



# Youth Alpaca Judging Competition

## *Rules and Regulations*

### **Entry**

Each club is invited to enter alpaca judging team(s) consisting of no more than four members. The three members with the three high scores will be counted for the team points; however, all individuals are eligible for individual awards. All entries must be submitted in accordance with the registration for Alpaca Owners Association, Inc. (AOA) Youth Alpaca Judging competition.

### **Contestants and Eligibility**

1. Teams may be selected by any procedure which a club (group of contestants) deems appropriate while complying with AOA policy.
2. At an AOA Youth Alpaca Judging Contest, contestants must have passed their **8th birthday** and be no older than 19 as of midnight December 31 of the previous calendar year.
3. There will be four age divisions, Senior 15–19, Intermediate 12–14, Junior 9–11, and Sub-junior 8 and under. For team awards to be given there must be at least **two teams** in each age division.
4. At an AOA Youth Alpaca Judging Contest members may compete as individuals from clubs that do not have full (3–4 members) judging teams and are eligible for individual awards only. Individuals must be properly entered in the contest.
5. It is at show management's discretion as to whether or not to allow combining of members from different clubs in order to form teams for the purpose of team awards.
6. Contestants in an AOA youth competitive event must not have participated in official post-secondary (university, college, junior college, or technical school) competitive events, of a similar nature in the same subject matter area to be eligible for participation in AOA competitive events. Neither can that individual be a member of a postsecondary team undergoing training in preparation for a post-secondary event of the same nature. For example, a contestant who has competed in an official collegiate livestock judging contest, either on or off campus, is ineligible to compete in a similar alpaca judging contest.
7. Alternates will be eligible to compete for individual awards.

### **Method of Conduct**

1. A coach's meeting will be held prior to the contest at a time announced in the conference materials. At this time, instructions for the contest will be given. Coaches should be prepared to check the names, addresses and ages of contestants for the contest.
2. No contestant shall wear any clothing, pins or badges that will in any way reveal his or her identity or state he or she represents. Weather conditions may vary, so dress accordingly. No hats are to be worn by contestants during the contest.
3. The contestants will be divided into groups for the contest and will remain with the assigned group throughout the contest. While the contest is in progress, there shall be no conferring between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except by the Superintendent or group leaders.

4. The contest will be comprised of four classes of alpacas. All of these classes will be comprised of four animals and the animals will be designated by numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4. Animals **MUST** be AOA registered. Animals do not need to be registered in the show, however must meet all state health requirements for entry into the show venue.
5. Reasons will be taken on **two classes** in the senior and intermediate age groups only. Contestants may use a clipboard and/or notepaper of their choice—notebooks should be clean and free of notes. Only a page to record placings on is permissible. Contestants are not permitted to use notes while giving oral reasons or answering questions. Reasons classes may be any of the four classes.
6. Two minutes will be allowed to give oral reasons to the official judges.
7. Contestants will be allowed 15 minutes per class to make their observations, make notes if necessary and fill out their placing card.
8. A handler will hold the Alpaca and show teeth as requested. Contestants will stand in line and will be allowed 15 seconds to handle each alpaca individually.
9. Contestants will have a minimum of 10 minutes to prepare each of the two sets of oral reasons. Contestants will not be permitted to refer to any data or notes when delivering oral reasons.
10. All contestants and coaches are expected to be present for the Awards Presentation.
11. Contestants will not be allowed to carry electronic devices on the floor while judging. This includes mobile phones, pagers, PDA's, and other device capable of transmitting information. If a contestant is found with a device, the contestant's cards will be pulled and the contestant removed from the contest.

## **Superintendents**

1. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to see that all rules and regulations of the contest are carried out. They shall decide all questions which may arise in connection with the interpretation of the rules governing the contest.
2. They shall have helpers to assist them.
3. They shall have charge of all records and shall have ratings tabulated and totaled.

## **Clerks and Assistants**

The clerks, assistants, and attendants shall be under the direction of the Superintendent and shall carry out all assignments in an orderly manner; and none of them shall confer with a contestant unless directed by the Superintendent.

## **Judges**

1. An AOA certified judge(s) will place all classes and hear and score all reasons.
2. The judge(s) shall place the classes while the contestants are working in the area. The judges shall enter their placings on the placing card, indicate the cuts to be made, and file that card with the Superintendent. Exception: Due to time restraints the judge may place the class before the contest but not before the event (show) begins.
3. During the reasons session, the judge will score the contestant when he or she has finished.
4. The official placings and cuts will be given by the judge(s) immediately following the reasons session.

## **General Information**

For specific contest details or questions, contact the Show Superintendent. Current AOA judging criteria will be used in all official placings, see AOA show rules at [www.alpacainfo.com/show/handbook](http://www.alpacainfo.com/show/handbook). Fleece and conformation will be used in placing and judged 50/50.

## **Judging Software**

Winjudge is the software system that all AOA certified shows will use. It may be purchased through AOA or directly at [www.winjudge.com](http://www.winjudge.com). This software is the standard for other livestock youth judging and is compatible with the AOA judging system. Show Management is responsible for the computer and the purchase of the software.

## **Placing/Ribbons**

For each age group (Sub-junior, Junior, Intermediate, Senior) there are 1st–6th place individual placings, as well as 1st–3rd team placings.