



## **Chance Foundation - We Are Together**

### **Regulations of the IDOL COMPETITION 2025**

#### **1. General provisions**

1.1. The Competition is organized by the Chance Foundation - We Are Together and adopts the name "IDOL Competition of the Chance Foundation - We Are Together.

1.2. The Competition adopts the abbreviated title of "IDOL COMPETITION".

1.3. Abbreviations used in the Regulations shall mean:

REHA - International Conference REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND;

Foundation - Chance Foundation - We Are Together;

Foundation Authorities - Members of the Foundation Board, Members of the Foundation Founders Council, Members of Foundation Council of Patrons, employees of the Foundation Central Office who have decided to actively participate in the organization of the REHA Conference and the IDOL COMPETITION, Regional Managers of the Foundation;

Competition Committee - persons appointed by the Foundation Authorities to organize the IDOL COMPETITION;

Criteria - criteria concerning the selection of IDOLs (individuals and legal entities);

Community - blind and partially sighted people and their relatives gathered around the Foundation, in particular those taking part in the IDOL COMPETITION;

1.4. The object of the IDOL COMPETITION is to obtain the title of the Foundation's IDOL, in particular the Foundation's Regional IDOL, National IDOL and World IDOL in a given year, as well as distinctions for people who did not become winners, but took second and third place in individual competitions.

1.5. The Competition is organized each time in the year in which the REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND Conference takes place.

REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND is:

- a year-round project carried out by the Foundation from January to December of a given year;
- Regional events organized in 16 regions of Poland, usually in the capital cities of these regions, consisting of two elements: substantive sessions called REHA Regional Conferences and integration picnics, aiming at the meeting of the community with the largest possible local community;
- multi-threaded, rehabilitation, international meeting of the community, organized during the final event (central REHA), which is a summary of the regional events. The event will include a meeting with representatives of the authorities, the awarding of prizes in the IDOL Competition, a substantive session, panel discussions, an exhibition entitled "The World of Touch and Sound," as well as numerous sports, cultural and educational shows and competitions;
- The IDOL competition itself;
- East-West, North-West Meeting, aiming to exchange experiences of the blind community from all over the world.

1.6. REHA can be organized as an onsite, online and hybrid event.

1.7. All titles, names, designs, etc. connected with the above mentioned Conference and the IDOL COMPETITION are reserved and belong to the Chance Foundation - We Are Together.

1.8. Winners of the IDOL COMPETITION will obtain the title of "IDOL of the Chance Foundation - We Are Together" and regardless of the category, can boast of this title for life. However, the year in which the title was awarded is associated with the title.

1.9. The full title of the COMPETITION and its abbreviated form, as well as the title "IDOL of Chance Foundation - We Are Together " cannot be used by anyone other than the Foundation and the winners themselves without the consent and authorization of the Foundation; they are protected by copyright (Act of 4 February 1994 on copyrights).

1.10. The persons nominating the candidates, the persons voting and the candidates themselves as well as the prizewinners are obliged to acquaint themselves with these Regulations and to follow the rules included therein.

1.11. The IDOL COMPETITION is initiated at the beginning of the calendar year and lasts until the time of the central REHA. The process of submitting candidates for Regional, national, and world honors and the process of selecting winners in each category is underway.

1.12. At the national and global level, the Winners of the Contest receive IDOLA statuettes or specially prepared tactile diplomas symbolizing this title, and the second and third place winners receive graphic diplomas.

## **2. The goals of the competition include:**

- Honoring persons, companies and institutions that have made the most outstanding contributions in the field of modern rehabilitation of the blind and visually impaired, i.e. rehabilitation, restoration of efficiency, fight against exclusion and integration with the use of the latest technical and methodological achievements;
- Restoring condition to these individuals;
- Opposing any exclusion of these individuals;
- Work for the social integration of the Community;
- Equalization of life chances of visually impaired persons;
- Emancipation of the Community;
- Promotion of the idea of missionary activity;
- Building a world open to the Community;
- Convincing people to treat contemporary problems as problems of all citizens;
- Promoting social commitment, positive examples of action and attitudes that foster the emancipation of the Community;
- Sharing positive experiences that influence integration within the community;
- Increasing in civil activity;
- Supporting the activities of NGO;
- Promoting the idea of full accessibility of the public space and all kinds of information;
- Increase in professional activity;
- Presence in the media;
- The best possible education.

### **3. Organization of the competition**

3.1. The Foundation authorities appoint the Competition Committee, and then its chairperson from among the Committee members.

3.2. The Committee announces the Competition and its particular stages.

3.3. Information about the initiation of the Competition, possibility to nominate candidates and the beginning of voting are available on the Foundation's website: Polish version - [www.fundacjaszansa.org](http://www.fundacjaszansa.org), the English version – [www.fundacjaszansa.org/en/](http://www.fundacjaszansa.org/en/), Foundation's profile on Facebook and in other sources of information to which the Foundation has access.

3.4. On the website [www.fundacjaszansa.org/en/](http://www.fundacjaszansa.org/en/) forms will be available to submit candidates and to vote for them. Competition Committee is responsible for promotion of the Competition before the Foundation's Authorities.

3.5. The Foundation's Central Office and the Committee are responsible for the promotion of the Competition before the Foundation's authorities.

3.6. Promotion of the Competition will be carried out in the country and abroad through the Internet and all contacts with the media.

3.7. The Competition Committee controls the course of the Competition, its compliance with these regulations, the correctness of the nomination of candidates and the selection of the winners.

3.8. Stages:

A. submitting candidates, verifying these submissions and determining the final voting lists;

B. voting and announcement of results;

- should be separated from each other

3.9. The IDOL COMPETITION is carried out in three stages: regional, national and, international.

3.10. The Competition Committee is obliged to take into account opinions about the candidates and winners of the voting. This applies to messages concerning opinions about the candidates and laureates.

3.11. The Competition Committee has the final, decisive vote on qualifying the candidates and selecting the winners of the IDOL COMPETITION.

3.12. The Competition Committee reviews the online voting results and the feedback received about the candidates to make the final decision on the winners. The selection of winners is not solely based on the votes. Unless there are any objections, the Competition Committee considers the voting results and the number of votes as the decisive factors in their decision.

3.13. Opinions about the candidates, reaching the Competition Committee, may or may not affect the competition results. They will have an impact if reported voting irregularities are confirmed, if there is a failure to adhere to the rules of this regulation, or if negative information about the Candidates is received.

3.14. The Committee prepares formal minutes of its meetings. These minutes are made available to the public. The Foundation's Central Office assists in preparing the minutes.

3.15. The Competition Committee is responsible for organizing the ceremonies of announcing the results and awarding the prizewinners; the organization of these events is assisted by:

A. in the Regional Competitions the regional offices of the Foundation,

B. in National and World Competitions the central office of the Foundation.

3.16. Outstanding blind people from all over the world, including Poland, can participate as candidates in the World Competition. Polish candidates are proposed by the Foundation's authorities, others by members of various organizations of the world. Candidates are verified by the Competition Committee, which is obliged to ensure that the candidates represent a high level in accordance with point 4.1 of these Regulations.

#### **4. Categories of the Competition**

4.1. SPECIAL IDOL - a person of merit for the emancipation of the Community, acting for its benefit personally or on behalf of the institution he/she represents, or an institution acting in such a manner.

Within the IDOL COMPETITION, the Authorities may announce special awards for activities for the benefit of the Community.

The selection of Special IDOLs is not governed by the regulations concerning other categories and is a sovereign decision of the Foundation's Authorities. Special idols are awarded with the IDOL statuette.

4.2. IDOL OF THE COMMUNITY - an outstanding blind or partially sighted person who is astonishing in his/her diligence, energy, ingenuity, achievements, or a sighted person who gives to the Community his/her outstanding abilities and time, who contributes to the emancipation of people with visual disabilities and who has a great influence on the situation of the Community.

4.3. IDOL IN THE MEDIA CATEGORY – a media representative (individual or legal entity) who broadcasts, produces, creates, or prepares materials such as films, broadcasts, programs, reports, articles, books, etc., in a way that makes them fully accessible to the visually impaired and/or whose materials discuss issues concerning the visually impaired community.

Winners of regional competitions receive graphic diplomas.

The national competition winner receives an IDOL statuette.

4.4. IDOL IN THE CATEGORY OF INSTITUTION OPEN TO THE BLIND – a legal entity as listed below:

- An office or office employee who understands the specifics and needs of the visually impaired community and organizes operations to make the office accessible to visually impaired individuals;
- An educational institution (school, university) or teacher, lecturer, trainer for whom teaching the blind and visually impaired is an important part of the educational process;
- An institution or company engaged in cultural, religious, economic, financial, sports, transport, recreational activities, etc., providing services to the general public so that visually impaired individuals can use them under the same conditions as other citizens.

Both the activities of the candidates and the facilities where they work and which are accessible to the public must be adapted to the needs of the visually impaired community.

Similarly, information, goods, collections, exhibits, etc., prepared for all recipients must be adapted to the needs of the visually impaired community.

Winners of regional competitions receive graphic diplomas.

The national competition winner receives a tactile diploma, and the second and third place winners receive graphic diplomas.

4.5. IDOL in the category COMPANY OF THE YEAR - a company present on the Polish market of solutions that eliminate the effects of visual impairments, whose activities were the most appreciated and won in the voting of Internet users.

The winner receives a tactile diploma, and the second and third place winners receive graphic diplomas.

4.6. IDOL IN THE CATEGORY OF PRODUCT OF THE YEAR – a product offered on the Polish market of solutions that eliminate the effects of visual impairments, which was the most appreciated and won in the vote of Internet users.

The winner receives a tactile diploma, and the second and third place winners receive graphic diplomas.

4.7. WORLD IDOL OF THE BLIND – an outstanding blind individual meeting the criteria outlined in points 4.1 and 4.2. The laureate is awarded the honorary title of WORLD IDOL OF THE BLIND.

The winner of the world competition receives a tactile diploma, a cash prize of \$500, and a tangible award in the form of a set of tactile drawings. The second and third place winners receive tactile diplomas and tangible awards in the form of sets of tactile drawings. The prizes for the winners will be established by the Foundation's authorities each year depending on the Foundation's financial situation.

## **5. Rules, concerning nominating candidates**

5.1. Anyone may nominate a Candidate in the categories in which this form is stated by these Regulations. Applications shall be made in accordance with the procedure

established by the Competition Committee and by the indicated deadline using the form posted on the Foundation's website [www.fundacjaszansa.org/en/](http://www.fundacjaszansa.org/en/).

5.2. The application of an individual shall include:

first and last name, academic title and place of work or social activity, a brief description of activities, both for the benefit of the Community and in other fields in which the candidate is successful (up to 800 characters) and Candidate's photo (Please, send any photos via email after expressing / obtaining the candidate's consent to participate in the COMPETITION).

5.3. Application of a legal entity should contain: name of institution, place of activity, short description of activities for the Community, list of achievements (up to 800 characters) and photo(s) related to the activities of the institution.

5.4. The person who was awarded with the title of the Idol of the World during the previous editions of the competition is not allowed to be a candidate again.

5.5. Candidates shall confirm their willingness to participate in the competition. Otherwise, they cannot be voted; confirmations should be sent to the following email address: [idol@chancefortheblind.org](mailto:idol@chancefortheblind.org).

5.6. Candidates in Regional Competitions are reviewed by the Foundation's Regional Offices, and in National and World Competitions by the Foundation's Central Office.

5.7. The Competition Committee verifies applications and approves lists of candidates in particular categories and regions. It also establishes the final list of candidates for national and world Competition.

5.8. Voting may begin after the list of candidates is closed and announced.

5.9. Incorrect votes, e.g. votes cast from a single IP address, by the same person multiple times and/or fake email address are rejected.

5.10. These regulations do not set the number of candidates, participating in the Regional Competitions, the National Competition and the World Competition.

5.11. The candidate, taking part in the World Competition shall perform a valuable work for the world Community of the blind and visually impaired.

5.12. The IDOL COMPETITION cannot serve as marketing promotion for the companies, running economic activities. That does not apply in the case of 4.5 and 4.6 sections of these regulations.

5.13. Candidate products in category 4.6 (PRODUCT OF THE YEAR) can be submitted by companies operating on the Polish market of products for the blind and visually impaired, but exhibitors present at the regional and national REHA exhibition receive an additional 10% of the votes actually received. Products present on the Polish market of products for the blind and visually impaired get an additional 10% of the votes actually cast for them.

5.14. Product submissions must be made prior to the National Conference by the deadline set by the Competition Committee through the application form posted on the Foundation website:

<https://fundacjaszansa.org/pl/co>

<https://fundacjaszansa.org/pl/co-robimy/konkurs-idol>

-robimy/konkurs-idol (for voting by Polish Internet users)

<https://fundacjaszansa.org/en/whom>

<https://fundacjaszansa.org/en/whom-we-help/idol-contest>

-we-help/idol-contest

5.15. In order to enable foreign entities to participate in the Competition, Foundation's authorities prepare forms in English. The Foundation's authorities try to arrange for further translations into other foreign languages to facilitate voting for the community around the world.

5.16. In the IDOL COMPETITION, in category 4.5 (COMPANY OF THE YEAR) the companies present on the Polish market of product for the blind and visually impaired can participate. Exhibitors present at the REHA regional exhibitions and at the national REHA exhibition get an additional 10% of votes actually received.

Voting will be implemented as for item 5.14.

## **6. Rules, concerning voting**

6.1. Candidates who receive the highest number of votes in the Internet voting (accepted by the Competition Committee) are honored with the title of Regional, National or World IDOL. Candidates who come second and third are awarded the title of Distinguished in the IDOL COMPETITION.

6.2. Voting takes place exclusively by means of online forms available on the above mentioned websites.

6.3. Voters shall choose from the Candidates on the lists of candidates approved and announced by the Competition Committee.

6.4. After each voting, the Committee shall meet and make final decisions as to the selection of Regional, national and world prizewinners.

6.5. The Committee shall make its decisions in an open voting.

6.6. The proceedings of the Committee shall be valid if all its members have been notified of the meeting and the voting, regardless of how many members eventually take part in the voting.

6.7. In case of a tie, the Chairperson of the Committee shall have the casting vote.

6.8. The Board and the Council of Founders of the Foundation may participate in the meeting of the Committee regardless of whether their members are members of the Committee. Their representatives, however, do not have the right to vote.

6.9. The chairperson of the Committee or a person authorized by this person signs the protocol of the voting - according to the particular stages of the Competition: before the Regional or national REHA and during the national REHA Conference, depending on the category.

6.10. The SPECIAL IDOL is proposed and selected by the Founders Council Members of the Foundation.

## **7. Results**

7.1. The results of the National and World Competition shall be announced at a ceremony during the central REHA.

7.2. The results of the Competition shall then be presented to the Community and the media to which the Foundation has access.

7.3. The results and selected IDOLEs are also presented in the post-conference bulletin of the Foundation, in the monthly HELP magazine, in other promotional and informational materials of the Foundation and on its websites.

## **8. Final Provisions**

8.1. Submitting candidates to the competition is possible only through the online application form available on the Foundation's website.

8.2. Candidates can be nominated by the Authorities, anyone interested in the competition, or the candidates themselves who wish to have their activities verified.

8.3. Submitting an application means accepting the present Regulations.

8.4. The Founders Council of the Foundation may allocate a special fund for prizes for the winners, when the economic situation of the Foundation allows it. In such a case, the Council will decide on the amount of the prizes and to whom they should be given.