

GOLDEN SHEARS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

19th June 2003

1. ENTRIES

- (a) Team of TWO machine shearers
TWO hand (blade) shearers
TWO woolhandlers
will be eligible to compete from each country.
- (b) The individual competitors should be naturalised citizens of the country they are representing for a period of at least three years. Proof of identity and nationality to be provided if requested.
- (c) There will be individual and team titles awarded at World Championships.

2. COMPETITORS

- (a) Competitors enter at their own risk.
- (b) Competitors must be suitably attired. This includes footwear (i.e. no jandals, bare feet).
- (c) Competitors may wear a vest with name and colours of their country with approved advertising as agreed by the Organising Committee.
- (d) Competitors must be suitably attired for the prize giving.
- (e) Random drug test may be taken, and if proved positive, the competitors shall pay all costs and be disqualified.
- (f) A judge has the right to switch off the machine or disqualify any competitor whose work or conduct on the board is detrimental to the image of competitive shearing.

3 SHEARING REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Competitors must provide their own hand-pieces, combs and cutters and hand shears. Sharpening equipment will be available.
- (b) Shearers will be allowed 2 loaded hand-pieces (3 allowed where more than three breeds are involved in a single heat) which are their responsibility and no time will be allowed for stoppages caused by either gear, hand-pieces of sheep getting away from the shearer on the board. However should any stoppages occur through the fault of the machine and downtube or through another competitors sheep escaping a time allowance will be made or a re-run given at the committees discretion.

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3. Cont.

- (c) Without assistance each shearer must:
 - i. Start and stop his machine
 - ii Collect his sheep from within the pen
 - iii Put each sheep out of the porthole.
- (d) No unauthorised persons are permitted in the catching pen and no officials are permitted to assist a competitor in any way.
- (e) Minimum quality standards will be set taking sheep type into account and any shearer exceeding the quality standard in a final will receive the least prize money
- (f) Any disputes will be taken to a Disputes Committee chaired by the Chief Referee.
- (g) A draw for stands should ideally be made after sheep are in the pens.
(In the case of a left-hander sheep to be moved in accordance with the draw).

4. SHEEP

- (a) Sheep breeds and type used for World events shall be representative of the breeds and types of the host country but must take into account the breeds familiar to competitors from other countries.
- (b) Sheep chosen should be carefully selected for evenness of type and where necessary pens selected so as to provide a fair competition to all competitors. A high standard of sheep quality is expected.
- (c) Preparation of sheep for the event should be kept to the absolute minimum. No more than the closed hand will cover round the tail and no more than 2" (5cm) above and below the teats.
- (d) A competitor may reject any substandard sheep before shearing commences provided the Referee agrees.
- (e) Championship finals for both team and individual machine shearing shall have minimum of 15 sheep, 7 for hand shearing. (In the event of all Merino final numbers to be minimum 10 and 5 respectively.
- (f) Trial sheep may be used in the finals..

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5 HEATS

- (a) There will be a minimum of two qualifying heats for machine Shearing events and two qualifying heats for hand shearing with a minimum of 5 sheep per round.
- (b) World competitors should be classified (according to speed ability) and then have heats drawn rather than be seeded directly.

6 JUDGES

- (a) The organising committee to be responsible to appoint qualified Administrator, Referee(s) and Judges.
- (b) Judges for World Class events must have had National Experience and be competent to judge high speed International events. They must have had recent experience with the last 12 months judging at a major Shearing competition.
- (c) Judges will be given places by the chief referee.
- (d) Judges must rotate so that all competitors receive equal scrutiny.
- (e) A team manager may act as a judge at Golden Shears World Championships if invited.

7 TIME PENALTIES

- (a) Individual time will be kept by a suitable timing device.
- (b) Timing will commence from "Go" until the machine is switched off after the last sheep or the "Stop" button pushed if in use on stands. Shearers must wait on the board with the pen door closed until "Go" is given.
- (c) 1 point will be deducted for each 20 seconds elapsed from "Go" calculated to at least 3 decimal place. If other than 20 second per point is to be used application must be made to the World Council for approval.

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8 SHEARING PENALTIES

General Penalties

- (a) A Single Penalty stroke shall be applied for each significant second cut on the Board and each significant patch of wool left on or skin cut. Board Judges will judge second cuts and outside judges will judge wool left and skin cuts.
- (b) The total penalty points accrued for each event shall be divided by the number of sheep shorn in the event, before time points are added. The winner of an event is the shearer with the least total penalty points, (the lowest total).

Fixed Penalties

- (a) One penalty stroke for not throwing the belly wool clear.
- (b) Up to two strokes for obvious belly or brisket wool not removed excluding side fringes.
- (c) One penalty stroke for not breaking the neck wool.
- (d) FIVE whole penalty points will apply where the competitor:
 - i. Cuts a teat and impairs the breeding ability of a ewe.
 - ii Cuts or seriously damages the pizzle of a wether.
 - iii Cuts any sheep to the extent that it requires surgical attention.
- (e) Up to 20 penalties may be imposed for the work after time (i.e.plucking, removal of tassels etc.)
- (f) Two penalty strokes per leg for failing to remove socks.

9 ORGANISATION

The Host Country Organising Committee to provide competitors well in advance of Championships, ample information including:

- i. Accommodation facilities
- ii Recommend sources/venues for practise sheep
- iii Drive system to be used throughout the competition for machine shearing e.g. Spline or worm drive.

END