

National ASA
YOUNG JUDGES
& PARADERS
CHAMPIONSHIPS

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS AUSTRALIA
HANDBOOK

NATIONAL ASA MERINO SHEEP JUDGING CHAMPIONSHIP
HANDBOOK

[Version 24th July 2023]



AGRICULTURAL SHOWS
AUSTRALIA

JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

THE JUDGING CARDS FOR THIS NATIONAL ASA CHAMPIONSHIP SHOULD BE ON YELLOW COLOURED PAPER.

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The National Agricultural Shows Australia (ASA) Merino Sheep Young Judges Championship (National Championship) through competition provides education and experience for future judges for Agricultural Shows and industry alike.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. To be eligible to compete in the National Championship, each Competitor must have lived, worked or attended school within a State/ Territory they represent in the previous three (3) months and can only represent one State/ Territory at a National Championship in any given Calendar year.
2. Competitors must be fifteen (15) and under twenty-five (25) years of age on 1st May in the year of the Competitor's National/ State/ Territory Final. Competitors under the age of eighteen (18) must be accompanied by a chaperone.
3. Each year, one (1) competitor is to represent each State/ Territory and one (1) Competitor to affiliated National organisation [e.g. New Zealand].
4. The Computer Scoring Program and the Hormel Slide are to be used at the National Championship Final for calculation of the points and placings.
5. The Championship Judge **must** not have access to any Master Score Sheet prior to the announcement of the winners of the National Championship.
6. At no time during the National Championship should a Competitor talk with the Championship Judge unless directed to do so by the Ring Steward.
7. Nation/ State/ Territory/ Secretaries **must** inform the ASA Secretariat of the title, name, address, date of birth, age, contact numbers (phone and mobile) and email address of **their** Competitor in a Judging Championship going on to a National Championship Final. The ASA Secretariat will advise these Competitors of the venue and times of the National Championship Final.
8. The winner and runner-up of the National Championship should be requested to do a report on any travel tour they undertake to validate sponsorship money.
9. The winner is ineligible to compete again after winning the final of the National ASA Merino Sheep Young Judges Championship.
10. Competitors will be eliminated from the National Championship if the Judge's Steward considers they are receiving outside assistance including the use of unauthorised devices.

PROCEDURE FOR RUNNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Two (2) Classes of four (4) animals [e.g. four (4) ewes, and four (4) rams] are to be judged by Competitors. One (1) Class judged at a time.
2. They may choose which group of four (4) animals they wish to speak on.
3. Animals in each Class must be identified by 'breastplates' numbers one, two, three, four (1, 2, 3, 4), and **not** A B C D. This is essential when using the Computer Scoring Program and Hormel Slide are used.

4. All Competitors will take part in the Oral judging and use the card/ sheet marked 'Oral Class'. Before the commencement of the Oral presentation, each Competitor is required to give instruction to the Ring Steward to place the ribbons on the merino sheep in their placement order. The ribbon colour order being Blue – First (1st), Red – Second (2nd), White – Third (3rd), Yellow – Forth (4th).
5. Visual judging will take place first. Competitors will be allowed twelve (12) minutes to judge the four (4) animals and to complete each Visual Judging Card. Judging cards must be completed in this allocated time.
6. Each Competitor in the Oral Class is allowed two (2) minutes speak, explaining his/ her placing from their nominated group of animals. **Penalty points apply** – one (1) point should be deducted for every ten (10) seconds over the allotted two (2) minutes.
7. The winner of the National Championship is marked out of a maximum two hundred (200) points: fifty (50) points for the placings in each Class; fifty (50) points for handling of animals in the Handle Class; and fifty (50) points for the Oral Class.
8. Competitors in the Oral Class are scored on their accuracy of observation, their comparative statements, speaking ability and general presentation and dress.
9. In the case of a dead heat the Competitor with the highest total points for Visual judging will be declared the winner, or if there is still a dead heat the Championship Judge will have the final say. All tie-break details are to be confirmed by the Judge's Steward.

USE OF JUDGING CARDS

1. Judging Cards are simple in design. All that is required by Competitors is to place animals in order from one, two, three, four (1, 2, 3, 4). Judging cards must be completed in this allocated time.
2. It is essential that one (1) Championship Judge officiate for the two (2) Classes.
3. The Championship Judge, when filling out his/ her Master Card, is to note a numerical difference (split) between placings per Class, as directed in the instructions for use of the Hormel Slide. At a National Championship the following guidelines apply the split should be no greater than five between placings, with a maximum split of 12 in total. The Hormel Slide shows the degree of penalty (splits) as related to the degree of difference between placings and the Competitor is scored accordingly.
4. The Oral Section Guideline may be retained by the Competitor. It is designed to ensure Competitors use comparative details in their Oral description of the Class. The Work Sheet is to note the features of each animal and the reason it was placed in its position.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TIMING

To maintain the interest of Competitors, the animals and the spectators, it is important the entire National Championship is completed in approximately one and a half (1½) hours. The timing should be as follows:

NOTE: Judging cards must be completed in this allocated time. Timing is not to commence until sheep are in position.

Visual Judging: (two or three [2 or 3] Competitors at a time)

Seven [7] minutes – sheep standing

Three [3] minutes – sheep sitting

Twelve [12] minutes – to re-stand sheep

Two [2] minutes – sheep standing 24 minutes

Changeover times 3 minutes

Data Reader Steward to finalise Competitors visual score 3 minutes

Oral Judging:

All Competitors, except one [1] should be taken out of hearing range of the Judging Ring prior to their Oral presentation

Eight [8] Competitors' Oral Tests – Three [3] minutes each

{One [1] minute placing, Two [2] minutes speaking}} 48 minutes

Change over time {One [1] minute each} 8 minutes

Comments from Championship judge on Oral Class 10 minutes

Announcement and Presentation of Awards 8 minutes

Total Time 124 minutes

In order to maintain the impetus of the National Championship, immediately the Championship judge has completed his/ her final comments, the National Championship results should be ready to be announced and the Awards and Presentations made.

COMPETITION CARDS

COMPETITORS VISUAL PLACING CARD

[Visual/ Physical Class]

Judging cards must be completed the allocated time.

Competitor's No:				
Class:				
Placings:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Max. Points
					50



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COMPETITORS VISUAL PLACING CARD

[Visual/ Physical Class]

Judging cards must be completed the allocated time.

Competitor's No:				
Class:				
Placings:	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Max. Points
					50

CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE ORAL/ VISUAL ASSESSMENT CARD

[Oral Class]

Competitor's No: Selected Breed:

Class	Score	Max. Points
Competitor's Placing		50
Competitor's Handling		50
Oral Order: (a) Accuracy of observation (b) Ability to compare animals (c) Speaking ability (d) Presentation and dress		15 15 10 10
SUB TOTAL		
PENALTIES		
TOTAL		50

ASA NATIONAL MERINO
SHEEP YOUNG JUDGES
CHAMPIONSHIP HANDLING
SCORE CARD

Competitor Number	Handling Score Score/ 50

ASA NATIONAL MERINO
SHEEP YOUNG JUDGES
CHAMPIONSHIP HANDLING
SCORE CARD

Competitor Number	Handling Score Score/ 50

ASA NATIONAL MERINO
SHEEP YOUNG JUDGES
CHAMPIONSHIP HANDLING
SCORE CARD

Competitor Number	Handling Score Score/ 50

ASA NATIONAL MERINO
SHEEP YOUNG JUDGES
CHAMPIONSHIP HANDLING
SCORE CARD

Competitor Number	Handling Score Score/ 50

RESOURCES

ORAL SECTION GUIDELINES

All Competitors will take part in the Oral Judging and speak on both classes. Upon entering the Judging Ring each Competitor will give instructions to the Ring Steward to place the ribbons on the animals in their placement order. Ribbon colour order being Blue – 1st, Red – 2nd, White – 3rd, Yellow – 4th.

Competitors are allowed one (1) minute to place the animals in their order of merit.

Competitors are allowed two (2) minutes to clearly express their oral reasoning to the Championship Judge and spectators the reasons they placed the Exhibits in a particular order. **Penalty points apply** – One (1) point should be deducted for every ten (10) seconds or part thereof over the allotted two (2) minutes.

Competitors to have their reasons organised and emphasise the most important points they wish to make.

When giving their reasons, the main objective is to inform the Championship Judge that the Competitors have seen and compared each animal in the Class.

It is important to make comparisons between animals rather than describe individual animals. Commence the Oral reasoning as follows:-

'I placed this Class four, one, three, two (4, 1, 3, 2)'.

Give the most important reasons first and remember to use comparative terms. Where necessary then follow with:

'In the top pair I placed four (4) ahead of one (1) because four (4) {.....}'

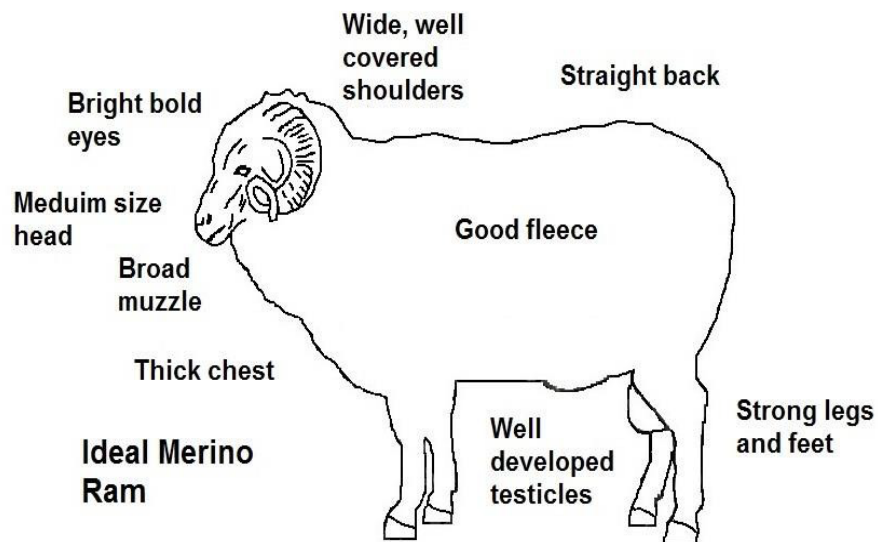
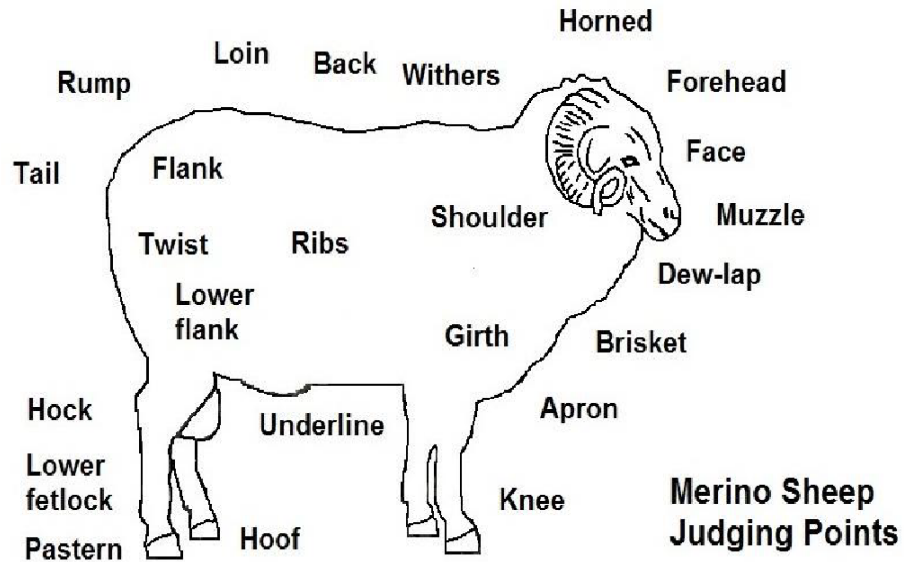
This demonstrates to the Championship Judge the accuracy of the priorities. Mention any major faults if present.

Continue in similar manner by comparing the middle pair and finally the bottom pair. Remember: Speak clearly; Be concise; Show conviction in your placings;

Introduction [important statements first, small points at the end] logical order [comparison of pairs] and conclusion;

DRESS - Competitors must be neatly and suitably attired, and male Competitors must wear a tie and long pants. Long hair is to be restrained and only minimal jewellery is acceptable. Closed in shoes are essential. Shorts, chewing gum and poor presentation is unacceptable and will be marked down accordingly.

JUDGING POINTS DIAGRAM



NOTES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE

In the selection of a Class of animals for the Merino Sheep Judging Championship, the aim should be to get a group of four [4] animals upon whose placing experienced Judges, after careful inspection and consideration, would be likely to agree.

As a general rule, these should be four [4] ewes and four [4] rams (fine or medium strength) with a quality variation.

A suitable group of animals might be made up of a fairly clear leader, a fairly obvious 'tail', and two [2] others that present a more difficult choice. They will be judged against the standard of what is considered a good Merino type, rather than one that pays strict attention to specific breed points. Animals of similar age and size should be selected for the National Championship.

Prior to the National Championship the Championship Judge will select the animals to be judged – if required this can be done a day or two before the National Championship. On the day of the National Championship the Championship Judge will decide on the correct placing of the animals in each Judging Ring and note on the Master Card. At no time during the National Championship should the Championship Judge talk with a Competitor unless directed to do so by the Ring Steward.

In filling out the Master Cards, the Championship Judge is required to note a numerical difference between animals as directed in instructions for use of the Computer Scoring Program and Hormel Slide. Both the Computer Scoring Program and Hormel Slide show the degree of penalty as related to the degree of difference between animal placings and the Competitor is scored accordingly.

A Competitor is in as good a position as is the Championship Judge to observe both the good and bad points or faults of the animals. But even if he/ she does so, he/ she may draw different conclusions because he/ she does not give those good and bad points the same importance as does the Championship Judge. This difference of opinion will be reflected in the Competitor's low score for placing, and he/ she should not be further penalised in the Oral Test if his/ her observation has been accurate and the Championship Judge considers the reasoning to be logical.

Each Competitor in the oral section is allowed one [1] minute to line up the animals in his/ her order of merit and two [2] minutes to state his/ her reasoning for the placings. With changeover time between the classes. If he/ she finishes in less than this time, but has said all that was needed to support his/ her case, he/ she should not be penalised. If he/ she exceeds the two [2] minutes, marks should be deducted from the maximum fifteen [15] points allowed for 'speaking ability'. One [1] point should be deducted for every ten [10] seconds over the allotted two [2] minutes.

At the conclusion of the National Championship, the Championship Judge is asked to give his/ her own reasons for the placing of the animals. If possible, with the animals present. Comment on the various oral and ringcraft styles of the Competitors may also be made.

As far as possible to maintain Competitor and spectator interest in the National Championship, it is important that it is confined to a time limit. Championship Judges are asked to confine their comments to the times suggested in the 'Competition Procedure' for all Merino sheep judging Competitions.

DRESS – Competitors must be neatly and suitably attired with either long sleeved shirt and jacket, and male Competitors must wear a tie and long pants. Long hair is to be restrained and only minimal jewellery is acceptable. Closed in shoes are essential. Shorts, chewing gum and poor presentation is unacceptable and will be marked down accordingly.

REASON CARD FOR COMPETITOR'S NOTES

Class:

Placings: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

*Please remember when speaking to say why you put first [1st] place over second [2nd], second [2nd] place over third [3rd], etc.

Exhibit 1	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Good Attributes</div> <div style="padding: 5px;">Faults</div>	Placing
Exhibit 2	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Good Attributes</div> <div style="padding: 5px;">Faults</div>	Placing
Exhibit 3	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Good Attributes</div> <div style="padding: 5px;">Faults</div>	Placing
Exhibit 4	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">Good Attributes</div> <div style="padding: 5px;">Faults</div>	Placing

MASTER CARD - CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE'S FINAL PLACINGS ANIMAL CARD

Sex:.....

Placings:

1	2	3	4
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Gaps:

1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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MASTER CARD - CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE'S FINAL PLACINGS ANIMAL CARD

Sex:.....

Placings:

1	2	3	4
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Gaps:

1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

NATIONAL ASA CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS SHEET

Awards to be presented in the following order:

Championship: _____

Award	Recipient Competitor	Jurisdiction	Awarded by
Third Place			
Runner-Up			
Winner			
Finalists			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Judges Steward

Name	Signature	Date

Data Entry Steward

Name	Signature	Date

Data Reader Steward

Name	Signature	Date