



Australian Alpaca  

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ASSOCIATION

ALPACA YOUTH AND EDUCATION  
(AYE)

# YOUNG PARADERS MANUAL

EFFECTIVE FROM 1 JANUARY 2019

AUSTRALIAN ALPACA ASSOCIATION LTD

# 1. INTRODUCTION

This Australian Alpaca Youth Education (AYE) Young Paraders manual has been developed to provide you with the information you will require to compete, progress and learn about the various levels of competition offered within the AYE Young Parader platform.

To all the amazing adults involved with the young people participating in this program I would like to say thank you. Your ongoing care, commitment and invaluable support of your youth and our industry is recognised and appreciated.

The Australian Alpaca Association Ltd is dependent on the engagement of youth as the future breeders, leaders and participants within many other industry related vocations.

*Alpaca Youth Education Chair and Committee*

# 2. COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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### 3. YOUNG PARADERS COMPETITION (YPC)

The **Young Paraders Competition** is an event in the show case of alpaca activities, designed specifically and exclusively for young people aged between 7 and less than 22 years of age.

#### **Objectives**

- To offer inexperienced youth the opportunity to compete in an alpaca-related event
- To offer experienced youth the opportunity to showcase their expertise and knowledge in handling alpacas in a public arena
- To engage the interested public in a way which will both entertain and educate them about the Australian Alpaca Industry
- To provide a platform on which young people can enter and then progress within the industry.
- To promote integrity between competitors, handlers and their animals

Specifically, it is not an obstacle course for performing pets; it is a competition designed to demonstrate the bond that develops between alpacas and their handlers, and the skills required for their management.

The YPC incorporates two distinct areas, with three levels of experience, and provides for several age groups. The two elements/sections of the competition have been described as:

#### ***Showmanship***

This section demonstrates excellence in preparation, presentation and handling of alpacas in the show ring. It enables young people the opportunity to demonstrate a sound understanding and general knowledge of alpacas, their conformation and husbandry needs.

Showmanship (Open section) simulates the halter classes at a show. This section evaluates competitors on their knowledge of show ring presentation and etiquette, Alpaca handling and ability to display the alpaca at its best to the judge for assessment.

Showmanship (Preliminary section) will be judged in a pen situation where competitors will complete a hands on assessment and be required to show an understanding of alpaca fleece conformation and husbandry

#### ***Stockmanship***

This section offers the opportunity to demonstrate the excellence in the handling of alpacas in their normal daily management. This highlights through consistent training the bond that can be formed between the alpaca and its handler.

Stockmanship is designed to simulate challenges that an alpaca and handler may face in day to day management by progressing through a series of stations/challenges. Training, teamwork and trust between the alpaca and handler are the key focus of this competition.

## **Divisions**

The Alpaca YPC consists of 3 divisions

- Introductory (Non-Championship)
- Preliminary
- Open

There are 3 age groups/classes for each division. All ages refer to the age of the exhibitor on the day of the competition.

- Junior: 7 to under 12 years of age.
- Intermediate: 12 to under 16 years of age.
- Senior: 16 to under 22 years of age.

### **Introductory Division**

This is a non-championship division offered to young people showing an interest in alpacas. It is an encouragement class. At this level only Stockmanship is offered. Entrants will lead an alpaca through a beginner level Stockmanship course of up to 6 stations/challenges. Entrants will be mentored by Open competitors. Certificates may be awarded at this level.

### **Preliminary Division**

This is the commencement of the Championship level in the Young Paraders Program. It introduces Showmanship to competitors, increases their education and knowledge, incorporates hands on assessments and is aimed at young people seeking to attain a higher level of their understanding and skills within our industry on farm and in the show ring.

(An example of score sheet can be found at the end of this document)

At this level, Stockmanship offers a higher degree of difficulty including up to 8 stations/challenges.

### **Open Division**

This offers an increased level of competition to assist and encourage young people to elevate their learning and involvement within the alpaca industry.

This level involves Show Presentation, Stockmanship and Assessment Tasks. A steward will accompany the competitor for the duration of the assessment task.

Open competitors are to complete two assessment tasks per competition to qualify for champion and or trainers awards. Prior to the competition, the Young Paraders Judge, in collaboration with a AAA halter judge will choose the tasks to be used. Each competitor is to take on the tasks individually with no discussion of the task with others i.e.:(entrants, spectators, parents)

Only one competitor to be doing tasks at any given time. A time limit of 10 minutes for each task will be set. Results cards are to be immediately handed to the task steward who will pass them to the scorer. Tasks will include one with animals and one with fleeces. Notification of the task will be provided to the competitors prior to commencement of the competition.

Show Presentation and etiquette will be included in this division.

(An example of the score sheet can be found at the end of this document)

Within the Open Division, there exists the opportunity for competitors to compete for the Trainers Award at each competition and the Master Trainers State Awards. These awards are open only to those individuals who are competing (as a “pair”) with an Alpaca which they have specifically trained and prepared for the event.

Scores from Show Preparation and Stockmanship sections will be added together to give a total score. Scores from tasks will not be included in this calculation.

Competitors must nominate for trainer’s award on the entry form.

One trainer’s award will be awarded per show taken from all age groups in Open Division.

The Trainers award will only be awarded if their score is within 90% of the top overall score (Showmanship and Stockmanship) on the day of competition. Task scores are not included here.

## **Master Trainer State Awards**

The accumulation of scores from Trainers awards from each event will be accumulated over the course of the year (year being National to National) and will be combined with information received from journals (see Journal explanation) Journals must be presented to The AYE State representative no less than one month before AAA National Show. The chair will have final say. No scores from The National Show will be included.

The top scoring Competitor for the year from each state will be awarded The Master Trainer award and presented at the AAA National Show.

## **Open Competitor Journals**

Journals are to be kept by competitors and will describe any activity they have completed /participated in during the year within the alpaca industry, youth events at agricultural shows or awards from other sources for

achievements to do with agriculture. Journals will also record work placements, voluntary or paid work and assistance on mentor studs. i.e.: shearing, husbandry, assistance at shows. Pictures may be included.

**Journal entries are to be signed off by an authorised person, i.e.: stud manager, teacher etc.**

## **Young Judges Manual**

It is advised that all competitors familiarise themselves with this document to assist them with their knowledge of conformation, breed standards, disqualifying faults and fleece information. This document holds within it vital educational resources and can be found under AYE at [alpaca.asn.au](http://alpaca.asn.au)

## ***AAA Showing Rules***

The Showing Rules Manual of the Australian Alpaca Association (AAA) has been prepared by the AAA's Showing and Judging Committee and define the rules and regulations applying to the activity of showing alpacas. Where relevant, and not specifically in conflict with the contents of this handbook, those rules and regulations apply equally to the conduct of a YPC, and it is therefore recommended that all those engaged within the activity of a YPC be familiar with its contents. In general terms, however, the YPC falls within the domain of Education under the governance of the AAA, and reports to the Board through the AYE Committee made up of state representatives.

## **4. RULES AND REGULATIONS**

All Australian Alpaca Youth Education Events at all levels, at all times, will be held in accordance with the most recent version of this Handbook, as published on the AAA Ltd website.

### ***Alpacas Used In This Competition***

- All alpacas used in this competition must either be owned by the competitor or borrowed with the prior consent of the owner of the alpaca.
- An alpaca may only be used by one competitor in any given Youth Paraders Open Competition to be eligible for the Trainer Award. Alpacas used for Trainers Awards may only be used for one twelve-month period. After this time a newly trained alpaca must be used
- Alpacas may only be used by 1 competitor in Open Division
- Alpacas may be shared by prearrangement in Preliminary and Introductory Divisions, but an alpaca may be used only twice in any one class per age group. For this to be allowed entries must exceed four entries in any one class.

- An alpaca used in the Open division may be used in Preliminary and/or Introductory, but ideally not more than twice over the show day, unless otherwise approved and directed by the chief steward. (ie. 1 alpaca may only enter the ring with 3 separate competitors.).
- Alpacas being shared must be used by the Open competitor first and cannot go into the Stockmanship section with another competitor before the Open class
- It is understood some schools already own alpacas that do not hold registration with AAA. Whilst these alpacas can be used at present it is the aim over the next 3 years that all alpacas used will be registered on AAA Ltd e-Alpaca \*\*\* Note; Until 2021 brass ear tags are not compulsory
- After 2021 all alpacas used must be registered on AAA Ltd e-Alpaca including wethers, and ear tagged with an approved IAR brass tag. Note if there is no ear tag present in the ear of the alpaca then official AAA confirmation in hard copy must be provided by the competitor to the chief steward that the ear tag has been recently lost and that a replacement ear tag has been ordered and paid for, otherwise the alpaca will be ineligible to compete.
- Details of the alpaca being brought to the show must be on the entry form ie. Full name including Herd Prefix and IAR number, (post 2021) along with full name, postal address, date of birth of the handler, as well as school and mentor stud if applicable.
- Alpacas used in Youth Paraders events must be at least 9 months of age at date of show. Alpacas used in the open division may only be used for one twelve-month period. After this time a newly trained alpaca must be used
- Animals presentation will be considered. The animal should have a body score of 2.5 or more and be presented to show standard. Alpacas toenails must be trimmed
- The Judge may, at his or her absolute discretion, direct the Chief Steward that an exhibit be removed from the judging ring on grounds of visible physical disfigurement or unsoundness, or being unfit to compete.
- The alpaca must be shown in a clean, well-fitted halter. A buckled halter with a detachable lead is mandatory
- Alpacas should be shorn annually. Alpacas may be shown in short or full fleece. Huacaya must not have more than 14 months Fleece. Suri in a first fleece must not have more than 18 months fleece and in second fleece must not have more than 14 months fleece.

## **5. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

All entries for all divisions must be lodged by the closing date as per the Schedule & Entry form. Late entries will not be accepted. A limited number of Introductory entries MAY be taken on the day dependent on time allocation and restraints. This decision is left to the discretion of the Convener and Chief Steward.

- A Pair (handler & alpaca) may enter only one division at any given competition, either Introductory, Preliminary or Open
- A competitor must enter all sections to be eligible for the Championships and/or Trainer Award.
- Competitors must nominate on the entry for the Trainer Award in the Open Division



- A completed Herd Health Status Declaration form must be included with the entry form. All participants must comply with the requirements for penning, exercising and exhibiting alpacas from Assessed and Non-Assessed Herds.
- By entering the show, either by online entry or paper form Competitors are agreeing to the terms and conditions, the Indemnity and Waiver and media exposure conditions. If the Competitor is under the age of 18 completed forms must be signed by a Parent/Guardian.
- The Chief Steward has the authority to make any determination regarding classes, eligibility and disqualification. Within a division, any classes may be split, combined or cancelled. Open, Preliminary or Introductory Divisions cannot be combined.
- Alpacas must be penned by the time indicated in the schedule. No alpaca or competitor may leave without prior approval from the chief steward
- Pens are allocated in accordance with JD MAP/Health Declaration Status and no pen changes will be permitted. Stud/school names and banners may be displayed in accordance with the rules of the host show committee and the AAA Ltd Showing Rules and Regulations.
- Participants must always keep their allotted pens clean and tidy and their animals suitably attended to during the show.
- All competitors entering the show ring must be suitably attired as outlined in this manual.
- All alpacas and handlers compete at their own risk. The show committee is not responsible for any loss or damage or injury to any animal, competitor or person from any cause whatsoever.
- Ribbons will be awarded for placings at the discretion of the judge and the judge's decision is final.

### ***Event Timeline***

Event Times will be run as per show schedule. Events will invariably at times run outside of the scheduled time line. This needs to be an important consideration for all entrants prior to entry. The event will start with showmanship section. Oldest age group in Open will start followed by oldest age group in Preliminary. Each age group will follow in same manner. It is up to competitors to know when they are needed in the ring.

Approval for early departure must be obtained and is at the discretion of the Chief Steward and Convener.

### ***Judging***

To ensure good flow on day of competition it is required that 1 judge may only judge a maximum of 30 competitors. In the event of more than 30 competitors a second judge is to be allocated and so on. i.e; 1 Judge =30 competitors, 2 Judges =60

### ***Marshalling***

It is the responsibility of the competitor to know when their class commences.

Older age classes will precede younger age classes

Competitors enter the ring from eldest to youngest. Exception to this will be at the discretion of the Chief Steward. Notice will be given.

## **6. MEDIA EXPOSURE**

The Competitor permits the event organiser or its sponsors and any other interested third party to use their appearance, name, voice and likeness obtained by the event organisers from their involvement in the event in any or all manner and media. The Competitor waives any right they may have to inspect or approve any finished product that may be used in connection there with or the use to which it is applied.

## **7. DRESS CODE**

Dress code for the show needs to be professional with Stockmanship inspired by the Australian stockman. Minimum standard of safe clothing compulsory for all Introductory Divisions e.g. closed shoes, long trousers, minimal /no loose jewelry and hair tidy/up. It is encouraged to wear Australian Stockmanship wear

### ***Open & Preliminary***

- Shirts: Preference for Club, School, State or AAA shirts
- All shirts must be collared and long sleeve.
- Open competitors will be required to wear AAA shirts by 2020
- Footwear: Black or Brown polished boots. Western boots to be worn inside of pants, not worn over pants.
- Hats: Hats are to be Australian country i.e. Akubra style.
- Pants: Showmanship - Black dress pants/trousers only
- Stockmanship - Moleskins, Black pants or Tidy jeans
- Belts: Belts and buckles to be plain.

Neat Australian rural/country smart dress codes will draw maximum points including hat, boots, belt, jeans/moleskins, collared long sleeve shirt, Tie or appropriate neck wear.

## 8. ENTRY FEES AND CLOSING DATES

Entry fees for all Divisions will be charged as per the Committee/Organisers discretion and will be published in the show schedule. An entry fee covers all classes entered by one pair within one division.

## 9. CHAMPIONSHIP RIBBONS

Champion of age (Preliminary and Open) will be awarded to the highest combined score of the day at each show per division.

Champions in subsequent age groups will be awarded to the highest scorer within each age on a percentage basis.

Champions 80%.

i.e.; top combined score of the day = 150 points

Subsequent Champion must attain a minimum of 120 points.

Reserve champion will be awarded to those competitors whose scores fall within 70% of the top champion score for the day.

i.e. top score =120 points

All subsequent reserves must attain no less than 84 points.

## 10. YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

### ***Youth Membership Encouragement***

One of the current strategies for the AAA is to increase youth membership. At the beginning of 2018, the AAA had 7 youth members out of more than 1100 members in the association. This does not provide a platform for growth of the organisation or the future of the industry. Whilst they are highly valued and experienced, the average age of AAA members is not getting any younger and to ensure sustainability, we need to proactively recruit new members across a broad range, focusing on youth. As part of this strategy, the AAA dropped the fee for youth membership to \$50 per annum.

There are many benefits of membership of the AAA, but there is also responsibility which goes with it - namely that staff costs, marketing and positioning of the organisation, development of judges and systems of shows as well as insurances for the organisations activities are paid for by membership fees.

Given the wide and encouraging adoption of eAlpaca for shows, membership of all participants would enable easier convening of shows and activities and so should therefore also be a consideration and target. Members should enjoy the benefits of information from newsletters and the website as well as be informed on what is happening in the industry and future focus.

For every other youth endeavor (netball, soccer, scouts, swimming, nippers etc.) it is compulsory to be a member for activities except when probably trialing for the 1st week or so, hence we don't think the AAA is changing what the equivalent status is elsewhere. Whilst the AAA board is not proposing that all youth that participate need to be members, it is important to encourage and demonstrate value for those to do so. Thus, the AAA will support a discount or increase of costs for an activity based on membership status. The State youth body would be best to understand what represents value of that difference depending on how many activities are proposed within a membership year.

The AAA does not set activity fees as the costs of activities vary immensely, but those activities should aim to be cost neutral in most cases unless the supporting committee has decreed that it will be supported beyond costs. Hence the AAA board and AYE encourages the groups staging events to encourage membership adoption.

If there are cases of hardship or major concerns on this strategy, anyone may contact the board through a member confident that it will be kept discrete.

Andrew Hulme AAA Director  
(Youth and Education) 10th May 2018