



2017

WORLD WOOLHANDLING  
CHAMPIONSHIP RULES



Revised edition with alterations  
adopted by Golden Shears World  
Council 2017

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## GLOSSARY

The following terms have been agreed upon as a means of being able to understand and appreciate common woolhandling language as appropriate to a World Woolhandling championship

<b>Board judging</b>	Is the judging of the competition work area which includes the shearing board, the floor area and the slatted table area. This is also known as inside judging, board judging, slatted table judging
<b>Bins</b>	Are the receptacles used for oddments and off-sorts. Also known as bins, buckets, baskets or boxes
<b>Containers</b>	Are the receptacles used for the fleece wool. Also known as fadges, butts, trays, wool packs
<b>Fleece wool</b>	Is the body wool of the sheep <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• North hemisphere belly is deemed part of the fleece</li><li>• South hemisphere belly is deemed an oddment</li></ul>
<b>Grid</b>	Is a tool used for wool assessment judging, that equates to the 'openhand' measurement with dimensions of 10cm x 15cm
<b>Oddments</b>	Are all other wools excluding fleece wool. This includes, but isn't limited to, dags, locks, tail and crutch wool, eyeclips, wool containing extraneous material etc. and could include neck wools <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• North hemisphere belly is deemed part of the fleece</li><li>• South hemisphere belly is deemed an oddment</li></ul>
<b>Off-sort</b>	Is a portion of, or whole fleece that has a processing fault i.e. cott, canary stain, bacteria stain, parasitic infection, oddments, dags, dermatitis
<b>Pen second</b>	Is the person nominated to control the sheep in the pen for the shearer
<b>Slatted table</b>	Is the competition table used by a competitor
<b>Split level shearing board</b>	Is made up of a raised board where the shearing occurs, and the lower level woolhandling area which includes the slatted table
<b>Sweep</b>	Is the tool used by competitors to sweep or clean the competition area, also referred to as a broom, batt or blade. They can be either a long or short tool
<b>Wool assessment</b>	Is the judging of the finished prepared wools. This is currently known as - outside judging, out the back judging, table judging

## 1. Aims and Objectives

### 1.1. Aim:

To determine a World Woolhandling Champion under a framework that ensures integrity and demonstrates elite sportsmanship.

This will be achieved by promoting:

- Fairness
- Equal opportunity
- Timeliness and good process
- Open communication
- Transparency

### 1.2. Objectives are to:

- Foster greater understanding and appreciation of global wool preparation standards and requirements;
- Positively profile the skills of wool preparation;
- Provide the opportunity for individuals to travel, form friendships and represent their country.

## 2. Scope

- 2.1. This document outlines the framework under which all World Woolhandling Championships, as established under the Golden Shears World Shearing and Woolhandling Championships, will be contested.
- 2.2. It is understood and recognized that in each host country there are economic drivers which affect and dictate best practice for the preparation of wool. This framework acknowledges and accepts this premise.
- 2.3. The framework identifies 13 key parameters. Within each of these parameters 'constants' have been identified and noted in this document and they will remain constant regardless of host country. These 'constants' shall be known as the World Rules [WR]. Where there are issues that are country specific [CS], these are required to be identified within the 13 key parameters, submitted and ratified by the World Woolhandling sub committee at least 12 months prior to the forthcoming World Championship event.
- 2.4. There needs to be clear evidence that CS rules are based around host country best practice.
- 2.5. Competitors and judges will be given a period of time set aside, prior to the competition where the host country will facilitate familiarization with the CS rules.
- 2.6. Failure to submit CS rules will see the WR as defined in this document as the default framework, and where there are gaps the World Woolhandling sub committee will work with a host country representative to provide Country Specific items to ensure completeness and clarity.

2.7. Parameters are:

	KEY PARAMETERS	WORLD RULES (constants) [WR]	HOST COUNTRY SPECIFIC RULES [CS]
1	<b>Facilities</b>	As identified in this paper.  It is recognized that these rules will be adhered to by all World Championship Host countries.	To be developed, submitted and endorsed by the World Council woolhandling sub committee, within an agreed timeframe (12 months pre the event).
2	<b>Equipment</b>		
3	<b>Timing system</b>		
4	<b>Scoring system</b>		
5	<b>Woolhandling referee</b>		
6	<b>Woolhandling judges</b>		
7	<b>Shearers</b>		
8	<b>Sheep steward</b>		
9	<b>Commentator</b>		
10	<b>Objective measures</b>		
11	<b>Competition rules</b>		
12	<b>Disputes</b>		
13	<b>General</b>		

### 3. Competitors

- 3.1. Competitors will compete individually. A team event of two working together may also be an additional event.
- 3.2. Up to two woolhandlers can be nominated to represent their country at a World Championship event.
- 3.3. Competitors are required to have qualified and be endorsed by their respective national body or in the absence of such a body the World Council.
- 3.4. Competitor's names are required to be submitted to and endorsed by the World Council.
- 3.5. Competitors will be required to comply with the closing date for entries and provide
- 3.6. Information required by the competition organisers.
- 3.7. Competitors must compete in clothing specified (e.g. country insignia) or else be neatly attired. This attire to include closed footwear and no peaked headgear.
- 3.8. Competitors may only have one long handled and one short handled sweep, and are responsible for supplying these.
- 3.9. Competitors may be required to sign a no liability declaration and to compete at their own risk

### 4. Facilities

- 4.1. A split level shearing board (standard height 760 mm x width of ..... ) is the preference for competition. A fixed step below the shearing board may be used. The recommended dimensions for the step is 200mm x width 300mm

- 4.2. The competition floor area for each competitor is to be flat, smooth, even and of equal dimensions. These areas are to be clearly marked
- 4.3. A separate area with tables is to be provided for the judging of off-sorts, oddments and fleece wool
- 4.4. Judging areas are to have the same lighting conditions as that of the competitors

## **5. Equipment**

- 5.1. Slatted tables of a suitable size for the fleeces to be handled will be used. These tables are to be of a uniform design and dimensions
- 5.2. It is recommended that the referee converses with competitors the number of bins required.
- 5.3. There will be adequate containers for the number of fleeces to be prepared.
- 5.4. A set of colour coded receptacles for fleece, off-sorts and oddments, of a size and number adequate for the wool preparation requirements will be provided. A duplicate set to be available to ensure heats can proceed without delay.

## **6. Timing System**

- 6.1. Timing should be by means of an electronic scoring system with an assigned timekeeper. Stopwatches are also acceptable and should be available as a backup.
- 6.2. In the case of stopwatches there must be one stopwatch for each competitor.
- 6.3. Timing will commence at the completion of the shearing of the last sheep. Shearers must co-ordinate their speed so as to finish their last sheep at the same time or be as close as possible.
- 6.4. Timing will stop for each competitor at the signal of the raised sweep or arm or the pushing of an electronic timing device.
- 6.5. Where a stoppage occurs through no fault of the competitor, the competitor will be requested to stop work during this time. The stoppage time will be monitored by the time keeper and noted by the judge and the referee for redress.
- 6.6. A master timekeeper will monitor the pace of shearing during and between heats and synchronization of shearers.

## **7. Scoring system**

- 7.1. All scoring will be on a penalty system. That is, a competitor starts with a perfect score and penalties are accumulated as faults are noted.
- 7.2. The board penalties will be recorded with the continuous counter method. On the completion of each heat, the penalties will be recorded by the scorekeeper and any large penalty scores will receive comment.

- 7.3. Wool assessment penalties will be recorded on a scorecard aligned to the stand number and or the bin colour, or a similar system.
- 7.4. The competitor's time (in seconds) will be divided by nominated seconds to arrive at a time penalty.
- 7.5. Each competitor's time penalty, board penalty and wool assessment penalty will be added together. The lower the penalty score, the more favourable the placing. The lowest penalty score in the final of that competition shall be the winner.
- 7.6. In the event of a tie, the competitor with the lower wool assessment score will take precedence. If there is a further tie, then the competitor with the lower board score will take precedence. Otherwise both competitors will receive recognition.
- 7.7. When wool assessment judging, if penalties are extraordinarily high, it is recommended that the wool should be kept aside in case of a query.
- 7.8. Score sheets will remain the property of the championship show. All managers should receive a printout of results/breakdown following the completion of the competition.

## **8. Woolhandling Referee**

- 8.1. A woolhandling referee must be appointed who will take overall responsibility for the efficient and fair operation of the woolhandling event. This document will serve as their guide.
- 8.2. The Referee will prepare a roster and ensure that all judges are fully aware of the programme and their assignments.
- 8.3. The Referee will ensure all judges are aligned in their standards by having a run through prior to the start of the events.
- 8.4. The Referee will be the spokesperson, and first point of contact for all woolhandling queries.
- 8.5. The Referee has the ability to replace, reassign or co-opt judges on the day.
- 8.6. Refer to Appendix 1 for a sample Terms of Reference for a Woolhandling Referee.

## **9. Judges**

- 9.1. All judges are to be experienced and competent competition woolhandling judges, accredited and or approved by their respective country.
- 9.2. The board judges will be responsible for assessing the ability and skill of the woolhandler when working on the shearing board, floor area and slatted table.
- 9.3. This will include, but is not limited to:
  - Co-operation between woolhandler and shearer,
  - Preparation of the wool within the working area,
  - Clean-up of working area,
  - General efficiency and organisation.

- 9.4. The number of board judges will be one more than the number of competitors competing at any one time e.g. 3 competitors will require 4 board judges.
- 9.5. Assigned board judges will remain the same throughout the heats of each grade. They will:
- Start on the same stand for every heat,
  - Rotate in a manner that ensures each competitor receives equal scrutiny.
  - Rotate in a sequence that is consistent throughout the entire grade.
- 9.6. The wool assessment judges will be responsible for assessing quality workmanship of the fleeces and or off-sorts and oddments.
- 9.7. There should be 2 competent judges for the fleece / off-sort table and the same number for the oddment table.
- 9.8. All judges shall rotate through the judging disciplines.
- 9.9. Judges will be neatly attired (with white coats available if required) and be expected to maintain an exemplary code of conduct during the championships.

## **10. Sheep Steward**

- 10.1. Will be responsible for seeing that the sheep are suitable for a fair competition and for removing rejected sheep on instruction from the referee.
- 10.2. Will ensure pens contain the correct number of sheep for each heat
- 10.3. Will ensure sheep are of even size, uniform wool and breed type, weight and be dry, clean and healthy.
- 10.4. If one or more breeds are to be used, sheep in the pens must be uniform in this respect for all competitors.
- 10.5. Sheep should not be prepared in any way other than a minimal crutch, and pizzling when wethers are used.
- 10.6. The number of fleeces per competitor should not be less than four, or less than six in the case of a team competition.
- 10.7. For the final, sheep should be evenly and equally divided amongst the pens, competitors concur and then pens drawn.

## **11. Shearers**

- 11.1. Designated shearers, who have equal competency of a high standard, will shear for all of the woolhandling championships.
- 11.2. Replacement shearers should be available, but not changed during any one grade.
- 11.3. Shearers must have two loaded handpieces on the board.

11.4. These shearers will be fully conversant with the requirements of competitive woolhandling. In particular:

- No breaking of the flank wools,
- Breaking open of the neck wool,
- Shearing off all dags in the undermine if evident,
- No blatant assistance, no waiting between sheep,
- On completion of the last sheep to step inside the shearing pen,
- To maintain an even but brisk speed with other shearers.

11.5. Before the commencement of the event there will be a draw for shearers stands.

11.6. Shearers may require 'seconds' for their pens, especially when chutes are not present and shorn sheep are returned to pens.

11.7. Shearers must enter the pen to collect their sheep to allow an even time flow between sheep.

11.8. Woolhandlers may make requests to the shearer in regard to belly placement.

## 12. Commentator

12.1. The commentator(s), should have a thorough understanding of all aspects of competition woolhandling and positioned so as to have a clear view of the event.

12.2. A clear, audible sound system should be provided.

12.3. All relevant information about the competitors should be provided to the commentator (e.g. previous achievements).

12.4. The official language of communication will be English but other language speakers will be accommodated as far as is possible and practicable.

## 13. Objective judging measurements

13.1. The penalty values will be set by the host country and submitted in the pre 12 month period to the World Council body for approval.

13.2. Refer to Appendix 2 for a Guideline for Judging Penalty Values.

<b>Board Judging</b>		
	Credit card fault size (CC)	85mm x 55mm
	A4 fleece throw fault size (A4)	210mm x 290mm
	Fixed penalty (FP)	
	Discretionary penalty (DP)	
<b>Wool Assessment</b>		
	Grid penalty	100mm x 150mm
	Fixed penalty (FP)	
	Discretionary penalty (DP)	

13.3. Host countries will provide a board procedure outline with a list of probable and possible oddment and off sort lines with a descriptor of each.

## **14. Competition Rules**

14.1. Each woolhandler may be required to attend to either one or two shearers at the same time.

14.2. A draw for all heats and stands will take place prior to the commencement of competition.

14.3. Competitors will be allowed to examine the sheep in their pen before the event starts and may request the elimination of one undesirable sheep. The decision to comply or not will rest with the referee.

14.4. Competitors may nominate the order of sheep, unless the event is a multiwool event where a predetermined order is set in place.

14.5. Competitors will not be permitted on the shearing board whilst shearing is in process

14.6. A draw for all heats and stands will take place prior to the commencement of competition.

14.7. There will be no interference with the shearer that negatively affects the shearers work.

## **15. Disputes**

15.1. Any disputes will be taken to a Disputes Committee chaired by the Chief Referee. A written appeal must be lodged within 15 minutes of the scores being posted or after each event.

15.2. Person/s appealing may speak to their appeal before the Disputes Committee. Other persons will not enter discussion unless requested or invited to do so by Chief Referee.

15.3. Woolhandling: Chief Referee will chair a Disputes Committee comprising the Wool Handling Referee, World Council Liaison Officer, Chairman of Host Committee (or nominee) and the Woolhandling Competitor representative elected at the Competitor's Forum. The Chief Referee is to have a casting vote. In all cases, and in any matters not covered by the rules, the decision of the Disputes Committee will be final and binding on competitors.

## **16. General**

16.1. World Rules (WR) and Country Specifics (CS), including score cards (Appendix 3), will be given to Team Managers for distribution to competitors and judges 12 months prior to the event.

16.2. Judges are to be given the opportunity to meet prior to the commencement of competition to ensure uniformity and understanding of rules.

16.3. Review of this document will be undertaken at the conclusion of each World Championship by a woolhandling sub committee appointed by the World Council.

16.4. A contact name and details of a host representative should be distributed with the Country Specific rules to countries entered.

## 17. APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: EXAMPLE OF A TERM OF REFERENCE FOR A WOOLHANDLING REFEREE

#### **Description:**

The woolhandling Referee is the person responsible on the day for the woolhandling competition in terms of judges, points and the overall successful running of the woolhandling event.

The Referee is responsible to the organising committee.

#### **Job Description:**

A Woolhandling Referee is expected to:

- Be familiar with and enforce the rules, regulations and procedures as recognized by the National Body (CS) and the formalized World Rules (WR);
- Be a non judging Referee during the championship;
- Have had input into and have responsibility for confirming the team of woolhandling judges;
- Draw up a roster after assessing the judging team that ensures fairness;
- Facilitate a workshop period to allow judges and competitors to familiarize themselves with CS's, key points, special instructions etc.;
- Monitor the judging teams performance and standards and mentor when required;
- Ensure wool movement, timekeepers and points collection is attended to;
- Ensure adequate counters, stationery and white coats are available;
- Liaise with the sheep steward and team of shearers to ensure they are well briefed;
- Be fully aware of the programme and any time constraints;
- Ensure points are checked and accurate prior to announcement and posting;
- Be responsible for the overall wool preparation in relation to the woolgrowers requirements;
- Participate as a member of the Disputes Committee when required;
- Provide feedback to the organizing committee on ways to improve the event;
- Produce a "Referees Report" for the designated Wool Examiner or National Body, reporting on strengths and weaknesses etc. of the competition. To be done as soon as possible after the competition;
- Be an exemplary advocate for Shearing and Woolhandling competition.

## APPENDIX 2: GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES PENALTY VALUES

### **Suggested** board penalties:

Start with a clean competition area	CC
Clear belly & frib to avoid contamination	FP
Remove sox and crutch wools	CC
Clearing of short and / or discoloured wools	CC
Clean shearing board between sheep	CC
Use of fleece to sweep board	FP
No attempt to clear crutch wools	FP
Failure to remove black wools where applicable	FP
Failure to remove pizzle wools where applicable	FP
Unblended wool (second shear/lambs) where applicable	FP

### **Suggested** board slatted table penalties:

Waiting fleece on the floor	FP/CC
Throw	A4
Roll & placement where applicable	FP/DP
Wool on table before next fleece where applicable	CC

### **Suggested** board clean up penalties:

All wool in containers at the end	FP
End general tidy up	CC

### **Suggested** board general penalties:

Wool outside of competitors space	FP
No piles on board	FP
No hindrance	FP
No competitor on board as per rules	FP
No interference with wool after time	FP/ DP
Shearer assistance	FP

### **Suggested** wool assessment penalties:

Inaccuracy of oddments	GRID penalties
Inaccuracy of fleece and or off sorts	GRID penalties