

2026 Lion Hospitality New Zealand Awards for Excellence Terms and Conditions

LION HOSPITALITY NEW ZEALAND AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE ENTRY TERMS & CONDITIONS 2026

Hospitality New Zealand are operating a 2026 LION HOSPITALITY NEW ZEALAND AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE (a.k.a. “the Awards”) competition.

The intended timeframe for the Awards is:

Entries Open	Tuesday, 10 February 2026
Entries Close	Tuesday, 31 March 2026
Online Judging Period	Wednesday, 1 April - Tuesday, 21 April 2026
Panel Judging Online	Wednesday, 22 April - Friday, 24 April 2026
Finalists Announced	Tuesday, 28 April 2026
People's choice voting opens	Tuesday, 28 April 2026
People's choice voting closes	Sunday, 31 May 2026
Winners Announced	Tuesday, 23 & Wednesday, 24 June 2026

Award categories:

- The intended “award categories” are listed at <https://www.hospitality.org.nz/s/awards>

The Entry Process:

- Entrants must self-enter. Entry is online, at <https://www.hospitality.org.nz/s/awards>
- Entrants must answer the questions contained on the entry page, and provide the information requested.
- Entrants must enter within the timeframe provided.
- Entrants and relevant venues must be in New Zealand.
- An entrant registers as part of the entry process, and needs to register only once, but may then enter multiple categories.
- Each award category requires a separate online entry form. Multiple category entries are allowed under one Entrant registration.
- Entry is free for Hospitality New Zealand Members. Non-members must pay a \$200 + GST fee per award category (excluding the People’s Choice Award).
- Entry fee is non-refundable.
- Payment by credit card is required upon registration. An invoice payment option is available upon request, but failure to pay by the specified date may result in disqualification.

Eligibility:

- Entries are limited to the organisation itself, an individual, or an employee.
- Entrants must own, operate or work in a hospitality business (and continue to do so throughout the Awards process). The nature of that hospitality business, and the entrant’s relationship to that hospitality business, must be consistent with the Award category that they are selecting.
- Previous award winners are eligible to re-enter.
- Current employees of Hospitality New Zealand are ineligible to enter.

Digital media provided by entrants

As part of the entry process (or during the Awards program itself), entrants may be asked to present photographs or other digital media of their venue. By doing so, entrants represent that they have the

rights to the digital media provided, and that they are passing on to Hospitality NZ the right to use that digital media. Hospitality NZ may publish, reproduce, adapt, and otherwise use that digital media for Awards promotion, finalist and winner recognition, and related Hospitality New Zealand marketing activities, including in future years.

Judging:

- Judging will be undertaken by a panel containing at least 3 people, selected by Hospitality NZ, and considered sufficiently experienced and expert by Hospitality NZ.
- Judging may take place in multiple stages, including but not limited to online assessment, panel review, and moderation. Hospitality New Zealand reserves the right to determine the judging format and process for each award category.
- The judges' decisions will be final, and no correspondence will be entertained.
- Judges will have regard to the category criteria, but otherwise shall have discretion to assess entrants as they see fit.
- Judges will attempt to make decisions by consensus, but may make decisions by informal voting between them.
- Judges may elect not to undertake physical visits to entrants' venues, to evaluate for the purposes of casting their votes, and Judges may instead opt for remote assessment methods as deemed appropriate at the discretion of Hospitality New Zealand.

People's Choice Voting

- The People's Choice Award is determined by public voting. Only entrants who have been selected as finalists by the judging panel will be eligible for People's Choice voting. Hospitality New Zealand reserves the right to determine the format, timing, and platform for People's Choice voting.
- Voting in the People's Choice Award may be limited by Hospitality New Zealand, including limits on the number of votes per person, device, email address, or IP address. Voting rules and eligibility requirements will be outlined on the official voting platform at the time voting opens.
- Hospitality New Zealand reserves the right to monitor voting activity and to exclude or disqualify votes it reasonably believes to be fraudulent, automated, or in breach of the voting rules.

Media Coverage:

- Entrants consent to media coverage.
- Finalists and winners acknowledge that media coverage could be significant, and agree to cooperate with coverage if asked.
- Hospitality New Zealand does not guarantee media coverage.
- Hospitality New Zealand may promote the Awards on its website and in social media, and may refer to entrants if doing so.

Confidentiality:

- For the purposes of People's Choice voting, selected entrant information (including venue name, category, images, and summary descriptions) may be made publicly available.
- Entrant's contact details may be shared with Awards sponsors and Hospitality New Zealand Strategic Partners.
- Entrants acknowledge that Hospitality New Zealand may utilise the entry content, including photos, for marketing purposes and grant permission for such use.

Entrant not subject to statutory investigation:

- Entrants confirm they are not under investigation by any New Zealand or international statutory body and are not subject to insolvency proceedings (or, if they are, that they have advised Hospitality New Zealand of that, and received confirmation that Hospitality New Zealand nevertheless agree to their participation). If, during the course of the Awards, Entrants become subject to such investigation/proceedings, they will immediately notify Hospitality New Zealand of that. Non-compliance may result in disqualification.

Hospitality New Zealand's right to change or cancel

Hospitality New Zealand intends to make best endeavours to undertake the Awards competition in accordance with the information in these terms and conditions and in accordance with the designated awards categories. However, if circumstances arose that cause Hospitality New Zealand to form the opinion that it was impractical or undesirable to continue as planned, then Hospitality New Zealand reserves the right to make changes, including:

- Cancel this Awards competition (e.g. a pandemic or Force of God or other significant unforeseen circumstance).
- Change or cancel a category or categories, including the category criteria (e.g. insufficient entrants, or new information of market developments).
- Move entrants from one category to another (e.g. if it appeared to Hospitality New Zealand that entrants had entered into a particular category incorrectly or mistakenly).
- Change the judges (e.g. if a judge became unavailable or a change of circumstances meant that a judge was no longer suitable).
- Change the timeframe.
- Change the fees.
- Change the method or platform used for entry, judging, voting, or announcements, including digital systems.
- Hospitality New Zealand reserves the right to determine the number of finalists in each category and may elect not to award a category if, in its opinion, entries do not meet the required standard.

Privacy

Personal details submitted by entrants or other participants may be held by Hospitality NZ for authentication and contact purposes.

To the extent that entrants or other participants are companies (rather than natural people); Privacy Act considerations may have limited application.

Hospitality NZ will act in accordance with its Privacy Policy, which is to be found at <https://www.hospitality.org.nz/s/privacy-policy>

Contact Information:

For inquiries about the Terms and Conditions or the Awards program, contact Hospitality New Zealand via email, telephone, or post.

Email: info@hospitality.org.nz

Telephone: 0800 500 503

Post: PO Box 503, Wellington 6140

These terms and conditions govern the entry process and participation in the Lion Hospitality New Zealand Awards for Excellence program administered by Hospitality New Zealand. By submitting an entry, participants agree to abide by these terms and conditions.