

Annual Poster Competition 2026

Terms and Conditions

Oral Health Conference · November 2026

Version: 1.0 | **Effective date:** June 2026 | **Review date:** June 2027

These terms and conditions apply to all entrants in the BSDHT Annual Poster Competition 2026 and take effect from the date of abstract submission. Submission of an abstract constitutes unconditional acceptance of these terms.

1. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply throughout these terms and conditions:

BSDHT	The British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy, the organising body of the competition.
Competition	The BSDHT Annual Poster Competition 2026, forming part of the Oral Health Conference programme in November 2026.
Entrant	Any individual who submits an abstract for consideration under these terms.
Presenter	The entrant whose poster has been accepted and who presents at the Oral Health Conference.
Abstract	The written summary submitted at the application stage, not exceeding 300 words.
Poster	The final print-ready visual display submitted by an accepted entrant.
Judging Panel	The panel appointed by BSDHT to review abstracts and judge posters.
OHC	The BSDHT Oral Health Conference, November 2026.
Registrant Category	The competition category is open to GDC-registered dental hygienists, dental therapists, and BSDHT members.
Student Category	The competition category is open to students currently or previously enrolled on a GDC-approved dental hygiene and therapy programme. If they have graduated, they must present their poster within 2 years of graduation.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 General eligibility

- The competition is open to dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental hygiene and therapy students, and other members of the dental team.

- Entrants must be aged 18 or over at the time of submission.
- BSDHT Council members, members of the Judging Panel, and BSDHT employees are not eligible to enter.
- An individual may submit only one abstract per competition cycle.
- Co-authors may appear on multiple entries but only one individual may be designated as presenting author per abstract.

2.2 Registrant category

- Entrants must hold current GDC registration as a dental hygienist, dental therapist, or dual-qualified registrant, or hold current BSDHT membership.
- Registration or membership must be active at the closing date for abstract submissions.

2.3 Student category

- Entrants must be enrolled on a GDC-approved dental hygiene or dental hygiene and therapy programme at the time the research was conducted.
- Students who have completed their programme remain eligible for the student category provided they were enrolled at the time the research was conducted and present their poster within 2 years of their graduation date. Students presenting more than 2 years after graduation must enter the Registrant Category instead.
- Students may elect to enter the registrant category instead of the student category but may not enter both.
- The student category will only proceed if a minimum of four eligible entries are received. If fewer than four entries are received, student entries will be transferred to the Registrant Category with the entrant's consent.

3. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Abstract submission

- Abstracts must be submitted using the BSDHT Electronic Submission Form, available from the BSDHT office on request.
- The submission email address is: enquiries@bsdht.org.uk.
- The abstract submission deadline is Friday 7th September 2026, 5:00pm. Submissions received after this time will not be considered under any circumstances.
- Abstracts must not exceed 300 words. Word counts are verified on receipt.
- Abstracts must be written in narrative text only. Graphs, tables, charts, and reference lists must not be included.
- Text must be set in a standard font at a minimum of 10-point size.
- Author details must include: first name, middle initial, last name, credentials, and institutional or professional affiliation for each named author. The presenting author must be identified with an asterisk.
- Where funding has been received in support of the research, this must be declared in the final sentence of the abstract.
- All abstracts must include a statement confirming that ethical approval was obtained, that the research was conducted in accordance with the relevant ethical framework, or that ethical approval was not required and the reason for this.

- Entrants must declare whether they are submitting to the Registrant Category or the Student Category at the time of submission.
- Incomplete or non-conforming submissions will be returned without review. BSDHT will not enter into correspondence regarding why an abstract was deemed non-conforming.

3.2 Originality and prior publication

- All submitted research must be the original work of the named authors.
- The work presented must not have been previously published in a peer-reviewed journal.
- The work must not have been presented in poster or oral presentation format at another national conference within the 12 months preceding the OHC submission deadline.
- Presentation at a local or regional event, or as part of a taught programme assessment, does not preclude submission.
- By submitting, the presenting author warrants that the work meets these requirements. BSDHT reserves the right to disqualify any entry where this warranty is found to be inaccurate.

3.3 Poster submission

- Entrants whose abstracts are accepted will be notified by Wednesday 30th September 2026 and will receive a full poster specification brief.
- The final poster must be submitted as a high-resolution, print-ready PDF by Friday 30th October 2026, 5:00pm.
- Posters must be produced at A0 portrait format (841mm × 1189mm) or a similar size as specified in the brief.
- All images and graphics must be produced at a minimum resolution of 300 ppi at the final print size.
- The poster content must correspond directly to the accepted abstract. Material not contained in the submitted abstract must not be introduced into the poster.
- The poster must include a small photograph of the presenting author at the top of the poster, sufficient to allow identification by the Chair, judges, and delegates.
- The poster must include the title exactly as submitted and accepted.
- Posters that do not meet the technical or content specifications may be excluded from the competition at BSDHT's discretion.
- Accepted posters will be shared with BSDHT's appointed print supplier for the purposes of printing and display at the OHC, and may be published by BSDHT on behalf of the author following the conference.

4. JUDGING PROCESS

4.1 Abstract review

- All conforming abstracts will be reviewed independently by two members of the Judging Panel using a standardised marking rubric.
- Where the scores awarded by two reviewers diverge by more than 6 marks (on a scale of /42), a third independent review will be conducted.
- The progression threshold is 26 out of 42 marks. Abstracts scoring below this threshold will not be accepted for poster presentation.

- All reviewers are required to declare any conflict of interest before reviewing. Where a conflict exists, the abstract will be reallocated to an alternative reviewer.
- Scores are independent. Reviewers must not discuss or disclose scores to any other reviewer or entrant before the review process is complete.
- The decision of the Judging Panel is final. BSDHT will not enter into correspondence regarding individual review outcomes.

4.2 On-the-day judging

- Presenting authors must be present at their poster during the designated judging period at the OHC. Failure to be present will result in disqualification from the competition.
- Poster content is assessed by the Judging Panel ahead of the OHC against a standardised rubric covering: quality of content and rigour; relevance to DHT practice; originality and contribution; poster design and visual clarity; structure and flow; and conclusions and practice implications. At the OHC, presenting authors are separately assessed on presenter knowledge and communication during the designated judging period. Each judge scores independently. Final scores for both stages are combined and collated by the Chair of the poster session.
- Each judge scores independently. Final scores are collated by the Chair of the poster session.
- In the event of a tie, the Judging Panel will confer to reach a decision.
- The Registrant Category and Student Category are judged separately, with independent prizes available.
- BSDHT reserves the right, at the discretion of the Judging Panel, to elevate a Student Category winner into the Registrant Category ranking where their score would have placed them.
- The decision of the judges is final and binding.

5. PRIZES

5.1 Prize structure

Prizes are awarded in both the registrant category and the student category, assuming enough entries have been received for the student category. The prize structure for 2026 is as follows:

1st place	Up to £900 to spend on: • Free 2-day delegate pass for the BSDHT Oral Health Conference 2027, (including travel and one night's accommodation) • Free attendance at a BSDHT Regional Group event (either Spring or Autumn 2027) • 1 years free BSDHT membership
2nd place	Up to £650 to spend on Free 2-day delegate pass for the BSDHT Oral Health Conference 2027, (including travel and one night's accommodation)
3rd place	Up to £325 to spend on: Free 2-day delegate pass for the BSDHT Oral Health Conference 2027.
Student Prize	Up to £325 to spend on: Free 2-day delegate pass for the BSDHT Oral Health Conference 2027.

5.2 Prize conditions

- Prizes are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for a cash equivalent.
- The OHC 2027 delegate pass must be used by the prize winner in person and cannot be transferred to another individual.
- Travel and accommodation arrangements for the delegate pass element of the prize will be made and managed by BSDHT in accordance with its standard booking procedures.
- The BSDHT membership element of the prize applies to individual membership only. It cannot be applied to an existing membership or converted to another membership type.
- Where a sponsor contributes to the prize fund, BSDHT will notify winners of any sponsor-specific conditions attached to their prize at the time of notification.
- BSDHT reserves the right to vary the prize structure in exceptional circumstances. Winners will be notified of any material change before the awards ceremony.

6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PUBLICATION

6.1 Ownership

- The intellectual property in the research content of all submitted abstracts and posters remains with the named authors.
- BSDHT will not reproduce the poster in full without the prior written consent of the presenting author.
- By submitting a final poster, entrants grant BSDHT a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to share the poster file with its appointed print supplier for the sole purpose of producing the physical poster for display at the OHC, and to publish the poster on the author's behalf via BSDHT's website and related channels following the conference.

6.2 Publication and dissemination

- Outstanding entries will be considered for publication in Dental Health, the journal of the BSDHT. Consideration does not guarantee acceptance.
- The decision to submit to Dental Health rests with the presenting author. BSDHT may make an approach but cannot require submission.
- Where work is submitted to Dental Health following the competition, the journal's standard editorial and peer review processes apply. The competition outcome does not constitute editorial acceptance.
- BSDHT may reference competition outcomes and the names of winning entrants in its publications, social media channels, and communications with members. Entrants consent to this use by entering the competition.
- BSDHT will not attribute any specific finding, opinion, or conclusion to a named entrant without their prior written consent beyond what is contained in the submitted abstract.

7. DATA PROTECTION

- Personal data submitted as part of an entry will be processed by BSDHT in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- The lawful basis for processing is the performance of the competition contract and, where applicable, legitimate interests in administering the professional development activities of BSDHT.

- Entrant data will be used solely for the purposes of administering the competition, communicating outcomes, and, where consent is given, promoting the competition and its results.
- Data will be retained for a period of three years following the competition, after which it will be securely deleted, except where retention is required for legal or regulatory purposes.
- Entrants have the right to access, rectify, or request erasure of their personal data. Requests should be directed to the BSDHT Data Protection Lead at enquiries@bsdht.org.uk.
- BSDHT will not share personal data with third parties except where required by law or where a sponsor requires basic winner details for prize fulfilment, in which case entrants will be notified in advance.
- Where a poster file is shared with BSDHT's appointed print supplier for printing purposes, that supplier acts as a data processor on BSDHT's behalf and is bound by appropriate data processing terms.

8. CONDUCT AND WITHDRAWAL

8.1 Entrant conduct

- All entrants are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the GDC Standards for the Dental Team and with BSDHT's membership values throughout the competition.
- Any entrant who engages in conduct that BSDHT considers to be dishonest, disrespectful, or prejudicial to the integrity of the competition may be disqualified at BSDHT's discretion.
- Attempts to influence or contact members of the Judging Panel in relation to the competition, other than through the formal process, will result in immediate disqualification.

8.2 Withdrawal by the entrant

- An entrant may withdraw from the competition at any stage by notifying the BSDHT office in writing at enquiries@bsdht.org.uk.
- Withdrawal after acceptance but before poster submission does not affect the entrant's eligibility to enter future competitions.
- Where an accepted entrant is unable to present at the OHC due to exceptional circumstances, BSDHT may, at its absolute discretion, permit a co-author to present in their place. This must be agreed with the BSDHT office in writing no later than 14 days before the OHC.

8.3 Withdrawal or cancellation by BSDHT

- BSDHT reserves the right to cancel, postpone, or amend the competition in the event of circumstances outside its reasonable control, including but not limited to force majeure events, venue unavailability, or a significant reduction in the number of eligible entries.
- In the event of cancellation, BSDHT will notify all entrants as soon as reasonably practicable. No liability will attach to BSDHT for losses arising from cancellation in such circumstances.
- BSDHT reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions at any time. Material amendments will be communicated to entrants by email.

9. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

- BSDHT accepts no responsibility for entries that are lost, delayed, or corrupted in transmission.

- BSDHT accepts no liability for any costs incurred by entrants in preparing, submitting, or presenting their entry, including travel, accommodation, or printing costs, except where these form part of a prize awarded.
- Nothing in these terms and conditions shall limit BSDHT's liability for death or personal injury caused by its negligence, or for fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation.

10. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- These terms and conditions are governed by the law of England and Wales. Any disputes arising in connection with the competition shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.
- If any provision of these terms and conditions is found to be invalid or unenforceable, that provision shall be severed and the remaining provisions shall continue in full force.
- These terms and conditions constitute the entire agreement between BSDHT and the entrant in relation to the competition and supersede any prior communications or representations.

11. CONTACT

For all competition enquiries, please contact:

Competition submissions	enquiries@bsdht.org.uk
General enquiries	enquiries@bsdht.org.uk
Telephone	01788 575050
Website	www.bsdht.org.uk

Acceptance of terms

Submission of an abstract to the BSDHT Annual Poster Competition 2026 constitutes the entrant's unconditional acceptance of these terms and conditions in their entirety. If you do not accept these terms, you must not submit an entry.