



# IPA Award - Expert Game - Rulebook

## 2024

### 1. Aims of the Award

“IPA Award - Expert Game” differs from conventional game awards as it does not reward a prototype or a final boardgame but a complete concept ready for its publishing process, giving the creators the aims to fund their project independently and to keep control over the entire development.

### 2. Organization

Independent Publisher Alliance, a label launched by 9 independent publishers: Asmadi Games, Contention Games, Floodgate Games, Grail Games, Indie Games Studio, Kolossal Games, Matagot, Mighty Board and Red Raven, organize an annual award for the best boardgame candidate for publishing.

For its first edition, this contest will run for one year from Essen 2024 where competitors can submit their projects until Essen 2025 when the award winner will be revealed.

### 3. Prize

The winner will access a financial package of up to \$30,000 to finalize and produce its boardgame.

**This financial package will be used to cover the publishing process:**

- Advance to designer payment (\$1K advance, 7% minimum Royalties on revenue)
- Art payment
- Graphic design payment
- Production of 1000 EN copies payment
- Shipping to Essen payment
- Booth at Essen payment

This financial package will be paid back by the games sold on IPA booth at Essen and over IPA Game Shop Europe. In the event the financial package cannot be repaid within 12 months of sales, the debt will be forgiven.

This Prize is “No strings attached”: the Publisher can keep the extra money & sell the project to whoever they want next.

### 4. Applicant eligibility

The challenge is open to every boardgame creator or publisher in the world that is registered as a company prior to the project submission.

Submitted games should not have been published yet.

Projects submitted in a previous year cannot try their chance a second time.

## 5. Other conditions to participate

- **The project should be an expert boardgame concept:**
  - “Expert game” refers to games meant for an experienced audience, used to playing boardgames and learning new rules.
  - Gametime should be between 45 and 90 minutes
  
- **The boardgame concept submitted should include:**
  - Submitting company name and registration
  - Game author(s)/creator(s)
  - Final rules
  - Final components definition
  - Production cost estimate
  - Sales sheet (price etc.)
  - Designer contract ready to be signed
  - Artist chosen, ideally with a contract / or cost estimate
  - Artist brief
  
- **The companies competing should be independent or new players.**

They must validate the following condition:

  - Having less than 5 years of history, or not having published more than 2 games
  - Not being mostly detained by established publishers (responding to the previous condition)

## 6. Jury and Selection committee

The selection committee is composed of all IPA members.

They all receive contest submissions and send their feedback to the Jury in order to help selecting the 5 nominees.

The Jury is composed of publisher representatives who will evaluate the overall project.

To be selected as a Jury member, the publisher should be an IPA member, considered as Independent according to Independent Publisher Alliance Charter.

For 2025 the selected juries are:

- Chris Cieslik - Asmadi Games
- Gary Dworetzky - Contention Games
- Ben Harkins - Floodgate Games
- David Harding - Grail Games
- Travis Worthington - Indie Game Studio
- AJ Lambeth - Kolossal Games
- Arnaud Charpentier - Matagot Studio
- Gordon Calleja & David Chircop - Mighty Board
- Ryan Laukat - Red Raven

## **1. Announcement**

The Jury will announce the final 3 nominees by the end of September 2025 and the award winner during Essen 2025.

## **2. Project submission**

The registration form should be complete and submitted by 31/05/2025 on ipa-gameshop.com.

## **3. Selection committee and Jury methodology**

### **- Nominee selection**

- Each IPA member and IPA supporter can join the selection committee.
- The selection committee and Jury members review the applicant projects separately.
- At this stage, a committee member may contact the applicant if some information seems necessary to have a better understanding of the project.
- Committee members should submit their individual list of nominees to the Jury members by end of August.
- Jury members deliberate by mid-September to select the 3 nominees.

### **- Award selection**

- Designated nominees are contacted to send a mockup to at least 3 Jury Members.
- During Essen 2025, after trials and discussions by the jury together the jury will select the yearly winner.

## **4. Label utilization**

Award winners cannot use the “IPA Award - Expert Game” label before the signature of a contract with PTS defining terms of use

## **5. Cancellation or rescheduling**

PTS reserves the right to cancel or reschedule the challenge without such cancellation or rescheduling being entitled to compensation.