



National ASA
YOUNG JUDGES
& PARADERS
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Grain Young Judges Championship
National Handbook

For use at the 2025 National Championships



AGRICULTURAL SHOWS
AUSTRALIA

Contents

RULES AND REGULATIONS.....	3
PROCEDURE FOR RUNNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	4
EXHIBIT PRESENTATION & PARADING OF ANIMALS	5
USE OF JUDGING CARDS	5
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TIMING	6
COMPETITION CARDS	7
COMPETITORS' VISUAL PLACING CARD	7
REASON CARD FOR COMPETITOR'S NOTES	8
CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE ORAL ASSESSMENT CARD	9
MASTER CARD – CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE'S FINAL PLACINGS CARD.....	10
STEWARD'S CARD – EXHIBIT PLACING FOR ORAL SECTION	12
ORAL TIMING CARD.....	13
RESOURCES	14
ORAL SECTION GUIDELINES.....	14
NOTES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGES	15
EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE GUIDELINES.....	16
MASTER SCORE SHEET	17
NATIONAL ASA CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS SHEET.....	18
APPENDIX.....	19
APPENDIX 1: DISPUTES RESOLUTION PROCEDURE	19

The National Agricultural Shows Australia (ASA) Grain 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 Grain Young Judges 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 jurisdiction at a National Championship in any given Calendar year.
2. Competitors must be fifteen (15) and under twenty-five (25) years of age on first (1st) May in the year of the Competitor's jurisdiction 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 represent any 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. Jurisdiction Representatives **must** inform the ASA National Finals Coordinator 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 National Competitions Coordinator 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 Grain 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.
11. The Championship Judge should declare any conflicts of interest to the National Competition Coordinator before the National Championship for determination. These would include relationships, both personal and professional, and any financial gain.
12. All disputes raised by competitors will be handled following the dispute resolution procedure which is appendix 1.

PROCEDURE FOR RUNNING THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Three (3) classes of grain are to be judged by Competitors.
2. One (1) Class judged at a time. Visual judging will take place first.
 - a. Each class will consist of four samples of the same species, the species may be any grain, oilseed, or pulse. Within a class multiple varieties of the same species may be represented.
 - b. Exhibits in each Class must be identified by exhibit cards numbered one, two, three, four (1, 2, 3, 4), and **not** A, B, C, D with relevant variety, weights and measurements on them. This is essential when the Computer Scoring Program and Hormel Slide are used.
3. The National Championship is marked out of a maximum of two hundred (230) points: fifty (50) points for the placings in each of the three (3) Classes, ten (10) points for handling in each of the classes and fifty (50) points for the Oral Class.
 - a. Each Competitor may select their Class for the Oral presentation. Before the commencement of visual judging, competitors will be given one minute to select the class on which they deliver their oral presentation.
4. Visual Judging.
 - a. Grains are to be judged as to what a good sample of grain is of equal size, a regular shape and a similar colour. Freedom from contaminants, diseased grain, pest infections or damage.
 - b. Competitors will be allowed six (6) minutes to judge the four (4) samples and to complete each Visual Judging Card.
 - c. The method to present exhibits is described on page 5.
 - d. Judging Cards are simple in design. All that is required by Competitors is to place exhibits in order from one to four (1 to 4).
 - e. Judging cards must be completed in the allocated time.
 - f. Judging cards will not be returned to the competitors.
5. Oral Judging.
 - a. All Competitors will take part in the Oral judging and the championship judge uses the card/ sheet marked 'Oral Class'.
 - b. Before the oral presentations begin, competitors are to select the class they wish to speak on.
 - c. Before the commencement of the Oral presentation, each Competitor is required to give instructions to the Ring Steward on the class they will be speak on and to place the exhibits in the order that they have chosen, The ribbon colour order being: Blue – First (1st), Red – Second (2nd), White – Third (3rd), Yellow– Forth (4th).
 - d. Each Competitor in the Oral Judging is allowed two (2) minutes to speak, explaining their placing from their nominated group of animals. **Penalty points apply** – One (1) point should be deducted for every ten (10) seconds or part thereof over the allotted two (2) minutes.
 - e. Competitors in the Oral Class are scored on their accuracy of observation, their ability to compare, judging etiquette speaking ability along with general presentation and dress.
6. The Championship Judge will not speak on any class until after all competitors have given their oral and score cards have been handed to the stewards.
7. In the case of a dead heat the Competitor with the highest points for oral 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.
8. Presentation of the Winners for the National Championship
 - a. All finalists will be presented, and then the results announced in the following order: 3rd place, reserve champion, then champion.

EXHIBIT PRESENTATION

Exhibits to be presented in the one, two, three, four (1, 2, 3, 4) on a table that all competitors can access in even lighting.

1. Exhibits are to be accompanied by an exhibit card that states the exhibit number, variety, weight and measurements (protein or oil content)
2. Competitors have 6 minutes to judge a class.
3. Judging Cards to be handed in at the end of six (6) minutes. Judging cards must be completed the allocated time.
4. Ring stewards are to clean the table before a new group of competitors starts a class.

USE OF JUDGING CARDS

1. Judging cards must be completed by the allocated time.
2. Judging Cards are simple in design. All that is required by Competitors is to place exhibits in order one, two, three, four (1, 2, 3, 4).
3. It is essential that one (1) Championship judge officiate for the three (3) Classes.
The Championship Judge, when filling out their Master Card, is to note a numerical difference (split) between placings per Class, as directed in the instructions for use of the HormelSlide.
4. 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.
5. The exhibit placing card should be used by the ring steward to record the class selected and the placing of exhibits for each competitor to ensure exhibits are correctly sashed before the competitor commences the oral section.
6. The oral timing record sheet is to be used to record the length of speech and calculate any penalties if required.
7. 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.
8. The reason card is to note the features of each exhibit and the reason it was placed in its position.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TIMING

To maintain the interest of Competitors, 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:

Visual Judging:

Judging three (3) classes – Eight (6) minutes each	18 minutes
<i>Judging cards must be completed in this allocated time.</i>	
Changeover times	3 minutes
Data Reader Steward (Competitors) finalise visual score	3 minutes

Oral Judging:

Competitors orals	20 minutes
Comments from Championship Judges	10 minutes
Announcement and Presentation of Awards	8 minutes
Total Time	62 minutes

To maintain the impetus of the National Championship, immediately after the Championship Judges have completed their 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 in the allocated time.

Competitors Number: _____					
Class: _____					
Placings:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Max Points 50

----- ✂ -----

COMPETITORS' VISUAL PLACING CARD

(Visual/ Physical Class)

Judging Cards must be completed in the allocated time

Competitors Number: _____					
Class: _____					
Placings:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Max Points 50

----- ✂ -----

COMPETITORS' VISUAL PLACING CARD

(Visual/ Physical Class)

Judging Cards must be completed in the allocated time

Competitors Number: _____					
Class: _____					
Placings:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Max Points 50

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	Good Attributes	Placing
	Faults	
Exhibit 2	Good Attributes	Placing
	Faults	
Exhibit 3	Good Attributes	Placing
	Faults	
Exhibit 4	Good Attributes	Placing
	Faults	

CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE ORAL ASSESSMENT CARD

Class.....

Competitor									Max												
Class																					
PLACING																					
Accuracy of observation																					15
Ability to compare exhibits																					15
Speaking ability																					10
Presentation and dress																					10
SUB TOTAL																					50
PENALTIES																					
TOTAL																					

MASTER CARD – CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE’S FINAL PLACINGS CARD

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.

Class: _____				
Placings:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
	1-2	2-3	3-4	

----- ✂ Cut here -----

MASTER CARD – CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE’S FINAL PLACINGS CARD

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.

Class: _____				
Placings:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
	1-2	2-3	3-4	

----- ✂ Cut here -----

MASTER CARD – CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE’S FINAL PLACINGS CARD

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.

Class: _____				
Placings:	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
	1-2	2-3	3-4	

ASA NATIONAL YOUNG JUDGES CHAMPIONSHIP HANDLING SCORE CARD

Competitor No.	Notes	Handling Score Class 1 Max 10 points	Handling Score Class 2 Max 10 points	Handling Score Class 3 Max 10 points

STEWARDS CARD – EXHIBIT PLACING FOR ORAL SECTION

Before the commencement of the Oral presentation, each Competitor is required to give instruction to the Ring Steward to place exhibits.

Ribbon colour order: Blue – First (1st), Red – Second (2nd), White – Third (3rd), Yellow– Forth (4th).

Competitor No.	Class	Placing
Championship Judges Placings		

ORAL TIMING CARD

Penalty points apply – One (1) point should be deducted for every ten (10) seconds or part thereof over the allotted two (2) minutes, per class.

Competitor No.	Oral Time	Penalties Received

Timekeeper Steward

Name	Signature	Date

RESOURCES

ORAL SECTION GUIDELINES

All Competitors will take part in the Oral Judging and speak on one class of their choosing. The Championship Judge will use the card/ sheet marked 'Oral Class'. The ring steward will place the exhibits and the ribbons on them according to record on the exhibit placing for oral section. The competitor will be asked to confirm this is correct prior to delivering their oral.

Ribbon colour order being Blue – 1st, Red – 2nd, White – 3rd, Yellow - 4th.

If there is a disagreement between the order the competitor recalls to the order submitted on the oral judging score.

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 should have their reasons organised and emphasise the most important points they wish to make. When giving the reasons, the main objective is to inform the Championship Judges that the Competitor has seen and compared each exhibit in the Class. It is important to make comparisons between exhibits rather than describe individual exhibits. 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 the Competitor can 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 any 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 the placings.

Introduction (important statements first, small points at the end) logical order (comparison of pairs) and conclusion.

NOTES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGES

In the selection of a Class of grains for the National Championship, the aim should be to get a group of four (4) upon whose placing experienced Judges, after careful inspection and consideration, would be likely to agree. The exhibits to include three at least (3) different Classes of grains.

A suitable class might be made up of a fairly clean sample, a fairly obvious poor sample 'tail', and two others that present a more difficult choice. They will be judged against the standard of what is considered a good quality grain type, rather than one that pays strict attention to specific grain points. It should be made clear to the competitors that they are judging the grain as it is presented rather than what may happen later in the pipeline. For a State or National Championship it is expected that the gap between individual exhibits could be closer and this would also be reflected in the points allocated to the splits between placing.

Prior to the National Championship the Championship judge can select the grain exhibits 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 grain exhibits in each Class 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 grain exhibits as directed in instructions for use of the Computer Scoring Program or Hormel Slide. Computer Scoring Program shows the degree of penalty as related to the degree of difference between the grain exhibit 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 of the grains. But even if the competitor does so, they may draw different conclusions because the competitor 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 the competitor should not be further penalised in the Oral Test if their observation has been accurate and the Championship judge considers the reasoning to be logical.

Each Competitor in the Oral Class is allowed one (1) minute to confirm the grain samples in their order of merit and two (2) minutes to state their reasoning for the placings. If the competitor finishes in less than this time, but has said all that was needed to support their case, they should not be penalised. Stewards will apply penalties as required if the competitor exceeds two minutes speaking.

At the conclusion of the National Championship the Championship judge is asked to give their own reasons for the placing of the grain exhibits. 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 allotted time suggested.

EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE GUIDELINES

Competitors must be neatly and suitably attired. Attire should be selected to allow the competitor to participate in judging. It is essential to consider workplace health and safety when selecting attire. Enclosed shoes are strongly encouraged in all competitions along with the use of hats when sun protection is necessary. Caps are discouraged along with excessive jewellery.

Competitors will not be penalised for wearing the uniform if provided by their state.

Shorts, chewing gum and poor presentation is unacceptable and will be marked down accordingly. The use of unauthorised electronic devices is strictly prohibited and will be dealt with in accordance with Agricultural Shows Australia policy.

During visual judging, competitors may choose to remove their blazer; however, it is encouraged that a blazer be worn during the oral section of the competition. Competitors will be provided with a dust coat for visual judging if required by the competition.

MASTER SCORE SHEET

Date

Class: I)

Place.....

II).....

III).....

Competitor's Name	No	Placing			Sub Total (150)	Handling (30)	Oral (50)	Penalties	TOTAL (230)	Placings
		(I) (50)	(II) (50)	(III) (50)						

NATIONAL ASA CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS SHEET

Championship: _____

Present all competitors with badges in draw order

Draw number	Competitor Name	Jurisdiction
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		

Present place getters:

Award	Recipient Competitor	Jurisdiction
Third Place		
Reserve Champion		
Champion		

Presentations made by:

Name	Role

Judges Steward

Name	Signature	Date

Data Entry Steward

Name	Signature	Date

Data Reader Steward

Name	Signature	Date

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1: DISPUTES RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

Overview

Agricultural Shows Australia (ASA) and the National Championships aim to provide a fair and transparent process for competitors to raise and resolve grievances. This procedure outlines the steps and timeframes for competitors to follow when raising a grievance, as well as the process ASA will use to address and resolve these disputes.

Step-by-Step Resolution Procedure

1. Raising a Grievance

1.1. Initial Complaint Submission

- Advice needs to be given that a complaint will be given to the National Finals Coordinator within an hour of the competition's conclusion.
- A competitor who wishes to raise a grievance must first submit their complaint in writing (hand written or electronic) to the National Finals Coordinator.
- The complaint should include the following details:
 - Name of the competitor
 - Description of the grievance
 - Relevant evidence or documentation supporting the complaint
 - Desired outcome or resolution
- The formal complaint needs to be received within 24 hours of advice being received.

1.2. Acknowledgment of Receipt

- Upon receiving the complaint, the National Finals Coordinator will acknowledge receipt in writing.
- The acknowledgement will include a brief outline of the next steps and an estimated timeline for resolution.

2. National Finals Coordinator's Investigation and Resolution

2.1. Initial Review

- The National Finals Coordinator will conduct an initial review of the grievance.
- During this review, the National Finals Coordinator may:
 - Request additional information from the competitor
 - Interview relevant parties involved in the dispute
 - Gather further evidence

2.2. Decision and Response

- The National Finals Coordinator will make a decision regarding the grievance as to whether it will be escalated to Agricultural Shows Australia review panel.
- The decision will be communicated to the competitor in writing and will include:
 - The findings of the investigation
 - The decision made regarding the grievance
 - Any proposed actions or resolutions

3. Escalation to Agricultural Shows Australia

3.1. Appeal Submission

- If the competitor is not satisfied with the decision made by the National Finals Coordinator, they may appeal to Agricultural Shows Australia.
- The appeal must be submitted in writing within 1 day of receiving the National Finals Coordinator's decision.
- The appeal should include:
 - A copy of the original complaint
 - The State Team Manager's decision
 - The reason for the appeal and any new evidence or information

3.2. Acknowledgment of Receipt

- ASA will acknowledge receipt of the appeal.
- The acknowledgment will outline the process and estimated timeline for reviewing the appeal.

4. Agricultural Shows Australia's Review and Resolution

4.1. Formation of Review Panel

- ASA will form a Review Panel.
- The Review Panel will consist of:
 - A representative from ASA
 - An independent expert related to the field of the grievance
 - A legal advisor (if necessary)

4.2. Comprehensive Review

- The Review Panel will conduct a comprehensive review of the grievance, considering all submitted information and evidence.
- The panel may:
 - Request further information from the competitor or involved parties.
 - Conduct interviews with relevant parties
 - Consult with additional experts if required
- This review process will be completed within 30 days.

4.3. Final Decision

- The Review Panel will make a final decision based on their findings.
- The final decision will be communicated to the competitor and the State Team Manager in writing within 5 days of completing the review.
- The communication will include:
 - A detailed explanation of the Review Panel's findings
 - The final decision regarding the grievance
 - Any actions to be taken or resolutions to be implemented

Contact Information

For any questions or further information regarding the dispute resolution process, competitors may contact their State Team Manager or Agricultural Shows Australia directly at nationalfinals@agshowsaustralia.org.au.