



Junior Cake International Competition Schedule

6 - 8 November 2026
NEC, Birmingham

Competition Schedule & Rules

Event Dates: 6th – 8th November 2026

Location: Cake and Bake International Show, NEC Birmingham

Show Opening Times

- **Friday 6th November 2026:** 09:30 – 17:00
- **Saturday 7th November 2026:** 09:30 – 17:00
- **Sunday 8th November 2026:** 09:30 – 16:30

Welcome to the **Junior Cake at Cake International!** This is your chance to shine, show off your amazing skills, and have loads of fun while competing with other talented young cakers.

This document includes:

- **Rules and Regulations:**
Everything you need to know to keep your entry on track.
- **Competition Schedule:**
Details for each exciting category you can enter!

✅ **Important:** Make sure you read both sections carefully. Following the rules means your creation will be judged fairly and you'll avoid being marked '**Not To Schedule**' (NTS) — which means disqualification (and we don't want that!).

When we say '**exhibit**', we mean your masterpiece — your cake, your exhibit or any amazing creation you're entering.



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Rules & Regulations – Junior Competition

Please note: These rules may change after the schedule is released. Always check our website for the latest updates and subscribe to our newsletter so you don't miss anything!

General Rules and Information

- a) When you deliver your exhibit, you'll receive your competitor pass. This gives you free entry to Cake International for the whole show — exciting!
- b) Your exhibit must be your own genuine work, created without help from anyone else (unless the category says teamwork is allowed).
- c) No social media sneak peeks! Your exhibit must not appear on any social media platform before the results are announced on our website. It's your responsibility to make sure this rule is followed.
- d) Your exhibit must not be entered into any other competition — online or at shows — before judging takes place (including Cake International).
- e) If your exhibit is removed from the display area for any reason (such as complaints or if it's considered offensive), this is not the same as being disqualified. If judges award certificates or prize money, you will still receive them.
- f) Got questions? Email questions@ichf.co.uk before Friday 18th September 2026. After this date, we can't answer queries.
 - Questions should only be about the rules — we can't give advice on your design or which category to choose.
 - Please do not contact judges directly, including the Head Judge.
 - You can also ask questions in our official Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ciukrulesqueriesgroup>.

 **Tip for Juniors: Read these rules carefully so your amazing creation gets the attention it deserves!**



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Entry Process – How to Join the Fun!

- Complete an entry form for each cake at www.cakeinternational.co.uk.
- Entry fee: £12
- Closing date: 11th October 2026 at 16:00 (UK time)

✓ Important:

- There are no refunds and you cannot change categories after payment. Double-check you've picked the right category before confirming!
- If your cake is entered in the wrong category, it will be marked 'Not To Schedule' (NTS) and won't be judged.
- If you can't attend the show, your entry cannot be carried over to future events.
- If the show is cancelled (very unlikely!), you'll be able to transfer your entry to the next available show.

Delivering and Displaying Your Cake

- Bring your cake to Hall 9, Door 9.3 between 0645 and 0845 (UK time) on Friday 6th November 2026.
- If you're walking in, you can enter through the main entrance to Hall 10.

✓ Rules for Set-Up:

- Children under 16 are not allowed in the set-up area unless they are competitors.
- You can have one helper during set-up, but they'll need a ticket for the show.
- Late entries won't be accepted unless there's an exceptional reason.



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What Happens When You Arrive?

- Show your entry confirmation.
- You'll get:
 - A competitor badge (wear it at all times, even at Prize Giving!)
 - Three numbered labels for each cake — this is your unique reference number.
 - Stick one on your cake (visible to judges)
 - One underneath the cake board (for security)
 - One on the back of your badge

Setting Up Your Cake


- Unpack and make any repairs only at the prep tables in the registration area.
 - Do NOT unpack at the competition tables — it could damage other cakes!
 - Repairs must be done by you only, and you need to bring your own repair kit.
 - Place your cake on the competition table where your class and reference number are shown.
- ✓ **You may leave a short note (one side only) in front of your cake with:**
- Products used or your inspiration (just 1–2 sentences!)
 - Include your unique reference number, but do NOT include your name.
 - No business cards or names before judging. After results, you can leave cards — but no signs bigger than A5!
 - No products or packaging near your cake — they'll be removed.
 - Travelling boxes must be taken away after delivery (no storage on site).

Once your cake is on the table, you must leave the hall and come back through the public entrance when the show opens.



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 **Junior Tip: Plan ahead, pack carefully, and bring everything you need for quick repairs. This is your moment to shine — make your cake look amazing!**

Removing Your Exhibit

- You can collect your exhibit only after 16:30 (UK time) on Sunday 8th November 2026.
- Before the show closes, you'll be asked to leave the competition area so visitors can exit safely. Once the hall is clear, you'll be allowed back in to collect your cake.
- Please plan your travel carefully — you cannot remove your cake earlier than this time.
- Any exhibits left after 17:30 (UK time) will be removed and disposed of by the organisers.
- Children are not allowed in the hall during collection, unless they are competitors.

Judging and Results

1. Judging starts on Friday 6th November 2026 at 0900 - 1700.
2. Results and award cards will start appearing by your cakes on Saturday 7th November. If there are delays, this might take until the afternoon, but we aim to finish by the end of the day.
3. Results will also be online from around 14:00 (UK time) on Saturday at www.cakeinternational.co.uk.
4. Prize Giving is on Sunday 8th November at 14:00 (UK time) at the Cake International Theatre.

Important:

- Not every entry will receive an award.
 - Feedback sheets will be placed by your cake on Saturday, sealed with a sticker.
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Awards Criteria for Juniors

- Gold: 85–100
- Silver: 65–84
- Bronze: 50–64
- Merit: 40–49
- No Award: Below 39

🏆 Junior Best in Show: Trophy + £350

Certificates & Prizes

- Trophies and certificates for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will be presented at Prize Giving.
- Cash prizes must be collected and signed for at the Competition Office.
- Certificates will also be emailed to you within 28 days.

Photos & Sharing

- By entering, you agree that photos of your Exhibit may be taken and shared online or in future publications by Cake & Bake International.
- Visitors may also take photos, so be proud of your work!

Complaints & Appeals

- If you have a complaint, submit it via the official form
<https://www.cakeinternational.co.uk/cake-international-complaints-queries-form/>
or QR code by 20th November 2026, or email MelanieU@ichf.co.uk.
- Judges' decisions are final unless there's a calculation or rule error.
- Please allow up to 28 days for complaints to be processed.



Security & Conduct

- We'll take care of your cakes, but they are displayed at your own risk.



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- Be kind and respectful! Aggressive behaviour, bad language, or damaging another competitor's cake will not be tolerated.
- Breaking these rules could mean:
 - Removal from the show
 - A ban from future competitions

 **Junior Tip: Enjoy the experience, respect others, and celebrate your amazing skills!**

Competition Rules

(Read these along with your category schedule!)

These rules apply to all categories unless your schedule says otherwise. If your category allows dummies, the word “cake” means either your real cake or your dummy. No part of a dummy should be left uncovered!

1. Display Area

- Your whole display (including board and any notes) must fit within the space allowed in your schedule.
- Write your unique competitor number (given at registration) on any notes you leave.
- If there's a height limit, it's measured from the table up.

2. Boards and Bases

1. Your exhibit must sit on a proper board or stand — not directly on the table.
2. Cake cards alone aren't enough.
3. Measurements used within Cake International competitions:



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3. Materials Allowed

- Only edible mediums normally used in sugarcraft are allowed unless your schedule says otherwise.

4. Things You Cannot Use

- No artificial decorations, wires, plastic toppers, cold porcelain, photo printing, or lights (unless your category says you can).

5. Wires and Picks

- Bare wires are not allowed. All wires must be taped and inserted into a posy pick — never straight into the cake!

Head Judge's Tips

- Watch out for fingerprints, uneven icing and messy edges.
- Keep your work clean and neat!
- Your exhibit will be viewed from every angle — make the back look as good as the front.
- If your exhibit gets damaged on the way, you can ask for a “Damaged in Transit” card at registration.
- If you're unsure, ask a question rather than risk disqualification!

Imperial	=	Metric
6"	=	16cm
8"	=	20cm
9"	=	23cm
10"	=	26cm
12"	=	31cm
14"	=	36cm
16"	=	41cm
18"	=	46cm
24"	=	61cm

Junior Cake Disclaimer

- Sharp tools alert! Cake cutting uses sharp tools, so be careful.
- Parental supervision is a must — parents/guardians must help juniors stay safe.
- Cake & Bake International is not responsible for injuries at home or at the event.
- By entering, parents/guardians agree to these safety rules and take full responsibility.



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Categories

J1 – Modelling Single Model Free Style (9 years or younger)

Fun Rules for Your amazing Model!

1. **Your model needs a home!** 🏠 Put it on a board that's about as big as a small plate – **6 inches** (16 cm) – and make sure it looks nice and finished!
2. **No fake friends!** 🚫 Dummies (pretend cakes) are not allowed. Everything should be real and edible!
3. **Tiny details only!** 😊 You can use yummy stuff like modelling paste, flower paste, chocolate paste, or Rice Krispie Treats for small bits like ears, tails, or clothes. But only for little details – not the whole thing!
4. **Stay in your space on the table!** 📏 Your whole creation must fit in a square or circle that's **8 inches (20 cm)** across. No height limit – you can go tall like a tower! 🏰 But no noodles, pasta, corn silk, or fake decorations. Inside supports are okay!
5. **No real ribbons on your cake!** 🎀 Everything on the cake must be edible.
6. **Cover your board!** 🍫 Your cake board must be completely covered with something edible. You can put a ribbon around the edge (that's the only non-edible bit allowed) or cover the edges with edible stuff too!
7. **Follow the rules!** ✅ Make sure you stick to these rules and the competition rules so everyone plays fair!



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J2 – Junior Cake Challenge (Under 18)

J2 🍰 Junior Cake Challenge! 🍰

Are you under 18? This is YOUR time to shine! ✨

Create an **amazing sculpted or carved cake of your choice** – let your imagination go wild! 🍰 ✂️ 🍰

Make it fun, make it creative, and show off your amazing skills! 🍰 ✨

☑ Rules.

1. **Your cake needs a home!** 🏠 Put it on a neat board. You have a space of **14" x 14" (36 cm x 36 cm)** on the table – that's your magic zone!
2. **No fake cakes!** 🚫 Everything must be real – no dummies allowed!
3. **Cover it up nicely!** 😊 Your cake must be coated in **sugarpaste, royal icing, buttercream, or chocolate only.**
4. **No weird stuff!** ✖ No corn silk, noodles, or pasta on your cake. Inside supports are okay if they're food-safe!
5. **Keep it real!** 🌟 No artificial decorations and no non-edible ribbons on your cake.
6. **Make your board look yummy!** 💎 Cover the whole board with something edible. You can put a ribbon around the edge (that's the only non-edible bit allowed) or cover the edges with edible stuff too!
7. **Play fair!** ☑ Follow these rules and the competition rules so everyone has fun!



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J3 – Teen Wedding Cake Challenge (15–17 years)

Challenge! 🍰

This competition is **just for young people aged 15 to 17** – your time to shine! ✨

Show off your creativity, skills, and imagination. If you're in this age group, you're in the right place!



Ready to wow us? Here's your mission:

🕒 Create a stunning 2-tier wedding cake!

You can choose **any colour** – white, ivory, cream, or go bold with your own style! Just make sure everyone knows it's a wedding cake.

💎 Show off your creativity!

Use moulds, cutters, wafer paper, cake lace – whatever you love – and turn every day cake tools into something **extraordinary**. Think big, think stylish, think **catwalk-worthy cake**!

This is your chance to make a wedding cake that's **unique, innovative, and unforgettable**. Bring your ideas to life and let your imagination shine! ✨ 🍰

🍰 Teen Cake Challenge – Fun Rules! 🍰

Ready to make your wedding cake epic? Here's what you need to know:

1. **Fake cakes are okay!** ☑️ You can use dummies and dummy spacers – no stress!
2. **Cake stands & cool props? Yes please!** 🍰 Pillars and separators are allowed to make your cake look amazing.
3. **Strong and steady wins the day!** 🕒 Food safe Internal and external supports are totally fine to keep your tiers standing tall. Stick them in a posy pick for safety.
4. **Flowers with wires? No problem!** 🌸 Wired flowers and foliage can have wires, tape, stamens, and even polystyrene centres – just make sure they look natural and fit your design.



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5. **Tools of the trade!** ✂ Moulds, cutters, wafer paper, and cake lace are allowed – but don't go overboard. Keep it classy!
6. **Tiny helpers welcome!** 🍷 Cocktail sticks and bamboo skewers are okay for support stick them in a posy pick for safety.
7. **Show it off in style!** ✨ Your cake needs a fab base! If you use a cake board, cover it with something edible and make the edges look neat with edible stuff or ribbon. Presentation matters – messy boards lose points!
8. **Stay in your zone!** 📏 Your whole creation must fit in **18" x 18" (46 cm x 46 cm)**. No height limit – go as tall as you dare! 🏰
9. **Play fair!** ☒ Follow these rules and the competition rules so your masterpiece gets the spotlight it deserves!



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J4 – Junior Plaque Challenge (9–17)

🧠 J4 Junior Plaque Challenge – Your Edible Masterpiece! 🧠

(For creative stars aged 9 years up to 17!)

Get ready to create a **decorative plaque made entirely from yummy, edible stuff!** 🍰 🧁
Every single part – the back plate and all the decorations – must be **100% edible**. No cheats!

Think of your plaque as a **mini canvas for sugar art**:

- ✦ Add cool colours
- ✦ Try fancy piping
- ✦ Make tiny models
- ✦ Show off your creative flair!

This is your chance to **wow everyone with your skills** in a smaller, super-detailed design. Go wild with ideas and make it look amazing! 🌟

🧠 Junior Plaque Rules – Let's Make It Fun! 🧠

1. **Everything must be yummy!** 🍰

Your whole plaque – even the back – must be made from edible stuff. No sneaky cheats!

2. **Show off your skills!** ✦

You can use cool techniques like **airbrushing, painting, drawing, writing, piping**, and even making raised designs (relief work).

3. **Keep it slim!** 📏

Your plaque can't stick out more than **3 inches (8 cm)** from the base.

4. **Made by YOU!** 🧑🍳

Everything must be handcrafted – no moulds, no textured rolling pins, no texture mats. A plain rolling pin is okay!

5. **Stand tall!** ⌚

Your plaque must stand on its own so judges can pick it up and check both sides.



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6. **Make it look amazing!** ✨

Put your plaque on a nice base. If you use a cake board, cover it with something edible and make the edges neat with edible stuff or ribbon. Messy boards lose points! Or put it on an easel.

7. **Stay in your zone!** 📏

Your whole design (including the stand) must fit in a **10-inch (26 cm) square**. No height limit – go as tall as you want!

8. **Play fair!** ☑️

Follow these rules and the competition rules so your masterpiece gets the spotlight!



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🌸 J5 Teen Floral Challenge – Bloom Like a Pro! 🌸 (15–17 years)

Calling all creative teens aged **15 to 17** – this is YOUR chance to shine! 🌟

Your mission: **Create a gorgeous floral display with 3 flowers that look super real!** 🌟

But here's the twist:

🌱 Show the flowers in **different stages of life** – from a tiny bud to a full bloom and maybe even one that's starting to fade.

😊 Use your sugarcraft skills to make petals, leaves, and details that wow the judges!

Think of it as telling the **life story of a flower in edible art** – creative, colourful, and totally Instagram-worthy! 📸 ✨

🌸 Teen Floral Challenge – Fun Rules! 🌸

Ready to make sugar flowers that wow? Here's what you need to know:

1. **Four flowers, one story!** 🌸

Create **4 flowers of the same type**, showing different stages of life – from bud to full bloom – and don't forget the leaves!

2. **Keep it edible!** 🍰

All flowers and foliage must be made from **edible flower paste or wafer paper**.

3. **Hidden helpers allowed!** ☑️

You can use wires, tape, stamens, polystyrene centres, and natural threads (like cotton or silk) for stems and centres – but keep them subtle! No synthetic threads or feathers.

4. **No bling!** ✖️

No beads, diamantes, or sparkly extras – this is all about your sugar skills!



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5. **Show it off in style!** ✨

Display your flowers on a neat base. If you use a cake board, cover it with something edible and make the edges look tidy with edible stuff or ribbon. Messy boards lose points! Think of using a vase.

6. **Stay in your zone!** 📏

Your whole display must fit in a **12-inch (31 cm) square**. No height limit – go tall if you want!

7. **Name it!** 📇

Add a small card with the name of your flower and foliage in front of your display.

8. **Play fair!** ☑️

Follow these rules and the competition rules so your masterpiece gets the spotlight!