



GENERAL GUIDELINES, INSTRUCTIONS AND RULES

The SPEC MIX® JR. BRICKLAYER 500 events are established to showcase and reward the skill, commitment and drive of all individuals currently in a masonry training program. Although these competitions are judged on workmanship, the primary objective is to inspire the competitors to achieve higher levels of performance that ultimately reward them with a successful career in the masonry industry.

GENERAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES

1. Length of the contest will be 20 minutes followed by a 2-minute rest period and 5-minute tooling period.
2. The premise of the JR. BRICKLAYER 500 is to construct a finished quality wall containing as many brick as possible while following the rules set forth below.
3. During the competition, the competitors' work methods in the JR. BRICKLAYER 500 shall be as close as possible to an actual jobsite situation. Each competitor is allowed a 1 mason tender that they must provide. No more than 1 mason tender per bricklayer.
4. The bricklayer is responsible for raising his own line blocks and lines at each end of the wall; securing line and pins/corner blocks, and for running each course of bricks. Levels marked for heights are excluded.
5. Contestants will need to furnish their own tools for the competition. This includes all hand tools.
6. A starter-wall consisting of 2 courses of CMU and a starter course of competition brick will be built prior to the event.
7. Upon completion of the competition, each mason and tender will have a 2-minute rest period followed by 5 minutes to tool and brush the entire competition panel. Competitors are expected to tool and clean both sides of the wall.
8. Competitors will be allowed to use any standard masonry tool to finish the working side of the wall. Mortar joints must be tooled with a concave (U) joint finish and the wall must be brushed. Water and any other liquids or cleaning agents are not allowed to be used to finish the wall.

MATERIALS & CONSTRUCTION OF THE WALL

1. Modular brick will be laid utilizing a running ½ bond pattern with a return at each end. The wall will be an 8 foot-long (12 brick per side), 8 inch-wide, and double wythe construction. The exact length and width of the competition wall may be adjusted as needed based on the size of the CMU and brick selected for the competition. Three block will be stacked at each end to provide for a line holder.
2. The wall must be completed so the final brick wythes are within 2 courses of each other to be counted in the final brick count. Units laid beyond this requirement will not be counted in the final brick count, or judged for any additional deductions.

3. Mortar, supplied by SPEC MIX, will be cut flush on both sides of the wall. There is no jointing during the laying portion of the contest. Joints will be finished on the entire wall (both sides and ends) in the finishing portion of the contest.

JUDGING AND QUALITY STANDARDS

The competition walls are judged on height, plumb, voids, head and bed thickness and final brick count. Judges are volunteers and selected based on their level of knowledge and experience.

1. **HEIGHT:** The top surface of the last full double wythe course laid is to be checked for height. The height tolerance over the wall length will be +/- 1/4" or less and will be measured by taking a height measurement on each end and in the middle of the wall on the working side to the last completed double wythe. Competitors will set a pin to mark the points of measure for judging on each end and in the middle on the working side of the wall before the competition starts in the mortar joint under the starter course of brick. Judges will average the 3 height measurements. Each individual measurement cannot vary by more than +/- 1/4" from that average. **Failure to meet any or all height points within the tolerance laid out in this standard will result in a 5 brick deduction in the final brick count.**
2. **PLUMB:** For a wall to be considered plumb, judges will use the competitor's level and plumb gauge at 9 total points (4 points at each end and 1 middle point) to determine if the working side of the wall is within 1/4 inch or less tolerance. Judging will start at the first brick laid during the competition and the level's bubble must remain between the lines on the level. **A 5 brick deduction in the final brick count will be assessed for each plumb point failing to meet the plumb point tolerance (maximum 50 brick deduction).**
3. **VOIDS:** The wall will be allowed no more than 10 voids for the entire project. This will be judged using an S-Jointer. Upon visual inspection, if there appears to be a void, the judge will attempt to tool the head joint and bed joint. If the void can be reasonably filled, it will not be counted as a void. **Exceeding 10 voids will result in a 10 brick deduction in the final brick count.**
4. **BED JOINT THICKNESS:** Mortar joint thickness tolerance for bed joints are not less than 1/4" or greater than 5/8". A 5 brick deduction will be assessed on the final brick count for any bed joint measuring less than 1/4" or greater than 5/8". **The maximum deduction for bed joint thickness is 20 brick.**
5. **HEAD JOINT THICKNESS:** Mortar joint thickness tolerance for head joints is not less than 1/8" or greater than 3/4". A 5 brick deduction will be assessed on the final brick count for any head joint exceeding 3/4" or less than 1/8". Only one deduction can take place at a single head joint. **The maximum deduction for head joint thickness is 20 brick.**

AWARDS

Based on the rules above, first, second and third place titles will be awarded to the masons with the respective ranking brick count accumulated after subtracting any workmanship deductions.

If you have any questions on the competition, please contact your local SPEC MIX Representative or call 888-773-2649. For more information visit www.specmix.com.

