

COMPETITION REGULATIONS (ONLINE)

Event: SloveNails Championship 2026

Location: Hotel Kras, Postojna

Date: 14–15 February 2026

Submission Deadline: 31 January 2026 – by midnight

These rules define the terms and requirements for all competitors participating in the **ONLINE categories**. The regulations are based on **international standards** and adapted to the Slovenian competition framework.

Validity: from 17 December 2025

Reservation of Rights:

The organizer reserves the right to amend the rules at any time prior to the competition and/or the submission deadline, if necessary to ensure **fairness, transparency, and professional execution** of the event.

I. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Purpose and Significance of the Online Competition

The online categories of the **SloveNails Championship 2026** allow competitors to present their knowledge, creativity, and technical excellence through **photographic submissions**. The unified objective is to assess professional skills **remotely**, under **equal conditions**, and in accordance with **international judging standards**.

2. Submission Rules

- All online categories are conducted **exclusively through photographic submissions**, which must be submitted **by the specified deadline** (the submission date will be published on the official event website).
- The competitor must complete the work **independently and in its entirety**, using **professional nail materials**.
- The submitted work must be **new**, created **specifically for the SloveNails Championship 2026**, and must **not** have been previously published or used in any other competition or on social media.

Each competitor may participate multiple times within the same category, provided that each submission is a different and unique work.

3. Photo and Process Requirements

- All photographs submitted for judging must be taken on a **solid white or black background**, free of any distracting objects. Competitors may optionally include an **additional artistic photograph**.
- The nails must be **clearly visible** in all images, without filters, editing, or enhancements that would alter the true appearance of the work.
- It is **mandatory** to include **process photos** showing the creation stages (**three (3) photos taken at different phases of the work**), unless otherwise specified in the rules of a particular category.
- Photographs must be of **high resolution**.
- The competitor must provide **sufficient viewing angles** to allow judges to fully assess both the **technical and aesthetic execution**.

4. Prohibitions and Restrictions

- The use of **pre-purchased, ready-made decorations, tips, or elements** that are not handcrafted is strictly prohibited **where the rules of the specific category prohibit such use**.
- The use of **AI-generated images or photomontages** is strictly forbidden — all submissions must represent the **competitor's authentic work**.
- Any attempt at **fraud, use of another person's work, or violation of the rules** will result in **disqualification**.
- **Collages are not permitted**. Each required photograph must be submitted **as an individual image**.

5. Evaluation Criteria and Judging Standards

In all online categories, judges will primarily evaluate the following:

- Technical execution (structure, C-curve, apex, lines, surface smoothness),
- Precision (symmetry, consistency of lengths, cleanliness of lines and transitions),
- Aesthetic harmony (colour balance, proportions, professional finish),
- Creativity and originality (particularly in categories involving design and artistic elements),
- Adherence to the theme, where applicable.

Judging will be conducted using official scoring sheets based on international judging standards.

The judges' decision is final, and appeals are not permitted.

II. COMPETITION CATEGORIES

1. 5 SHAPES – 1 Hand

TASK

The competitor must create **five (5) different salon nail shapes** on one hand:

- Stiletto
- Edge
- Pipe
- Square
- Russian Almond

All shapes must be executed as a **sculpted French manicure in white**.

REQUIREMENTS

- The length of all nails must be a **minimum of 5 cm**, measured from the cuticle to the free edge.
- All shapes must be **clearly recognizable** and **technically correct**, in accordance with **international standards**.
- The **C-curve** must be even, the **apex** correctly built, and the surface smooth and free of irregularities.
- The **French smile line** must be clean, even, and symmetrical on all nails.
- All nails must be in the **same colour scheme (pink & white)**.
- **Decorations, glitter, and additional elements are not permitted.**

EXECUTION (ONLINE)

The competitor must submit the work **exclusively in the form of photographs** taken on a **solid white or black background**.

The following photographs are **mandatory**:

- **Top view** (entire hand),
- **Side view**,
- **Front view** (barrel view).

All photographs must be taken in **high resolution, without filters or digital editing**.

Submission must be completed within the deadline specified on the website Tekmovalne kategorije | Slovenails Championship

All images must provide a **clear and unobstructed view of the technical execution.**

PROHIBITIONS

- The use of **colours, decorations, 3D elements, or any additional embellishments** is not permitted.
- The use of **pre-shaped tips** is not permitted; all nails must be **fully sculpted during the creation process**.
- Failure to meet the **minimum length requirement of 5 cm** will result in **automatic point deductions or disqualification**.
- The use of **filters, photomontages, or AI-generated elements** in photographs is strictly prohibited.
- Submission of an **incomplete photo set** (missing required angles) will result in **point deductions**.

JUDGING

Judges will evaluate the following criteria:

- **Shape:** clear and recognizable execution of all five (5) shapes.
- **Structure:** correctly built apex, even C-curve, and well-balanced proportions.
- **French manicure:** clean, precise, and symmetrical smile line.
- **Surface:** smooth finish, free from scratches, dents, or irregularities.
- **Uniformity:** all nails must be of equal length and consistently executed.
- **Technical execution:** precise filing and clean transitions in the cuticle area.

The final score is based on the **official scoring sheet**. Each criterion is evaluated individually, and the **total combined score** determines the final ranking.

2. GEL POLISH CHALLENGE – 2 Hands

TASK

The competitor must create a salon manicure on both hands using gel polish only.

- Left hand: French manicure (classic hand-painted French smile line).
- Right hand: Full colour in an intense, classic red shade.

Across both hands combined, hand-painted nail art must be applied to exactly four (4) nails.

REQUIREMENTS

- The entire set must be created exclusively with gel polish.
- The French manicure must feature a clear, clean, and even smile line.
- The red colour must be perfectly even, fully opaque, and free from streaks or patches.
- Nail art must be hand-painted using nail-specific materials (e.g. gel paints, acrylic paints, etc.).
- Hand-painted designs must be applied to exactly four (4) nails in total across both hands (no more, no less).
- The entire set must be aesthetically cohesive, technically refined, and professionally executed.

Theme: Valentine's Day.

EXECUTION (ONLINE)

The competitor must submit photographs of **both hands** taken on a **solid white or black background**.

Mandatory photographs:

- **Full set of both hands** (top view),
- **Detailed close-up shots of the hand-painted design.**

It is mandatory to include **three (3) process photos** showing different stages of the work.

All photographs must be in **high resolution, without filters or digital editing**.

Submission must be completed within the deadline specified on the website [Tekmovalne kategorije | Slovenails Championship](https://www.tekmovalne-kategorije.si/slovenails-championship)

PROHIBITIONS

- The use of other systems (**acrylic, hard gel, dip, polygel, acrygel**) is not permitted.
- The use of **pre-prepared or pre-purchased decorations or 3D elements** is strictly prohibited.
- The use of **stamping techniques and stickers** is not permitted.
- **Hand-painted designs on more than four (4) nails in total across both hands are prohibited**; violation of this rule results in **point deductions**.
- The use of **filters, photomontages, or AI-generated elements** in photographs is strictly prohibited.
- Failure to comply with the **theme (Valentine's Day)** will result in **point deductions or disqualification**.

JUDGING

Judges will evaluate the following areas:

- French manicure: clean, clear, and symmetrical smile line.
- Red colour: full coverage, even application, and colour intensity.
- Hand-painted design: cleanliness, line precision, quality of execution, and aesthetic appearance.
- Technical execution: surface smoothness, clean cuticle-area transitions, and professional structure.
- Aesthetic harmony: overall balance of the entire set and consistency between the left and right hand.
- Creativity: innovation and originality of the hand-painted design in accordance with the Valentine's Day theme.

Each criterion is scored individually on the official scoring sheet; the total combined score determines the final ranking.

3. FLAT TIP BOX – 10 Tips (Theme: Saint Valentine)

TASK

2.1. Flat Tip Box

The competitor must use **ten (10) artificial nail tips** in a **classic large square shape**, characteristic of this category.

The tips must be arranged by size, with **each size used twice** (2×0, 2×1, 2×2, 2×3, 2×4) and placed in the following order:

4 – 3 – 2 – 1 – 0 – 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4

Purchase reference (optional):

<https://briljant.si/konice-sablone-in-lepila/1061-bele-ekstremno-dolge-konice-kvadrat-oblike-euro-fashion.html>

REQUIREMENTS

- **Theme:** Valentine's Day.
- **Flat design:** the entire set must be **completely flat (0 mm relief)** – no elevation above the surface of the tips is allowed.
- **Materials:** only **nail industry materials** may be used (gel polish, gel paints, acrylic paints, pigments, foils, striping tape).

- **Uniformity:** the set must be aesthetically and colour-coordinated; all tips must form a **coherent and harmonious whole**.
- **Techniques:** only **flat techniques** are permitted (hand painting, one-stroke, airbrush, foils/pigments used as a flat effect).
- **Box presentation:** the tips must be fixed in a **flat box on a white base**, arranged in **one horizontal line**, evenly spaced and aligned (tips positioned on the same axis).
- **Clean execution:** no visible glue residue, smudges, dust, scratches, material lifting, or stains; tip edges must be clean and even.
- **Shipping:** The box is recommended to be **sent to the designated address**, as it will be displayed at the competition (the exact address will be provided **7 days before the submission deadline**).
- **Fixation:** the tips must be **securely fixed** to the white base (using tip glue or double-sided tape); they must **not move during shipping**.

PROHIBITIONS

- 3D / relief: all 3D elements are strictly prohibited (acrylic or gel figures, relief gels, sugar effect, caviar beads, etc.).
- Glitter: any type of glitter is prohibited (including fine glitter), whether used independently or mixed into materials.
- Texture: effects that create tactile texture or relief are prohibited (velvet/flocking effects, sand, 3D elements).
- Violation of size arrangement rules: an asymmetrical size order or failure to comply with the required mirrored pairing constitutes a violation of the task.
- Photo manipulation: the use of filters, AI, photomontages, or retouching that alters the true appearance of the work is strictly prohibited.

EXECUTION (ONLINE)

Photographs (all taken on a solid white background, without filters):

- 1× full set in the box – top view (composition, alignment, size arrangement),
- 2× detailed macro shots (left half #1–#5 and right half #6–#10),
- 1× side profile of the entire line (proof of flatness – 0 mm relief).

Process:

It is mandatory to include three (3) process photos showing different stages of the creation.

Box presentation:

Photographs must clearly show the tips fixed inside the box (without a lid), arranged on one flat plane, without additional props.

Submission:

Submission must be completed within the deadline specified on the website [Tekmovalne kategorije | Slovenails Championship](http://Tekmovalne-kategorije | Slovenails Championship)

An incomplete submission (missing any required photographs) results in an invalid entry.

Shipping:

The box must be sent in protective packaging, fixed on a white base.

The shipping address will be provided 7 days before the deadline.

The postmark or shipping confirmation is considered proof of submission.

JUDGING

Judges will evaluate the following criteria according to the official scoring system:

- Arrangement and symmetry: correct ascending/descending size order; mirrored pairing (#1 = #10, etc.); proper alignment and even spacing.
- Flatness (0 mm): complete absence of relief or 3D; a perfectly flat surface with no tactile elevation.
- Technical execution: sharp and precise lines, consistent brush strokes, clean edges, and absence of smudges or errors.
- Aesthetic harmony: colour balance, compliance with the Valentine's Day theme, and a cohesive overall visual impression.
- Presentation: correct placement within the box and the quality and clarity of the required viewing angles.

Failure to comply with the 3D/glitter prohibitions or the size arrangement rules is considered a severe violation and will be sanctioned in accordance with Section IV (Sanctions).

4. REVERSE FRENCH SALON ALMOND – 1 Hand

TASK

The competitor must create a full set of nails on **one hand** in a **salon almond shape**, using a **mandatory combination of two French manicure techniques**:

- **Thumb and little finger:** hand-painted French manicure (classic **pink & white**).
- **Index, middle, and ring fingers:** **Reverse French manicure** (sculpted or hand-painted), with the option of incorporating design elements **within the French area**.

REQUIREMENTS

- The length of all nails must be **exactly 3 cm**, measured from the cuticle to the free edge.
- All nails must be of the **same shape (salon almond)** and **equal length**.
- **Reverse French:** the smile line must be **perfectly precise, clean, even, and symmetrical**.
- **Hand-painted French manicure (thumb and little finger):** the smile line must be **clear, symmetrical, and technically correct**.
- The surface of all nails must be **smooth**, free from scratches, dents, or irregularities; cuticle-area transitions must be **clean and even**.
- Design within the French area is permitted; however, **no decorative elements may extend beyond the boundaries of the French manicure**.
- The entire set must be **aesthetically harmonious** and **technically refined**.

PROHIBITIONS

- Any nail length **shorter or longer than 3 cm** will result in **point deductions**.
- The use of **3D elements, glitter, rhinestones, foils, or any additional embellishments on the surface** is prohibited.
- The use of **pre-prepared tips or pre-made elements** is not permitted.
- Painting the French smile line using a **“paint-on French” technique that conceals the sculpted structure** (where the Reverse French is built) is strictly prohibited.
- The use of **filters, AI-generated elements, or photomontages** in photographs is strictly prohibited.

EXECUTION (ONLINE)

The competitor must submit photographs of the set taken on a **solid white or black background**.

Mandatory viewing angles:

- **Top view** (entire hand),
- **Side view** (left and right sides of the hand),
- **Front view** (barrel view).

All photographs must be in **high resolution, without filters or digital editing**.

The submission must include **all required photographs**; otherwise, **point deductions will apply**.

Submission must be completed within the deadline specified on the website [Tekmovalne kategorije | Slovenails Championship](https://www.tekmovalne-kategorije.si/slovenails-championship)

Late submissions result in disqualification from the category.

JUDGING

Judges will evaluate the following criteria in accordance with the **official scoring system**:

- **Shape:** a uniform salon almond shape on all nails, with symmetry and consistency.
- **Reverse French:** precision, cleanliness, and symmetry of the smile line, as well as harmony of the design within the French area.
- **Hand-painted French:** clean, clear smile lines on the thumb and little finger.
- **Structure:** correctly built apex, even C-curve, and proper nail proportions.
- **Surface:** smoothness, clean cuticle-area transitions, and absence of technical imperfections.
- **Aesthetic harmony:** the entire set presented as a visually cohesive unit.
- **Creativity:** innovation in the execution of the Reverse French (design permitted within defined limitations).

Each criterion is scored **individually**; the **total combined score** determines the final ranking.

5. BLING BLING – 5 Tips (Theme: Saint Valentine)

TASK

Five (5) artificial tips of the **same size** or sizes **from 1 to 5**, and of the **same shape**, must be used.

The **shape is chosen by the competitor**.

The **minimum length of each tip is 3 cm**.

All decoration must be executed **exclusively using 3D techniques / 3D elements**.

REQUIREMENTS

- **Focus:** The majority of the visual impact must come from **3D bling elements**. Flat painting may be used **only as a base or background**.
- **Attachment:** All elements must be **securely fixed using nail materials only** (gel, acrygel, acrylic). The use of other adhesives (e.g. super glue) is **not permitted**.
- **Clean execution:** Clean edges and transitions; surfaces must be free of glue residue, dust, or damage.
- **Theme:** The composition must **clearly and unmistakably express the theme “Valentine’s Day.”**

ALLOWED

- **Individual bling elements:** crystals/rhinestones, pearls, caviar beads, metal studs/frames, chains, rings, individual decorative stones.
- **Nail materials:** UV/LED gel, acrygel, gel/acrylic paints, pigments, chrome; gel polish may be used as a **flat base only**.
- **Hand-built compositions made from individual elements** (e.g. a flower built from crystals/pearls, a heart made from bullion beads, etc.).
This is the core concept of this category.

PROHIBITIONS

- **Pre-made / composite 3D motifs – STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**
It is not allowed to attach ready-made flowers, brooches, pre-assembled clusters, pre-fabricated 3D flowers, or any other pre-built decorations.
All motifs must be **hand-assembled by the competitor from individual elements**.

- **Non-nail materials as decoration – PROHIBITED.**
Textiles, leather, wood, plastic, toys, etc. are not allowed.
Metal nail elements (studs, chains, frames) are permitted, as they are considered standard nail decorations.
- **Instability:**
Elements must not move or detach. Sharp or pointed parts that may pose a safety risk are not allowed.
- **Flat “shortcuts”:**
Stickers, stamping, or foils are not allowed as the main decoration (they may be used only minimally as a background and must not dominate over the 3D bling).

SUBMISSION (ONLINE)

Photographs (white or black background only, no filters):

- **1× full set** (aligned in a straight line, equal spacing),
- **2× macro detail shots** of the 3D bling construction,
- **1× side profile view** (showing attachment and stability).

Process:

- **3 process photos** are mandatory (e.g. stages of assembling the motif from individual elements).

Submission deadline:

- Submission must be completed within the deadline specified on the website [Tekmovalne kategorije | Slovenails Championship](#)
- **Incomplete submission = invalid entry.**
- **Late submission = disqualification from the category.**

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges will evaluate the following:

- **Bling construction:** precision, cleanliness, and complexity of hand-built designs made from individual elements
(*ready-made/composite motifs are scored lower, as they are prohibited*).
- **Attachment & stability:** technically flawless fixation; no visible glue residue, sharp edges, or instability.
- **Technical base of the tips:** smooth surface, clean edges, professional finish.
- **Aesthetics & composition:** balance, colour harmony, and strong visual bling impact.
- **Theme:** clear and recognizable interpretation of **Valentine's Day**.
- **Cleanliness:** free from dust, stains, damage, or imperfections.

6. ONE NAIL IN FOCUS – 1 Nail (Theme: Saint Valentine)

TASK

The competitor must create and present one (1) nail that serves as the central visual element, based on the theme Valentine's Day.

An extreme shape and a bold, authentic design are recommended, clearly and immediately communicating the theme.

REQUIREMENTS

- Length: minimum 10 cm, measured from the cuticle to the free edge.
- Shape: free choice; an extreme shape is recommended (not mandatory), however greater architectural complexity is scored higher.
- Materials: the entire nail (structure, shape, colour, and design) must be created exclusively using professional nail materials (acrylic, UV/LED gel, acrygel, gel paints, acrylic paints, pigments, foils, etc.).
- Decorations: only decorations intended for the nail industry are permitted (e.g. crystals, striping tape, foils) and must be meaningfully integrated into the design; handcrafted elements are scored higher than purchased decorations.
- Moulds: permitted; however, hand-shaped elements are scored higher than elements created using moulds.
- Structure: correctly built apex, even C-curve, symmetry, and clean cuticle transitions; the surface must be smooth, without dents, scratches, or irregularities.
- Stability: all elements must be securely attached.
- Theme: the motif, colour palette, and overall composition must clearly and unmistakably express Saint Valentine (the theme must be recognisable at first glance).

EXECUTION (ONLINE)

Photographs (on a solid white or black background, without filters or retouching):

- 1× top view (entire nail),
- 1× front view (barrel view),
- 1× side profile – left and 1× side profile – right,
- 1× bottom view (architecture, C-curve),
- 1× photograph with a measuring tool (ruler/measuring tape placed next to the nail; the length of ≥ 10 cm must be clearly visible).

Process: it is mandatory to submit 3 process photographs showing different stages of work (e.g. construction, shaping/painting, application of decorative elements).

Presentation: the nail must be photographed as a standalone piece (on a finger – natural or artificial holder), without props or backgrounds that could distract attention.

Submission must be completed within the deadline specified on the website [Tekmovalne kategorije | Slovenails Championship](https://www.tekmovalne-kategorije.si/slovenails-championship)

Missing required angles or process photographs will result in a point deduction. Late submission results in disqualification from the category.

PROHIBITIONS

- **Inappropriate materials:** textiles, wood, metal, plastic, and other non-nail materials are not permitted as structural elements (with the exception of standard nail decorations intended for nail art use).
- **Digital manipulation:** filters, AI-generated content, photomontages, or retouching that alter the real appearance of the work are strictly prohibited.
- **Insufficient length:** a nail shorter than **10 cm**, or a submission without valid proof of length (photograph with a measuring tool), will be considered an **invalid entry**.

JUDGING

Judges will evaluate the work according to the official score sheet, based on the following criteria:

- **Architecture and structure:** apex placement, C-curve, symmetry, clean cuticle transitions, and surface smoothness.
- **Technical execution:** precision of filing and shaping, absence of errors, residue, or excess material.
- **Creativity and originality:** conceptual freshness, composition, and an original interpretation of the theme.
- **Execution of elements:** hand-sculpted elements (without molds) and finely finished details are scored higher; the use of molds results in a lower score within this criterion.
- **Aesthetic harmony:** colour balance, proportion between construction and decoration, and an overall professional appearance.
- **Theme – Valentine's Day:** the theme must be clearly and immediately recognizable at first glance within the overall composition.

Failure to meet the required length ($\geq 10 \text{ cm}$) or to submit the mandatory photograph with a measuring tool is considered a **serious violation** and will be sanctioned in accordance with **Section IV (Sanctions)**.

7. MIX MEDIA – 10 Tips (Theme: Saint Valentine + Valentine's Day)

TASK

The competitor must use ten (10) artificial tips of a classic large square shape characteristic of this category.

The tips must be arranged by size, with each size used twice (2x0, 2x1, 2x2, 2x3, 2x4) and placed in the following order:

4–3–2–1–0–0–1–2–3–4.

On the 10 tips (same dimensions/formats as used in the *Flat Tip Box* category), the competitor must create a mix media nail art set, using a minimum of five (5) different nail art techniques.

The final set must be coherent and clearly reflect the theme Valentine's Day and Saint Valentine.

REQUIREMENTS

- Number and type of tips: As specified under *Task*.
- Minimum number of techniques: At least five (5) different techniques are mandatory; each technique must be clearly recognizable.
- Examples of techniques (not limited to this list):
hand painting, one stroke, airbrush, stamping, 3D gel/plasteline, 3D acrylic, watercolor, foils/transfers, pigments/chrome, ombre/baby boomer (flat), line art.
- Technique visibility: A minimum of five techniques must be clearly identifiable across the entire set (techniques may be repeated on multiple tips).
- Materials: Only professional nail materials may be used (UV/LED gel, acrygel, gel/acrylic paints, pigments, foils, stamping polishes).
- Coherence: The set must be colour-coordinated and conceptually consistent, fully aligned with the theme Valentine's Day.
- Quality of execution: Clean lines, even application without smudging, smooth and uniform gradients, neat and clean tip edges; all elements must be securely attached.
- Presentation: The 10 tips must be displayed in a single horizontal line, with equal spacing and aligned tips (free edges in the same axis).

PROHIBITIONS

- Fewer than 5 techniques: Failure to meet the minimum requirement of five (5) different techniques results in an invalid submission (disqualification from the category).
- Non-nail materials: Textiles, metal, wood, plastic, or similar materials are not permitted as exposed or raw elements. They are allowed only if fully covered or constructed with nail materials, thereby becoming an integral part of the nail structure or decoration.

- Digital manipulation: Filters, AI-generated content, photomontage, or retouching that alters the real appearance of the work are strictly prohibited.
- Improper presentation: Jewelry, props, distracting backgrounds, or boxes that draw attention away from the nail set are not permitted in the photographs.

EXECUTION (ONLINE)

Photographs (on a solid white or black background, without filters or retouching):

- 1× full set – top view (all 10 tips aligned in a straight line),
- 2× macro detail shots – different segments of the set, clearly showing the techniques,
- 1× side/profile view – showing stability, attachments, and thickness/layers.

Process:

It is mandatory to include three (3) process photos, showing different stages of the work (e.g. base preparation, execution of individual techniques, final result).

Submission:

Submission must be completed within the deadline specified on the website [Tekmovalne kategorije | Slovenails Championship](http://Tekmovalne-kategorije | Slovenails Championship)

Missing any of the required photographs or process images results in a point deduction. Late submission results in disqualification from the category.

JUDGING

Judges will evaluate the work according to the official scoring sheet, based on the following criteria:

- Number and recognisability of techniques: A minimum of five (5) clearly recognisable techniques is required; each technique must be distinctly defined and visibly identifiable.
- Technical excellence: Precision of execution, even application of materials, clean and well-finished edges, smooth transitions, and proper material control.
- Integration of techniques: Logical and harmonious combination and transition between techniques; balanced use of flat and dimensional elements.
- Aesthetic harmony: Colour harmony, overall composition, and a professional final appearance.
- Theme: A clear and consistent interpretation of the theme *Saint Valentine / Valentine's Day* across the entire set.
- Cleanliness and presentation: No dust, stains, or visible adhesive residue; correct alignment and even spacing of the tips in the photographs.

Failure to meet the minimum requirement of five (5) techniques is considered a serious violation and will be sanctioned in accordance with Section IV (Sanctions).

8. OUT OF THE NAIL BOX: ART ON ANYTHING – Object of Choice (Theme: Saint Valentine)

TASK

The competitor selects one (1) object of their choice (e.g. phone case, pocket mirror, box, glass, etc.) and decorates it exclusively using nail materials, in accordance with the theme Saint Valentine.

The final piece must be aesthetically harmonious, technically refined, and stable, meaning that all elements are securely and permanently attached and do not move, loosen, or fall off during normal handling.

REQUIREMENTS

There are no creative limitations in this category. All techniques, styles, nail materials, and creative approaches are permitted.

The competitor has full creative freedom, with evaluation focused primarily on originality, aesthetic harmony, and technical excellence.

The only mandatory requirements are that the final piece is created exclusively using nail materials and that all elements are securely and permanently fixed.

PROHIBITIONS

Digital manipulation is strictly prohibited: the use of filters, AI-generated content, photomontage, or retouching that alters the real appearance of the work is not allowed.

EXECUTION (ONLINE)

Photographs (on a plain white or black background, without filters or retouching):

- 1× full view of the object – top or front view (the complete design must be clearly visible),
- 2× side/profile views (left and right),
- 1× detailed macro photograph of decorative elements (showing quality of execution and attachment).

1. Process:
Three (3) process photographs are mandatory, showing different stages of work (e.g. surface preparation, creation of 3D elements, final attachment).
2. Presentation:
No props or distracting backgrounds are allowed. The object must stand or be supported neutrally (invisible supports are permitted).

3. Submission:

Submission must be completed within the deadline specified on the website
[Tekmovalne kategorije | Slovenails Championship](#)

4. Missing any of the required photographs or process images results in a point deduction.

Late submission results in disqualification from the category.

JUDGING

The judges will assess the work according to the official scoring sheet, based on the following criteria:

- **Technical execution:** clean transitions, no visible glue residue, refined finishing, and full control of materials.
- **Quality of handcrafted elements:** precision, symmetry, level of detail, and complexity (handcrafted elements are valued higher).
- **Aesthetics and composition:** balance, colour harmony, and a professional overall visual impression.
- **Theme:** a clear and consistent interpretation of *St. Valentine*.
- **Presentation cleanliness:** no dust or smudges; correct photography and required viewing angles.

9. STAMPING – 5 Tips (Theme: Valentine's Day)

TASK

Five (5) artificial nail tips must be used, all of the same shape and either the same size or sizes ranging from 1–5.

The shape is chosen freely by the competitor.

The length of each tip must be between 3 cm and 6 cm.

All decoration must be executed exclusively using the stamping technique.

REQUIREMENTS

Number and type:

- Exactly five (5) tips.
- All tips must be of the same shape and equal length, or sizes 1–5 may be used.
- Minimum length: 3 cm.
- Extreme lengths and shapes are not part of this category.

Base:

- A cover base or coloured gel polish base is allowed.
- Application must be even, with no streaks or patchiness.

Decoration:

- Stamping only (design transferred from a stamping plate onto the tip).
The following are permitted:
 - Layered stamping (multiple stamped images on one tip),
 - Gradient stamping (multiple colours within one stamped image),
 - Reverse stamping only by colouring inside the stamped design on the stamper; no additional freehand painting outside the stamped lines is allowed.

Stamp quality:

- Prints must be clean, sharp, and well-defined, without smudging, gaps, breaks, or double images.

Aesthetics:

- The set must be colour-coordinated and visually cohesive.
- The theme Valentine's Day must be clearly and unmistakably expressed.

Finish:

- The surface must be smooth.
- Tip edges must be clean and even.
- Finished with either a gloss or matte top coat, used consistently across the entire set.

PROHIBITIONS

- Other techniques: freehand painting, 3D elements, glitter, foils, stickers, decals, sugar effects, relief gels, stencils, or embossing are strictly prohibited.
- Additional drawing: hand painting on or over stamped designs is prohibited (the only exception is reverse stamping done on the stamper within the stamped design).
- Non-nail materials or additions that create texture or relief are not allowed.
- Digital manipulation: filters, AI-generated elements, photo montages, or retouching that alter the real appearance of the work are strictly prohibited.

EXECUTION (ONLINE)

Photographs

(All photographs must be taken on a solid white or black background, without filters or retouching):

- 1× full set of 5 tips – aligned horizontally, with equal spacing and tips positioned on the same axis,
- 2× macro detail shots of the stamped designs (different segments of the set; clarity and line sharpness must be visible),
- 1× side/profile view (to confirm surface smoothness and absence of texture or relief).

Process:

Submission of three (3) process photos is mandatory, for example:

- stamping plate selection,
- application of polish onto the stamping plate and pickup with the stamper,
- transfer of the stamped design onto the tip.

Submission:

Submission must be completed within the deadline specified on the website [Tekmovalne kategorije | Slovenails Championship](http://Tekmovalne-kategorije | Slovenails Championship)

Missing any of the required photographs or process images results in point deduction.

Late submission results in disqualification from the category.

Presentation:

No props or boxes are allowed.

Neutral tip holders are permitted.

JUDGING

Judges evaluate according to the official scoring sheet, based on the following criteria:

- Stamp quality: sharpness, clarity, full motif transfer, absence of smudging, skips, or double shadows,
- Precision and consistency: uniformity across all tips (same shape, length, edges, and finish),
- Aesthetic harmony: colour balance, motif composition, and overall visual cohesion,
- Creativity within the stamping technique: effective layering, gradient stamping, and reverse stamping executed within the rules,
- Theme: clear and consistent interpretation of Valentine's Day,
- Cleanliness and presentation: no dust, stains, or colour residue on edges; correct alignment in photographs.

Any evidence of freehand painting on the tips (except reverse stamping performed on the stamper) or the use of prohibited techniques or materials is considered a serious violation and will be sanctioned in accordance with Section IV (Sanctions).

10. CARTOON TIPS – 1 Tip (Theme: Valentine's Day)

TASK

The competitor must create one (1) artificial nail tip, featuring one (1) or two (2) characters hand-painted in a cartoon style, based on the Valentine's Day theme. The focus is on clean line work, even colour filling, and professional presentation.

REQUIREMENTS

- Quantity and size:
 - 1 artificial nail tip, length 3–6 cm,
 - Shape is the competitor's choice.
- Technique:
 - Hand painting only, using nail industry materials:
 - gel paints / painting gels,
 - acrylic paints,
 - gel polish (for base and colour areas only).
- Colours and style:
 - Colour palette is free,
 - The style must be consistent and clearly cartoon-inspired,
 - The Valentine's Day theme must be immediately recognisable through the motif, colours, or character accessories.
- Quality of execution:
 - lines must be sharp, clean, and uninterrupted,
 - colour areas must be fully opaque, without streaks or bleeding beyond outlines,
 - highlights and shading must be clean and well controlled,
 - tip edges must be neat and even,
 - final finish (gloss or matte) must be consistent across the entire design.

PROHIBITIONS

- 3D / relief:
 - All 3D elements are strictly prohibited (acrylic or gel figures, sugar effect, caviar beads, etc.).
- Decorative shortcuts:
 - Glitter, foils, stickers, decals, stamping, or any pre-made decorative elements are not allowed.
 - All graphics must be entirely hand-painted.
- Non-nail materials:

- Textiles, metal, plastic, or other non-nail materials may not be used as decoration.
- Digital manipulation:
 - Filters, AI-generated elements, photomontage, or retouching that alters the real appearance of the work are strictly prohibited.

EXECUTION (ONLINE)

Photographs (on a solid white or neutral background, no filters or retouching). You must submit exactly 3 photographs:

- Full tips set, top view (composition and theme).
- Macro detail of the face or key lines (line work quality).
- Profile or side view (surface smoothness, no relief).

Process:

You must attach 3 process photographs showing different stages: sketch or outline, color fill, final lines or finishing.

Presentation:

The tips may be placed on a neutral holder. No props or backgrounds that distract attention.

Submission:

Submission must be completed within the deadline specified on the website [Tekmovalne kategorije | Slovenails Championship](http://Tekmovalne-kategorije | Slovenails Championship)

Missing any required photograph or process image results in point deductions. Missed deadline equals disqualification from the category.

JUDGING

Judges assess according to the official scoring system:

- Line precision: sharpness, consistency, brush control, no shaking or frayed edges.
- Color fill: full coverage, clean edges, no blotches or bleeding.
- Artistic consistency: cartoon style, correct proportions and stylization.
- If the character is original or from the public domain: recognizable design and coherent style.
- Theme: clear interpretation of Valentine's Day (motif, attributes, color palette).

- Aesthetic harmony: composition, balance of elements, professional finish (uniform gloss or matte).
- Cleanliness and presentation: no dust, stains, or paint marks on edges; correct angles and lighting.

Use of 3D or relief elements, or non hand-painted techniques such as stamping, decals, or stickers, is considered a serious violation and is penalized in accordance with Chapter IV (Sanctions).

11. BUSINESS CARD – Visual Presentation

(Hint: WHEN YOU ARE IN DOUBT – WEAR RED!)

The competitor prepares one (1) final visual card (“business card”) to present themselves as an artist. The card must include a photograph of nails as the main visual and the mandatory graphic elements (see Requirements). Hint: WHEN YOU ARE IN DOUBT – WEAR RED!

REQUIREMENTS

1. **Content elements**
 - 1.1. Competition name or logo: “Slovenails Championship 2026” or the official event logo. Sent after registration confirmation.
 - 1.2. Icons. Exactly three. Example: phone, Facebook, Instagram. You may choose any other three. Icons must be clearly readable. All data must be fictional. Example: Janez Novak.
 - 1.3. Nails must be the main focus of the business card and draw attention. The goal is to impress the viewer and encourage booking, contact, or further interest in your work.
2. **Theme**
 - 2.1. The color red must be clearly present on the nails, as a dominant color or a key accent.
 - 2.2. The full composition, including colors, typography, and background, must support the hint WHEN YOU ARE IN DOUBT – WEAR RED!
3. **Graphic design**
 - 3.1. Typography and placement of icons or logo on the photo are allowed.
 - 3.2. All text and icons must be obvious and readable. Ensure enough contrast. Do not cover key nail areas.
 - 3.3. Basic color correction of the whole photo is allowed, including brightness, contrast, and white balance. Nail retouching is not allowed. This includes removing flaws, reshaping, or digital surface smoothing.
4. **Photography**
 - 4.1. Focus must be on the nails. They must be sharp and free of distractions.
 - 4.2. Background is optional. This category is an exception to the standard white or

black background rule. The background must not distract from the nails or required elements.

5. Technical file parameters

5.1. One final card image. Color.

5.2. Aspect ratio is free. Horizontal or vertical. Quality recommendation: longest side at least 2000 px.

5.3. No material manufacturer watermarks. A signature or artist name and handles such as @instagram are allowed. They must not cover nails or required elements and must not be real.

6. Materials and execution

6.1. Nails must be created only with nail materials. Examples include gel polish, gel, acrylic, acrygel.

6.2. The card should express a professional style and the competitor's personal identity.

PROHIBITIONS

- **Identifiable person**

A fully visible face or any other clearly identifiable personal features are **strictly prohibited**.

- **Nail retouching**

Any digital alteration of the nail structure, including removing imperfections, reshaping, or digitally smoothing the nail surface, is **strictly prohibited**.

- **AI / photo manipulation**

The use of generative AI, composite images, filters, or any digital manipulation that alters the real appearance of the nails is **strictly prohibited**.

- **Branding and logos**

Additional brand logos (materials, salons, sponsors) are **not allowed** on the final business card.

Only the **official competition logo** and **icons with fictional contact details** are permitted.

- **Theme violation**

The absence of the colour red on the nails, or a clear mismatch with the theme **WHEN YOU ARE IN DOUBT – WEAR RED!**, will result in a **point deduction**.

Violations related to **recognisable persons**, **nail retouching**, **AI or composite editing**, or **use of licensed imagery** are considered **serious breaches** and will be sanctioned in accordance with **Section IV (Sanctions)**.

EXECUTION (ONLINE)

Final Submission

- **1x final business card image**
(in accordance with Requirements 5.1–5.3)

Process Documentation (mandatory – 3 photos)

- **Nail preparation**
(base application / shape / colour)
- **Mid-process stage**
(details, composition)
- **Placement of graphic elements**
(icons / logo / text)
or alternatively:
“**Before & After**” – a photo of the nails before graphic elements + the final business card image

Submission Deadline

Submission must be completed within the deadline specified on the website [Tekmovalne kategorije | Slovenails Championship](#)

- Missing any of the required final or process photos will result in a **point deduction**.
- **Late submission = disqualification from the category.**

JUDGING

- Judges will evaluate the work according to the official scoring sheet based on the following criteria:
- **Nail dominance**
Clear focus on the nails, sharpness, clean execution
(no product residue on the cuticle, smooth surface).
- **Theme interpretation**
A convincing and clear interpretation of
WHEN YOU ARE IN DOUBT – WEAR RED!,
with red visibly present on the nails.
- **Graphic composition**
Layout, typography, information hierarchy, and legibility of all required elements.
- **Aesthetic coherence**
Colour harmony between the nails, background, and graphic elements, with a professional overall impression.
- **Originality / personal style**
A recognizable artistic identity, expressed without violating any rules.
- **Execution cleanliness**
No digital artefacts, distracting elements, or violations of the prohibited practices.

- Any violations related to **identifiable persons, nail retouching, AI/photo manipulation, or licensed characters** are considered **serious violations** and will be sanctioned in accordance with **Section IV (Sanctions)**.

III. JUDGING (ONLINE)

1. Judging Panel

1.1. Judging is carried out by independent professional judges from abroad, appointed by the organizer.

1.2. Judges act impartially; any communication with competitors regarding submitted works during or after the judging process is strictly prohibited.

1.3. A judge who identifies a conflict of interest must recuse themselves from judging the relevant entry.

1.4. The decision of the judging panel is final. Re-evaluation or modification of results is not possible.

(The structure is aligned with the LIVE competition rules.)

2. Judging Method

2.1. Each category is judged according to the official scoring sheet with clearly defined criteria

(e.g. technique, precision, aesthetics, theme, etc.).

2.2. Each criterion is scored on a standardized scale; the final score is the sum of all judges' points.

2.3. Category-specific requirements

(required viewing angles, process photos, file formats, prohibitions)

are an integral part of the judging process; violations result in point deductions or invalid submissions.

2.4. Mandatory length and measurement requirements (where specified) are verified based on a photo including a measuring tool.

If the measurement is not clearly visible, the submission is considered invalid.

2.5. In the event of a tie, the higher total score in **Technical Execution** determines the ranking.

If a tie still remains, the **Aesthetic Coherence** score is decisive.

(This judging method is aligned with international practice and the LIVE rules structure.)

3. Score Sheets and Publication of Results

3.1. Results of the online categories will be publicly announced during the event (**14–15 February 2026**) and published on the official channels of the organizer (within **14 days**).

3.2. Each competitor will receive their official score sheet by email to the address provided in the application, within **14 days** after the announcement of results. (The timeframe is aligned with international competition standards.)

IV. SANCTIONS (ONLINE)

Sanctions apply uniformly to all online categories. Where a specific sanction is defined for an individual category, it takes precedence.

1. Classes of violations

- 1.1. Minor violations. Result in point deductions.
- 1.2. Major violations. Result in higher point deductions or an invalid submission.
- 1.3. Severe violations. Result in immediate disqualification from the category, and if required, from the entire competition.

2. Minor violations. Point deduction of 1 to 5 points per item

- 2.1. Minor impurities such as dust traces or micro stains which do not affect readability of the work.
- 2.2. Uneven gloss or matte finish on small areas.
- 2.3. Slight misalignment of spacing or minimal deviations in tip alignment within a line or box.
- 2.4. Incomplete photo sharpness in detail shots, while the subject remains recognizable.

3. Major violations

- A. Point deductions of 5 to 15 points, at judges' discretion with justification
- 3.1. Uneven lengths or shapes in sets where uniformity is required.
- 3.2. Theme present but weak or poorly integrated into the overall concept.
- 3.3. Incorrect number of decorated nails where specified, for example more or fewer than four in the Gel Polish Challenge.
- 3.4. Visible transitions or traces of glue or material which compromise technical execution.
- 3.5. Poor readability of required views such as barrel view, even if submitted.

4. Invalid submission. No judging. 0 points in the category

- 4.1. Missing mandatory photographs, final views or three process photos.
- 4.2. Non compliant background. Non white background or background with props, except where explicitly allowed in the category.
- 4.3.. Photograph without a measuring tool in categories where measurement is mandatory, for example One Nail in Focus at least 10 cm.

- 4.5.. Non compliance with required layout, for example Flat Tip Box with broken symmetrical pair mirroring.
- 4.6.. Incorrect submission format, such as collages, frames, or brand watermarks.

4. **Severe violations. Disqualification from the category**

- 4.1. Prohibited materials or techniques, for example 3D in Stamping, purchased decorations in Bling Bling, 3D or glitter in Flat Tip Box, paint on French where explicitly forbidden, dual forms or tips where not allowed.
- 4.2. AI use, filters, photomontage, or retouching which alters the real appearance of the work.
- 4.3. Failure to comply with mandatory lengths in categories with strictly defined measurements, for example:
 - 5 Shapes. Minimum 5.0 cm per nail.
 - Reverse French Salon Almond. 3.0 cm per nail.
 - One Nail in Focus. At least 10.0 cm with photographic proof.
- 4.5. Late submission after the official deadline.
- 4.6. False representation. Plagiarism, use of another person's work, reuse of previously published or competition work.

5. **Violation procedure**

- 5.1. Violations are identified by a judge or technical control. The decision is recorded in the official report.
- 5.2. The competitor receives email notification stating the reason for deduction, invalidation, or disqualification.
- 5.3. Appeals are not allowed. Judges' decisions are final.

V. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONLINE SUBMISSIONS

These recommendations do not replace or modify the official rules.
They are intended to improve clarity, presentation, and overall submission quality.

1. Photography

- 1.1. Background:** Clean white background (#FFFFFF), without texture or shadows.
- 1.2. Lighting:** Soft, even lighting (two light sources at approximately 45°); avoid harsh reflections.
- 1.3. Sharpness:** Manual focus on key technical areas (smile line, apex, structure); disable all beauty filters.
- 1.4. Framing:** Do not crop nails or tips; ensure a straight horizon (tips aligned on the same axis).
- 1.5. Colour accuracy:** When editing images, adjust white balance (WB) correctly to avoid oversaturated or distorted red tones.

2. Measurements and Proof

- 2.1.** For categories with mandatory measurements, use a ruler (preferably a flexible/seamstress ruler); measurement markings must be clearly readable in the photograph.
- 2.2.** Place the measuring tool parallel to the nail axis; measure from the cuticle area to the free edge.

3. File Preparation

- 3.1.** When competing in multiple categories, competitors must create a separate folder for each category, named with the category title and the competitor's full name (e.g. 5 SHAPES – TEA SMRDEL), containing all required images for that category.
- 3.2.** Recommended file naming format:
Category_LastNameFirstName_01.jpg ... 06.jpg
- 3.3.** Collages are not permitted. Each required image must be submitted as a separate file.
- 3.4.** Competitors are responsible for submitting high-quality photographs with clear details, correct lighting, and no blur. Poor image quality may negatively affect the final score.

4. Content and Compliance Check

- 4.1.** Verify that the number of tips, nails, or designs matches the specific category requirements.
- 4.2.** The theme (where applicable) must be clearly recognizable at first glance.
- 4.3.** Before submission, perform a self-check: lines, transitions, cleanliness, alignment, spacing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional Rules – Submission of Physical Works

For the following categories:

Flat Tip Box, Bling Bling, Mix Media, Out of the Nail Box: Art on Anything, Stamping, and Cartoon Tips,
competitors are required to send their final works by post to the official competition address:

Tea Smrdel
(Slovenails Championship)
Tržaška cesta 1, Hotel Kras
6230 Postojna
Slovenia

Competitors from **Croatia or Serbia** may also submit their works to designated addresses of our judges; these addresses will be published at a later date.

If shipping the work is not possible due to country restrictions, distance, or other objective reasons, competitors must notify the organizer in advance.

The organizer's goal is to **exhibit all received works during the competition**, allowing all participants and visitors to view them on-site.

For categories requiring postal submission, tips must be **securely fixed to a solid white base** and **safely packaged in a box** to prevent movement or damage during transport.

2. Selection of Tips

2.1. Flat Tip Box

- Ten (10) artificial nail tips must be used.
- Classic large square tips characteristic of this category must be used.
- The tips must be arranged by size, with each size used twice.
- The recommended size distribution is: 2×0, 2×1, 2×2, 2×3, 2×4, arranged in the following order:
4–3–2–1–0–0–1–2–3–4
- Purchase link (recommended):
<https://briljant.si/konice-sablone-in-lepila/1061-bele-ekstremno-dolge-konice-kvadrat-oblike-euro-fashion.html>

2.2. Mix Media

- Ten (10) artificial nail tips must be used.
- Classic large square tips characteristic of this category must be used.
- The tips must be arranged by size, with each size used twice.
- The recommended size distribution is: 2×0, 2×1, 2×2, 2×3, 2×4, arranged in the following order:
4–3–2–1–0–0–1–2–3–4
- Purchase link (recommended):
<https://briljant.si/konice-sablone-in-lepila/1061-bele-ekstremno-dolge-konice-kvadrat-oblike-euro-fashion.html>

2.3. Bling Bling

- Five (5) artificial nail tips must be used, either all in the same size or in sizes 1–5.
- All tips must be of the same shape.
- The shape is chosen freely by the competitor.
- Tip length must be between 3 cm and 6 cm.

2.4. Stamping

- Five (5) artificial nail tips must be used, either all in the same size or in sizes 1–5.
- All tips must be of the same shape.
- The shape is chosen freely by the competitor.
- Tip length must be between 3 cm and 6 cm.

2.5. Cartoon Tips

- One (1) artificial nail tip must be used.
- The shape is chosen freely by the competitor.
- Tip length must be between 3 cm and 6 cm.

Note

Artificial nail tips may be curved or flat; the competitor may choose the option that best suits their concept and supports their creative idea.

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