The following are the competition rules for clients to follow if they request that members compete for project work as recommended by the Society’s national executive.

The Society’s Code of Ethics, Article 38, states that: “A Member may compete in any design competition for projects of general, community or public interest if they are of a non-profit nature and if the rules of competition have been approved by the National Executive of the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada or conform to general competition rules approved by the National Executive of the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada. Furthermore, a Member may take part in any open or limited competition for work whose terms are specifically approved by the National Executive of the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada.”

Please note that these rules refer to competitions for project work. Please do not confuse them with rules for contests (competitions and juried exhibitions by design-related organizations which give awards to recognize excellence in design competing with, or at least about how many firms are in the competition. Limiting the number of competitors increases the motivation for all candidates to participate fully. This is especially important when the honorarium is less than the design fee would be for the same amount of work.

3. Select design firms that can demonstrate similar capability. Selecting firms with widely differing levels of expertise and administrative support can skew the results of a competition.

Should you require any assistance or advice on how to proceed with a competition, or any further information on our society, please contact the Chair of our Ethics Committee through the National Secretariat.