

RULES AND REGULATIONS

THE PERFUMER

Live Perfumery Challenge 2026

Organised by Fragmania and CORE

Event Detail	Information
Date	Saturday 10 October 2026
Venue	Hall A MAEPS Serdang
Competition	Two stage live individual perfumery challenge
Capacity	Maximum 20 participants
Entry Fee	RM200 per participant

This document governs registration, participation, formulation, judging, safety, submission and conduct for THE PERFUMER Live Challenge 2026. By registering and participating, each contestant agrees to comply with these rules and with reasonable instructions issued by Fragmania, CORE and the Competition Director.

Version 1.0 September 2026

Competition Summary

THE PERFUMER is an individual live perfumery competition in which contestants respond to surprise creative briefs using only a controlled palette and equipment supplied by the organiser. The competition has two timed stages. Twenty contestants may enter Stage 1 and the five highest scoring contestants advance to the final.

Stage	Time	Participants	Palette	Allocation	Outcome
Stage 1 Preliminary	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	Maximum 20	25 materials	5 g of each material	Five finalists
Stage 2 Final	2.30 pm to 5.00 pm	Five finalists	45 materials in total	5 g of each material	Final ranking

1. Competition Format

The competition is conducted over two stages. Participants must interpret the title and creative brief revealed at the beginning of each stage. All work must be completed independently at the assigned bench within the official competition time.

Stage 1 Preliminary Challenge

- Time: 10.30 am to 1.00 pm
- Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes
- Participants: Maximum 20
- Palette: 25 perfumery materials - mixture of ready made accords and bases; and aroma chemicals
- Material allocation: 5g of each material per participant
- Maximum trials: 3 blends
- Official submission: One finished fragrance in a 10 mL spray bottle
- Required concentration: 20% fragrance concentrate in alcohol
- Finalists selected: 5

The 25 materials, competition title and creative brief will be revealed only when Stage 1 begins. Every participant will receive an identical palette in identical working dilutions and quantities.

Stage 2 Final Challenge

- Time: 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm
- Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes
- Participants: 5 finalists
- Palette: The original 25 materials plus 20 additional materials
- Total available palette 45 materials - mixture of ready made accords and bases; and aroma chemicals
- Material allocation: 5g of each material per finalist
- Maximum trials: 3
- Official submission: 1x finished fragrance in a 10 mL spray bottle
- Required concentration: 20% fragrance concentrate in alcohol

The 20 additional materials and final creative brief will be revealed only when Stage 2 begins. Every finalist will receive the same palette in identical working dilutions and quantities.

2. Eligibility and Registration

The competition is open to amateur, student, independent and professional perfumers who are at least 18 years old and possess sufficient basic knowledge to handle perfumery materials and record a formula independently.

- A place is confirmed only after registration and full payment of the RM200 entry fee.
- Places are allocated on a first paid first confirmed basis, subject to eligibility.
- Registration is personal and may not be transferred without written approval.
- The fee is non refundable where a participant withdraws or fails to attend.
- If the organiser cancels the competition, the entry fee will be refunded.
- Participants must disclose any personal, educational, employment or commercial relationship with a judge.

3. Check In and Punctuality

- Participants must report to the registration counter by 10.00 am.
- The compulsory briefing begins at 10.10 am.
- Participants must be seated at their assigned benches by 10.20 am.
- The Stage 1 clock begins at 10.30 am and will not be extended for late arrival.
- A participant who is not seated by 10.45 am may be disqualified.
- Finalists must report to the final holding area at the time announced by the Competition Director.

4. Individual Workstation

At the beginning of each stage, every participant will receive an individual workstation containing the following items.

Item	Quantity
10 mL spray bottles	3
Mixing cups	3
Disposable funnels	3
Digital scale readable to 0.001 g	1
Toothpicks for stirring	Sufficient quantity
Hand napkins or tissues	Sufficient quantity
Tabletop waste bin	1
Alcohol supplied by the organiser	Sufficient quantity
Disposable pipettes	Sufficient quantity
Perfume blotters	Sufficient quantity

Item	Quantity
Formula and evaluation sheets	1 set
Pen and competition notebook	1 set
Bottle labels	Sufficient quantity

The three mixing cups and three spray bottles correspond to Trials A, B and C. Materials and equipment must remain at the assigned workstation. Participants may not exchange materials, vessels or equipment.

5. Materials and Allocation

Stage	Materials	Quantity per Material	Nominal Total
Stage 1	25	5 g	125 g per participant
Final Stage	Additional 20	5 g	225 g per finalist

All material bottles are labelled according to the materials name & dilution concentration for relevant safety warning where required. Participants may use any quantity within the amount supplied, subject to safety restrictions and the final submission requirements.

Unused materials must remain at the workstation and may not be removed from the competition area.

Malaysian Oud

Where Malaysian oud is designated as a compulsory material in the brief, every official submission must contain the supplied Malaysian oud. No minimum or maximum percentage applies unless announced in the brief. Judges will assess how skilfully and meaningfully it has been integrated.

6. Permitted and Prohibited Items

Permitted

Participants may use only the perfumery materials, alcohol, vessels, tools, stationery and equipment supplied or expressly approved by the organiser. Personal prescription medication and eyewear are permitted but must be declared where relevant to safety.

Prohibited

- Personal aroma chemicals, naturals, accords, bases or pre made concentrates
- Personal alcohol, solvents or diluents
- Personal pipettes, bottles, measuring equipment or weighing vessels
- Phones, tablets, laptops, smartwatches and other connected devices
- Books, printed formulas, reference sheets or personal notes
- Electronic calculators unless supplied by the organiser
- Internet access, artificial intelligence tools or messaging services

- Advice from trainers, assistants, spectators or any outside party

All phones and smart devices must be handed in to the designated person in charge and be placed at a secure storage area before the challenge. Possession or use of an undeclared device may result in immediate disqualification.

7. Individual Work and Discussion

THE PERFUMER is an individual competition. Each perfume, formula, concept and presentation must be created by the contestant alone.

General social conversation is permitted among participants. Technical collaboration is prohibited. Participants must not:

- Recommend ingredients, ratios or quantities to another participant
- Exchange formulas, calculations, concepts or storylines
- Smell or evaluate another participant's unfinished composition
- Share materials between benches
- Touch another participant's equipment
- Provide or receive technical assistance

A Competition Steward may direct participants to stop a conversation where it appears to involve technical assistance. Continued breach may lead to a penalty or disqualification.

8. Three Trial Rule

Each participant may create a maximum of three distinct compositions during each stage, using the designated vessels for Trial A, Trial B and Trial C.

- A contestant may repeatedly adjust a trial already in progress.
- Starting a composition in another mixing cup constitutes a new trial.
- No additional vessels may be requested to create further compositions, unless for any special cases.
- Only one trial may be selected as the official submission.
- The other trials must remain at the workstation and will not be judged.
- Participants may bring home the other trials.

9. Formula Recording

All ingredients must be weighed and recorded in grams. The final formula sheet must state:

- Participants Number (will be assigned before the challenge begins)
- Every material used
- The written Formula may or may not be submitted
- Weight of every material to three decimal places where practical

The written formula must correspond to the perfume inside the submitted bottle. A materially incomplete or inaccurate formula may receive a penalty or be rejected. Deliberate falsification may result in disqualification.

10. Required Concentration

Every official submission must be prepared at 20 % fragrance concentrate and 80 percent alcohol. For consistency, the concentration will be calculated by weight.

Component	Weight	Percentage
Fragrance concentrate	2.00 g	20 percent
Alcohol	8.00 g	80 percent
Finished fragrance	10.00 g	100 percent

The 10 mL bottle does not have to be filled to its absolute capacity. The official requirement is a finished submission weighing 10.00 g at 20 percent concentration. Participants must not intentionally vary the specified concentration.

11. Blending and Dilution Procedure

1. Develop up to three fragrance concentrates in the three mixing cups.
2. Record every material and its exact weight as it is added.
3. Evaluate the compositions using blotters.
4. Select Trial A, B or C as the final creation.
5. Weigh 2.00 g of the selected concentrate to submit.
6. Add 8.00 g of the alcohol supplied by the organiser.
7. Mix thoroughly and transfer the perfume to one official 10 mL spray bottle.
8. Apply the anonymous competition label.
9. Submit the bottle with the completed formula, creative statement and declaration.

12. Anonymous Submission

Each participant will receive a confidential competition number. The participant's identity must remain concealed from the judges until the relevant scores are locked.

The submitted bottle may display only:

- Participants Number Only.

The bottle, formula and creative statement must not contain the participant's name, brand, logo, signature, social media handle, slogan or any other identifying mark. The identity key will be held by a Competition Secretary who does not score entries.

13. Official Submission Package

Each contestant must submit all of the following before the deadline:

- One official 10 mL spray bottle containing the finished 20% fragrance
- One completed final formula sheet

- One anonymous creative statement (state the participants' number)
- The assigned competition number on every submitted item

Once accepted and time stamped, a submission cannot be altered, replaced, reopened or withdrawn without the Competition Director's permission.

14. Submission Deadlines

Stage	Deadline	Recommended Late Rule
Stage 1	1.00 pm	Up to 60 seconds late five point deduction
Stage 1	More than 60 seconds late	Submission not accepted
Final Stage	5.00 pm	Up to 60 seconds late five point deduction
Final Stage	More than 60 seconds late	Submission not accepted

The official competition clock displayed by the organiser is final.

15. Judging Panel and Ethics

The judging panel will comprise 3 professional judges: two fragrance industry professionals and one qualified representative from the fragrance community, education or cultural sector.

- Judges must score independently before discussing results.
- Judges must not attempt to identify a contestant from a submitted perfume.
- Judges must not discuss an entry with a contestant during the competition.
- Judges must preserve the confidentiality of formulas, scores and deliberations.
- Judges must declare all potential conflicts of interest.
- A judge with a material conflict must not score the affected entry. A reserve judge or approved score normalisation process will be used.

16. Stage 1 Scoring

Stage 1 will be judged blind. The five highest scoring contestants advance to the final. The scoring system are by the scoring systems used in evaluating a certain perfume, mainly used in the industry.

Criterion	Points
Interpretation of the surprise brief	25
Technical construction and balance	25
Originality and creative identity	20
Development diffusion and persistence	15

Criterion	Points
Use of Malaysian oud or compulsory material	15
Total	100

17. Final Scoring

The judges must complete and lock the blind olfactory portion before learning the contestant's identity or hearing the presentation.

Blind Olfactory Criterion	Points
Interpretation of the final brief	20
Technical quality and balance	20
Originality and recognisable identity	15
Development diffusion and persistence	15
Use of Malaysian oud or compulsory material	10
Blind olfactory subtotal	80

Presentation Criterion	Points
Clarity and strength of storyline	8
Explanation of material selection	6
Connection between perfume and brief	4
Professional delivery and responses	2
Presentation subtotal	20
Final total	100

18. Finalist Presentation

Each finalist must present the submitted perfume and explain its creative and technical direction. The presentation should address the interpretation of the brief, story or inspiration, key materials, structure, use of Malaysian oud or other compulsory material, important formulation decisions and intended emotional effect.

Element	Time
Finalist presentation	4 minutes
Judges questions	2 minutes
Maximum per finalist	6 minutes

Finalists may refer only to the notebook provided by the organiser. Presentations take place after the 5.00 pm blending deadline so that all finalists retain the full 2 hours 30 minutes for formulation.

Time	Activity
2.30 pm to 5.00 pm	Final live formulation challenge
5.00 pm to 5.10 pm	Submission verification and judge preparation
5.10 pm to 5.40 pm	Five finalist presentations
5.40 pm to 5.50 pm	Questions final scoring and verification

19. Tie Breaking

If two or more contestants receive the same total score, the tie will be resolved in this order:

1. Highest score for interpretation of the brief
2. Highest score for technical construction
3. Highest score for originality
4. Highest score for use of Malaysian oud or compulsory material
5. Blind re evaluation followed by a majority decision of the judges

A judge should not alter an earlier score merely to force a ranking. Any tie break evaluation must be recorded separately.

20. Health and Safety

- Attend the compulsory safety briefing and follow official instructions.
- Evaluate experimental blends on blotters rather than skin.
- Do not smell directly from a material bottle.
- Keep material bottles closed when not in use.
- Report and clean spills immediately under a steward's direction.
- Dispose of pipettes tissues toothpicks and contaminated waste correctly.
- Do not eat drink smoke or vape at the competition bench.
- Wear closed shoes and any protective equipment directed by the organiser.
- Disclose relevant allergies sensitivities asthma or medical conditions during registration.

The organiser may stop a participant from handling a material or continuing the challenge where there is a reasonable safety concern.

21. Penalties and Disqualification

A warning, point deduction or disqualification may be imposed for:

- Using or possessing an undeclared phone smart device or prohibited reference
- Bringing unauthorised materials equipment alcohol or pre made perfume
- Receiving or providing formulation assistance
- Sharing formulas quantities concepts or technical advice
- Tampering with another participant's materials or equipment
- Creating more than three trials
- Submitting late or submitting an incomplete package
- Adding identifying information to a blind submission
- Deliberately copying a known commercial perfume
- Unsafe or reckless handling of materials
- Harassment intimidation or disruptive conduct
- Attempting to influence a judge
- Falsifying registration formula or submission information
- Refusing a reasonable instruction from the Competition Director

Except in serious cases, the recommended escalation is a verbal warning, followed by a written warning or point deduction, followed by disqualification. Phone use, unauthorised materials, outside assistance, deliberate tampering and serious safety breaches may result in immediate disqualification.

22. Results and Appeals

The judges' artistic and olfactory decisions are final. An appeal may be considered only for a mathematical error, incorrect competition number, missing score or proven breach of the published judging procedure.

A contestant may not appeal merely because they disagree with a judge's professional opinion. Any procedural appeal must be submitted to the Competition Director within 15 minutes of the results announcement.

23. Formula Ownership and Confidentiality

Each participant retains ownership of their original perfume formula. Fragmania and CORE may retain a confidential copy for competition verification, record keeping, safety investigation and administration.

The organisers must not publish, manufacture, reproduce or commercially exploit a contestant's formula without separate written permission. The competition format, operating structure, judging system and event concept remain the intellectual property of CORE and are presented in collaboration with Fragmania.

24. Photography Filming and Broadcast

The competition takes place in a public event environment and may be photographed, recorded and broadcast live. By participating, contestants permit Fragmania and CORE to use their name, image, voice, interviews, competition footage, presentation, perfume name and non confidential storyline for publicity, media coverage and archival purposes.

This permission does not include publication of the complete perfume formula unless the contestant separately agrees in writing.

25. Changes and Force Majeure

Fragmania and CORE may make reasonable operational changes required by venue instructions, safety concerns, equipment failure, material shortage, emergency, government direction or circumstances beyond the organisers' reasonable control. Any material change must be announced equally to all affected contestants.

26. Acceptance of Rules

Registration and participation constitute acceptance of these Rules and Regulations. The Competition Director has authority to interpret and administer the rules fairly where an unforeseen situation arises, provided that any decision is applied consistently and recorded.

Participant Declaration

I confirm that I have read, understood and agree to comply with the Rules and Regulations for THE PERFUMER Live Challenge 2026. I understand that the competition is an individual challenge and that prohibited assistance, devices, materials or conduct may result in penalties or disqualification.

Participant name _____

Competition number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Official Use

Check	Confirmed By	Time
Registration and identification verified		
Phone and smart devices deposited		
Workstation inspected		
Safety briefing completed		
Submission package complete		

Reference Basis

This rulebook adapts established competition principles including anonymous coded judging, independent numerical scoring, conflict of interest disclosure, defined assessment criteria and staged finalist selection. It is tailored specifically for a live timed formulation challenge.

- Institute for Art and Olfaction Art and Olfaction Awards judging process and code of ethics
artandolfaction.com and thegoldenpears.com
- Mouillette d'Argent International Perfumery Contest judging criteria and finalist format
mouillettedargent.com
- Asia Perfume Foundation Asia Perfume Awards categories and assessment approach
asiaperfumefoundation.com

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