



2017

**WORLD WOOLHANDLING  
CHAMPIONSHIP RULES**

Amendments approved Dec 2017

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## GLOSSARY

The following terms have been agreed upon as a means of being able to understand and appreciate common wool handling language as appropriate to a World Wool Handling 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
<b>Bins</b>	Receptacles used for oddments and fleece faults. Known as bins, buckets, baskets or boxes
<b>Containers</b>	Receptacles used for the fleece wool. Also known as baskets, 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>	A flat sheet of cardboard or similar used for wool assessment judging Recommended card size 500mm x 750mm with measured rectangles 100mm x 150mm (5 x 5 rectangles)
<b>Oddments</b>	All other wools excluding fleece wool. This may include but is not limited to; dags, fribs, locks, socks, tail and crutchwool, eyeclips, neck wools, wool containing extraneous material, skin (attached to wool) <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>Fleece Faults</b>	Is a portion of, or whole fleece that has a processing fault i.e. cott, canary stain, bacteria stain, pen stain, raddle stain, parasitic infection, moit/foreign matter, dermatitis
<b>Pen second</b>	The person nominated to control the sheep in the pen for the shearer
<b>Slatted table</b>	The competition table used by the competitor
<b>Split level board</b>	Is made up of a raised board where the shearing occurs, and the lower level woolhandling area where bins, containers and slatted tables are placed and used
<b>Sweep</b>	The tool(s) used by competitors to sweep or clean the competition area, also referred to as a broom, batt or blade. They can be either short or long handled
<b>Wool assessment</b>	The judging of the oddments/ fleece wool and fleece faults. This is also known as – outside judging, out the back judging.

# INTRODUCTION

## A. Aims and Objectives

A.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

A.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.

## B. Scope

B.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.

B.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.

B.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 Council, ideally 12 months prior to the forthcoming World Championship event.

B.4 There needs to be clear evidence that CS rules are based around host country best practice.

B.5 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.

B.6 Failure to submit CS rules will see the WR as defined in this document as the default framework. Where necessary the appointed Woolhandling Referee and/or World Council Liaison Officer will work with the host country to provide Country Specific rules.

## C. Competitors

- C.1 Up to two woolhandlers can be nominated to represent their country at a World Championship event.
- C.2 Competitors are required to have qualified and be endorsed by their respective national body.
- C.3 Countries will be required to comply with the closing date for entries and provide information required by the competition organisers.
- C.4 Competitors will compete individually. A teams event will consist of two woolhandlers competing together.
- C.5 Competitors may compete in specified clothing (e.g. country insignia) or else be neatly attired. This attire to include closed footwear and no peaked headgear.
- C.6 Competitors may only have one long handled and one short handled sweep, and are responsible for supplying these.
- C.7 Competitors may be required to sign a no liability declaration and to compete at their own risk.

### KEY PARAMETERS

	<b>KEY PARAMETERS</b>	<b>WORLD RULES (constants) (WR)</b>	<b>HOST COUNTRY SPECIFIC RULES (CS)</b>
1	<b>Facilities</b>	<p>As identified in this paper.</p> <p>It is recognized that these rules will be adhered to by all World Championship Host Countries.</p>	<p>To be drawn up by the Host Country and submitted to World Council within an agreed timeframe (ideally 12 months pre the event)</p>
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>		

## **1 FACILITIES**

- 1.1 A split level shearing board (standard height 760 mm x width of 1600 minimum) is the preference for competition. A fixed step below the shearing board may be used. The recommended dimensions for the step are 200mm high x 300mm wide.
- 1.2 The competition floor area for each competitor is to be flat, smooth, and of equal dimensions. These areas are to be clearly marked.
- 1.3 A separate area with tables is to be provided for the judging of oddments; fleece wool and/or fleece faults.
- 1.4 Judging areas are to have the same lighting conditions as that of the competition area.

## **2 EQUIPMENT**

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 A set of colour coded bins and containers for oddments, fleece, and/or fleece faults, 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.
- 2.3 The Referee will consult with the Host Country on the number of bins required.
- 2.4 There will be adequate containers for the number of fleeces to be prepared.

## **3 TIMING SYSTEM**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 In the case of stopwatches there must be one stopwatch for each competitor.
- 3.3 A sealed time will be set by the Host Country/Referee prior to competition starting.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 Timing will stop for each competitor at the signal of the raised sweep or arm or the pushing of an electronic timing device.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 A shearer co-ordinator will monitor the pace of shearers during the heats, semis and final and oversee synchronization of shearers.

## **4 SCORING SYSTEM**

- 4.1 All scoring will be on a penalty system. That is, a competitor starts with a zero score and penalties are accumulated as faults are noted.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Wool assessment penalties from the grid will be recorded on a scorecard aligned to the stand number and or the bin colour.
- 4.4 The competitor's time (in seconds) will be divided by the nominated penalty system as set by the Host Country /Referee, to arrive at a time penalty.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 With wool assessment judging, if penalties are extraordinarily high, it is recommended that the wool should be kept aside in case of a query.
- 4.8 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.

## **5 WOOLHANDLING REFEREE**

- 5.1 A Woolhandling Referee will be appointed to take overall responsibility for the efficient and fair operation of the woolhandling event. This document will serve as their guide.
- 5.2 The Referee will prepare a roster to ensure all judges rotate between board and wool assessment judging; and are fully aware of the programme and their assignments.
- 5.3 The Referee will ensure all judges are aligned in their standards by having a workshop prior to the start of the events.
- 5.4 The Referee will be the spokesperson, and first point of contact for all woolhandling queries.
- 5.5 The Referee in conjunction with the Chief Referee has the right to replace, reassign or co-opt judges on the day.
- 5.6 The Referee has the right to terminate a competitor's work if their conduct in the competition area is deemed to be detrimental to the image of competition woolhandling.
- 5.7 Refer to Appendix 2 for a sample Terms of Reference for a Woolhandling Referee.

## 6 JUDGES

- 6.1 All judges are to be experienced and competent competition woolhandling judges, accredited and/or approved by their respective country.
- 6.2 The board judges will be responsible for assessing the efficiency and skill of the woolhandler when competing.
- 6.3 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 organization
- 6.4 The number of board judges will be one more than the full complement of competitors able to compete at any one time e.g. 3 competitors will require 4 board judges.
- 6.5 Assigned board judges will remain the same throughout the heats of each event. 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 event.
- 6.6 The wool assessment judges will be responsible for assessing the appropriate separation of oddments, fleece wool and/or fleece faults.
- 6.7 There should be two wool assessment judges for oddments; and a further two judges for fleece /fleece faults.
- 6.8 Judges will be neatly attired and be expected to maintain an exemplary code of conduct during the championships.



## **7 SHEARERS**

- 7.1 Designated shearers, who have equal competency of a high standard, will shear for all of the woolhandling championships.
- 7.2 Replacement shearers should be available, but not changed during any one event except under extreme circumstances with the approval of the Chief Referee and Woolhandling Referee.
- 7.3 Shearers must have two loaded handpieces on the board.
- 7.4 These shearers will be fully conversant with the requirements of competitive woolhandling. In particular:
  - Throwing belly wool clear
  - No breaking of the flank wools
  - Breaking open the neck wool
  - Shearing off all dags in the undermine if evident
  - No blatant assistance, no waiting between sheep
  - Shearer to notify competitor of black wool, dags or flystrike
  - On completion of the last sheep to step inside the shearing pen
  - To maintain an even but brisk speed with other shearers.
- 7.5 Before the commencement of each round there will be a draw for shearers stands.
- 7.6 Shearers may require 'seconds' for their pens, especially when chutes are not present and shorn sheep are returned to pens.
- 7.7 Shearers must enter the pen to collect their sheep to allow an even time flow between sheep.
- 7.8 Woolhandlers may make requests to the shearer in regard to belly placement.

## **8 SHEEP STEWARD**

- 8.1 Will be responsible for seeing that the sheep are suitable for a fair competition and for removing rejected sheep on instruction from the referee.
- 8.2 Will ensure pens contain the correct number of sheep for each heat.
- 8.3 Will ensure sheep are of even size, uniform wool and breed type, and be dry, clean and healthy.
- 8.4 If one or more breeds are to be used, sheep in the pens must be uniform in this respect for all competitors.
- 8.5 Sheep should not be prepared in any way other than a minimal tail crutch, and pizzling when wethers are used.
- 8.6 For the final, sheep should be evenly and equally divided amongst the pens, and then pens drawn by the finalists.

## 9 COMMENTATOR

- 9.1 The commentator(s) should have a thorough understanding of all aspects of competition woolhandling including Country Specifics and positioned so as to have a clear view of the event.
- 9.2 A clear, audible sound system should be provided.
- 9.3 All relevant information about the competitors should be provided to the commentator (e.g. previous achievements).
- 9.4 The official language of communication will be English but other language speakers will be accommodated as far as is possible and practicable.

## 10 OBJECTIVE JUDGING MEASUREMENTS

- 10.1 The penalty values will be set by the host country and submitted in the pre 12 month period to the World Council for approval.
- 10.2 Refer to Appendix 1 for a Guideline for Judging Penalty Values

<b>Board Judging</b>		
	Credit card fault size (CC)	85mm x 55mm
	Fleece throw fault size (A4)	210mm x 300mm
	Discretionary penalty (DP)	
	Fixed penalty (FP)	
<b>Wool Assessment</b>		
	Grid penalty	100mm x 150mm
	Discretionary penalty (DP)	
	Fixed penalty (FP)	

- 10.3 Host country will provide a list of probable and possible oddment and fleece fault lines with a descriptor of each prior to the competition.

## **11 COMPETITION RULES**

- 11.1 Each woolhandler may be required to attend to either one or two shearers at the same time.
- 11.2 A draw for all heats and stands will take place prior to the commencement of competition.
- 11.3 Competitors will be allowed to examine the sheep in their pen before the heat starts and may request the elimination of undesirable sheep. The decision to comply or not will rest with the referee.
- 11.4 Competitors may nominate the order of sheep, unless the event is a multi-wool event where a predetermined order is set in place.
- 11.5 Competitors will not be permitted on the shearing board whilst shearing is in progress. One foot must be in contact with the floor at all times.
- 11.6 There will be no interference with the shearer that negatively affects the shearers work.
- 11.7 Competitors are not permitted in the vicinity of the wool assessment judging/scoring areas.
- 11.8 Points must be posted a minimum of 20 minutes prior to the next qualifying round.

## **12 DISPUTES**

- 12.1 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 competitors scores being posted after each round.
- 12.2 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.
- 12.3 Woolhandling :- Chief Referee will chair Disputes Committee comprising the Woolhandling 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.

## **13 GENERAL**

- 13.1 World Rules (WR) including Country Specifics (CS), will be emailed to participating countries ideally 12 months prior to the event.
- 13.2 A contact name and details of a host country woolhandling representative should be distributed with Country Specific rules to countries entered.
- 13.3 Review of this document may be undertaken at the conclusion of each World Championship by a woolhandling sub committee appointed by the World Council.

## 14 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1: GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES PENALTY VALUES

#### **Suggested** Board penalties

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

#### **Suggested** Slatted table penalties

Throw	A4
Roll & placement where applicable	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 shearing board	FP
No shearer hindrance	FP
No shearer assistance	FP
No competitor on shearing board	FP
No interference with wool after time	FP/DQ

#### **Suggested** Wool assessment penalties

Inaccuracy of oddments	GRID Penalties
Inaccuracy of fleece and or fleece faults	GRID Penalties
Urine stain, pizzle stain, skin, dags	GRID Penalties (CS)
Black wool (when notified by shearer)	GRID Penalties (CS)
Competitor in wool assessment area	FP

## APPENDIX 2: 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 organizing committee.

### **Job Description:**

A Woolhandling Referee is expected to:

- Be a non judging Referee during the championship;
- Be familiar with and enforce the rules regulations and procedures as recognized by the National Body (CS) and the formalized World Rules (WR).
- Facilitate a workshop to allow judges to familiarize themselves with World Rules (WR) and Country Specific's (CS), key points, special instructions etc.;
- Draw up a roster after assessing the judging team that ensures fairness;
- Be fully aware of the programme and any time constraints;
- Monitor the judging teams performance and standards and mentor when required;
- Ensure wool movement, timekeepers and points collection is attended to;
- Ensure adequate bins, containers, counters, stationery and white coats are available;
- Liaise with the sheep steward and team of shearers to ensure they are well briefed;
- 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 Host Country and World Council 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.