

10th SAMARITAN Contest 2026 Implementation Rules



For the 10th SAMARITAN Contest from the 22nd to the 26th of July 2026, in Oggau, Austria the rules have been reviewed and, where necessary, supplemented. The rules serve the purposes of directing and informing the organisational team and the participating referees, the SAMARITAN organisations and their participants and custodians.

1. Purpose of the SAMARITAN Contest

The youth contest is intended to contribute to the following:

- Giving youths in the European partner organisations the opportunity to use their knowledge and skills in first aid in theory and practice and to measure themselves against youths in other organisations in a fair contest.
- Bringing youths closer to the ideal of becoming critically evaluating Europeans.
- Encouraging youths to concern themselves with current social issues.
- Promoting contact and an exchange of experiences between youths, youth groups and youth administrations throughout Europe.

2. Scope of these Rules

These rules are the foundation for the implementation of the 10th SAMARITAN Contest 2026. They are binding for contributors and participants.

They will also be applied – with adjusted dates - to follow-up contests subject to alterations.

3. Participants

3.1 All youths aged between 12 and 21 may participate in the contest as long as they are voluntary contributors to one of the SAMARITAN organisations

3.2 Guest organisations are admitted to the competition on a case-by-case basis. The approved guest organisations may not pursue any goals that are contrary to the basic principles of the Samaritan organisations. The maximum number of guest organisations is limited to two per event.

3.3 The participants should be able to perform the theoretical and practical tasks without any assistance. In the case of the practical tasks, cooperation with the respective group is expected unless this is excluded in individual tasks.

4. Contest Groups

Each participating organisation can delegate one group A and/or one group B.

4.1 Group A

- A Group A consists of three participants between 12 and 15 and up to two responsible custodians.
- It is a prerequisite that the participants have only undergone basic first aid training.
- One first aid bag will be provided to each registered group with fixed content as admissible material equipment. The definition of the content is defined by the Competence Centre First Aid (CC First Aid) of SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL. Depending on the task, additional medical equipment and replacement for used material will be offered at each exercise station if required.

4.2 Group B

- A Group B consists of five participants between 16 and 21 and up to two responsible custodians.
- It is a prerequisite that the participants have only undergone advanced first aid training of up to 100 lessons.
- One first aid bag will be provided to each registered group with fixed content as admissible material equipment. The definition of the content is defined by the Competence Centre First Aid (CC First Aid). Depending on the task, additional medical equipment and replacement for used material will be offered at each exercise station if required. The organizer can also provide a second similar first aid bag.

4.3 Employees of the participating organisations with professional rescue training (over 100 lessons) may not participate in the contest, since this would overtax the youth contest.

To what extent rescue service professionals may be allowed to participate in a separate group, remains reserved for the further experience with the SAMARITAN Contest and corresponding decisions on the implementation and financing of the Contest.

4.4 Trainers are not allowed to take part in the competition as participants of a competition group.

4.5 Age bracket tolerances

If an organisation's group A or group B is pre-selected on the national level via a national competition the so selected groups and their participants may take part in the Contest even if they exceed the age limit within the same calendar year of the Contest, but only if the following conditions are met:

- They are no more than one year older than the prescribed age bracket at the time of the Contest
- The participants in question were within the age limits prescribed in 4.1 and 4.2 at the time of their national competition

4.6 Non-competing group members

In case an organisation selects their groups by national competition and the group sizes at the national competition exceed the group sizes of the Contest, these additional national group members may join the Contest as non-competing group members. This means that they will have the role of a

spectator, but will be accommodated together with their competing peers and at the same conditions, if possible.

5. Custodianship of the Groups

5.1 Custodians

- Custodians of a group must be at least 18 years old but may be older than 21 years.
- The custodians must have been sufficiently educated by the sending organisation about his/her responsibilities and tasks (here especially about the legal regulations in respect to obligatory supervision and the protection of minors).
- The custodians should be able to speak English.
- Generally, each group has one custodian. If it is common practice in the group's national context to have one male and one female custodian for mixed groups, it is permissible that both custodians accompany the group.
- Custodians and possibly interpreters may have completed more comprehensive trainings than those mentioned in 4.1/4.2.
- Custodians and possibly interpreters may not help the participants in solving the tasks or intervene in any other way. Exception: There is a risk of injury and danger to the life of the persons involved or one of the referees asks to intervene.
- To maintain identical competitive conditions, results gained during the observation of individual competitive actions may not be shared with other participants or groups.

5.2 Custodians and guests may be called on to perform tasks within the event.

6. Registration and Invitation

The invitation of a youth contest has to be issued by the general secretariat of SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL at least **four** months before the beginning of the event with a public notification of the location and date.

Registrations at the secretarial office are made in two steps:

6.1 Registration of the groups until the 17th of April 2026

- The organisations which are interested in participation will report the groups (A and / or B) which are envisaged for participation and the number of participants and custodians.
- If applicable, interpreters as well as possible guests/fans who will accompany the groups - at their own expense - are also to be announced.
- A contact is further to be appointed by this date for the communication with the general secretariat with function, address, telephone and e-mail address.

- General secretariat and organizer can determine at this time the extent of the required accommodation and catering capacities and the need for translations.
- On the basis of the reported figures binding reservations of the required and additionally requested nights are made by the organizer. Because of the commitments any applicable cancellation fees may be charged to the sending organisation in the case of cancellations.

6.2 Registration by name until the 15th of June 2026

- **Data of the participants**
The sending organisation will report the first and last names, the gender and the date of birth, the address and, if possible, a mobile phone number and e-Mail address of the participants of the announced group(s).
- **Data of custodians**
In addition, function, mobile phone number and e-Mail address of the custodians and accompanying interpreters are to be reported for direct communication before and during the contest.
- **Data of further persons**
All data of further guests / fans are to be stated in order to be able plan accommodation capacities in time.
- **Privacy Policy**
All required data is exclusively used for organizing the competition and the possibility of contact during the contest and for forwarding information after the event (e.g. links to photos). The data is exchanged only between the general secretariat and the organizer and possibly forwarded for necessary room reservations and otherwise destroyed after the expiry of the usual retention periods of competition documents.

6.3 Review and confirmation on the conditions for participation

Before the beginning of the event, the sending organisation examines the fulfilment of the conditions and confirms with the registration by name that at the time of the competition the age of the registered participants of each group is within the limits of these rules and the requirements regarding the training are not exceeded at this time (see 4.1/4.2).

6.4 Admission / invitation

- ⚡ No less than two months before the beginning of the event, the participating groups will be provided with the necessary documents along with initial information and travel guidelines.

7. Languages

7.1 Communication during the SAMARITAN Contest will be in English.

7.2 The written contest tasks will be given in the native languages of the participating contest groups. For group B, individual tasks may be given only in English. Nature and extent of the competition tasks in English are agreed for each Contest by the CC First Aid.

- In the Contest 2026, 10 (out of 20) general questions shall be given only in English. The allowed processing time shall be 30 (instead of 20) minutes.

7.3 In the practical tasks, the communication on the part of the organizer shall be in English and may also be performed for the A groups, if applicable, by an accompanying interpreter. Teams sharing a native language with the referees shall not be communicated with in that language before or during the tasks.

7.4 In all of the joint events of the participating groups such as greetings, cultural segment, victory ceremony, etc., no simultaneous interpretations can be guaranteed by the organizer in all of the languages of the participants.

8. Contents of the Competition

Contents of the competition are

- special tasks on first aid
- general tasks

The requirements and assessments on the specific tasks for first aid shall account for at least 60%.

8.1 Special first aid contents

- **First aid test**

The first aid test covers the status of knowledge about first aid which is to be expected depending on the group affiliation and scope of training.

- **Practical first aid tasks**

The practical first aid tasks will be presented as case examples from the catalogue of issues of the first aid training course and for the B groups also of the advanced first aid training.

8.2 General competition contents

8.2.1 General questions

The general questions can be taken from the following areas:

- questions relevant to SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL and its member organisations
- European geography, history, politics, economy and social issues
- peace and ethnic communication,
- protection of nature and environment,
- health education
- culture and sports,
- questions on the host country.

- **Dexterity tasks** (and/or tasks which are specific to the town)

These tasks will be integrated between the practical first aid tasks.

- **Creative part**

The members of a group should prepare a performance on stage, e.g. in the form of a sketch, dance or singing performance – possible also with aspects which are typical for the country

– to welcome and delight all participants of the competition.

The creative part may be presented jointly by the A and B group of an organisation.

Only participants may perform on stage during the creative part, not custodians or guests of the respective organisation.

The stage performance should last a maximum of 5 minutes and be understandable for all participants and guests without any translation.

The preparation should preferably be made together and should bring each of the competition groups together and release their creativity. Respectively one motto will be selected for the creative part as leading European issue and the groups will be informed four weeks before the competition at the latest.

8.3 The main points and contents of the competition tasks are defined and developed by the organizing member organisation of SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL (organizer).

The participating groups will be informed by the general secretariat four weeks before the competition at the latest.

8.4 Before the event, the general secretariat of SAMARITAN INTERNATIONAL and the respective organizer exchange information on experience already gained and on the coordination of the contents and the preparation of the competition documents, their translation and provision at the dates to be agreed. Particularly with regard to the competition documents to be translated into several languages, where appropriate, sufficient lead time is required.

9. Scope and evaluation of the individual competition parts

9.1 Creative part

The best performance will be chosen by vote from the other groups. Each organisation (group A and B) jointly casts a ranked voting ballot with points between 1 and the number of performances minus 1 to be assigned to the performances. Each score can only be assigned to one performance and all scores must be assigned for the ballot to be valid. This means that every organisation has to rank all of the other organisations' performances. An organisation may not vote for their own performance.

In case of a tie, all organisations whose performances share the highest score will be announced as joint winners.

The creative part is evaluated independently from other competition parts. The evaluation of the creative part has no influence on the overall evaluation of the other competition parts.

9.2 Test questions

Test questions should respectively be formulated clearly and it should be possible to answer these clearly. One or several of the offered answers can be correct for each selected question.

- **Group A:**
20 questions concerning first aid

20 general test questions
up to 20 minutes are respectively allowed for processing both test sheets.

- **Group B:**

40 questions concerning first aid
up to 40 minutes are allowed for processing the test sheets.
20 general test questions
up to 30 minutes are allowed for processing the test sheets.

9.3 Practical tasks

The tasks and their evaluation are oriented to the respective age group (Group A or B) and their status of training and education.

The custodians should help their group in preparing the competition but may not help them solving the tasks.

The points which can be achieved depending on the tasks and complexity are to be converted by a corresponding multiplier/divisor in proportion to the maximum of possible points per practical / dexterity task.

- **Practical first aid tasks**

At least four practical tasks are to be solved by the respective group in the form of case examples which are as realistic as possible.

The evaluation of the first aid performance will be carried out on individual emergency patients by one trainer each. The interaction of the group will additionally be evaluated by the trainer team. All points achieved shall produce the group result per task.

If a scenario poses a real-life health risk for an individual participant (e.g. allergens inherent in the scenario or at the site of the scene), neither the individual participant nor the team will be penalised for the individual participant not performing first aid in this instance, if the team conducts the scenario with just the remaining members. This is in line with “ensuring your own safety” being the first rule of any first aid.

- **Dexterity tasks**

At least two dexterity tasks shall be integrated.

The (1) individual participant performance or (2) the group performance will be assessed hereby. In the first case all acquired points shall produce the group result.

9.4 Assessment of the practical first aid tasks

The practical first aid tasks will be assessed per case example by suitable trainer teams as referees who are to be instructed about the respective situation and the documentation of the results which is necessary for the evaluation shortly before the commencement of the competition part.

The referees communicate in English with the teams. This includes conveying instructions, correction references and final information on achieved scores (in relation to the maximum achievable score for a first aid scenario) – if applicable through the custodian or translator – to the group participants and / or the respective group.

Referees that share a native language besides English with the participants should take care not to communicate with the participants in that native language during the practical tasks. If possible, this should be ensured by having one volunteer guest referee from another SAM.I. organisation at each first aid task who then is the only person to give instructions to the host's team (or other teams sharing the same native language).

The organizer is responsible for the provision of a sufficient number of referees / evaluators and helpers for the implementation of the competition parts as well as respective replacement staff.

9.5 Technical bases

Up to the agreed usability of international guidelines on all aspects of First Aid, recommendations are made by the CC First Aid regarding the technical bases which are used for the assessment of first aid tasks.

It cannot be excluded that individual teachings do not agree with the statements in each country's own regulations. Therefore, the technical foundations which apply to the respective SAMARITAN Contest are published with the announcement of the event and can be read and used by the participating groups to prepare the competition.

9.6 The organizer prepares the first aid questions and practical first aid tasks as well as their evaluation and guarantees a specialist examination by a suitable doctor.

All test questions and first aid tasks as well as their evaluation are to be forwarded in time to the general secretariat by the respective organizer before the event. The documents to be translated have to be treated with preference.

The contents and evaluations are reviewed and compared again by the general secretariat to avoid any misunderstandings prior to further processing and / or application.

10. Determination of the Final Results

The final results will be determined from the achieved points in the tests and the, if applicable, proportionally converted, points from the practical tasks. Individuals assigned by the organizer will be responsible for the determination of the final results.

10.1 Individual evaluation

- General questions	=	20 Points
- Questions regarding first aid (group A/B)		20/ 40 Points
- Dexterity exercises	=	20 Points
Maximum achievable points	=	60/ 80 Points

10.2 Group evaluation:

- Group average, general questions	=	20 Points
- Group average, first aid test (group A/B)	=	20/ 40 Points
- Group result, all first aid tasks		80 Points
- Group result, all dexterity exercises	=	40 Points
maximum achievable points	=	160/180 Points

10.3 Publication of evaluation and ranking

The complete evaluation table will not be made public. Only recognitions listed in 11. will be announced at the event and later published on the Samaritan International website. The General Secretariat may also publish a ranking of all the teams that does not include the exact scores. Group custodians and participants can be informed about their detailed group and individual evaluation by the Samaritan International General Secretariat upon direct request. The ranking in the creative part can also be shared with the respective groups upon request.

11. Certificates, Medals and „Trophies“

The SAMARITAN Contest is intended to be an experience for everyone involved. In the Olympic spirit, the participants are winners even just through their dedicated participation. They win independently of the placement determined by the evaluation points of the individual or the contest group. Regardless, the contest invites a comparison of performances which, in the end, must lead to the determination of a winner. These rightfully expect a proper acknowledgement and a presentable symbol.

In the context of the SAMARITAN Contest, the following recognitions are awarded in particular:

- Each participant receives a personal certificate with a statement of placement and, if applicable, a commemorative medal or a farewell present.

The documents are prepared by the general secretariat and made available to the organizer. Any remembrance gifts or commemorative medals are to be provided by the organizer.

- The three winning teams in the top ranks each additionally receive a "victory trophy", which will be kept by the Samaritan organisation who delegated them.

A separate "victory trophy" is awarded to the winner of each group (A and B) in the individual evaluations.

This and, if applicable, further victory trophies are to be provided by the organizer.

- In addition, the active members who made a special contribution to the success of the competition should be thanked with a certificate and/or commemorative medal/gift.

If required, the documents will be prepared by the general secretariat and made available to the organizer if the necessary dates are provided (at least title, first name, last name, address) no later than two weeks before the event.

- The winner of the creative part and, if applicable, an outstanding individual performance will be honoured separately. Tied winners are recognized and announced as such. Nature and extent are determined by the organizer.
- A travelling trophy will be handed over to the group with the best performance in the first aid tasks. The winner will be determined by the best relative score: the percentage of the maximum points achievable in the first aid tasks.

12. Correctness and fairness

12.1 Correct and accurate information on all dates of each of the participants required with the registration, their age and the fulfilment of conditions for participation at the time of the event, is expected from all those involved before the event.

If there are disabilities in particular cases the general secretariat and / or the organizer are to be informed.

12.2 Those entrusted with the selection and preparation of the competition tasks and their evaluation are required to maintain confidentiality. This shall apply – depending on the method for determining the participating groups – in a special way for the organizer and the included staff of the general secretariat.

12.3 During the SAMARITAN Contest fair behaviour and mutual respect is expected from all those involved.

12.4 Complaints regarding individual parts of the competition of the SAMARITAN Contest can be made to the competition executives until one hour after the completion of the respective competition part in order to find a solution with those involved on site.

12.5 Violations of the competition rules can result in a subsequent cancellation of placements.

12.6 Gross and intentional violations of competition rules and / or expectations of a behaviour appropriate to the event and the host country can result in an immediate disqualification from further participation by the organizer on site as host of the SAMARITAN Contest. In particular, this also concerns violations as laid out in 13.3.

13. Hygiene concept and compliance with local anti-infection laws and regulations

13.1 Should local laws and regulations and/or the hosts internal policies prescribe that the event is conducted with a hygiene concept, such a concept will be created and implemented by the host.

13.2 This concept and the included rules will be communicated at the time of registration, as far as the local laws and regulations are known at that point. The latest version of the concept will be communicated on arrival.

13.3 Participants have to comply with the rules of the hygiene concept at all times. Repeated non-compliance with the rules may result in disqualification of the individual participant and/or the team.

Annex 1

Contents of the first aid bag which are to be made available to each group
Decided by the EC First Aid (precursor to CC First Aid) on 30.06.2011

Number	Article
1	Adhesive plaster (roll)
8	Quick bandages
2	Dressing packs – medium
2	Dressing packs – large
2	Bandages – small
1	Bandage – large
12	Compresses (wound dressings)
2	Fixation bandages – small
2	Fixation bandages – large
2	Rescue blankets
2	Triangular bandages
1	Pair of scissors
8 pairs	Disposable gloves
1	Protective infection cloth for respiration
1	List of contents (English)