



28th ANNUAL SKILLS MANITOBA NAIL TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATED CONTEST DESCRIPTION

April 9th 2026, RRC Polytech, 2055 Notre Dame Ave. North Gym

Purpose of the Challenge

The purpose of this challenge is to assess the competitor's ability to execute advanced freehand nail artistry while demonstrating mastery of fundamental techniques within defined parameters. By limiting tools and colors, the competition emphasizes essential skills such as color theory, brush control, precision, and creative interpretation. Competitors are expected to showcase adaptability and originality through two distinct design tasks, ensuring consistency and technical excellence across all nails.

In addition to artistic performance, this challenge evaluates professional standards, including sanitation practices, ethical conduct, appropriate dress, and positive attitude, respectful interaction with the model, proper posture, and overall technique. Application quality, finishing details, and the total visual presentation will contribute to the final assessment, reflecting both technical proficiency and professionalism in nail artistry.

Time	Event	Location
7:30-8:00	Check in and set-up	RRC Polytech, Notre Dame Campus, North Gym
8:00-8:30	Orientation (mandatory)	RRC Polytech, Notre Dame Campus, North Gym
8:30-2:00	Nail Technology Competition	RRC Polytech, Notre Dame Campus, North Gym
3:30-4:30	Medal Presentations and closing remarks	RRC Polytech, Notre Dame Campus, South Gym

Skills Manitoba hosts over 40 Olympic style, industry sponsored competitions representing six sectors. These six sectors contain three different levels, which include secondary, post-secondary, and integrated (secondary and post-secondary combined). For more information regarding programming please contact Lori Royal lorir@skillscanada.com. Skills Manitoba is open to the public. This is a great opportunity for our industry to be viewed as a valuable and interesting career option.

The Nail Technology Competition is only performed at the Provincial Level

Contest Description

Sculptured French White Gel Extensions with Nail Art

1. Sculptured French White Gel Extensions in a “Stiletto” shape, see reference pg. 8

Product application and placement of primer, white gel, builder, and topcoat. Competitor should place the form in the correct position to create strength, curvature, and balance of enhancement. Stiletto nails must be a minimum measurement of three on the aluminum form. The smile line should be even to the sidewalls with a crisp line. Application of building gel will be even, smooth and include the correct placement of apex on the nail plate. When filing the nail, competitor will not cause stress or trauma to the surrounding skin of the nail plate. Competitors may apply gel in the order they were trained, as long as the sequence is logical.

2. Free Hand Nail Art: Galaxy Inspired Nail Art

Left Hand:

Competitor will create a detailed, hand-painted nail art design that represents the galaxy. This design should incorporate elements such as stars, planets, and nebula-like effects to capture the depth and beauty of outer space. Competitors may use any medium of their choice—such as gel paints, acrylic paints, or specialized nail art pigments—to achieve vibrant colors and smooth gradients. The artwork must be applied to all five nails on the left hand, demonstrating creativity, precision, and consistency across the set. Attention to detail, color blending, and overall composition will be key factors in achieving a realistic and visually appealing galaxy theme.

Right Hand:

Competitor will interpret one of three designated nail art themes—snake, leopard or tiger a reference image provided for inspiration. The intent is not to replicate the reference exactly, but to draw creative influence from it. At the start of this portion of the competition, each competitor will randomly select one theme by drawing a paper slip from a concealed box. The chosen design must be incorporated across all five nails on the right hand, demonstrating originality, technical skill, and consistency in execution.

General Guidelines and Rationale:

Competitors are required to use primary colors (red, yellow and blue) along with black and white, as well as assorted sponges and brushes—including a dotting tool—to demonstrate mastery of fundamental painting techniques. Competitors may mix colors together to create a new color; however, not all colors are required to create the design. Limiting the palette ensures that judges can accurately assess the competitor’s ability to mix colors, create a transition of color by blending smoothly, and achieve visual harmony without relying on pre-made effects. The inclusion of basic tools such as sponges, brushes and dotting implements emphasizes precision, control, and creativity in freehand artistry. Attention to detail and, color blending, and overall composition will be key factors in achieving a realistic and visually appealing galaxy theme.

Prohibited Items and Purpose:

Decals (including striping), foils, stencils, stamps, corrector pens, and three-dimensional embellishments—such as glitter, gemstones, feathers, or similar materials—are strictly prohibited. These items can artificially enhance the design and detract from the evaluation of core skills, such as brushwork, line quality, and composition. By removing these shortcuts, the competition focuses on artistic ability, technical execution, and originality, ensuring a fair and skill-based assessment of each competitor's work.

General Competition Rules

- Mandatory orientation: **8:00–8:30 a.m.**; absence = disqualification
- Dress code: Professional black uniform, **no school logos** (see pg. 8)
- Any prohibited or unlisted products, equipment, or tools will be removed by the Provincial Technical Chair (PTC). For clarification on items not listed, contact the PTC before the competition date. No exceptions will be made on the day of the competition.
- Direct all questions to the PTC or designate
- No talking to anyone outside the contest area
- Restroom breaks only with PTC approval, escorts at their discretion
- Interpreters allowed only if pre-arranged with PTC
- Follow all safety rules
- Contest site access limited to authorized personnel
- Skills Manitoba may photograph and publish competitor images
- Minimum **five competitors per category**; fewer may result in re-evaluation
- Work begins only after official start time is announced

Competitor to supply following items:

All products must be professional, in original containers from manufacturer

- Manicure table (lamp permitted), chairs with backs, and a covered garbage can
- UV/LED lamp with 10 ft. power cord
- Nail cleaner, acetone, polish remover, alcohol, hand sanitizer, and surface disinfectants
- Implements to necessary for cuticle work
- Assorted files and buffer *E-files are prohibited
- UV/LED Bonding Agent, White Gel, Builder Gel, and Gel Topcoat
- Colored Gel: white, black, red, yellow and blue
- Brushes and nail art mediums for galaxy and animal print design
- PPE: appropriate footwear; facial mask and gloves to be worn during the nail extension section

Skills Manitoba to supply following items:

- Two power outlets per workstation, maximum
- Aluminum Foil Forms
- Orangewood sticks, Gibson towels and cleansing nail wipes

All large equipment may be brought into the competition area on April 8th, 2025, between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Once the competition has begun, no additional equipment or supplies may be brought into to assist the competitor.

Rules, Requirements, and Worksite Safety

It is the competitors responsibility to review the documents prior to competition and 7 days prior the competition.

Pre-Service Inspection:

To ensure compliance with competition standards, all models will be examined by a scrutineer prior to the start of each category. **No pre-preparation work is allowed** before the official start time.

Model Requirements:

All competitions will be performed on live models. Competitors are responsible for providing their own model, providing a snack and ensuring the model's comfort, safety, and overall well-being throughout the competition. Models must be dressed in black to maintain uniformity and professionalism.

Equipment and Supplies:

Competitors must bring all necessary tools and materials required to complete the assigned tasks. Sharing of equipment is not permitted to maintain hygiene and efficiency.

Nail Specifications:

Models' natural nails must not exceed the length of number one on the paper form. No mechanical tools or devices may be used to assist in sculptured gel application.

Design Restrictions:

For the nail art category, the use of decals (including striping), foils, stencils, stamps, nail pens, and any three-dimensional embellishments (such as glitter, gemstones, feathers, etc.) is strictly prohibited. Competitors may use a variety of brushes and dotting tools of their choice, along with the colored gel.

Safety and Professional Conduct:

Competitors must always demonstrate safe practices, including proper sanitation, ergonomic posture, and concern for the model's comfort. PPE is to be worn, facial mask and footwear (see pg. 8). Professionalism in dress, attitude, and behavior is mandatory.

Rule Enforcement:

Any violation of these rules will result in point deductions or disqualification at the discretion of PTC.

Post-Competition Protocol:

Competitors may not continue working on their model after the competition ends, except for cleaning and presentation. An additional five minutes will be allocated for post-service sanitation.

- Special accommodations available upon request to Skills Manitoba.

<p style="text-align: center;">Stiletto Gel Extension with French Gel 8:30-11:30</p>		
	TASK	SKILL CHECKLIST
	Professionalism Appearance	Clean professional uniform. Black, non-slip, closed-toe professional shoes with black socks. Hair tied back, away from face and off the collar. No jewelry. Nails short, manicured, and unpolished.
	Professionalism Judged throughout competition	Demonstrates respect, patience and a positive attitude throughout competition. Follows safety protocols to prevent harm to yourself or model.
15 min	Pre-service set up and model installation	Sanitize and prepare treatment area with all equipment, products, and tools for nail extensions, including gel polishes, brushes, etc. for nail art. Greet and seat the model.
	Manicure analysis is performed	Complete the consultation form with the model. Clearly explain the service to be performed.
5 min	Judges Checkpoint	
15 min	Nail Prep Dry Manicure performed	Files nails evenly into the correct shape. Ensures implements are clean and in good working condition. Loosens and removes cuticle gently and safely. Buff's nail surface to remove shine, then cleans with nail cleaner to eliminate debris.
5 min	Judges Checkpoint	
90 min	Sculpture Forms Placement of forms on free edge	Forms sit flush under the natural nail's free edge from front and side view, with no gaps. Pinch the form carefully to create an even arch.
	Applies primer	Apply primer thinly to the nail plate only and cure.
	Gel French Tip Product Placement	Maintains organized workstation throughout application. Applies French white gel on form to demonstrate brush control and the models the nail plate. Applies French white gel to at least the three line of the form. Containers are closed when not in use. Ensures French white gel has even pigment. Creates smile lines that are crisp, symmetrical, and consistent across all nails.
	Building Gel Product Placement	Maintains organized workstation throughout application. Applies builder gel to demonstrate brush control and model the nail plate. Containers are closed when not in use. Creates a balanced C-curve on the natural nail, keeping cuticle and free edge thin. Builds correct apex thickness and stress arch placement for the nail's length and shape.
5 min	Judges Checkpoint	

15 min	Product Refinement	Applies facial mask before filing. Uses file following the natural curves of the nail. Files all areas of the nail plate evenly. Avoids friction heat on the nail plate. Competitor does not use fingers to remove dust or have excessive dust on self or model. Prevents trauma to surrounding skin and cuticle.
	Finishing Work	Shapes nails uniformly into stiletto form. Ensures nail surface is smooth, free of etch marks. Maintains correct thickness and minimum length of three on the form. Free edges are smooth, balanced, and polished.
10 min	Sealant	Applies sealant evenly with full coverage, ensuring smooth application. Removes tacky layer to reveal a shiny finish without flooding sidewalls or cuticles.
10 min	Judges Checkpoint	
10 min	Client Exit Post Service Cleanup	Assist model to exit Workstation cleanup and sanitation

Lunch 11:30-12:00 Competitors will be provided lunch; models must bring their own snacks.

Galaxy Inspired Nail Art Left Hand and Animal Print Inspired Nail Art Right Hand 12:00-1:45		
	Professionalism Appearance	Clean professional uniform. Black, non-slip, closed-toe professional shoes with black socks. Hair tied back, away from face and off the collar. No jewelry. Nails short, manicured, and unpolished.
	Animal Print Design Selection	Competitors will choose one of three designs- snake, leopard or tiger
10 min	Pre-service and Nail Prep Model installation Both hands	Greet and seat the model. Buff nail plate to remove all traces of shine, removes all dust with cleanser. Does not have excessive dust on self or model.
30 min	Left Hand Galaxy Inspired Design Apply base coat to all five nails Apply artwork to all five nails	Gel base coat application does not flood sidewalls or cuticle. Reflects the design theme with clear art, identifiable and visually appealing. Precision and skill in application Clean lines and smooth application Complexity of the design and execution Design is evenly balanced across nails Effective use of color and/or combinations
10 min	Judges Checkpoint	
30 min	Right Hand Animal Print	

	Inspired Design Apply base coat to all five nails Apply artwork to all five nails	Gel base coat application does not flood sidewalls or cuticle. Reflects the design theme with clear art, identifiable and visually appealing. Precision and skill in application Clean lines and smooth application Complexity of the design and execution Design is evenly balanced across nails Effective use of color and/or combinations
10 min	Judges Checkpoint	
10 min	Client Exit Post Service Cleanup	Assist model to exit Workstation cleanup and sanitation
5 min	Judges Checkpoint	

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBER:

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Reference Page



Stiletto Shape



Uniform



Inspiration animal print for reference: snake, leopard and tiger.