

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 2024

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR GCC

Article 1. Applicability and Interpretation

1.1 The following words and expressions used in these Rules have the following meanings:

Application Form:	A completed application form (whether paper or online) in the form specified by the Organiser for entry of a Product to the Programme
Article:	any article in these Rules.
Deliverables:	survey results, reports, data, summaries, comments, discussions, and/or analysis provided by the Organizer to the Shortlisted Products.
Shortlisted Product(s):	as set out in Article 4.2.
Research Fee:	the amount set out in the Application Form as payable in respect of each Shortlisted Product.
License:	as defined in Article 5.1.
License Period:	as defined in Article 5.2
Trade Mark Guidelines:	The guidelines as to display of the Trade Marks published by the Organiser from time to time
Marketing Period:	The 24 (twenty-four) months period prior to the date of signature and acceptance of the application by the Organiser.
Organiser:	Product of the Year Middle East (DMCC Branch), Registered & Licensed as a Freezone Company under the Rules & Regulations of Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC), whose registered office is in DMCC Business Center, Level 1 Unit 1809, P.O. Box: 340505, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
Product or Products:	as defined in article 2.1.
Programme:	the marketing Programme operated by the Organiser known as the "Voted - Product of the Year" Programme as more fully described in these Rules.
Edition:	the year referred to in the title of a Programme (for example, the Edition for "Voted - Product of the Year 2024 will be 2024).
Researcher:	A reputable market research company or organisation engaged by the Organiser
Territory:	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain.
Trade Mark:	The name "Product of the Year" and the logos, devices and getup associated with it as shown in the Trade Mark Guidelines.
License Fee:	The amount set out in the Application Form as payable in respect of each Winning Product
Winning Product:	Product which is "Voted - Product of the Year" in a category.
You:	The person or company named on the Application Form. Yours will be interpreted accordingly.

- 1.2 These Rules apply to any application submitted by you to enter a Product into the Programme and by submitting an Application Form you agree to be legally bound by these Rules. No other terms or conditions, whether expressed or implied shall apply to your participation in the Programme. An agreement is entered between You and the Organiser on the basis of these Rules only when your completed Application Form is delivered to and accepted by the Organiser. The agreement will remain in force unless it is terminated in accordance with Article 8.10.
- 1.3 The Organiser reserves the right to change these Rules at his absolute discretion and the version attached to your application form and posted on the Organiser's website www.productoftheyearme.com will apply to Your participation in the Programme.
- 1.4 You acknowledge that by submitting a completed Application Form You commit yourself to these Rules, to the whole Programme and in particular to the payment of any fees that become due under Article 6. You undertake to pay these fees to the Organiser and You cannot, in any way whatsoever, withdraw from the Programme in the event that a Product of Yours is nominated as a Shortlisted Product or a Product of Yours is "Voted - Product of the Year".
- 1.5 When an agent submits an Application Form on behalf of another person, that agent will be personally responsible for performance of Your obligations under the Rules and the Organiser shall have no liability whatsoever towards You in this regard.

Article 2. Programme scope

- 2.1 The Programme is open to consumer goods products and products in the service sector. The scope, nature and other characteristics of Products to be included in the Programme is at the discretion of the Organiser.
- 2.2 The Programme is open, subject to these Rules and the discretion of the Organiser, to new Products or latest product modification (latest packaging/offering) first sold to consumers in any part of the Territory during the Marketing Period, but if You enter a Product into the Programme for one Edition and it is a Winning Product, you may not enter the same Product in the succeeding Edition unless you introduce an improvement to the same Product.
- 2.3 If a Winning Product is slightly modified during the same Edition, the use of the License for the remaining period of the Edition is allowed.
- 2.4 However, in case a Winning Product is improved during the same Edition, another improvement shall be introduced to the Product in order for it to be eligible to participate in the succeeding Edition.

Article 3. Application process and categorization

- 3.1 Completed Application Forms and full support materials must be sent by You or completed online at the latest by the close of entries prior to the date notified by the Organiser to: www.productoftheyearme.com or to the Organiser at DMCC Business Center, Level 1 Unit 1809, P.O. Box: 340505, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Time is of the essence. The Organiser will have the right to reject (without giving reasons) any Application Form submitted.
- 3.2 The Organiser will notify You, after its acceptance of Your Application Form, of the categories of Product that the Organiser has set for the Programme for that Edition. Products will be classified by the Organiser at its absolute discretion into categories which, where possible and subject to the discretion of the Organiser, will consist of a minimum of two brands to a maximum of six brands. The Organiser reserves the absolute right to amend, add or withdraw one or more categories, depending, amongst other things, on the nature and number of applications received, and to assign Products to the category it deems appropriate.

- 3.3 Subject to Article 2.2, You may enter Products in the Programme in different categories. In the case of substantially similar Products, or the same Product sold in different sizes or offering, You may enter only one Product in any category in any Edition. However, so long as the Products are different in some significant manner, You may enter more than one Product in the same category, The Organiser will have absolute discretion to accept a Product into the Programme or into any particular category, to assign Products to categories and to determine if the Products that You have submitted are sufficiently different to warrant multiple entries in a category.
- 3.4 The Organiser agrees that, except as otherwise provided in Article 8.2, all information and documents submitted by You will be treated by the Organiser as confidential and will not be disclosed or published by the Organiser without Your consent, except as may be required by law or any regulatory authority. Information contained in Application Forms submitted by You will be kept by the Organiser and will be dealt with by the Organiser as it sees fit. If You specifically request for Your Application Form to be returned to You then the Organiser will only be able to do so after the end of March of the year following the Edition.
- 3.5 You warrant that any information provided by You as part of or in support of your application is sustainable for use in advertising in any country of the Territory where your product is distributed, is true, accurate and complete in all respects and is in no way misleading or deceptive. You will upon request provide evidence to verify any claims made in such information.

Article 4. Procedure to determine Winning Product

- 4.1 The procedure used to choose Winning Products is in two stages and is as set out below subject to any changes that the Organiser may in its absolute discretion make and notify to You.
- 4.2 Selection of Shortlisted Products: a panel of experts selected by the Organiser, including representatives from the retail trade, design, and public institutions, industry and advertising, will review all of the entries received and accepted under Article 3.1. The selection criteria and procedures of the panel will be determined by the Organiser and will include matters relating to the innovative character of the Product such as, but not limited to, formula, packaging, offering and recipe. The panel will select the Shortlisted Products from all Application Forms submitted and accepted by the Organiser.
- 4.3 Consumer vote: The Product selected to be the Winning Product in each category will be determined from among the Shortlisted Products selected under Article 4.2 in that category by the vote of a panel of consumers administered by both the Organiser and Researcher. The panel will be reasonably representative of the population of the country or countries of the Territory (as determined by the Organiser). The Product voted to be the Winning Product in each category will be determined by the Researcher using a predefined scoring system. The Product with the highest score amongst the shortlisted/competing Products, or with a higher score than the average score of the competition segment, will be elected as the winner in its designated category.
- 4.4 The Organiser may (without prejudice to its other rights and remedies) disqualify any Product at any time (even after announcement of Winning Products) where:
- 4.5 The Organiser considers that the Product does not meet the criteria in Article 2;
- 4.6 The Organiser considers that You have breached Article 3.5.
- 4.7 You do not pay the requested fees due under these Rules;
- 4.8 There are bona fide safety or public health concerns regarding the Product; or
- 4.9 the Organiser has reasonable grounds for considering that the continued participation in the Programme of the Product would damage the reputation and goodwill of the Programme and the Trade Mark and if the disqualified Product is a Shortlisted Product or Winning Product, all Research Fees and License Fee will remain due and payable regardless of its disqualification and no refund of fees will be made.

Article 5. Trade Mark License

- 5.1 Subject to the provisions of these Rules and You making the payments set out in Article 6, if Your Product is selected as a Winning Product You will be granted a limited, revocable, non-transferable, non-assignable License (License) to use the Trade Mark only in the Territory or in the countries specified on your License.
- 5.2 The duration of such License is limited to 12 months commencing at midnight of the awards show (License Period).
- 5.3 Any use of the logo must refer to the Program Year and the mention: "Independent survey conducted on a sample of consumers" or as specified in the yearly Trade Mark Guidelines provided by the Organiser. The Trade Mark may only be used in the form, dimensions and graphic representation approved, in each instance, in writing by the Organiser in its sole discretion. You will comply at all times with Trade Mark Guidelines and with the reasonable instructions and the directions of the Organiser in relation to Your use of the Trade Mark under the License.
- 5.4 Use under the License will be limited to the use of your Winning Product in the same form and composition or offering as the Product is presented in the Application Form and used by you or on your behalf in promoting and distributing the same. The Trade Marks may only be used in advertising and in all marketing materials aimed primarily within the Territory, and on Winning Products which are intended for sale exclusively within the Territory.
- 5.5 Unless otherwise approved in each instance by the Organiser You may not use the Trade Marks on packaging or advertising which includes products other than the Winning Product (unless otherwise approved in each instance in advance in writing by the Organiser). The Organiser will have the right, in its absolute discretion, to permit the use of the Trade Mark for groupings of some or all of the Winning Products for the purpose of promotions directly or indirectly referring to "Product of the Year".
- 5.6 You acknowledge that the Trade Mark is the exclusive trade mark of the Organiser or its licensors. You agree not to apply for or obtain registration of the Trade Mark for any goods or services in any jurisdiction, nor to use the Trade Mark (or anything confusingly similar to the Trade Mark) as a company, business, trade or product name in any jurisdiction.
- 5.7 You undertake to monitor use of the Trade Mark under the License to ensure that it is no longer used by or on behalf of You, and no longer appears in advertising for, the winning Product or for You after expiry of the License Period. In particular You will stop manufacturing and/or ordering Products and packaging incorporating the Trade Mark sufficiently early so that all Products and packaging incorporating the Trade Mark are likely to be sold. If material quantities of Your Winning Product bearing the Trade Mark remain in stock or in transit or on retail sale after the expiry of your License Period, You must immediately notify the Organiser, take all such steps as may be required by the Organiser to remove or reduce such stocks and provide ongoing reports of steps taken to the Organiser (which you acknowledge may be disclosed to the owner of the Winning Product in the new Edition).

Signature _____

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- 5.8** If a Winning Product is disqualified for any reason, the License in this Article 5 will automatically terminate. In such circumstances, you will apply the below at your own cost:
- 5.9** Remove from sale and recall all Products bearing the Trade Mark; and
- 5.10** Effect the withdrawal and termination of all advertising and promotional material for the Product which includes the Trade Mark (including print, POS, broadcast and website material).
- 5.11** You agree to indemnify the Organizer for any costs, claims or expenses it may incur or suffer as a result of a failure to comply with the provisions of this Article 5. You further acknowledge that damages would not be an adequate remedy for breach of the above and that the Organizer should be entitled to seek interim order to prevent distribution and sale of stock after expiry or termination of the License.
- 5.12** You agree that the Organizer may in the course of organisation and promotion of the Programme use copies of any advertisement or other materials using the Trade Mark under the Licence in the Edition and afterwards.

Article 6. Fees

- 6.1** There will be no fee for submitting an Application Form.
- 6.2** You undertake to pay the Organizer the Research Fee as specified on your quotation for each Product submitted by You that is selected as a Shortlisted Product under Article 4.2. You acknowledge that the Research Fee payment is compulsory and mandatory and not optional, and that You shall not withdraw any Product selected as a Shortlisted Product from the Programme in accordance with provisions of Article 1.4 of these Rules.
- 6.3** You undertake also to pay the Organizer the License Fee as specified on your quotation for each of your Products which is a Winning Product in a category in consideration for the grant of the License under article 5.1. You acknowledge that the License Fee payment is compulsory and mandatory and not optional, whether You decide to use the Trade Mark under the License or not.
- 6.4** Payment of the amounts set out in 6.2 and 6.3 is due and compulsory within 30 days of receipt of invoice. Unless otherwise agreed with the Organizer, You will not be allowed to make use of the Trade Mark prior to receipt of such payment. Failure to make such payment may, at the discretion of the Organizer, result in all Your Products being disqualified from the Programme, in addition to any other remedies of the Organizer. Moreover, You shall indemnify the Organizer for any costs, claims or expenses incurred or suffered as a result of a failure to comply with the provisions of this Article.

Article 7. Confidentiality

- 7.1** The Organizer hereby undertakes not to disclose to You or to any other third party any information related to the identity of Your competitors who are participating in the Programme for the ongoing Edition for all the Products in all categories.
- 7.2** However, the Deliverables provided by the Organizer to the Shortlisted Products are exclusively for the Shortlisted Products' internal use. The Shortlisted Products shall have the prior written approval of the Organizer for any intended wider publication of any Deliverable or any results (whether wholly or in part) supplied by the Organizer prior to release. The Shortlisted Products shall not disclose any Deliverables publicly in any manner that exaggerates, distorts or misrepresents the findings of any data supplied by the Organizer or is likely to harm any other Shortlisted Product's competitor or the Organizer's reputation or business.

Article 8. General

- 8.1** The Organizer will not be liable for failure to perform any obligation under these Rules to the extent that it is caused due to forces beyond its control.
- 8.2** If Your Product or Products are selected as Shortlisted Products You permit the Organizer to give out Your name, address and a description of the Shortlisted Products together with a qualitative analysis of the results of the consumer panel survey conducted by or on behalf of the Organizer under Article 4.3 as part of the publication and promotion of the Programme.
- 8.3** Any question regarding the interpretation or application of these Rules or other questions relating to the Programme will be settled by the Organizer, in its sole discretion.
- 8.4** Whenever the singular number is used in these Rules and when required by the context, the same will include the plural and vice versa, and the masculine gender shall include the feminine and neuter genders and vice versa.
- 8.5** The headings in these Rules are for convenience only and are in no way intended to describe, interpret, define, or limit the scope, extent, or intent of these Rules or any of their provisions.
- 8.6** If any provision of these Rules is invalid, illegal, or unenforceable to any extent, the remainder of these Rules and their application will not be affected and will be enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law unless the provision held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable is so fundamental to the sense of these Rules that its illegality, invalidity or unenforceability would make the enforceability of the remainder unreasonable.
- 8.7** The Organizer may assign, subcontract or otherwise transfer all or any part of its rights or benefits under this agreement. The agreement is personal to You and any rights or benefits under this agreement may not be assigned or sublicensed by You.
- 8.8** These Rules and the documents referred to in them, constitute the entire agreement between You and the Organizer and supersede all other agreements or arrangements, whether written or oral, expressed or implied, between You and the Organizer, its successors and assigns.
- 8.9** Neither party will be affected by any delay or failure in exercising or any partial exercising of any rights under these Rules unless the party has signed a written waiver or release.
- 8.10** The Organizer may terminate this agreement with immediate effect at any time by notice in writing to You if:
- 8.11** You are in breach of Article 5;
- 8.12** You fail to pay any amount due under Article 5 or Article 6;
- 8.13** You are in material or persistent breach of any other provisions of this agreement and the breach, if capable of remedy, has not been remedied within ten days after Your receipt of notice requiring the breach to be remedied.
- 8.14** If the agreement is terminated, all the rights and obligations of the parties will cease immediately, except for those provisions expressly stated to survive termination of this agreement. Termination of this agreement will not affect any rights or liabilities arising prior to termination.
- 8.15** All payments to be made by You under these Rules are exclusive of applicable taxes or duties which will, where applicable, be paid in addition by You.
- 8.16** The rights, powers and remedies provided in these Rules are cumulative and not exclusive of any rights, powers and remedies provided by law. The exercise or partial exercise of any right, power or remedy provided by law or under these Rules will not preclude any other or further exercise of them or the exercise of any other right, power or remedy.

- 8.17** The signatory accepting these Rules on behalf of another person represents and warrants that he is empowered to execute them and that all necessary action to authorize their execution has been taken.
- 8.18** These Rules are to be governed by and construed in accordance with the United Arab Emirates' law and the United Arab Emirates' courts are to have jurisdiction to settle any dispute in connection with these Rules.
- 8.19** In the event that:
- 8.20** You dispute the entry, participation or result of another Product in the Programme;
- 8.21** Another participant disputes the entry, participation or result achieved by your Product in the Programme; then the Organizer will determine such dispute in its absolute discretion, and the Organizer's decision in this regard will be final. The Organizer may refer such dispute to an expert for determination on such terms (including payment by You of any fees charged by the expert) as it deems appropriate. You will co-operate with the Organizer in resolving such dispute and will provide such information and evidence as the Organizer may reasonably require.