

2021 FPI Financial Planner of the Year

Competition procedure and terms

Procedure

- a) To enter the **FPI Financial Planner of the Year** competition (“the competition”) an entrant must be a **CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER®** professional in good standing.¹
- b) Once an entrant has accepted the conditions of this document, the entrant must complete and submit the competition entry form together with *any* financial plan done for any one of his/her clients. All client details must be removed from the submitted plan.
- c) Following assessment of the above plan, the entrant will be informed whether his/her entry into the completion is successful. If so, the entrant may proceed to Round One (1) of the competition.
- d) Round 1 entails that the entrant submits a portfolio of evidence for assessment. The portfolio of evidence should contain a detailed, holistic financial plan for one of his/her clients. The portfolio of evidence must contain all supporting documentation relevant to the financial plan. Scoring will be based, amongst other things, on the entrant’s compliance with prevailing applicable legislation and the Revised FPI Code of Ethics, especially the Practice Standards and Professional Code of Conduct.
- e) Entrants must use the Financial Plan Guide when compiling the Portfolio of Evidence.
- f) The financial plan submitted during Round 1 of the competition must be the entrants’ own work or, at least, work done under the entrant’s supervision and direction. Should it at any time during the competition become known to FPI that any submission is a mere copy of another person’s work, such entrant will be disqualified from the competition with immediate effect.
- g) Entrants are allowed to use any software/computer programme that they use on a daily basis to compile their client financial plans.
- h) The principle of anonymous assessment will apply in Round 1. Entrants are therefore not allowed to disclose their own names in the submitted documents at any time. References to own and business names (such as in your disclosure letters and services level agreements etc.) must be struck out. Anonymity during Round 1 is vital. Entrants will be allocated an entry number to use. The entry number is linked to their names separately held on record by FPI.
- i) All financial plans must be submitted in an unmarked lever arch file and properly indexed in accordance with the financial plan index provided by FPI. Only the entrant’s entry number may appear on the file.
- j) Additionally, clients’ personal data must also be struck out so as to retain to ensure confidentiality.
- k) The entrants who are adjudged the best five of Round 1 (“the top five”) will proceed to Round two (2). This round entails a site visit and evaluation by three judges.
- l) The judges will assess the top five’s practices on, amongst other things, all aspects of compliance, practice management, client documentation and the financial planning processes. To assist in this evaluation, each of the top five will be required to complete the FPI Business Assessment Tool and the entrant’s financial plan submitted in Round 1 will be authenticated during the site visit. Additionally, the judges’ opinion on the gravitas of the individual entrant’s client proposition and his/her capacity to represent both a profession and FPI will play a vital role in the assessment.

¹ *The means that all FPI recertification requirements for each cycle are timeously met. See [FPI Memorandum of Incorporation](#) for definition of ‘Good Standing’.*

Entrants are advised to use the Revised FPI Code of Ethics as reference in preparation for this round. In terms of Practice Management, adherence and compliance to all applicable laws must be evident.

- m) The entrants who are adjudged the best four of Round 2 (“the top four”) will proceed to Round three (3). The top four will be required to deliver a presentation to a panel of judges on a selected topic and will be questioned on a variety of industry trends, topics, technical information and legislative changes. These presentations and interviews will take place at the FPI offices (84 Sophia Street, Fairland, Johannesburg). Travel and accommodation expenses will be for the entrant’s own account.
- n) Following Round 3 the top three finalists will be announced in the media. The winner will be announced at the 2021 FPI Awards Ceremony Gala Dinner.

Competition terms

- o) The status of an entrant must throughout the completion be maintained as that of a member in good standing. Should an entrants’ status change at *any time* during the course of the competition, the entrant will be disqualified from the competition with immediate effect.
- p) If it is determined during any round that an entrant tried to solicit information regarding the judging processes, other entrants and their submissions or whatsoever from any FPI employee or any judge of the competition in an *unbecoming* way or to gain an advantage, FPI may, in its sole discretion, disqualify such entrant from the competition.
- q) If, in the course of the year following the competition, the winner be found guilty of any misconduct by any Body (such as, *but by no means limited to*, FPI, FAIS Ombud, Council for Medical Schemes, any other professional body or any court etc.) that winner will immediately and automatically lose his/her title as FPI Financial Planner of the Year.
- r) If the FPI Financial Planner of the Year loses his/her title:
 - FPI reserves the right to publish any such fact and finding/s against the disqualified winner and to announce the new winner in such instance in any media;
 - The first runner-up of the competition will be named the new winner for the remainder of the year;
 - The removed FPI Financial Planner of the Year shall return the FPI Financial Planner of the Year trophy and certificate together with all prizes received to FPI.
- s) The competition is not open to management, staff, contractors and directors of FPI.
- t) The decisions of the judges of the competition and all material associated with it shall be kept confidential and are subject to privilege. No entrant shall be entitled to object to or appeal the outcome of any judging decision for whatever reason and notwithstanding any oversight or mistake that may occur.
- u) In all aspects of the competition and its processes the decisions of FPI shall be final and binding on all entrants and affected parties. FPI shall not enter into any debate or justification of the outcome of the competition nor shall any audit or review of any aspect thereof be allowed.