

Service and Pricing Overview

(Current as of 2026-08-05)

Practical help for organizations that want to create a new competition, improve an existing one, or get experienced support for competition operations and scoring.

Competition Operations & Improvement Services

Service	Typical Use	Price
Phone or Video Consultation	Quick advice	\$150*
Competition Review	Identify problems and opportunities	\$345
Rules & Procedures Review	Improve rules	\$295
Judge Process Review	Improve confidence in judging	\$295
Competition Timing & Schedule Plan	Avoid running late	\$295
Competition Improvement Plan	Roadmap for improvement	\$795
Remote Event-Day Advisor	Real-time support	\$295
On-Site Event Operations Help	On-site assistance	\$995/Day (+ travel)
Post- Competition Review	Learn from the event	\$295
Annual Competition Advisor	Ongoing support	\$995/year

Competition Development Services

Service	Typical Use	Price
Competition Blueprint	Concept, budget, financial planning	\$295
New Competition Design & Start-Up Plan	Design, launch, or rebuild a Competition	\$995
Complete Competition Development	Full competition development	Custom Proposal

Detailed descriptions of each service begin on the following pages.

Not Sure Where to Start?

If you already run a competition:

Many organizers start with one of these:

Phone or Video Consultation— \$150*

Competition Review — \$345

Competition Timing & Schedule Plan — \$295

Remote Event-Day Advisor — \$295

If you're thinking about starting a new competition:

Start with one of these:

Competition Blueprint — \$295

New Competition Design & Start-Up Plan — \$995

Complete Competition Development — Custom Proposal

The consultation fee will be credited toward any qualifying consulting engagement initiated within 30 days.

Competition Operations & Improvement

Getting Started

CSI-SVCS-01 - Phone or Video Consultation

\$150

Get an experienced outside opinion on a specific competition question or problem. Includes:

- Up to one (1) hour by phone or video conference
- Discussion of your competition design, rules, judging, scoring, schedule, timing, staffing, or operations
- Practical recommendations you can begin using immediately
- A brief follow-up email summarizing the main recommendations

Best for: *Organizers who need focused advice without a full competition review.*

Additional consultation time is billed in 30-minute increments.

Review & Improvement

CSI-SVCS-02 - Competition Review

\$345

A practical review of an existing competition to identify problems, risks, and easy improvements. Includes:

- Review of up to ten (10) current competition documents, such as rules, schedule, score sheets, registration forms, judge instructions, and awards information
- Review of the competition's basic structure, categories, rounds, tune requirements, judging process, scoring process, and planned schedule
- One (1) organizer interview of up to 60 minutes
- Identification of the most important operational issues and improvement opportunities
- A written Competition Review Summary, normally 3-5 pages
- One (1) follow-up meeting of up to 60 minutes to discuss the findings

Best for: *An established competition that generally works but has recurring delays, confusion, complaints, or avoidable stress.*

This service identifies what should be improved. Detailed redesign, document rewriting, or on-site help is not included.

Review & Improvement

CSI-SVCS-03 - Rules and Procedures Review

Includes:

- Review of the current competition rules and related instructions
- Identification of unclear, conflicting, missing, or difficult-to-enforce provisions
- Recommendations concerning eligibility, categories, tune requirements, timing, scoring, ties, protests, conduct, and awards
- Suggested wording for up to ten (10) priority rule changes
- One (1) follow-up meeting of up to 60 minutes

Best for: *Competitions whose rules have grown over time are difficult to understand, or regularly create questions.*

A complete rewrite of the rulebook or operating manual requires a custom quote.

Competition Operations & Improvement

Review & Improvement

CSI-SVCS-04 - Judge Process Review**\$295**

Improve how judges are selected, prepared, supported, and evaluated. Includes:

- Review of judge qualifications, number of judges, assignments, instructions, score sheets, and evaluation method
- Review of judge scoring patterns when usable historical score data is supplied
- Identification of unusual scoring differences, incomplete score use, ranking concerns, or possible process weaknesses
- Recommendations for judge orientation, scoring consistency, independence, conflicts of interest, and post-event evaluation
- Written Judge Process Review Summary
- One (1) follow-up meeting of up to 60 minutes

Best for: Competitions that want to improve confidence in judging without telling qualified judges how to judge the music.

This service evaluates the process and available scoring data; it does not accuse or certify individual judges.

Review & Improvement

CSI-SVCS-05 - Competition Timing and Schedule Plan**\$295**

Find out how long your competition is likely to run before competition day. Includes:

- Review of categories, estimated contestant counts, rounds, tune requirements, breaks, awards, and transition time
- Estimated start and finish times for each major part of the competition
- Identification of likely schedule trouble spots
- Recommended schedule changes to help meet the desired ending time
- One (1) planning meeting of up to 60 minutes
- Written timing summary and schedule recommendations

Best for: Organizers who are worried about running late or who need to fit a competition into a fixed venue schedule.

The NSS Duration Calculator may be recommended and is licensed separately.

Review & Improvement

CSI-SVCS-06 - Competition Improvement Plan**\$795**

A deeper review that produces a step-by-step plan for making an existing competition easier to operate. Includes:

- Everything included in CSI-SVCS-02 - Competition Review
- Detailed analysis of competition flow from registration through awards
- Competition duration estimate based on contestants, categories, rounds, tune requirements, transitions, breaks, and awards
- Review of judge selection, judge instructions, score handling, tie procedures, and consistency concerns
- Review of volunteer roles, stage flow, contestant movement, announcements, tabulation, and communication
- Specific recommendations ranked as Immediate, Before the Next Competition, and Longer-Term
- A written Competition Improvement Plan, normally 8-15 pages
- Two (2) follow-up meetings of up to 60 minutes each
- Thirty (30) days of reasonable email follow-up concerning the plan

Best for: Organizers who want more than advice and need a practical roadmap they can follow.

NSS software, custom forms, rewritten rulebooks, and on-site services are priced separately unless specified.

Competition Operations & Improvement

Event-Day Support

CSI-SVCS-07 - Remote Event-Day Advisor

\$295

Scheduled remote access to experienced help while your competition is underway. Includes:

- Pre-event planning call of up to 45 minutes
- Up to two (2) hours of scheduled phone, text, or video availability during the event
- Help thinking through delays, category changes, judge or scoring questions, timing decisions, and other operational concerns
- Brief follow-up email after the event

Best for: *Organizers who want backup available but do not need or cannot afford on-site support.*

Requires reliable telephone or internet service and at least 14 days' advance scheduling. This is advisory support; the organizer remains responsible for all final decisions.

Event-Day Support

CSI-SVCS-08 - On-Site Event Operations Help

\$995/day + travel

Experienced help on competition day for organizers who want another knowledgeable person watching the overall operation. Includes:

- Up to eight (8) hours on site in one calendar day
- Pre-event planning call of up to 60 minutes
- Observation and advice concerning schedule, contestant flow, judging, scoring, volunteer coordination, announcements, breaks, and awards
- Real-time recommendations when delays or operational problems develop
- Brief post-event summary of major observations and recommendations

Best for: *Important events, new competition directors, growing competitions, or competitions with a history of schedule and operational problems.*

On-site consulting does not automatically include operating NSS, serving as Competition Director, handling money, making final rulings, supervising venue staff, or supplying additional workers.

Additional on-site hours: \$150 per hour. Travel days may be billed at \$500 per day. Travel and lodging expenses are billed separately.

Competition Operations & Improvement

After the Competition & Ongoing Support

CSI-SVCS-09 - Post-Competition Review

\$295

Learn from the event while the details are still fresh. Includes:

- Review of the final schedule, contestant counts, results, timing information, scoring data, incident notes, and organizer comments
- One (1) post-event interview of up to 60 minutes
- Identification of what worked well, what caused difficulty, and what should change next year
- Written Post-Competition Review Summary, normally 4-7 pages
- One (1) follow-up meeting of up to 60 minutes

Best for: Organizations that want each year's competition to become easier, stronger, and more dependable.

After the Competition & Ongoing Support

CSI-SVCS-10 - Annual Competition Advisor

\$995/year

Ongoing access to practical advice throughout the competition planning cycle. Includes:

- Up to twelve (12) hours of remote consulting during a 12-month period
- Quarterly planning check-ins
- Reasonable review of schedules, rules, forms, judge plans, and operational questions
- Priority scheduling for remote consultation
- Pre-event readiness call and post-event review call

Best for: Established events that want continuity and do not want to start from scratch each year.

Unused hours expire at the end of the 12-month term. On-site work, travel, document creation, and NSS licenses are not included.

Competition Operations & Improvement

Optional Add-On Services

Planning

CSO-SVCS-ADD-01 - Additional Remote Consulting**\$125/hour**

Additional planning, review, coaching, or follow-up beyond the time included in a package. One-hour minimum; additional time billed in 15-minute increments.

CSO-SVCS-ADD-02 - Document or Form Revision**\$125/hour**

Editing or developing competition forms, checklists, judge instructions, volunteer instructions, schedules, score-handling procedures, or similar operating documents.

CSO-SVCS-ADD-03 - Complete Rulebook or Operations Manual**Custom quote**

A full rewrite or development of a competition rulebook, competition director guide, volunteer manual, or detailed operating procedures.

Analysis

CSO-SVCS-ADD-04 - Scoring and Judge Analysis**Starting at \$395**

Review of usable prior-year scoring information to identify judge patterns, scoring differences, ranking effects, category concerns, and opportunities to improve the judging process.

Staffing

CSO-SVCS-ADD-05 - Additional On-Site Staff**Custom quote**

Additional qualified personnel for scoring-room support, registration support, data entry, or other defined competition duties, subject to availability.

Expedited Services

CSO-SVCS-ADD-06 - Rush Service**25% surcharge**

Applies when the requested work must begin or be completed within 14 calendar days, subject to availability. Event-week or emergency work may require a higher written quote.

Competition Development Services

Exploring the Idea

CSD-SVCS-01 – Competition Blueprint

\$295

Thinking about starting a competition? The Competition Blueprint helps organizations evaluate competition concepts, costs, prize structures, and resource requirements before committing significant time, money, or volunteer resources. Includes:

- One (1) planning meeting of up to 90 minutes
- Discussion of competition goals, available budget, venue limitations, and expected participation
- Recommended competition structure and category options
- Sample prize structures based on available funding
- Preliminary budget estimates and sponsorship considerations
- Estimated competition scale options based on available resources
- Written Competition Blueprint Summary (typically 3–5 pages)
- One (1) follow-up meeting of up to 60 minutes

Best for: Festivals, community organizations, nonprofits, music associations, and event organizers who are exploring a new competition and want practical guidance before committing to a full competition design project.

The Competition Blueprint is an early-stage planning service. Complete competition design, operating plans, rules, and implementation assistance are available through the New Competition Design & Start-Up Plan.

Designing the Competition

CSD-SVCS-02 - New Competition Design & Start-Up Plan

\$995

Help designing a new competition from the ground up—or rebuilding one that needs a fresh start. Includes:

- Up to three (3) planning meetings of up to 90 minutes each
- Recommended competition structure, categories, eligibility, rounds, tune requirements, and basic rules framework
- Recommended judge count, judging approach, scoring flow, tie procedures, and score handling
- Preliminary competition schedule and duration estimate
- Recommended registration, check-in, contestant flow, volunteer, stage, scoring, and awards processes
- Planning checklist and suggested timeline leading up to competition day
- A written Competition Design & Start-Up Plan
- Sixty (60) days of reasonable email follow-up

Best for: Festivals, nonprofits, civic organizations, and individuals creating a new competition or rebuilding an existing one.

Legal review, insurance advice, venue contracting, sponsorship sales, marketing, bookkeeping, and production services are not included.

Competition Development Services

Developing the Complete Competition

CSD-SVCS-03 - Complete Competition Development

Custom Proposal

For organizations, sponsors, festivals, or individuals who want help developing a new competition from the initial idea through a complete business and operating plan. The scope is customized to the size, location, budget, and goals of the event. May include:

- Competition concept, goals, size, and overall structure
- Detailed budget and projected profit-and-loss model
- Entry fees, prize money, sponsorship, merchandise, concessions, performances, and other possible revenue
- Venue, space, equipment, and facility requirements
- Categories, eligibility, rounds, rules, judging, scoring, and tie procedures
- Schedule and competition duration planning
- Registration, check-in, contestant flow, and awards processes
- Staffing, volunteer, judge, and support requirements
- Operating responsibilities and planning timeline
- Vendor and outside-service requirements
- Launch checklist and readiness planning
- NSS scoring, registration, and timing recommendations when appropriate
- Optional implementation and event-day support as defined in the proposal

Best for: Organizations or individuals that have the resources and desire to create a competition but want an experienced partner to help determine what it should look like, what it is likely to cost, and what will be required to make it happen.

Because these projects can range from a small local event to a major regional or national competition, scope, deliverables, schedule, and pricing are established through a custom written proposal.

How Competition Services and NSS Work Together

Competition Services and the Normalized Scoring System (NSS) are related, but they are not the same service.

- **Competition Operations & Improvement** helps existing competitions run better.
- **Competition Development Services** helps organizations plan, design and develop new competitions.
- **NSS** provides scoring, registration, timing, and scoring-related tools and services.
- A competition may use Competition Services without purchasing NSS.
- A competition may use NSS without purchasing a Competition Services consulting package.
- When both are useful, they can be combined in one custom proposal.

Examples:

- A competition that runs late may purchase a Competition Timing & Schedule Plan without changing its scoring system.
 - A competition with judging concerns may purchase a Judge Process Review and later decide whether NSS would help.
 - A new competition may use a Competition Blueprint, New Competition Design & Start-Up Plan, or Complete Competition Development together with NSS.
 - An established NSS client may add a Post-Competition Review or Competition Improvement Plan.
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Custom Packages

No two competitions are exactly alike. Services can be combined, reduced, or expanded to fit the competition's actual needs and budget. A written custom proposal will explain what is included, what the organizer must provide, the schedule, and the total price.

CUSTOM PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE TO FIT YOUR NEEDS AND BUDGET - JUST ASK!

NOTE: A transaction fee of 3.5% is charged for credit/debit/electronic payments. Applicable taxes will be added where required.

Prices and service availability are subject to change. A written proposal or service agreement controls if it differs from this general price list.

Important Service Terms

Scope of Work: The exact services, documents, meetings, deadlines, and deliverables will be confirmed in writing before work begins. Work outside the agreed scope may require additional fees.

Organizer Responsibility: Competition Services provides advice and support. The event owner, board, or Competition Director remains responsible for final rules, decisions, staffing, safety, finances, legal compliance, and operation of the event.

Information Needed: Recommendations depend on the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied by the client. Delays in receiving rules, schedules, score sheets, contestant estimates, or other information may delay the work.

Scheduling: Advance scheduling is strongly recommended. Most review and planning packages require at least 30 days before the event. On-site services should normally be reserved 60 days or more in advance.

Meetings: Unless otherwise stated, meetings are remote by phone or video. Missed meetings or meetings cancelled with less than 24 hours' notice may be counted as used.

Payment: A 50% deposit is generally required to reserve project time. The remaining balance is due before delivery of the final written report or before on-site service begins, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

Travel: Mileage, airfare, rental vehicle, lodging, parking, tolls, meals, and other reasonable travel expenses are billed separately. Travel arrangements and estimated expenses will be approved in advance.

Cancellations: Deposits are refundable only to the extent stated in the written proposal. On-site cancellations may be subject to charges for reserved time and any nonrefundable travel expenses.

Confidentiality: Client rules, scoring information, judge information, and internal operating materials will be treated as confidential, except when disclosure is required by law or authorized by the client.

Results: No consultant can guarantee attendance, revenue, contestant satisfaction, dispute-free results, or an exact finish time. Services are intended to reduce risk and improve the likelihood of a well-run event.