



**AGRICULTURAL SHOWS  
AUSTRALIA**

**AGRICULTURAL SHOWS  
AUSTRALIA HANDBOOK**

**NATIONAL ASA ALPACA YOUNG JUDGES  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

**(Updated 19 January 2022)**

**JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS**

**THE JUDGING CARDS FOR THIS CHAMPIONSHIP SHOULD BE ON  
WHITE COLOURED PAPER.**

**National ASA Alpaca (Animal and Fleece) Judging Championship**

**Agricultural Shows Australia Handbook**

**NATIONAL ASA ALPACA YOUNG JUDGES CHAMPIONSHIP**

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## **National ASA Alpaca (Animal and Fleece) Judging Championship**

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**The National Agricultural Shows Australia (ASA) Alpaca (Animal in halter and Fleece) Young Judges 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 the Nation/ State/ Territory they represent in the previous three (3) months prior to the Nation/ State/ Territory Final 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 first (1st) May in the year of the Competitor's Nation/ State/ Territory Championship 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. 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 Alpaca Young Judges Championship.
10. Competitors will be eliminated from the Championship if the Judge's Steward considers they are receiving outside assistance including the use of unauthorised devices. Access to calculators will be available during judging.

### **Notes for Host Nation/ State/ Territory**

1. Each year nominations can be received from the National Final Host for the Data Reader position. Appointees will be approved by the National Competitions Working Group (NCWG). Appointees are required to attend a Training Workshop prior to the National Finals.  
Host Nation/ State/ Territory is to provide ring steward and announcer. NCWG will provide data entry, timekeeper, and ring stewards. Any vacant steward positions will be filled by the NCWG.
2. The role and activities of officials are listed in the 'National ASA Young Judges & Paraders Championship Handbook.'
3. One (1) Championship Judge is required for this Alpaca Judging Championship.
4. The Host RAS or nominated Show is to provide place ribbons to Exhibitors/ Competitors
5. Rules and Regulations for the National Championship to be sent out to Competitors through the ASA Secretariat.

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Please Note:	i	This is a master set of Alpaca Judging Instruction Sheets to photocopy for the Championship.
	ii	Championship Judge receives all pages.
	iii	Competitors receive pages 8, 9, 10, 11, 19
	iv	Scoring Steward receives pages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 21, 22, 24, and 25
	v	Pages should be given to the Championship judge and Competitors with time for them to read through before the Championship begins.
	vi	Pages 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15 and 20 are for the use of the Championship Judge's Steward.
	vii	Additional requisites – Competitor Numbers and 3 sets of numbers (1 to 4).

The arrangements for the conduct of this National ASA Championship are as follows

#### **A. PROCEDURE FOR RUNNING THE NATIONAL ASA CHAMPIONSHIP**

1. The Alpaca Young Judges National Championship will consist of two sections; led animals and fleece. Each section is to have two classes: one of Huacaya and one of Suri comprising of four exhibits each. The National Championship will be determined by the aggregate scores from both sections.
  1. Exhibits at the show in which the National Championship is being held may be used only if unplaced.
  2. Exhibits (animals and fleeces) must be identified by 'breastplates' or 'armbands' numbered one, two, three, four (1, 2, 3, 4), and **not** A, B, C, D with relevant measurements recorded on them.

This is essential when the Computer Scoring Program and Hormel Slide are used.
  3. In the led/animal section,
    - a) Visual judging of the Huacaya will take place first, or simultaneously with the judging of Suri. If there are seven (7) competitors, four (4) competitors judge the Huacaya whilst the other three (3) judge the Suri, and then switch over.
    - b) Competitors will be allowed ten (10) minutes per class of led animals.
  4. In the fleece section,
    - a) Visual of the Huacaya fleeces will take place first, or simultaneously with the judging of Suri fleeces. If there are eight (8) competitors or less, four (4) competitors judge the Huacaya fleeces whilst the other four (4) judge the Suri fleeces, and then switch over.
    - b) Competitors will be allowed twenty (20) minutes to judge each class in this which includes annualization calculations.
    - c) Competitors are to complete and retain Fleece Score Cards for each class, to assist in their preparation for the oral presentation, but should hand in their Competitors Fleece Placing Card.

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5. 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 animals and fleeces in their placement order. The ribbon colour order being Blue – First (1st), Red – Second (2nd), White – Third (3rd), Yellow – Fourth (4th).
6. Each Competitor in the Oral Judging is allowed two (2) minutes to speak, explaining his/ her placing from their nominated group of fleeces. **Penalty points apply** – One (1) point should be deducted for every ten (10) seconds or part thereof over the allotted two (2) minutes.
7. Competitors in the Oral Class are scored on their judging craft, accuracy of observation, their comparative statements, speaking ability and general presentation and dress.
8. Assessor marks for Competitors cards will be awarded as follows: -
  - a) Order of merit placing – a maximum fifty (50) points to each of the classes will be awarded. The Computer Scoring Program and Hormel Slide to be used to assess placing. Each group of exhibits will be identified by breed.
  - b) Handling – maximum of fifty (50) points for each class for animal/led section and a maximum of twenty-five (25) points for each class in the fleece section. The judging of exhibits should be done with sufficient handling to adequately assess all characteristics. Sufficient care must be used to avoid causing any harm to the exhibit
  - c) Oral – maximum of fifty (50) points. Competitors in the Oral Section 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

### **B. PARADING OF ANIMALS**

1. Animals are to be led individually into the ring in a clockwise direction in numerical order, one, two, three, four (1, 2, 3, 4) and lined up as per normal halter Classes in frontal profile. The Competitors will be allowed to observe the animals as they are being paraded to assess gait and conformation. The parade diagram must allow for clear visual of gait and conformation by use of straight lines in their parade.
2. Timing commences at the point all animals are lined up in the ring.
3. Competitors will inspect the animals over a period of ten (10) minutes from rear, frontal and lateral profiles, allowing half a minute for the alpacas to be stood in lateral profile, to be collectively and comparatively assessed.
4. Time will be called two (2) minutes prior to the completion of the allocated time.
5. Competitors' Placing Cards to be handed in at the conclusion of ten (10) minutes.

### **C. USE OF JUDGING CARDS**

1. Competitor Placing cards are simple in design. All that is required by Competitors is for them to place animals one, two, three, and four (1, 2, 3, 4) in order of merit

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2. It is essential that a Championship Judge officiate for both the 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's Reason Card 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 in halter or fleece and the reason it was placed in its position.

### **D. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TIMING**

#### **Animal - Visual (Non-oral) Judging**

Judging per Class of animal in halter	10 minutes
Allow time for entry and parade	2 minutes
Data Reader Steward to finalise competitors visual score	4 minutes
SUBTOTAL (per class)	<u>16 minutes</u>
Changeover time between Classes	4 minutes
TOTAL (two classes)	<u>36 minutes</u>

#### **Fleece Visual (Non-oral) Judging**

Judging per Class of fleeces	20 minutes
Data Reader Steward to finalise competitors visual score	3 minutes
SUBTOTAL (per class)	<u>23 minutes</u>
Changeover time between classes	3 minutes
TOTAL (two classes)	<u>49 minutes</u>

#### **Oral Judging**

Note: All Competitors, except one (1) should be taken out of hearing range of the Judging Ring prior to their Oral presentation. Time is calculated based on the maximum of 7 competitors' calculations are for the running of the oral per section.

Competitors' placing and sashings	7 minutes
Competitors' oral section – Two (2) minutes speaking on the animals	14 minutes
Changeover times	7 minutes
Comments from Championship Judge on Oral Class	10 minutes
TOTAL PER SECTION	38 minutes
MAXIMUM TOTAL BOTH SECTIONS	76 minutes

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#### **Total Competition Running Time**

Visual Judging – both sections	85 minutes
Oral Judging – both sections	76 minutes
Announcement and Presentation of Awards	10 minutes
TOTAL	171 minutes

To maintain the impetus of the National Championship, immediately the Championship. Competition Judge has completed his/ her final comments, the National Championship results should be ready to be announced and the awards and presentations made.

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**COMPETITORS ALPACA ANIMAL PLACINGS CARD**

**(Visual/ Physical Class)**

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

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**COMPETITORS ALPACA FLEECE PLACINGS CARD**

**(Visual/ Physical Class)**

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



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### COMPETITORS ALPACA FLEECE JUDGING SURI CARD

Competitor Number: ...

Fleece 1			
Class	Description	Max. Points	Score
Fineness/ Annualised Weight	Average fibre diameter from multiple sites (as related to annualized weight from matrix)	30	
Handle	Softness, independent of fineness	5	
Uniformity of micron: <i>across fleece</i>	Across entire fleece (lacks variation)	10	
Uniformity of micron: <i>within lock</i>	Within lock (lack of/ low presence of guard hair)	10	
Uniformity of length	Consistent length throughout	5	
Uniformity of colour	Lack of colour contamination and variation within lock and across fleece	5	
Style/ Density of Lock	Well-defined lock formation and style, displaying solidity of lock.	10	
Lustre	Ability to reflect light	15	
Impurities	Lack of tenderness and impurities such as cotting, vegetable matter, dirt, seed, stain and tip damage etc.	5	
Effective skirting	Effective removal of coarse fibre and other contaminants from around fleece presented	5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	100		

Fleece 2			
Class	Description	Max. Points	Score
Fineness/ Annualised Weight	Average fibre diameter from multiple sites (as related to annualized weight from matrix)	30	
Handle	Softness, independent of fineness	5	
Uniformity of micron: <i>across fleece</i>	Across entire fleece (lacks variation)	10	
Uniformity of micron: <i>within lock</i>	Within lock (lack of/ low presence of guard hair)	10	
Uniformity of length	Consistent length throughout	5	
Uniformity of colour	Lack of colour contamination and variation within lock and across fleece	5	
Style/ Density of Lock	Well-defined lock formation and style, displaying solidity of lock.	10	
Lustre	Ability to reflect light	15	
Impurities	Lack of tenderness and impurities such as cotting, vegetable matter, dirt, seed, stain and tip damage etc.	5	
Effective skirting	Effective removal of coarse fibre and other contaminants from around fleece presented	5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	100		

Fleece 3			
Class	Description	Max. Points	Score
Fineness/ Annualised Weight	Average fibre diameter from multiple sites (as related to annualized weight from matrix)	30	
Handle	Softness, independent of fineness	5	
Uniformity of micron: <i>across fleece</i>	Across entire fleece (lacks variation)	10	
Uniformity of micron: <i>within lock</i>	Within lock (lack of/ low presence of guard hair)	10	
Uniformity of length	Consistent length throughout	5	
Uniformity of colour	Lack of colour contamination and variation within lock and across fleece	5	
Style/ Density of Lock	Well-defined lock formation and style, displaying solidity of lock.	10	
Lustre	Ability to reflect light	15	
Impurities	Lack of tenderness and impurities such as cotting, vegetable matter, dirt, seed, stain and tip damage etc.	5	
Effective skirting	Effective removal of coarse fibre and other contaminants from around fleece presented	5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	100		

Fleece 4			
Class	Description	Max. Points	Score
Fineness/ Annualised Weight	Average fibre diameter from multiple sites (as related to annualized weight from matrix)	30	
Handle	Softness, independent of fineness	5	
Uniformity of micron: <i>across fleece</i>	Across entire fleece (lacks variation)	10	
Uniformity of micron: <i>within lock</i>	Within lock (lack of/ low presence of guard hair)	10	
Uniformity of length	Consistent length throughout	5	
Uniformity of colour	Lack of colour contamination and variation within lock and across fleece	5	
Style/ Density of Lock	Well-defined lock formation and style, displaying solidity of lock.	10	
Lustre	Ability to reflect light	15	
Impurities	Lack of tenderness and impurities such as cotting, vegetable matter, dirt, seed, stain and tip damage etc.	5	
Effective skirting	Effective removal of coarse fibre and other contaminants from around fleece presented	5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	100		

Placings:

1<sup>st</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup>

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### COMPETITORS ALPACA FLEECE JUDGING HUACAYA CARD

Competitor Number: ...

Fleece 1				Fleece 2			
Class	Description	Max. Points	Score	Class	Description	Max. Points	Score
Fineness/ Annualised Weight	Average fibre diameter from multiple sites (as related to annualized weight from matrix)	30		Fineness/ Annualised Weight	Average fibre diameter from multiple sites (as related to annualized weight from matrix)	30	
Handle	Softness, independent of fineness	5		Handle	Softness, independent of fineness	5	
Uniformity of micron: <i>across fleece</i>	Across entire fleece (lacks variation)	10		Uniformity of micron: <i>across fleece</i>	Across entire fleece (lacks variation)	10	
Uniformity of micron: <i>within staple</i>	Within staple (lack of/ low presence of guard hair)	10		Uniformity of micron: <i>within staple</i>	Within staple (lack of/ low presence of guard hair)	10	
Uniformity of length	Consistent length throughout	5		Uniformity of length	Consistent length throughout	5	
Uniformity of colour	Lack of colour contamination and variation within staple and across fleece	5		Uniformity of colour	Lack of colour contamination and variation within staple and across fleece	5	
Character and style	Crimp definition and alignment within staple and throughout fleece	10		Character and style	Crimp definition and alignment within staple and throughout fleece	10	
Density of staple	Staple density and definition; alignment and solidity throughout fleece	5		Density of staple	Staple density and definition; alignment and solidity throughout fleece	5	
Brightness	Ability to reflect light	10		Brightness	Ability to reflect light	10	
Impurities	Lack of tenderness and impurities such as cotting, vegetable matter, dirt, seed, stain and tip damage etc.	5		Impurities	Lack of tenderness and impurities such as cotting, vegetable matter, dirt, seed, stain and tip damage etc.	5	
Effective skirting	Effective removal of coarse fibre and other contaminants from around fleece	5		Effective skirting	Effective removal of coarse fibre and other contaminants from around fleece	5	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	

Fleece 3				Fleece 4			
Class	Description	Max. Points	Score	Class	Description	Max. Points	Score
Fineness/ Annualised Weight	Average fibre diameter from multiple sites (as related to annualized weight from matrix)	30		Fineness/ Annualised Weight	Average fibre diameter from multiple sites (as related to annualized weight from matrix)	30	
Handle	Softness, independent of fineness	5		Handle	Softness, independent of fineness	5	
Uniformity of micron: <i>across entire fleece</i>	Across entire fleece (lacks variation)	10		Uniformity of micron: <i>across entire fleece</i>	Across entire fleece (lacks variation)	10	
Uniformity of micron: <i>within staple</i>	Within staple (lack of/ low presence of guard hair)	10		Uniformity of micron: <i>within staple</i>	Within staple (lack of/ low presence of guard hair)	10	
Uniformity of length	Consistent length throughout	5		Uniformity of length	Consistent length throughout	5	
Uniformity of colour	Lack of colour contamination and variation within staple and across fleece	5		Uniformity of colour	Lack of colour contamination and variation within staple and across fleece	5	
Character and style	Crimp definition and alignment within staple and throughout fleece	10		Character and style	Crimp definition and alignment within staple and throughout fleece	10	
Density of staple	Staple density and definition; alignment and solidity throughout fleece	5		Density of staple	Staple density and definition; alignment and solidity throughout fleece	5	
Brightness	Ability to reflect light	10		Brightness	Ability to reflect light	10	
Impurities	Lack of tenderness and impurities such as cotting, vegetable matter, dirt, seed, stain and tip damage etc.	5		Impurities	Lack of tenderness and impurities such as cotting, vegetable matter, dirt, seed, stain and tip damage etc.	5	
Effective skirting	Effective removal of coarse fibre and other contaminants from around fleece	5		Effective skirting	Effective removal of coarse fibre and other contaminants from around fleece	5	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	

Placings:

1<sup>st</sup>  2<sup>nd</sup>  3<sup>rd</sup>  4<sup>th</sup>

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**MICRON/ ANNUALISED WEIGHT MATRIX**

<b>ALPACA FLEECE - MICRON / ANNUALISED WEIGHT MATRIX</b>																															
POINTS	MICRON																														WEIGHT
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
<16	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	
16-16.9	<0.10	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	
17-17.9	<0.15	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.40	1.55	1.65	1.75	1.85	1.90	2.05	2.15	2.30	2.40	
18-18.9	<0.15	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.65	0.70	0.80	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.35	1.45	1.55	1.65	1.75	1.85	1.95	2.10	2.20	2.35	
19-19.9	<0.15	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	
20-20.9	<0.20	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	1.60	
21-21.9	<0.20	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	1.60	1.65	1.70	1.75	1.80	
22-22.9	<0.20	0.20	0.30	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	1.60	1.65	1.70	
23-23.9	<0.25	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	1.60	1.65	
24-24.9	<0.25	0.25	0.30	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	1.60	1.65	1.70	
25-25.9	<0.30	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	1.60	1.65	1.70	
26+	<0.30	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.20	1.25	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.45	1.50	1.55	1.60	1.65	1.70	

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**CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE ORAL/ VISUAL ASSESSMENT CARD**

**Competitor's Name:** ..... **No:** .....

<b>Competitor's Placings Scores</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>Maximum Points (Hormel scores)</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL Hormel scores (200)</b>
Huacaya Fleece					/50		
Huacaya Halter					/50		
Suri Fleece					/50		
Suri Halter					/50		
<b>Competitors Assessment and Oral Scores</b>					<b>Suri</b>	<b>Huacaya</b>	
<b>Visual Halter Assessment (100)</b>	a) Assessing Conformation (15)						
	b) Assessing Fleece (20)						
	c) Competence & Ringcraft (15)						
<b>Fleece Visual Assessment (50)</b>	Organization and Handling (25)						<b>Visual assessment Subtotal (150)</b>
<b>Oral Presentations (100)</b>	a) Accuracy Observation (15)						
	b) Ability to Compare (15)						
	c) Speaking Ability (10)						
	d) Presentation & Technique (10)						<b>Oral Presentations Subtotal (100)</b>
					<b>Grand Total (450)</b>		
Comments:							





## National ASA Alpaca (Animal and Fleece) Judging Championship

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#### ORAL SECTION GUIDELINES

All Competitors will take part in the Oral Judging and use the card/ sheet marked 'Visual/ Physical Class'. **Competitors will speak on both an animal/ led section and a fleece section.** Upon entering the judging ring each competitor will give instructions to the Ring Steward to place the ribbons on the animals or fleeces in their placement order. Ribbon colour order being Blue – 1st, Red – 2nd, White – 3rd, Yellow - 4th.

Competitors are allowed two (2) minutes to clearly express their oral reasoning to the Championship judge and the spectators why 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 Judge that the Competitor has assessed and compared each animal or fleece in the Class.

It is important to make comparisons between the animals or fleeces rather than describe individual animals or fleeces.

Below is an example of how a competitor may commence their Oral

Reasoning:- '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.

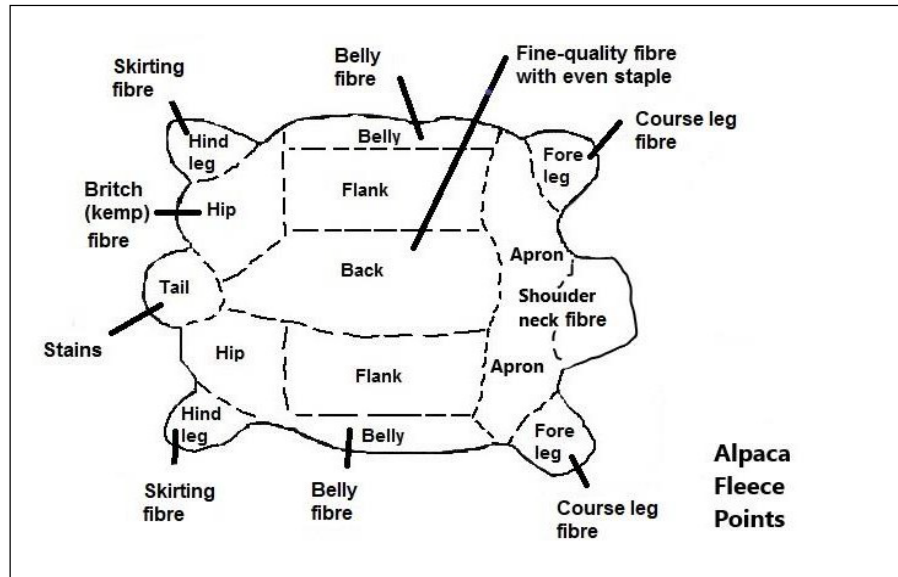
Continue in similar manner by comparing of each the middle pair and finally the bottom pair of animals or fleeces.

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;
- Look at the Championship judge at all times.

**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 jewelry is acceptable. Closed in shoes are essential. Shorts, chewing gum and poor presentation is unacceptable and will be marked down accordingly.

**ALPACA FLEECE CHARACTERISTICS**



**Alpaca Fleece Points**

**Alpaca Fleece Characteristics - Suri**

**Brightness**

Ability to reflect light

**Fineness & Handle**

Feel of the fleece for softness and silky feel

**Staple Strength**

Constant strength over the fleece

**Colour**

Uniformity of colour over the whole fleece



**Tip**

Even nourished tips across the fleece

**Condition**

Even nourished fibre

**Lack of Medullation**

No evidence of medullation fibres

**Uniformity**

**Colour** - even colour across the fleece  
**Length** - same length across the fleece  
**Micron** - minimum variation in fibre diameter

**Crimp**

Excellent crimp formation

**Lock Length**

Long fibres across the fleece

**Density**

High staple length and lignment formation across the fleece

**Lustre & Lock Structure**

Sheen in the fleece. Firm uniform lock

**Alpaca Fleece Characteristics - Huacaya**

**Brightness**

Ability to reflect light

**Fineness & Handle**

Feel of the fleece for softness and silky feel

**Staple Strength**

Constant strength over the fleece

**Colour**

Uniformity of colour over the whole fleece



**Tip**

Even nourished tips across the fleece

**Condition**

Even nourished fibre

**Lack of Medullation**

No evidence of medullation fibres

**Uniformity**

**Colour** - even colour across the fleece  
**Length** - same length across the fleece  
**Micron** - minimum variation in fibre diameter

**Crimp**

Excellent crimp formation

**Lustre**

Reflection of light from the fibre

**Density**

High staple length and lignment formation across the fleece

**Minimal Guard Hair**

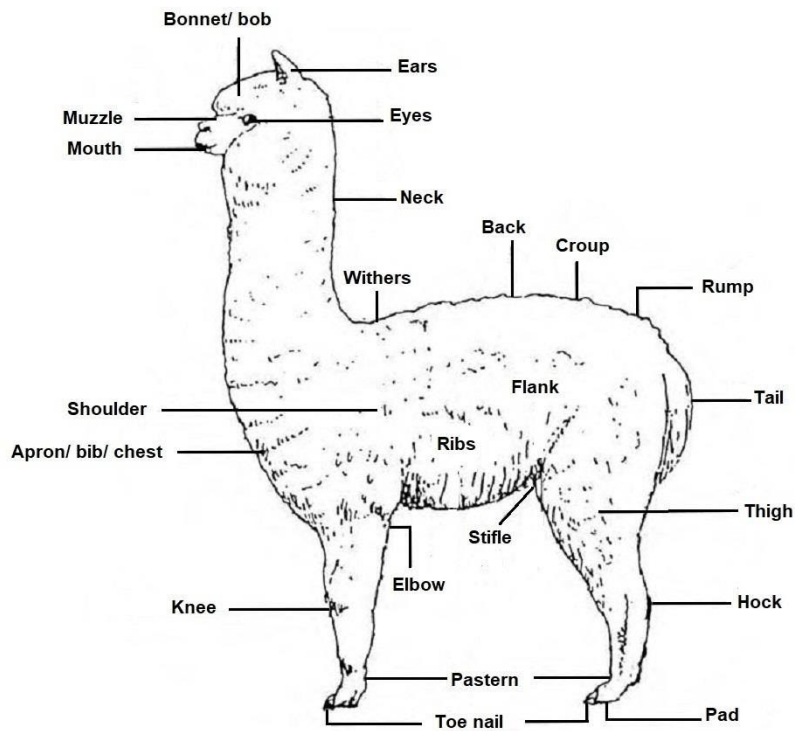
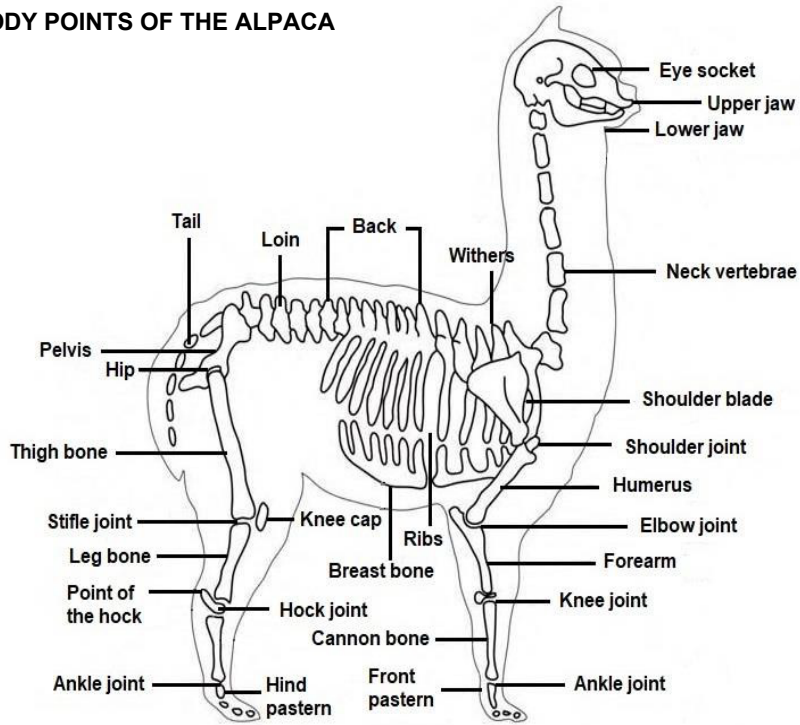
Good skirting to remove guard hair



# National ASA Alpaca (Animal and Fleece) Judging Championship

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### KEY BODY POINTS OF THE ALPACA



## **National ASA Alpaca (Animal and Fleece) Judging Championship**

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#### **Notes for the Judge and Stewards:**

In the selection of a Class of animals or fleeces for the National Championship, the aim should be to use four (4) animals per class, one of Huacaya, one of Suri, and four (4) fleeces, one of Huacaya and one of Suri, upon whose placing experienced Judges, after careful inspection and consideration, would be likely to agree. As a general rule the four (4) animals per class selected are in full fleece OR, should be of similar length of fleece.

A suitable group of animals or fleeces might be made up of a fairly clear leader, a fairly obvious 'tail', and twoothers that present a more difficult choice. They will be judged against the standard of what is considered a good alpaca type, rather than one that pays strict attention to specific breed points.

Where animals of widely different ages have to be used, the ages should be given and it should be made clear to the Competitors that each animal is to be judged on its present showing and not on which it has done or might do. It is probably better if animals of relatively similar age are selected for the National Championship.

*Selection prior to the National Championship may be done by the stewards, so the Judge works with a shortlist to select the animals to be judged – if required this can be done a day or two before the Championship but at least 2 hours should be allowed for careful selection and preferably stewards experienced and fully versed with judge's requirements. The morning of the Championship the Judge will finalise correct placing of the animals in each Judging Ring.*

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.

In filling out the Master Cards (for the scorers), the Championship Judge is required to note, the order of placement and 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.

Each Competitor in the Oral Class is allowed one (1) minute to line up the animals/Exhibits in his/ her order of merit if time permits and two (2) minutes to state his/ her reasoning for the placings. 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 exceed 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 or part thereof over the allotted two (2) minutes.

At the conclusion of the Championship the Championship Judge is asked to give his/ her own reasons for the placing of the animals/Exhibits. If possible the animals should be 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 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 Alpaca Judging Competitions.

## **National ASA Alpaca (Animal and Fleece) Judging Championship**

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#### **Notes for competitors:**

#### **SCORING FLEECES BY MICRON AND ANNUALISED FLEECE WEIGHT (AFW)**

In considering the commercial value of a fleece, there are two principal criteria to consider:

1. The quality of the fleece
2. The weight of the fleece

This is most easily understood by considering the equation:

$$\$(Value) = \$/kg (Quality) \times Kgs (Quantity)$$

Many factors determine quality, amongst them evenness, colour, tensile strength, handle, contamination, and lustre, but the overwhelming determinant is fineness, accounting for up to 80% offleece value (and therefore quality).

So, the finer the fleece produced by an alpaca, the more valuable it is per kilogram. But unfortunately, the relationship of fleece weight and fineness is an inverse one. In other words, if an alpaca produces the same length and number of fine fibres as another alpaca growing broad fibres, the fine fleece will weigh significantly less than the coarse fleece. In fact, doubling the width of a fibre will increase the fleece weight four-fold, all other things being equal. So, the fine fleece would need to be four times the value, in \$/kg, than the coarse fleece to be of the same commercial value.

And that is why we are so concerned about trying to breed alpacas with heavier fleeces. Of course, there are many ways we can produce heavier fleeces. We can wait longer between shearings, but then we will just be delaying the harvest, without increasing productivity per year. Or we can breed longer, faster growing fibres. Or alpacas with more fibres in their fleece: therefore we place so much emphasis on density.

But to compare fleece weight between alpacas, we need to work out how much fleece each alpaca produces in one year. We call this the annualised fleece weight (AFW), and then we can compare that figure between one alpaca and another. *The annualised fleece weight is worked out by weighing a fleece, dividing the figure by the number of months over which it was grown (kgs per month), and then multiplying that figure by 12 to calculate the amount grown per year (which assumes that fleece is produced at a regular rate throughout the year). So, an alpaca producing 2 kg over 6 months would produce an AFW of 4 kgs.*

#### **HOW TO READ THE MATRIX**

In judging alpaca fleeces, we compare the AFW of the skirted saddle with the measured fibre fineness (measured as the mean fibre diameter (MFD) expressed in microns [a micron is one millionth of a metre]). The table (matrix) produced by plotting MFD against AFW yields a score in points which rewards the best fleeces. Higher fleece weights produce higher scores, and lower fibre diameters also produce higher scores. Ideally, we aim to produce those alpacas found in the top left of the table, and breed away from those in the bottom right.

For example, an alpaca with annualized saddle fleece weight of 2.70 kgs and mean fibre diameter of 18.2 micron would attract a premium score of 29 points, while a fineness of 23.5 MFD in a 1.05 kg saddle would be awarded only 9 points.



**National ASA Alpaca (Animal and Fleece) Judging Championship**

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**REASON CARD FOR COMPETITOR'S NOTES – (NOT TO BE HANDED IN)**

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.

1st PLACE NO: Why you placed 1st:	
2nd PLACE NO:	Faults:
3rd PLACE NO:	Faults:
4th PLACE NO:	Faults:

**National ASA Alpaca (Animal and Fleece) Judging Championship**

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**MASTER CARD - CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE'S FINAL PLACINGS ANIMAL 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.*

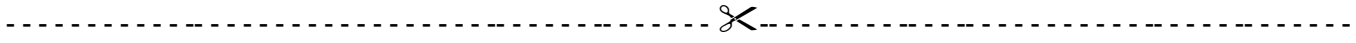
Breed: .....

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"/>



Cut here

**MASTER CARD - CHAMPIONSHIP JUDGE FINAL PLACINGS FLEECE 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.*

Breed: .....

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 Alpaca (Animal and Fleece) Judging Championship**

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**ASA National Championship Awards Sheet**

Awards to be presented in the following order:

Championship: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Judges Steward**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Data Entry Steward**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

**Data Reader Steward**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>