



GOLDEN DEMON

— 2025 —

CATEGORY LIST & ENTRY GUIDELINES



GOLDEN DEMON

Golden Demon is the ultimate Warhammer painting competition. Thousands of entries are received each year from all over the world.

Painters of all levels are invited to submit their best work to claim glory, bragging rights, coveted trophies, and a well-deserved sense of accomplishment in this pinnacle of the miniatures painting hobby.

The best-of-the-best at each competition is named the overall winner and presented with the legendary Slayer Sword

Whether you're a veteran Golden Demon painter or it's your first time at the event, you'll be sure to see something that blows you away!

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This guide contains everything you need to know about Golden Demon and its two accompanying contests – Youngbloods and The Open Competition. Over the following pages you will find:

- Competition Overview
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- FAQ

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

Golden Demon comprises 14 distinct categories, ranging from single miniatures and units, to large dioramas, duels and monsters, vehicles and warmachines.

Each of the 14 categories will have awards for:

- Notable
- Commended
- Finalist
- Gold, Silver and Bronze

Each Gold winning entry in its respective category will then be judged collectively to determine which entry will be awarded the ultimate prize in miniature painting; The Slayer Sword. The winner is then awarded an actual sword. Yes, the winner is awarded with an actual sword. Yes, it's absolutely epic.

Alongside the 14 Golden Demon categories are Youngbloods and The Open Competition.

Both of these categories have the same awards structure with Notable, Commended and Finalist pins, and a top three of Gold, Silver and Bronze; but they have some key differences.

Youngbloods is specifically aimed towards younger competitors. In fact, you must be 12-15 years old on the day of entry to enter the Youngbloods competition

In The Open Competition, anything goes here; single miniatures, busts, larger scale miniatures, small armies or themed collections and pretty much any other type of entry that doesn't fit anywhere else. The Open Competition is also where Games Workshop staff are encouraged to enter and compete alongside the public – this is your chance to go head to head with some of the world's greatest sculptors and painters and prove your mettle in one of the toughest settings anywhere in the world!



What do the judges look for?

In all categories the judges look for many different qualities in winning entries. Technical skill, atmosphere, consistency in quality, and narrative are all key components in what makes a winning entry stand out.

The painting isn't just about technical prowess, however, it's about finding a style and technique that works for you and applying it with care. The judges have no set preference when it comes to style – as long as it looks amazing, there are no rules as to how you go about it.

The background and setting is important as well. The judges will be looking at how well the entry fits into Games Workshop's different worlds and universes – a strong narrative can go a long way towards grabbing the judges' attention.

HOW TO ENTER

To enter into Golden Demon, Youngbloods or The Open Competition at Adepticon 2025, you must first purchase your [Adepticon Tickets](#).

Proof of purchase will be required when entering the competition.

To register your entries simply fill out the [online entry form](#). We do recommend completing this form in advance to ensure the smoothest and most efficient entry process, but you will have an opportunity to complete the form at the registration desk if needed.

The closing date for registration into all categories for Golden Demon, Youngbloods and The Open Category is 12:00 Local Time, March 29th 2025

REGISTRATION DESK OPENING TIMES

March 27th - 10:00-18:00

March 28th - 10:00-18:00

March 29th - 09:00-12:00

MINIATURE COLLECTION

March 30th - 13:00* Non-Finalist Entries ONLY

March 30th - 17:00* Finalist and above

AWARD CEREMONY**

March 30th 16:00 - 17:00

*Please note that you will be able to collect your miniature(s) anytime from this time until the end of the competition. All times shown are for the timezone applicable to the event location.

**The award ceremony will take place in the Baird Ballroom

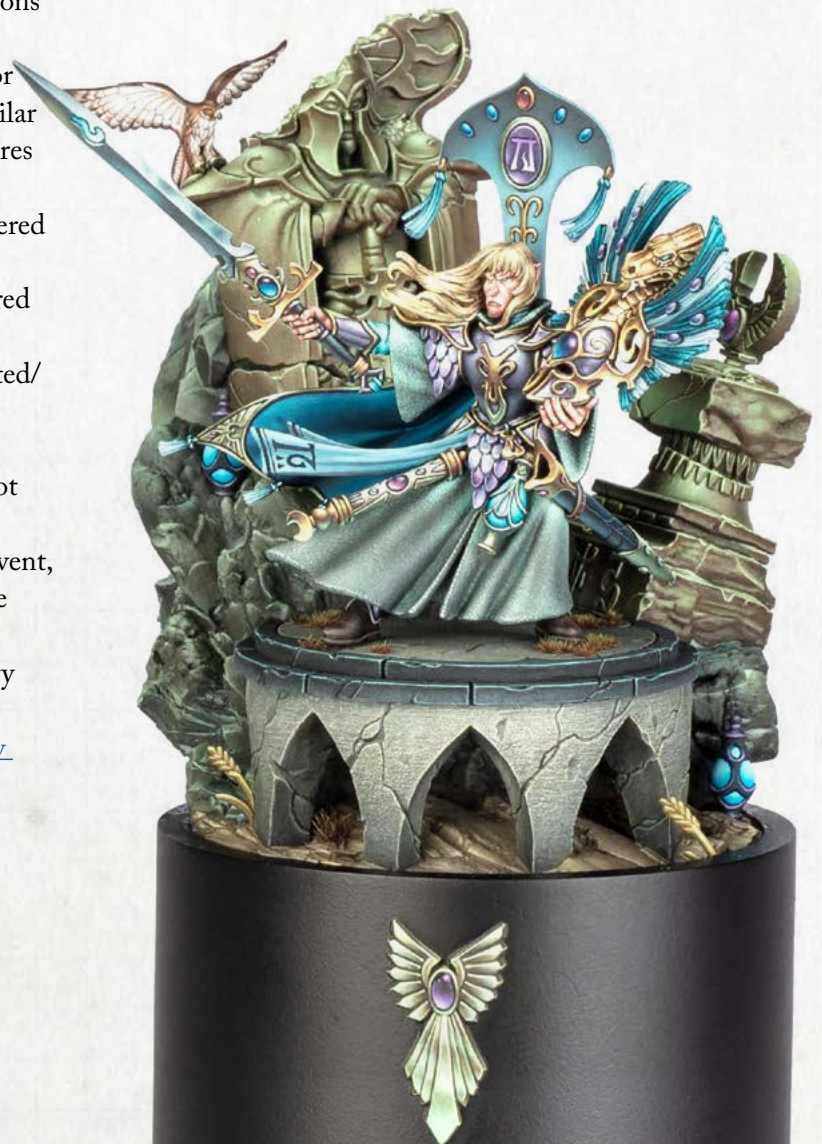


ENTRY GUIDELINES

- All miniatures entered must have been produced by Games Workshop. This includes all Citadel Miniatures, Forge World releases and any other specialist game produced by Games Workshop.
- Entries can be, or contain, Citadel Miniatures that are out of production.
- Conversions and scratch-built entries are allowed as long as they are in scale and set thematically within one of the Warhammer worlds or universes. This does not extend to entries set in the *Middle-earth™* setting. For further information on this, please refer to our [FAQ](#) section.
- Entries must be representative of the Warhammer or *Middle-earth™* settings. They cannot feature real-world or alternative franchise iconography, slogans or imagery.
- Entries do not have to adhere to in-games rules in terms of weapons, mounts or unit sizes. The entries are governed by the category descriptions and competition rules alone.
- Entries must be attached to the base, plinth or display, such as by adhesive, magnets or a similar method. Entries which contain loose miniatures or display elements will not be accepted.
- Entries must be fully built and cannot be entered into the competition if they are damaged.
- Entries must be fully dry and cannot be entered into the competition if they are still wet.
- Entries must be hand painted. Digitally painted/ paint printed entries are not permitted.
- Entries that contain sculpting by the entrant must be done from scratch. 3D scanning is not permitted.
- Entries must be handed in in-person at the event, by the person who painted them - no one else can hand your entry in for you.
- Each participant may only enter each category once.
- Each entry must have an accompanying [entry form](#) filled out.

CATEGORY LIST

1. Warhammer 40,000: Single Miniature
2. Warhammer 40,000: Unit or Kill Team
3. Warhammer 40,000: Large Miniature or Vehicle
4. Warhammer Age of Sigmar: Single Miniature
5. Warhammer Age of Sigmar: Unit, Warcry Warband or Underworlds Warband
6. Warhammer Age of Sigmar: Large Miniature or War Machine
7. Warhammer: The Horus Heresy
8. Warhammer: The Old World
9. *Middle-earth™* Strategy Battle Game
10. Blood Bowl
11. Necromunda
12. Epic Scale
13. Duel
14. Diorama
- YB. Youngbloods
- OC. The Open Competition



CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

The worlds of Warhammer are vast, as is the creativity of our entrants to Golden Demon. These Category Descriptions are guidelines to help you choose a category that is most appropriate for your miniature. We reserve the right to re-allocate any miniature into a different category during the competition. If you have any questions regarding your entry, please email us at goldendemon@gwplc.com. Please allow at least 10 working days for a response.

Warhammer 40,000: Single Miniature

This category is for any single Warhammer 40,000 miniature on an appropriately sized base – including miniatures mounted on smaller vehicles and creatures like bikes, jetbikes, and beasts. This category is open to everything from Ratlings to Terminators, Ork Warbosses, Tech-Priest Domini, and even characters like Maugan Ra, Illuminor Szeras, Daemon Princes, and Roboute Guilliman. Miniatures considered larger than these examples will be entered into the Warhammer 40,000: Large Miniature or Vehicle category.

Warhammer 40,000: Unit or Kill Team

This category is for Warhammer 40,000 squads or Kill Teams of three or more miniatures. The unit may be displayed on an appropriately sized base(s). This includes miniatures on foot, small vehicles, and miniatures mounted on bikes, jetbikes and beasts, provided they are organised into a unit of three or more miniatures. This includes everything from Grots to Tyranid Warriors, XV8 Crisis Battlesuits, and Aeldari Shining Spears. Squadrons of larger vehicles like tanks, Knights, or Space Marine Repulsors must be entered into the Open Competition.

Warhammer 40,000 – Large Miniature or Vehicle

This category is for any single Warhammer 40,000 vehicle or large miniature mounted on an appropriately sized base. This includes tanks, walkers, flyers, and monsters – everything from Falcon grav-tanks to Baneblades, Nemesis Dreadknights to Plagueburst Crawlers, Trygons to Aeldari Avatars, or Greater Daemons and named characters like the C'tan Shard of the Void Dragon, Ka'Bandha, and Szarekh, The Silent King. Miniatures entered into this category that, for any reason, do not require a base may still be mounted on an appropriately sized base.

Warhammer Age of Sigmar – Single Miniature

This category is for any single Warhammer Age of Sigmar miniature on an appropriately sized base. This includes everything from Moonclan Grots and Kharadron Overlords to Stormcast Eternals, Mawtribe Ogors, and named characters like Radukar the Beast.

This also includes single miniatures mounted on smaller creatures like horses, gryph-chargers, gore-gruntas, etc. Larger miniatures, or those mounted on large monsters, must be entered into the Warhammer Age of Sigmar Large Miniature or War Machine categories.

Warhammer Age of Sigmar: Unit, Warcry Warband or Underworlds Warband

This category is for Warhammer Age of Sigmar units, Warcry warband or Underworlds warband of three or more miniatures as a single entry. The unit may be displayed on an appropriately sized base(s). This includes miniatures on foot and those mounted on smaller creatures like horses, gryph-chargers, gore-gruntas, etc., provided they are organised into a unit of three or more miniatures. Examples include Skaven Stormvermin, Kruleboyz Gutrippaz, Spiterider Lancers, Putrid Blightkings, and even Mighty Skullcrushers. Units of larger miniatures, including miniatures mounted on large monsters such as Zombie Dragons or Stardrakes must be entered into the Open Competition.

Warhammer Age of Sigmar – Large Miniature or War Machine

This category is for any single large Warhammer Age of Sigmar miniature mounted on an appropriately sized base. This includes monsters and war machines – everything from Carnosaurs to Arkanaut Frigates, Maw-krushas, Bloodthirsters, and named characters like Archaon the Everchosen mounted on the three-headed beast Dorghar.

Warhammer: The Horus Heresy

This category is for any single miniature, war machine, or unit from Warhammer: The Horus Heresy mounted on an appropriately sized base(s). This includes miniatures on foot and mounted – everything from Primarchs and special characters to Tactical Squads, Contemptor Dreadnought Talons, Spartan Assault Tanks, and Titans. Miniatures entered into this category that, for any reason, do not require a base may still be mounted on an appropriately sized base.

Warhammer: The Old World

This category is for any single miniature or unit from Warhammer: The Old World mounted on an appropriately sized base(s). This includes miniatures both on foot and mounted – everything from Orc Boar Boyz and Kingdom of Bretonnia Paladins to Tomb Kings of Khemri High Priests on Necrolith Bone Dragons, Empire of Man Steam Tanks, and named characters on chariots, such as Settra the Imperishable. Miniatures entered into this category that, for any reason, do not require a base may still be mounted on an appropriately sized base.

***Middle-earth*TM Strategy Battle Game**

This category is for any single miniature or unit from the *Middle-earth*TM Strategy Battle Game. These must be mounted on an appropriately sized base(s). This includes miniatures on foot or mounted – everything from *Riders of Rohan*TM and Cave Trolls to the *Balrog*TM and named characters like *Frodo Baggins*TM and *Smaug*TM.

Blood Bowl

This category is for any single miniature or team from Blood Bowl mounted on an appropriately sized base(s) – everything from Star Players and Referees to Big Guys or whole teams.

Necromunda

This category is for any single miniature or gang from Necromunda mounted on an appropriately sized base(s) – everything from Kal Jerico and Scabs to an entire Orlock Gang with attendant Hired Guns and Hangers-on.

Epic Scale

This category is for epic scale miniatures mounted on an appropriately sized base(s). This is either a single Titan or a group of one to three smaller elements, such as one to three bases of epic scale infantry, a squadron of one to three epic scale tanks, or a lance of one to three epic scale Knights.

Diorama

This category is for scenic dioramas set in the worlds of Warhammer Age of Sigmar, Warhammer 40,000, Warhammer: The Horus Heresy, Warhammer: The Old World, Necromunda, or Blood Bowl, mounted on an appropriately sized base. The subject of the diorama should be appropriate to the background of the world in which it is set, but otherwise, there are no restrictions on the battle scene's theme or content.

YB. Youngbloods

Youngbloods is exclusively open to competitors aged 12-15 years old. The Youngbloods competition is for any single miniature from the worlds of Warhammer Age of Sigmar, Warhammer 40,000, Warhammer: The Horus Heresy, Warhammer: The Old World, *Middle-earth*TM Strategy Battle Game, Necromunda, and Blood Bowl. The entry should be mounted on an appropriately sized base. This can be anything from a Space Marine or a Fyreslayer to a Maw-krusha or Fell Beast.

Youngbloods is a separate contest that sits alongside the main Golden Demon categories – as such, the winner of the Youngbloods competition is not eligible to compete for the Slayer Sword.

OC. Open

The Open Competition is for any single entry from the worlds of Warhammer Age of Sigmar, Warhammer 40,000, Warhammer: The Horus Heresy, Warhammer: The Old World, *Middle-earth*TM Strategy Battle Game, Necromunda, and Blood Bowl. The entry should be mounted on an appropriately sized base. This includes everything from single miniatures and vehicles to dioramas, busts, larger-scale miniatures, small armies or themed collections, and anything else not covered by the Golden Demon categories.

The Open Competition is a separate contest that sits alongside the main Golden Demon categories – as such, the winner of the Open Competition is not an eligible contender for the Slayer Sword. Additionally, the Open Competition is the only category where Games Workshop staff are eligible to enter.

FAQ

PRE-ENTRY

1. How do I know which category I should enter my miniature into?

Please refer to the Entry Guidelines found in this document. Although there are a few examples in the guidelines, there is no complete list of all the miniatures ever produced by Games Workshop and which category they fall under. If you are at all unsure, please email us at goldendemon@gwplc.com.

2. If I enter into The Open Competition, will I be able to win the Slayer Sword?

Winners of The Open Competition are not in contention to win The Slayer Sword.

3. If I enter into Youngbloods, will I be able to win the Slayer Sword?

Winners of Youngbloods are not in contention to win The Slayer Sword.

4. How do I know which size base is appropriate for my entry?

A display base roughly equal to the size of the miniature's gaming base will be perfectly fine, but larger or smaller might do just as well. As a general rule, if the base is the main focus of the entry, it probably belongs in the Diorama & Duel category.

A well-made base can be a great way to frame a miniature and describe the narrative or setting, but the miniature itself should probably always be the main act.

If you are at all unsure, please email us at goldendemon@gwplc.com and supply images where possible.



5. Am I allowed to convert or sculpt my own miniature?

Yes! Converting miniatures, using components from different Games Workshop kits, or sculpting something yourself from scratch is completely fine! As long as all the parts used in your conversions are produced by Games Workshop or made from scratch and fit in with our background and universes – let your creativity run wild!

We would suggest taking some work-in-progress pictures, prior to any painting, of any sculpting work. These may then be requested to be shown to the judges. Please note this does not extend to submissions into the Middle-earth™ Strategy Battle Game in the same regard. Whilst reposing of these miniatures is permitted, alterations to the characters likeness, armour or weaponry is not.

Please also note that submissions into categories outside of the *Middle-earth™* category may not use components from the *Middle-earth™*, *The Lord of the Rings™* or *The Hobbit™* Miniature ranges. Submissions in the *Middle-earth™* category may not use components from other Warhammer ranges.

6. Am I allowed to enter a miniature sculpted by someone other than myself, or Games Workshop?

No. This would be considered a joint submission between painter and sculptor and therefore not eligible for entry into the competition.

7. Am I allowed to use third party basing materials on my entry?

Yes for generic elements (e.g. rocks, trees, barrels). However, this does not include third party kits that have used GW intellectual property in their basing kits.

8. Am I allowed to use Artificial Intelligence to generate any part of my entry?

No.

9. Am I allowed to 3D scan a Games Workshop miniature in order to create any part of my entry?

No.

FAQ

10. How many times can I enter?

There are 14 Golden Demon categories in total. On top of that you have Youngbloods and The Open Competition as well – you can enter as many of the categories as you like, but only once per category.

11. Does my entry have to be “game legal”?

No! The only requirements are the ones stated in the category descriptions found in the entry guidelines.

If you want to enter a completely game-legal unit, you definitely can, but there are no in-game rules restrictions on any of the categories. Judges will be looking for narrative and descriptive pieces that bring the worlds of Warhammer to life!

12. Can I re-enter my miniature from last year’s competition?

Maybe. Sometimes you might want to go back and spend a bit more time on an entry that didn’t place. In cases like this, it’s perfectly fine to come back and try your luck again. If you did manage to win something – a gold, silver or bronze in any of the categories in any Golden Demon competition, then you have our congratulations, but that particular miniature can’t be entered again.

13. Can I mount my miniature directly onto a plinth?

Yes. Plinths are allowed and should also adhere to the rule of being appropriately sized based on the entry and the category. If you are unsure, please get in touch ahead of the competition at goldendemon@gwplc.com

14. Can I place my ‘appropriately based’ miniature onto a larger base/plinth?

Yes. If you would like to base your miniature and then also incorporate a plinth into your entry this is perfectly fine. Both the base and the plinth do still have to adhere to any category restrictions, so please bear this in mind when composing your entry. If you have any questions, please contact us at goldendemon@gwplc.com

15. I have mounted my Warhammer 40,000 Single Miniature entry on an appropriately sized base, But I have then built that base up to house a significantly bigger surface area than the base. Is this OK?

To avoid any need to move the entry between categories, please email us with the relevant images and information on the entry at goldendemon@gwplc.com.

16. Can I submit a unit composed of Necromunda, Kill Team and 40k miniatures into the Warhammer 40,000: Squad or Kill Team category?

The unit categories require you to enter miniatures that represent units within those game systems. If these units are composed of miniatures from various Games Workshop games, set within the same universe, this is perfectly acceptable. The key thing here is that they accurately represent the unit they have been entered as.

This answer is also relevant to the Age of Sigmar Unit category when considering the use of Warcry and Warhammer Underworlds miniatures.

17. Will Horus Heresy miniatures, or units in Horus Heresy era armour be allowed to be entered into other categories?

All Horus Heresy miniatures, or miniatures representing Horus Heresy units, characters or vehicles should be entered into the Horus Heresy category.

18. Would miniatures from Battlefleet Gothic, Epic, Dreadfleet and Man-O-War be considered ‘Epic Scale’?

Yes

FAQ

19. Can I enter my converted, or scratch built miniature that represents a character or unit that are not currently represented in the Middle-earth™ Strategy Battle Game?

The 'Middle-earth™ setting' covers all miniatures and characters present in the Middle-earth™ Strategy Battle Game. This means that whilst we know there are many more amazing characters found within the written works and cinematic depictions of the works of Tolkien, we cannot accept entries that represent these characters into any category of the competition.

20. Can I use Middle-earth™ Strategy Battle Game miniatures to represent or convert characters, units or settings in my entry that is not based in the Middle-earth™ setting?

If your entry is set in one of the many Warhammer worlds or universes, we cannot accept entries that are entirely, or have been converted in any way from, Middle-earth™ Strategy Battle Game miniatures. This is conversely true for any entries that represent the Middle-earth™ setting. Entries should not include any conversions using parts of non Middle-earth™ Strategy Battle Game miniatures

21. Can my entry crossover between Games Workshop game universes, such as Age of Sigmar and Warhammer 40,000?

No. Entries should represent a single universe or setting. This does not mean that parts can not be used in conversions, such as Seraphon parts for Exodite conversions. However, a unit of Chaos Space Marines on a display with Stormcast Eternals would be considered a crossover of game universes. If you are unsure, please get in touch with us at goldendemon@gwplc.com



FAQ

ENTRY & DURING THE COMPETITION

1. Do I need to be present at the event to enter or can someone else submit my entry for me?

In order to be able to enter and take part, you must hand in your own miniatures in person at the event. It'll be worth the trip though, take our word for it!

2. I have not completed the online form for my entry ahead of registration, can I still enter?

Yes. You will still need to complete a manual form at the registration desk before you can enter your miniature(s).

3. If I find my miniature is damaged in transport, can I still enter the miniature?

We will allow you all of the time required to fix the miniature, please make our registration team aware and they will do everything possible to help you make the required repairs. The miniature will need to be fully repaired before it is entered into the competition.

4. Will my miniature be photographed?

Our team of talented miniature photographers will be doing their utmost to photograph all of the entries in the competition. We will be focusing on those entries with finalist pins and above - however depending on the size of the competition, we may not be able to photograph all entries.

5. Once I enter my miniature(s) does that mean that it will remain in that category?

Our judges reserve the right to make decisions throughout the competition if they believe an entry is better suited in a category that it has not been entered into. This will be a last resort measure and only used where necessary.

6. I cannot see my miniature in the cabinets, where is it?

Throughout the competition there will be a number of reasons your miniature may leave the display cabinets. Most notably this will be for judging and photography.

There may be occasions where a review of the miniature is taking place. If we have any questions regarding the entry, we will contact you on the number provided on the registration form.

Please note that time out of the cabinets will not hinder the judging process

7. When will I be able to collect my entries?

Please refer to the timings on the Entry Guidelines for the Golden Demon competition you have entered.

If for any reason you need to collect your miniature ahead of these collection times, please let a member of the registration team know and they will assist you to collect your miniature as soon as possible.

Please note, that early collection may lead to your miniature not being judged and therefore being unable to be awarded with a finalist pin or above.

8. Is there a penalty if my miniature is moved category?

None at all. Your miniature will go through all of the same judging processes, just in the new category.

9. What does the dot system mean?

You might see a number of different coloured dots on the card next to your entries in the cabinet. What they truly mean is an ever evolving secret, known to few and shared with no-one - We do always enjoy the guesses though.

FAQ

AWARDS / POST EVENT

1. How will I know I have a Notable Entry?

Notable Entries will be awarded with a Notable Entry Pin. These will be placed next to the entries when they are on display in the cabinets. This award will be presented to you on collection of your entry.

2. How will I know I have a Commended Entry?

Commended Entries will be awarded with a Commended Pin. These will be placed next to the entries when they are on display in the cabinets. This award will be presented to you on collection of your entry.

3. How will I know I am a Finalist?

Finalists will be awarded with a Finalist Pin. These will be placed next to the entries when they are on display in the cabinets. Once the judging has taken place, these entries will be placed at the top of the cabinets.

4. How will I know I have won a Bronze, Silver or Gold?

All Bronze, Silver and Gold winners in all categories will be selected from those entries that have been awarded Finalist Pins. Gold, Silver and Bronze awards will be revealed in the award ceremony, which culminates in the presentation of the grand prize, The Slayer Sword.

5. Do I have to be there in person to collect my award?

Yes. Just like entering the competition, you will have to be present to receive your award. No-one else will be presented with it in your absence. If you are unable to attend the award ceremony for any reason, please inform the team at the event as soon as possible.

6. Will my image be captured/used by Games Workshop?

Yes. We will be taking pictures throughout the event of the cabinets as well as the awards ceremony. If you do not wish to have your image captured, please inform a member of the team at the event or get in touch with us at goldendemon@gwplc.com.

7. Will images of my miniature be used by Games Workshop?

Yes. Your entries are likely to be photographed during the competition and will certainly have images captured if you are a winner of Commended Entry or above. These images may be used on Games Workshop social media pages, warhammer-community.com and other Games Workshop channels.

8. Will I be able to get feedback on my entry to understand why it placed?

Due to the expected volume of entrants at all Golden Demon competitions, we are unable to guarantee that any feedback will be able to be provided at the event.

GOLDEN DEMON

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