New Talent Competition (NTC) - Rules

The competition	The competition will be administered by a sub- committee. The committee will consist of 3 members, one EBA Board member (Technical Adviser), one member from the host country and one member selected by the RTM from delegates present.
Judges	All countries with a candidate competing in the New Talent Competition must nominate a Judge. The person so nominated should have a good knowledge of the Art of Bonsai with a proven number of years as a Bonsai Artist. The name of the person selected, together with their CV in bonsai must be sent to the host country Secretary and the EBA Secretary three weeks before the event. This will allow the name of all judges to be published.
Competitors	The name of the person representing each country entering the competition must be sent to the host country Convention Secretary and the EBA Secretary three weeks before the event. This will allow the name of all judges to be published.
Pre Bonsai material – supplied by the host country	The trees selected for shaping during the competition will be on show to the public and judges prior to being allocated to candidates. The host country must make every effort to ensure that the material presented for the competition is of equal quality. In practice this is virtually impossible to achieve, therefore a system of handicapping will be introduced. Prior to the competition the judges will inspect the trees and agree a pre-determined multiplication factor to counteract any given faults in the material.
Draw for trees	The draw allocating trees to competitors will take place with only the competitors and NTC sub-committee present. Judges will not be allowed to view the allocation of trees.

The Competition

The competition will be open to public viewing immediately following the allocation of trees. Any coaching of candidates seen or heard renders that candidate liable to be disqualified. The competition will be open to public viewing for the duration of the time trees are being worked on. Bona fides photographers from Bonsai Magazines will be permitted to take photographs during the competition and of the trees after judging.

At the end of the allotted time for work on trees, everyone will leave the room except the NTC sub-committee members. The NTC sub-committee will change the numbers on the trees to a letter prior to judging. After judging is complete the trees will be given their original number.

Judging will take place with only the judges and subcommittee members present.

Judging	Judges will consider
a.	Architecture: Idea - originality
b.	Art. Use of bonsai art, common design, balance etc
C.	Techniques: Wiring, techniques used, shari, jin, (if used) branch shaping.
d.	Botany. Perspective, vitality, future of finished tree.
e.	Overall impression. View, aesthetics position, presentation, cleanliness.
f.	Judges may use the score criteria in their evaluation - see below.

Judging

On completing their evaluation Judges will not, as previously, give marks out of a given total, but will set the result by place. Each judge will select the first 5 trees in order of merit, for example the winner, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th.

They will hand their completed score sheets to the EBA Board member of the NTC sub-committee. The sub-committee will collate the results. The results of the competition will be announced at the Gala Dinner together with the presentation of prizes.