@gmail.com

HAND-INS - Entries may be delivered in person on the day of the competition or sent via post to the address below. All posted entries must be received no later than Friday, 11th September.

Charlotte Keen
PH: 0400915419
GND A
71 Wimbledon BVD
Strathtulloh VIC 3338

Divisions

NOVICE

- Students or nail technicians that have qualified for less than 18months
- Who has NOT won first place in ANY Australian or International Nail Competition
- If a first-place win has been accomplished in this division, you move to open.

OPEN

- Any Qualified / Experienced nail technician over 18months
- Who has NOT won first place in ANY Australian or International Nail Competition
- If a first-place win has been accomplished in this division, you move to Masters.

MASTERS

- Any Qualified / Experienced nail technician who has WON a first place in open division in ANY Australian or International Nail Competition

Categories

In Person / Areana

1. Competition Acrylic - Left Hand
2. Competition Gel- Right Hand
3. Gel Polish Manicure – Red & French
4. Runway Ready – Mystery Set
5. Fantasy

Photographic / Online

1. Extreme Styling – Cyberpunk Galaxy
2. Natural Nails – Sell it
3. Salon Style – Bridal

Hand-in / posted

1. Mixed Media – Open
2. Flat Art – Open
3. Miniature Masterpiece
4. One Nail – Extreme Fantasy
5. Salon Art – AI inspired

General Rules

Entering

1. By entering the venue and participating in the GNDA Expo and Competition, all attendees, competitors, and models agree to abide by the following rules.
2. All competitors and models must be over 16yrs
3. The competitor is responsible for entering the correct division, if it is found to be incorrect, you risk disqualification.
4. Competitor is responsible for reading all the rules for each category. If you break any rules or do not follow them correctly you risk being disqualified or point deducted.
5. The competitor is responsible for correctly labelling their work with the issued registration number.
6. Each competitor may enter each category a maximum of twice. The entry with the highest points will be used in the overall score.
7. Competitors may enter as many categories in their allocated division as they wish.
8. If you are unable to attend in person you can arrange someone to drop off and collect your pieces and any winnings on your behalf.
9. All competitors entering the live events, must sign in by the allocated time in the morning. (see schedule)
10. The competitor is responsible for organising their own models. If a model doesn't show, you may source anyone last minute or forfeit the category, resulting in a 0 score.
11. GNDA reserves the right to refuse entry or remove any participant who does not comply with event rules or behaves in an unprofessional manner.

Live Categories

1. Only professional-grade products are allowed. All products must be in their original manufactured bottles or pots. No handwritten labels. Failure to do so will result in loss of points or disqualification. This is to ensure only permitted products are being used.
2. Do not start until the floor judge has announced the category has started. You risk losing points or being disqualified.
3. You must stop IMMEDIATELY with hands raised once the floor judge announces the category has ended. Failure to do so will result in loss of points or disqualification.
4. Once the category has started, the competitor and model cannot leave the table until the category has finished. If you must leave the table, it is at the discretion of the head judge if you will lose points or be disqualified.
5. Bags will be kept away from the tables. If you need to leave your table to access anything you may have forgotten, it is at the discretion of the head judge if you will lose points or be disqualified.

6. You may have a drink and phone on the table. No-food is permitted in the arena
7. Models must not touch the nails, clean their hands or remove any dust while they are waiting to be judged. They risk the competitor losing point or being disqualified if the models are found to be breaking any rules.
8. Portable electrical equipment is encouraged. Any plug-in equipment must be tested and tagged in accordance with venue requirements
9. Use of phones is allowed during the competition for content etc... If it is done in a manner that does not disrupt others. Photos of your completed work must not be shared until after the awards. Breaking of these rules can result in loss of points or disqualification.
10. Competitors are responsible for bringing all their equipment and products on the day. (see category rules)

Photographic

1. We allow for professional photo enhancements, but the technical nail work must remain 100% authentic. The image itself may be photoshopped but strictly no editing or changing should be done to or around the nails. This is an important rule to follow with the upraising of AI and photoshop and will be monitored and will be followed up if deemed necessary.
2. Each image must be A4: 8.5 x 11 and taken in portrait -NOT landscape. The image should be suitable for the cover of a magazine. (international standard)
3. Smart phone images are acceptable.
4. Each Image file must not exceed 25MB
5. You may use photographers, makeup artists and hair stylists
6. All Photographic entries must be emailed to gndaqld@gmail.com by the due date Sunday 9th August 2026

Hand Ins

1. IN PERSON ENTRIES – you must bring your art work to register at 8am on Sunday 13th September 2026.
2. POSTED ENTRIES – art work must be posted to the below address and received by Friday 11th September 2026: Charlotte Keen, GNDA, 71 Wimbledon Strathtulloh
3. It is up to the competitor to ensure the piece is adequately packed to ensure safe and undamaged delivery
4. Art work can be collected after the awards ceremony.
5. Art work not collected will be posted back to the competitor within 2 weeks at their cost.
6. Each category has listed the maximum size board or frame you can use to display your work. You may use a smaller size if you wish, but no bigger

Judging

1. Do not have any watermarks or identifying names or logos on your entries. Only registration numbers are permitted to allow anonymous judging.

2. Strictly NO copyright or logos. NO identifying people or brands names to be used in any of your entries. (such as Disney, star wars etc...) This can result in your in work being disqualified.
3. All entries must be original and created by the competitor. In the event this is questionable, you risk disqualification.
4. All entries must not be used prior in any other competition. In the event this is questionable, you risk disqualification.
5. Your entries must not be shared, shown or used on any social media until after the awards have been presented. In the event this is questionable, you risk disqualification. This is to ensure anonymous and unbiased judging.
6. Scoresheets will be available prior to the event.
7. Completed scoresheets will be provided to the competitor. Please direct any questions directly to GNDA.
8. All judging decisions are final

Placing

1. Category Winners 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded to the competitor that has been awarded the highest score sin each category, for each separate division.
2. If there are less than 3 competitors in any event, it is at the discretion of the event director and judges, If a category will be combined and/or handicap applied.
3. Division champion is the competitor that has been awarded the most points from all their entries in their division. (the more you enter the more chances you have of winning)
4. Overall, Champion is the competitor that has been awarded the most points in the whole competition. (the more you enter the more chances you have of winning)
5. Competitors who enter the same category twice, entry with the highest score will be used towards overall scoring
6. In the event of a tie the head judge will make a ruling,
7. Awards will be announced at the end of the competition.

Refunds

1. NO refunds will be given if entries are not received on time, do not met the specific requirements, break the rules, is disqualified or damage during transporting.
2. If you are no-longer able to enter or attend the event you may transfer your tickets to someone else by notifying GNDA prior to close of registrations.
3. In the event that the competition cannot proceed on the scheduled date due to circumstances beyond the organiser's control, the event will not be cancelled and will be rescheduled to a later date.
4. All entries, tickets, and payments are non-refundable.

General

1. During the event there will be professional photos and video being taken and will be used on social media and on the website.
2. **Zero Tolerance for Theft:** Any person caught stealing from a competitor's kit, an exhibitor's booth, or the venue will be removed immediately and risk being banned.
3. Treat all staff, judges, exhibitors, and fellow attendees with courtesy. We have a **zero-tolerance policy** for bullying, harassment, or verbal abuse
4. The decisions of the judging panel are final. Any public display of disrespect toward a judge or their scoring may result in a lifetime ban from future competitions.
5. By entering and attending the expo, all participants grant GNDA permission to use all images and videos of their work on all social media platforms, website and any future marketing.
6. Competitors that do not attend will be contacted by GNDA to arrange the entries and any winnings posted back to them.
7. GNDA reserves the right to make changes to event schedules, categories, or formats if required.