

## COMPETITION RULES

### Benelux Soak Off Polish competition 2017

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The Benelux Soak Off Polish competition is organized by Nail Design Magazine/Beauty Wellness Magazine) in co-operation with BESKO and IJV-IFAS.

The Benelux Soak Off Polish competition is held on **Sunday 8 October 2017** at the Estetika exposition in Brussels.

#### Assignment

The assignment for the Benelux Soak Off Polish competition 2017 is: apply a soak off gel or soak off gel polish (gel nail polish) in accordance with a professional system of your choice, of any brand of your choice. Participants are not allowed to use any traditional nail polish. The nails of one hand must be given a solid red colour. The nails of the other hand must be given a traditional French manicure, with white on the free edge and pink shades on the nail plate. Participants have 45 minutes to complete this assignment.

- The model enters with nails that are already manicured. The manicure must be given before the competition starts. This must be done at home, not at the competition floor.
- The nail is provided with a soak off gel, soak off gel polish or gel polish according to a professional system of your choice, of a brand of your choice. Participants are not allowed to use any traditional nail polish.
- The nails of one hand must be given a solid red colour.
- The nails of the other hand must be finished in a traditional French manicure style. Using white on the free edge and French (pink) shades on the nail plate. No glitter or shimmer, all colours must be free of pearl. Participants are not allowed to use any templates. A smile line may only be created through freehand drawing and delineating!
- Participants may use oil.
- The following products may not be used: nail polish top coat, lanoline, lotion, creams or products that speed up the drying time of the gel nail polish.

#### Entry

The entry fee for BESKO members or Nail Design Magazine / Beauty Wellness Magazine subscribers is € 35.00. All other participants pay an entry fee of € 70.00.

Participants can only enter the competition by registering on the website of Nail Design Magazine: [www.naildesign-magazine.nl](http://www.naildesign-magazine.nl). Participants receive an invoice after registration. The entry fee must be paid within 14 days after receipt of the invoice. If the entry fee is not paid in time, the participant risks being disqualified. The invoice must be paid even if the participant is disqualified. Participants have not officially entered the competition until payment has been received. Late payment may result in being placed on the reserve list. No refunds of competition fees are given in the event of cancellation of participation. Participants who are not able to participate must inform the competition management of this as soon as possible by sending an email to [info@naildesign-magazine.nl](mailto:info@naildesign-magazine.nl). The organization will then try to let someone on the reserve list take the place of the participant.

## **Participant**

This competition is open to all professionals in the beauty industry residing within the Benelux (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg).

Participants must show their ID before the start of the competition (driving license, passport or ID card).

International participants can enter the competition but cannot be awarded the title of Benelux Champion. A special cup is available (if there are at least 5 international participants) for international participants: Best International Participant.

## **Models**

The choice of model is very important. Models with spot free hands and beautiful long and straight nail beds are your best choice. All models must have natural nails. Nails may not be extended during the competition. It is therefore very important that the model has beautiful nails of equal length. Models must be over 18 years of age. Models must be able to show a valid ID if the competition management decides to verify their age.

The models' hands may not be recognizable. Models are not allowed to wear any rings, bracelets, watches or other jewellery. Tattoos and/or henna decorations on hands and/or arms are not allowed. Tattoos which can be camouflaged completely can be allowed, if controlled by the organisation. Tattoos on the arms are allowed up until the watch normally is. Participants must make sure that their model does not have any large moles, birthmarks, scars, etc. Long sleeves must be rolled up for the judges.

The hands of the model are checked before the competition. Please note that points are deducted for wounds on the hands or cuticles and injuries suffered during the competition!

Models who wish to use the restroom must be accompanied by the competition management. They are not allowed to leave the competition area by themselves.

## **Products & necessities**

Participants must bring with them all necessary electrical equipment. This includes for example UV/LED lamps, extension cords, adapters and table lights.

Participants may use any brand, provided that all products are clearly labelled.

If the judges are not sure if the participant has used a soak off product, they can decide to soak one or two of the nails.

If they find the participant is using a non-soak-off product, the participant is disqualified immediately.

## **Procedure**

Participants who enter this competition receive the competition rules in advance to ensure they have enough time to prepare themselves for the competition in the best possible way.

Participants must check in at the registration table at least half an hour before the competition starts. Worktables are assigned to the participants and models, in order of registration. The models' nails are checked before the competition to ensure no preliminary work has been done. If the floor judges find out work has been done on the nails before the start of the competition, participant and model are disqualified.

At the start of the competition, each model receives a wristband showing the registration number.

Participants have 45 minutes to complete their work during this competition. After that time, participants are asked to leave the competition area. Participants who start working before the competition starts or keep on working after the competition has ended, are disqualified.

The models are accompanied to the waiting area and judging booths and must stay there until the judges have finished. The models may only leave this area after having received permission from the competition management - under certain conditions and if necessary under supervision. All models **MUST** stay in this area until all models have been judged. Some of the models may be called back by the judges so they can have another look. Models who do not observe these rules are disqualified.

### **Divisions**

The Benelux Soak Off Championship two divisions<sup>1</sup>: **beginners & advanced**. The participant must therefore consider enrolling in the right division. This is at logon before the start of the competition still controlled by the organisation. The organization reserves where necessary to place the participants in another category, even on the competitionday itself.

#### **Beginners division Soak off**

- You have previously taken a Soak Off competition but did not achieve a podium place (1, 2 or 3).
- You have previously taken the Benelux Soak Off competition but did not achieve place 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.
- You never taken a Soak Off competition before.

#### **Advanced division Soak off**

- You have previously taken a Soak Off competition and achieved a podium place (1, 2 or 3)
- You have previously taken the Benelux Soak Off competition and achieved place 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.
- You've never taken a Soak Off competition but would like to participate in the advanced division, because you think you belong there.

### **End of the competition**

When the competition management signals the end of the competition, participants must stop working immediately. Participants who do not stop working are disqualified. Participants are requested to take their belongings and leave the competition area.

Models are accompanied to the judges. Participants are not allowed to join them. Next, the models are called in one by one to enter the judging booths.

Models are requested to speak as little as possible during the assessment of the judges to ensure they can concentrate on their work.

Make sure the wristband showing the registration number is clearly visible for the judges.

Models may only leave the judging area if the competition management has given their approval.

### **The panel of judges**

The panel of judges is made up of 3 to 5 national and international expert judges from the industry. One of them serves as an independent chairman or woman and sees to it that all procedures are observed. He or she also supervises the expert judges from the industry. The panel of judges is not present in the competition area during the competition itself, but gets a special 'judging training'. Each judge is assigned certain criteria by lot and will only be looking at these criteria when performing their judging task. In the event of a tie, the chairman or woman has the final vote. Participants are not judged by the way they work. Only the end result counts.

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<sup>1</sup> If one of the divisions have less than 5 participants, both divisions will be merged.

### **Judging**

Participants are judged based on the registration number assigned to them before the competition. The panel of judges does not get to know any of the names of participants or models. The competition uses a blind judging system. This means that the judges only get to see the hands of the models and not the models themselves.

A 1-10 point judging system will be used – 1 being the lowest – 10 being flawless.

### **Prizes**

All participants receive a personalized certificate.

The winners (1st, 2nd and 3rd prize) receive an award. The competition also has a cup for international participants, if there are at least 5 international participants.

After the awards ceremony, the winners are requested to stay near the competition stand should anyone want to take photographs.

Participants can look into the judges' score forms after the awards ceremony.

### **Competition team of the year**

This competition is a part of the Benelux Competition team of the year. This means that points achieved by a team member of a competition team during this contest count towards the total score of that competition team

### **Other information**

- Once the competition has started, participants are not allowed to take anything from their nail kit bag or case. Everything must be on the table by then.
- During the competition, participants and models are not allowed to eat or smoke. Only non-alcoholic beverages are allowed.
- All photos and/or video recordings made by the organization and/or its staff shall remain the property of the organization and may be used in any way the organization deems appropriate. Models and/or participants are not compensated for the use of any such photos or footage.
- Mobile telephones are not allowed in the competition area.
- A large clock in the competition area indicates the time.
- Communication with people outside the competition area is not allowed during the competition.
- Before, during and after the match, participants, their models, coaches, etc. must treat the competition with respect. If this is not the case, this means disqualification from the relevant participant. This is for review to the competition organization.

Any cases or instances not covered by these rules and conditions are decided upon by the competition management and chairman of the panel of judges, if necessary in consultation with the judges. Their decision is binding. It is not possible to appeal against this decision.

Participants who pay the entry fee for this competition declare to agree with the content and scope of the competition rules and any other related conditions.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

### Soak Off Polish 2017

Item	Description	Maximum no. of points
1. Shape	The chosen nail shape must be consistent on all ten nails. The chosen nail shape must suit the hand.	10
2. Length	The length of the nail, measured from the cuticle to the free edge, must be the same on fingers of the same length (little finger and little finger, thumb and thumb, etc.). They must be in proportion to one another. The length must suit the hands of the model.	10
3. Smile line	The smile line must be consistent on all nails. No shadows are allowed and the end point must be sharp and clearly visible. The lowest point of the smile line must be at the centre. The end points of the smile line must be at the same height (parallel). The smile line may not be straight. Does the shape of the smile line suit the natural nail?	10
4. Pink / white application (French)	The white soak off polish covers the entire free edge of the nails, including the hairline (front of the free edge) and bottom side lines. The white is uniform and free from shadows. The pink soak off polish is uniform, free from stripes or shadows.	10
5. Red polish	All 5 nails of the hand that is polished red must be applied with polish in a consistent manner and with a maximum of 1 millimetre of free room in the cuticle area, <i>or</i> the polish must be applied up to the eponychium (higher level of difficulty). The hairline (front of the free edge) and bottom side lines must be polished as well. The polish must not show any stripes and polish on the skin is not allowed.	10
6. Cuticle area	The product must be applied as close to the cuticle and lateral side walls as possible, but is not allowed to touch the cuticle and side walls: there must be a free area between the two of max. 1 millimetre.	10
7. Surface	The entire surface of the nails must be uniform and flat. The surface should have no visible or palpable ledges, wrinkles or irregularities. The surface must have a high shine. No dull areas must be visible.	10
8. Product rests / small wounds	The hands must be free of filing dust and no traces of the product may be found anywhere on the skin. The same goes for excessive cuticle oil. The natural nail and surrounding tissue must be free of recent wounds. Product rests underneath the nails are not allowed.	10
9. Product control	The product must be applied in thin layers. The product must be free of irregularities, stripes and/or bubbles.	10
10. Overall impression	The soak off polish application is complete and does not need any improvement. Is this set salon material? Is this set worthy of the 'Benelux champion' title?	10
<b>Total score:</b>		<b>100</b>