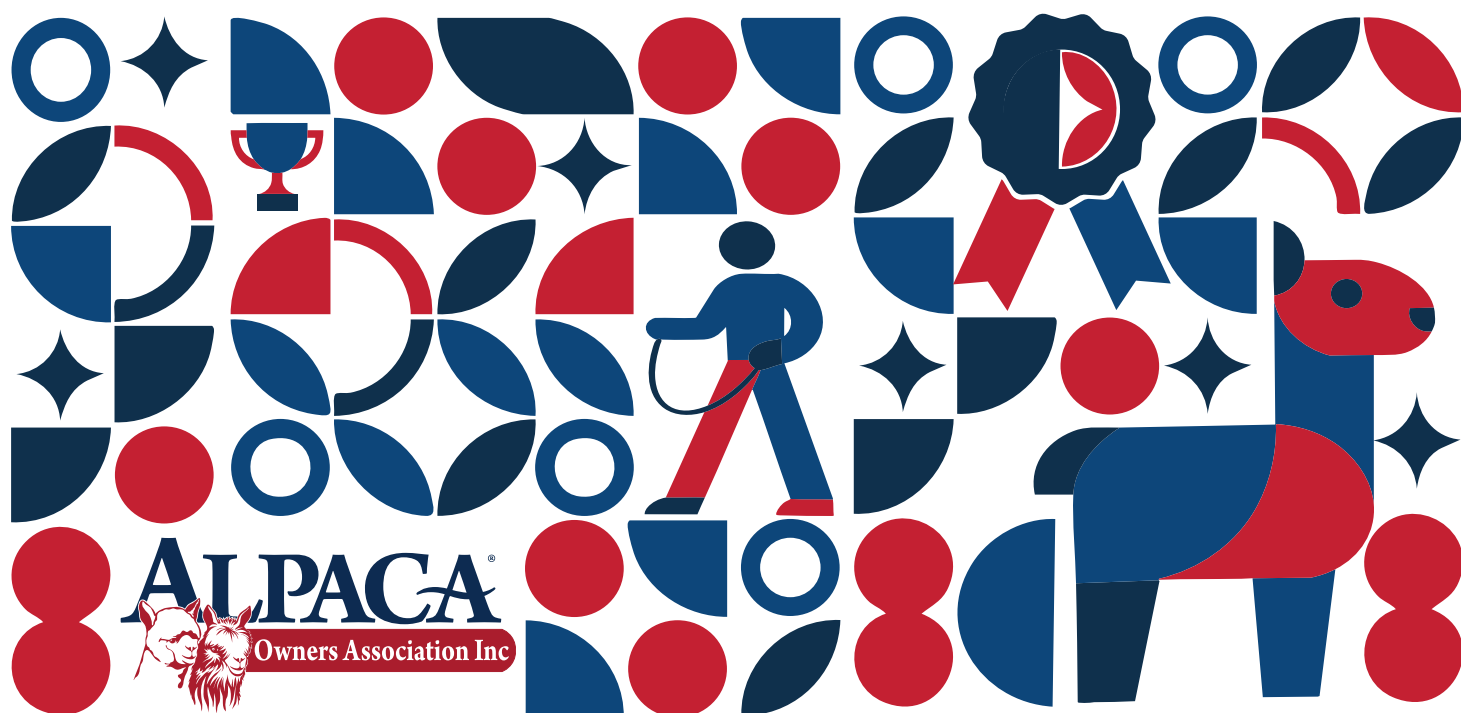


2026 SHOW SYSTEM HANDBOOK





Dear Show Participant,

I'm pleased to share the 2026 AOA Show System Handbook with you. I'll highlight three key updates here, but please read the full handbook to review all changes.

First, the color groups section now includes a breakdown of silver and rose gray designations, along with the addition of medium brown. Next, the performance fun classes have been added and defined in the performance section. Finally, the exhibitor limit rule has changed from four alpacas to three.

All updates for 2026 appear in **bold** throughout the handbook. I encourage you to take time to read each section and become familiar with the changes. Alpaca Owners Association (AOA) continues to certify outstanding alpaca livestock competitions across the United States, and we hope you join us in celebrating the strength and connection of our community.

The show points structure enters its fifth year with continued success. Nearly 150 farms have earned recognition through the program, and we are grateful for your participation and commitment to showing these remarkable animals. Halter, fleece, and youth points are tallied separately, and the awards will be announced online after the show season ends on May 31. Please visit the AOA website for full program details.

We are excited to continue the Spotlight on the Show Ring education project, which supports exhibitors in preparing for competition and building confidence in the ring. This resource benefits seasoned exhibitors and is especially valuable for those new to showing.

Thank you to everyone who submitted ideas and feedback for the Show Rules Committee. Your insights help us refine and strengthen the Show System each year. I also want to extend my appreciation to the Show Rules Committee members. This handbook requires hundreds of hours to complete, and their dedication and thoughtful work make each update possible.

As you read through the handbook, I encourage you to explore another important resource: *The Art and Science of Alpaca Judging*. Written by industry experts and available on AOA's website, this textbook expands understanding of alpaca fleece and conformation. When combined with tools such as the AOA Expected Progeny Differences (EPD) program, histograms, and skin biopsies, these resources support informed decisions in showing, breeding, and herd development.

If you have questions about the rules or the handbook, please contact me directly at the AOA office. I'm here to help you navigate this year's updates and support your success in the show ring.

Thank you for participating in the AOA Show System, and I wish you a wonderful show season.

Sincerely,

Margie Ault
AOA Show & Marketing Division Administrator



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PART I. THE AOA SHOW SYSTEM

Chapter 1. History of the AOA Show System

For years, alpaca owners have understood the value of attending shows for their alpaca businesses. In 1989, the membership of the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA) set a goal to establish an alpaca show system, and a Show Committee was appointed to oversee its development.

In 1990, working in tandem with the American Llama Show Association (ALSA) to govern rules, regulations, and judge training, the AOBA Board of Directors approved an alpaca show format.

In December 2000, AOBA separated from ALSA and created its own Show Division. A full-time Show System Administrator position was established, and the first AOBA Show Committee met to create official show rules and format. Shortly after, the AOBA Show Division Handbook was published.

The AOBA Training Task Force organized and presented the first AOBA Judge Training and Certification Clinic, and AOBA held its inaugural Certified Alpaca Show in March 2001. Within a few years, the Judge Training and Certification Committee (JTCC) and the Judges Advisory Committee (JAC) were formed. The Show Committee was renamed the Show Rules Committee (SRC), and by 2003, today's current structure had been established.

In 2014, the Alpaca Owners Association, Inc. (AOA) was created through the merger of AOBA and Alpaca Registry, Inc. (ARI), and the AOBA Show System became the AOA Show System.

Judge training within the AOA Show System serves as a model for alpaca organizations worldwide and is based on two judging methods. Halter classes are judged on a comparative basis, while fleece and performance classes are judged on an absolute point system.

An AOA Halter Judge must possess thorough knowledge of both Suri and Huacaya conformational and fleece characteristics, while an AOA Fleece Judge must be able to evaluate all criteria of each breed's fleece. Judges must be well-trained, professional, competent, and understand judging philosophy.

As a testament to the work done by the original AOBA Show Committee in 2000, a significant portion of the original show format and rules remain in place today. As the national alpaca industry has evolved, the AOA Show System has evolved with it. The SRC reviews and updates the Show System Handbook annually to reflect changes in the industry—developing new competitions, removing outdated rules, and instituting new guidelines based on member feedback.

For more information about the AOA Show System, visit www.AlpacaInfo.com/show to access additional resources. AOA maintains a searchable database for members of all certified shows since 2001, with downloadable PDFs of show results for each certified event.

So get ready, get set, and register to SHOW!

Chapter 2. Introduction to the AOA Show System

Section 1. Title and Objective

The AOA Show System was developed to provide an exemplary, evolving show structure for its members as the North American alpaca industry grows and develops.

Through this system, the alpaca industry is intended to be positively influenced to produce world-class alpaca livestock and to support the continued growth of the alpaca fiber industry.

The rules in this Handbook apply to all AOA Certified Shows and are reviewed annually. Input may be provided to members of the AOA Show Rules Committee.

The rules published herein are effective January 1, 2026. These rules are the official show rules of the AOA Show System and were developed by the Show Rules Committee, Judge Training and Certification Committee, and Judges Advisory Committee, and approved by the Board of Directors. They remain in effect except as superseded by subsequent editions of the AOA Show System Handbook or by notifications of rule changes to members.

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New rules or rules changes/clarifications are indicated by bold lettering.

Section 2. AOA Show System Mission Statement

To promote positive public awareness of the unique qualities of alpacas and to improve the breed and enhance their marketability through the development of a show exhibition system guided by the following principles:

- A.** Internally developed by alpaca industry members.
- B.** Educational, exciting, and enjoyable.
- C.** Based on an evaluative system that rewards merit and quality of exhibited alpacas through a balanced assessment of fiber and conformation according to breed standards and criteria established by industry members.
- D.** Characterized by a judge training and certification system based on objective assessment of skills and competency.
- E.** Encourages wide participation of industry members in showing and judging by adhering to a code of fairness and high ethical standards.
- F.** Promotes and protects the health and well-being of alpacas.

Chapter 3. Rules Relating to all Show Participants

The adherence to the following rules is the responsibility of all show participants.

- A. Participants should be courteous and gracious to other show participants regardless of class placements.
- B. By participating in AOA Certified Shows, show participants act as representatives of AOA. Shows are public events; therefore, all show participants should at all times conduct themselves in a positive, professional and courteous manner. For those entering the show ring, attire should be neat and professional.
- C. Participants are expected to know and follow all AOA Show System rules and standards of proper conduct as presented in this Handbook. Individuals who voluntarily elect to participate in AOA Certified Shows do so with the understanding that they agree to abide by the rules and procedures set forth in this Handbook.
- D. By voluntarily participating in AOA Certified Shows and AOA Show System-related activities, participants agree to hold harmless AOA, its employees, and its representatives from any liabilities, losses, or damages, perceived or real, directly or indirectly, for any reason, in the course of these events.
- E. Participants shall not engage in the following activities or behaviors while attending AOA Certified Shows or in connection with Show System-related activities. This includes—but is not limited to—actions taken when providing information required by the show or the AOA Show System:
 - 1. Negative, obstructive, or disruptive behavior at an AOA Certified Show.
 - 2. Abusive or foul language in public at an AOA Certified Show.
 - 3. Cruelty or mistreatment of alpacas at an AOA Certified Show.
 - 4. Lack of compliance with Show System rules, including attempts to circumvent rules or procedures.
 - 5. Falsification of required information, including disclosure statements, shearing dates, birth dates, AOA registration certificates, or ownership of alpacas.
- F. AOA registered alpacas are the only animals permitted at AOA Certified Shows, with the following exceptions:
 - 1. Service animals, as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), are allowed under ADA conditions. Emotional support or therapy animals may be allowed at the discretion of show management, with prior notification required.
 - 2. Alpacas entered into Youth Performance classes are not required to be AOA registered.
- G. Any alpacas present at the venue must be at least six months of old, with the exception of auction alpacas accompanied by a cria.
- H. Ribbons, banners, and awards shall not be misrepresented in any format. The appropriate language is the name of the show and the award. Titles such as National, Supreme, and Grand may not be used except for the AOA National Show.
- I. The Judge's final decision shall not be challenged except on the grounds that the Judge has committed a breach of AOA Show System rules. Any complaint must follow proper procedures and must include reference to the specific rule(s) allegedly violated.
- J. The Judge may, at their absolute discretion, direct the removal of a person from the Judge's ring or fleece room for bad conduct.
- K. Violation of any rule or standard of proper conduct set forth in this Handbook may result in immediate expulsion from the show venue by show management and/or a complaint or potential grievance filed with the Show System office, with possible disciplinary action to follow.

PART II. IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EXHIBITORS

Chapter 4. Helpful Tips—Before, At, and After the Show

Section 1. Before the Show

A. Is your alpaca show ready?

Definition of Show Ready: An alpaca or its fleece that is presented for show in optimal condition.

1. The show readiness of any alpaca being considered for show entry should be assessed before EACH show rather than limited to a single assessment made at the beginning of the show season. Determination of show ready condition should include evaluating the current health status of the alpaca, including body condition (score) and recovery from any health issues on the farm or subsequent to previous show(s) or transport. Do not take any alpaca to a show if it exhibits evidence of illness, contagious disease such as diarrhea or respiratory illness. Do not transport or show any juvenile alpaca that has just been weaned. Consult your veterinarian if you have any concerns as to the health status of your alpacas considered for show.
2. Selection of your alpacas for show purposes requires attention to all of the following. Show entries should:
 - a. Be trained to halter, including walking on a loose lead.
 - b. Stand easily for hands-on inspection.
 - c. Have a history of good health.
 - d. If juveniles, be weaned appropriately well in advance of the show using proper weaning procedures. The recommended time is three to four weeks prior to the first show. (NOTE: While the minimum age for showing juveniles is six months, each juvenile should be individually assessed as to being mature enough and ready to show.)
 - e. Exhibit a good body condition appropriate to size and weight for its age. Assess prior to each show.
 - f. Be free from evidence of disease or injury.
 - g. Exhibit **naturally clean unenhanced show ready** condition which may include evidence of a natural dust line throughout the fleece.

B. Exhibitors: Are you show ready?

1. Several months prior to your first show:
 - a. Ensure ample time to register your alpacas with AOA by submitting a blood sample for DNA testing.
 - b. Ensure ample time to test for BVDV using the PCR test. Only one test in an alpaca's lifetime is required for show entry. BVDV testing is required on all alpacas that enter any AOA Certified Show venue.
2. Within 30 days prior to the last day of the show:
 - a. Schedule a vet visit. Your veterinarian must complete the CVI form for all of your alpacas going to the show. The CVI must be dated within 30 days prior to the last day of the show. Be sure that any tests that are required by the state in which the show is held have been performed and noted on the CVI along with a permit number if required by the host state of entry. Your veterinarian must also note on the CVI that each alpaca has been tested BVDV "negative" or BVDV "not detected" using the PCR test. The BVDV test results must be written on the CVI with the date of the test, the initials of the lab that performed the test, and the testing method (PCR).
 - b. Insert or recheck microchip for each alpaca. The microchip number along with the location of that microchip must be written on the CVI for each alpaca. This includes any companion alpaca.
 - c. Re-verify gender, and that each show entry is anatomically correct in its reproductive parts.
 - d. Check the general health of each alpaca, weigh or assess body score.
 - e. Re-verify AOA registration of each alpaca.
 - f. Check under the tail area for evidence of any abnormal discharges; clean/trim if needed.
 - g. Trim toenails, if needed.
3. Leaving for the show:
 - a. Recheck presence of microchip for each alpaca.
 - b. Re-verify gender, and that each show entry is anatomically correct in its reproductive parts.
 - c. Recheck the general health of each alpaca.
 - d. Recheck and clean/trim under tail area if needed.

- e. Ensure that you take the necessary paperwork with you to the show:
 - 1) Copies of AOA Registry Certificates for all alpacas taken to the show. Some shows require an additional copy for Show Superintendent records at check-in, and it is always a good idea to retain one copy in your own show folder.
 - 2) Original CVI and one photocopy for Show Superintendent's permanent records.
 - 3) Copies of all of your show registration entry forms in your show folder (for your records only).
- f. Pack appropriate attire and shoes for show ring presentation.
- C. Are your fleeces show ready? Selection of fleeces for show purposes requires attention to all of the following. Fleeces should:
 - 1. The required plastic bag SKU #S-10920 must be used to hold the fleece. Information regarding the source of this mandated plastic bag can be found at www.alpacainfo.com/show/handbook.
 - 2. Be appropriately skirted. Fleeces shall not be washed, artificially enhanced, trimmed, blocked, or plucked (removal of guard hairs throughout the blanket).
 - 3. Be free of parasites.
 - 4. Show good health, soundness, and is free of tender breaks.
 - 5. Be presented in a **naturally clean unenhanced show ready** condition which may include evidence of a natural dust line throughout the fleece.
 - 6. Still exhibit good organization and overall structure, even if shown multiple times.

Section 2. At the Show

- A. Veterinary check-in:
 - 1. Be prepared to provide a copy of the CVI (and AOA Registry Certificate, if required by the show).
 - 2. Assist with microchip verification on all alpacas.
- B. Show registration:
 - 1. Be prepared to provide any missing documentation.
 - 2. Hand over paperwork from veterinary check, if needed.
 - 3. Compliance checking:
 - a. Ensure that all entries go through compliance checking.
 - b. Verify age, gender, and number of months of fleece growth for each show entry with compliance checker and on the exhibitor placard/armband.
 - c. Verify correct color class.
 - 4. Turn in your previously prepared fleeces along with the completed Fleece Entry Tag to the Fleece Show area before the deadline.
- C. Morning of the show: Verify that each show entry is listed correctly in the proper class in the show book.
- D. At ringside: Have your show entry at the gate area prior to the last call for your class.

Section 3. After the Show

It is strongly recommended that a quarantine area on the farm be prepared prior to leaving for the show so that all alpacas arriving home from the show can be put directly into the quarantine area.

- 1. Ideally, the quarantine area should be completely separate from any alpacas that did not attend the show. The minimum distance should be 30 feet.
- 2. Separate cleaning tools should be used for the quarantine area, or tools should be disinfected prior to using on any non-quarantine area that houses alpacas.
- 3. Disinfecting hands and footwear after leaving the quarantine area and prior to entering any non-quarantine area is strongly recommended.
- 4. It is strongly recommended that non-quarantine areas be tended to first before tending to the quarantined alpacas.
- 5. It is strongly recommended that the quarantine period be a minimum of two weeks, and preferably three weeks.

Chapter 5. Helpful Tips — Getting Fleeces Ready for the Fleece Show

Section 1. Preparation of the Fleece Prior to and During Shearing

- A. Assess the fleece on the alpaca for dust and debris. If minor, do not disturb the fleece. If deemed necessary, rinsing the alpaca with clear water only is permitted, but must be done within a sufficient time prior to shearing in order for the fleece to dry thoroughly and for the crimp or locks to return. Gentle picking of the fleece that does not pull on the fiber but removes vegetable matter will save work during skirting.
- B. Prior to shearing, inform the person doing the shearing that the fleece is to be shown and more care than usual should be taken. Have a stack of clean, flat sheets, flannel backed vinyl tablecloths, shower curtains, or stiff butcher paper available to place under the alpaca to receive and wrap the prime fleece. Once the fleece is shorn off the alpaca, fold the edges of the wrap over the fleece, then roll the wrap and fleece in a “butcher” style so that the fleece is preserved as nearly as whole as possible. Store this rolled fleece in a cool room, out of direct sunlight, until you have time to skirt it as a fleece show entry.

Section 2. Skirting the Shorn Fleece

- A. Unfold the wrapped fleece carefully on a “skirting” table which is designed to support a framed screen made with plastic 1” mesh, hardware cloth or welded wire, or PVC piping. Gently push the fleece off the “receiving” cloth and position the fleece so that the outer tip side is down (cut side up). Bounce gently to remove as much dust as possible.
- B. Search around the perimeter edges of the prime fleece for leg, neck, or belly fiber that is not of the same quality as the prime blanket fleece and remove into a separate pile for other use.
- C. If the prime fleece has small spots of another color but does not qualify for a multicolor class, extract those spots in order to present a uniform color.
- D. Remove all fiber that does not meet the 3” minimum length. Check carefully for short pieces of fiber called “second cuts” and discard them, along with any stray fibers from the legs or from other alpacas.
- E. Refer to Chapter 21, Fleece Competitions, for rules on maximum fleece lengths for the breed and age of the alpaca.
- F. Test the prime fleece for soundness by taking pencil size sample strands from several areas and snapping them like a rubber band between your hands. Listen for breaking sounds and observe if the fiber separates at any point. Fleeces with tender breaks, usually due to some stress or illness, are discounted appropriately.
- G. Turn the fleece over so that the cut side is down. Pick out as much debris and excessive pieces of vegetation as possible without stretching the fiber or disturbing the character of the fleece. Pinecones, sticks, burrs, dung tags, urine stains, etc., must be removed even at the risk of disturbing the fleece. Note: Removing as much debris and pieces of vegetation as possible prior to shearing can either eliminate the need for this step or reduce time spent considerably.
- H. A fleece exhibiting parasitic infestation is reason for disqualification and should not be shown.
- I. After completing the skirting procedure, continue to the next step regarding fleece show entry. No fleece should be shorn and entered in a fleece show without prior attention to skirting.

Section 3. Entering the Shorn Fleece

- A. Remember that only the prime fleece is to be included. Leaving in leg, neck, and belly fiber that does not have the same character of the prime blanket will result in points being deducted for uniformity of length, micron, and absence of guard hair, as well as other characteristics that might be negatively impacted.
- B. All fleeces are to be displayed with the cut side up.
 - OPTION 1. With the cut side of the fleece down and the tips up, fold the fleece in a “butcher” style so that the edges are gathered into the center and roll it from one end to the other. OR, after turning the fleece over so that the cut side is up, gently roll the edges under all around, resulting in a “mushroom” mound of fleece. Use the REQUIRED plastic bag SKU #S-10920 to hold the fleece. Information regarding the source of this mandated plastic bag can be found at www.alpacainfo.com/show/handbook. Open the bag fully into a rounded nest-shaped configuration with the bag seam at the bottom, pick up the fleece mound and place it into the bag, pulling the sides of the bag up around the fleece.
 - OPTION 2. Cut the bag open on both sides or along one side and bottom so that it forms a long rectangular sheet. Slide the fleece onto this plastic sheet with the cut side up, fold the sides of the plastic sheet over towards the center of the fleece, then roll the fleece into a “noodled” presentation (like a cinnamon roll) from one end to the other. Only one plastic sheet of the mandatory plastic bag SKU #S-10920 described on www.alpacainfo.com/show/handbook is permitted if the fleece is entered in this noodled manner. The use of any other sheeting material is prohibited. Place the noodled fleece into the mandatory plastic bag SKU #S-10920 for transport to the show.

- C.** Complete a Fleece Show Entry Tag with the required information or proceed to the online fleece entry registration page for the show which will also generate a Fleece Entry Tag for the exhibitor to put in each entry bag. (The Fleece Show Entry Tag can be found at www.AlpacaInfo.com/show/show-forms). Place the Fleece Show Entry Tag into the bag of fleece and you are ready to enter the fleece into the show.
- D.** Fleeces must be shown within 380 days from the date of shearing.

Chapter 6. Rules Relating to Exhibitors and Handlers

Section 1. Rules for Exhibitors and Handlers

An Exhibitor is defined as the owner who enters the alpaca or its fleece. A Handler is defined as the person who leads the alpaca into the show ring and may or may not be the owner. The adherence to the following rules is the responsibility of the exhibitors and handlers.

- A. All exhibitors and handlers, AOA and non-AOA members, shall follow all rules as specified in the current AOA Show System Handbook.
- B. Exhibitor's and handler's attire should be professional, conservative, neat and appropriate for the class. Dark trousers or skirts and white shirts or blouses are strongly suggested as acceptable attire for showing in halter classes. Only closed toe and closed heel shoes are permitted to be worn in the show ring.
- C. Exhibitors and their employees, agents or assigns agree to release the AOA Judge from any loss, damage, liability resulting from the placement or disqualification of any alpaca in the show however caused, resulting directly or indirectly from exhibitor's entry or participation in the show. Every entry at an AOA Certified Show shall constitute an agreement and affirmation that all participants, without limitation, shall accept the Judge's decision as final.
- D. No person other than a show official or Ring Steward shall engage the Judge in conversation other than a brief greeting before judging commences and until the judging of all alpacas is completed.
- E. **No person or alpaca shall enter or exit the judging ring after judging of a class begins. Exhibitors and their alpaca must remain in the ring until judging of that class has been completed and awards for that class have been presented. Upon entering the ring, the exhibitor and alpaca are not permitted to leave except when excused by the Judge. In such instances, permission must be granted by the Judge along with notification of the Show Superintendent when appropriate. Exiting the ring without permission will result in the alpaca no longer being eligible for judging in that class unless permission is granted.**
- F. Exhibitors are encouraged to contact and obtain permission from a Judge prior to quoting the Judge's comments in advertising.
- G. Refer to Part I, Chapter 3, Rules Relating to All Show Participants, for additional rules pertaining to exhibitors and handlers.

Section 2. Conflict of Interest Rules

A. Rules Relating to a Person

- 1. A person, including his/her immediate family members, will be prohibited from personally handling any alpaca in the ring in front of a Judge if:
 - a. They co-own an alpaca with the Judge.
 - b. They are an immediate family member of the Judge.
 - c. They are a domestic partner of the Judge.
 - d. They are a business partner of the Judge.
 - e. They are an employee or employer of the Judge.
 - f. They are involved in a current, significant business transaction with the Judge (if clarification is needed, please consult with the AOA Show Administrator).
 - 1) This prohibition exists for a period of three months after the date when the final payment has been made.
 - 2) In a circumstance of completion of payment of a long-term contractual agreement, the three-month time period is waived.
 - 3) If a person is prohibited from personally handling any alpaca in the ring in front of the Judge, he/she may appoint a handler to show an eligible alpaca on their behalf.
- 2. A person is prohibited from entering a fleece in a Fleece Show in front of any Judge judging at that Fleece Show if:
 - a. They co-own the alpaca with any Judge judging at that Fleece Show.
 - b. They are an immediate family member of any Judge judging at that Fleece Show.
 - c. They are a domestic partner of any Judge judging at that Fleece Show.
 - d. They are an employee or employer of any Judge judging at that Fleece Show.

B. Rules Relating to an Alpaca

- 1. An alpaca is disqualified from the Halter Show or Walking Fleece Show if:
 - a. The alpaca during the three months prior to the date of the show has been purchased from any Judge judging at that Halter Show or Walking Fleece Show.

- b. The alpaca during the three months prior to the date of the show has been boarded on a property under the control of any Judge judging at that Halter Show or Walking Fleece Show.
- c. That Judge has acted as a consultant or agent on behalf of the alpaca/alpaca's owner during the three months prior to the date of the show.
- d. That Judge has assisted in the purchase of, or brokered the alpaca during the three months prior to the date of the show.
- e. That Judge stands to make, or has made any gain, financial or otherwise, from the alpaca in the three months prior to the date of the show.
- f. Any Judge (Halter, Performance, Fleece) judging at the show has a share or ownership in the alpaca.

C. Rules Relating to Auctions

1. The following chart defines the scenarios where a person/s or the alpaca/s are in a conflictual situation with that Judge judging at a Halter Show.

Scenario	Consignor?	Buyer?	Alpaca?
1. Judge is Event Host	yes	no	no
2. Judge is Consignor/Seller	n/a	yes	yes
3. Judge is Buyer	yes	n/a	yes
4. Judge is Color Commentator	no	no	yes
5. Judge is Proxy Bidder to Buyer	no	yes	yes
6. Judge is Private Consultant	no	yes	yes
7. Judge is Promoter of Client Consignment	yes	no	yes
8. Judge is Seminar Speaker	no	no	no
9. Judge is Paid Evaluator by Host	no	no	yes
10. Judge is Attendee/Visitor at Auction	no	no	no

2. Disqualification applies for the period of three months from the date of the auction and/or until the final payment is made of a contractual agreement.

D. Rules Relating to Shorn Fleece.

1. A shorn fleece is disqualified from the Fleece Show competition when:
 - a. During the three months prior to the date of the show, the alpaca has been:
 - 1) Boarded on a property under the control of any Judge judging at that Fleece Show.
 - 2) Purchased from any Judge judging at that Fleece Show.
 - b. During the three months prior to the date of the show, the Judge judging at that Fleece Show has participated in any way in the purchase, sale (including auction), promotion or brokerage of that alpaca.
 - c. A Judge is hired to provide a herd evaluation, consultation or conduct a seminar and in so doing assesses shorn fleeces, those specific shorn fleeces are prohibited from being shown in front of that Judge in a Fleece Show.
 - d. The fleece was skirted by the Judge.

Chapter 7. Rules and Requirements for Show Entry and Registration

Section 1. Entry Requirements

- A. Alpacas may not be excluded from showing in AOA Certified Shows because the owners are not members of AOA unless AOA membership has been suspended or revoked.
- B. Exhibitors are required to complete and sign an Exhibitor's Disclosure Statement to be submitted with their show entry.
- C. All alpacas entered in or present at the show must be registered by AOA's Alpaca Registry (formerly Alpaca Registry, Inc.). Companion animals must be registered by AOA to be on display at the show. Alpacas entered in Youth Performance classes are not required to be AOA registered. Any alpacas present in the venue must be at least six months of age. (Exception: Auction alpacas with cria at side.)
- D. A digital copy of the original AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate available on the breeder's account must either be uploaded to the registration program or attached to an email and sent to the Superintendent. Each certificate must indicate the registering farm as the owner, or an Owner of Record form signed by the seller giving permission to show the entered alpaca must accompany the Registry Certificate. A copy of the application for registration "pending registration" or a copy of an AOA certificate stamped "Certificate Copy" is not acceptable and shall not be used to allow entry into a show.
- E. Entries must be made in the name of the alpaca as recorded on the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate. Entries must be made in the name of the current owner of the alpaca as submitted on the Show Entry Form or the individual listed as owner on the Owner of Record for Show Entry Form. A spouse or domestic partner is regarded as synonymous with the owner entered to be in compliance with the Exhibitor Rule.
 - 1. An Owner is defined as the individual(s) who owns the alpaca.
 - 2. Owner of Record for Show Entry Form: The Owner of Record for Show Entry Form is to be used only in the event that an alpaca has been purchased or is being purchased on contract but the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate does not yet indicate the new owner. This form is not to be used to circumvent the Exhibitor Rule described below in Section 2.
- F. If the alpaca is co-owned, equity investment on the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate will be considered as full ownership for the equity owner entering the alpaca and the equity owner will be the only owner listed in the show records and show results.
- G. In the event that multiple owners wish to have their names listed in the show records and show results for an alpaca, this must be indicated at the time of entry and all owners listed are subject to the limitations of the Exhibitor Rule.
- H. Ribbons are awarded to the alpaca to indicate its placing in the class. No duplicate ribbons are provided in the case of co-ownership.
- I. At any show, an alpaca is ineligible to compete if:
 - 1. It is not registered with AOA's Alpaca Registry (formerly Alpaca Registry, Inc.). Exception: Youth Performance.
 - 2. Its identity cannot be verified to match the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate.
 - 3. It is of Suri type entered in a class for Huacaya alpacas.
 - 4. It is of Huacaya type entered in a class for Suri alpacas.
- J. An alpaca shall enter and be judged in only one approved halter class, if eligible, and any group production class(es) for which it qualifies.
- K. An alpaca's age and parentage will be as recorded on the copy of the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate that must be sent with the entry information to the show.
- L. Once the show book is printed/published, exhibitors cannot enter or move into another class or competition unless there is a color change or a clerical error. Group Production classes may be left open at the discretion of the Show Superintendent.

Section 2. Exhibitor Rule

(Applicable to Full Fleece/Composite class or Fleece/Spin-Off Competition):

- A. Halter Show and split genders Fleece and Walking Fleece Shows: The owner may enter only **three** alpacas in a class per breed type, per gender, per age division, per color designation. (Example: An owner may enter a maximum of **three** Suri female juvenile medium fawns and **three** Suri female juvenile dark fawns. If the show combines color designations or Color Groups, then properly entered alpacas may still exhibit even though the owner would have more than **three** alpacas in the combined class):

1. Take care if a single color designation is split into two or more classes due to the maximum class size rule. Regardless of the number of classes resulting from this split, the Exhibitor Rule of **three** alpacas per color designation still applies.
 2. In the event that an alpaca's color designation is changed as a result of the color compliance process, the Exhibitor Rule of **three** entries applies. (Example: An owner enters **three** Huacaya male juvenile whites and one Huacaya male juvenile beige in the Halter Show. During compliance check, the beige juvenile Huacaya is reclassified as a white juvenile Huacaya. One of the resulting **four** white entries must be scratched in order to comply with the Exhibitor Rule).
- B. Combined genders Fleece Competitions:** The owner may enter only **three** alpacas in a class per breed type, per age division, per color designation. (Example: An owner may enter a maximum of **three** Suri juvenile medium fawns and **three** Suri juvenile dark fawns. If the show combines color designations or Color Groups, then properly entered alpacas may still exhibit even though the owner would have more than **three** alpacas in the combined class):
1. Take care if single color designations are split into two or more classes due to the maximum class size rule. Regardless of the number of classes due to a split for a single color designation, the Exhibitor Rule of **three** per color designation is applicable.
 2. In the event that an alpaca's color designation is changed as a result of the color compliance process, the Exhibitor Rule of **three** entries applies. (Example: An owner enters **three** Huacaya juvenile whites, and one beige juvenile Huacaya in the Fleece Show. During compliance check, the beige juvenile Huacaya is reclassified as a white juvenile Huacaya. One of the resulting **four** white entries must be scratched in order to comply with the Exhibitor Rule.)

Section 3. Alpaca Identification and Health Requirements for Halter and Performance Shows

- A.** It is the responsibility of the owner of every alpaca entering the venue of an AOA Certified Show to corroborate the identity of each alpaca. The identification of each alpaca is accomplished by microchip. Also acceptable are alpacas identified with microchip embedded, official USDA approved ear tags. In situations where the number cannot be detected by scanning, this same microchip number is located on the back button of the ear tag and is acceptable for show entry so long as it matches the number stated on the CVI.
- B.** It is the responsibility of the owner of every alpaca entering the venue of an AOA Certified Show to submit a copy or photocopy of the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) to the Show Superintendent. That CVI shall include each alpaca's name, microchip ID number, location of that microchip, and BVDV information as noted in Section 3,D, below. The owner shall also provide any additional transportation certificates to meet the host state requirements. The Show Superintendent shall maintain the copy or photocopy of the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) as part of the permanent records of the show.
- C.** Even if state regulations do not require the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, exhibitors shall have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) completed not more than 30 days prior to the last date of the show for each alpaca transported to the show. This includes companion alpacas.
- D.** All alpacas entered in or present at the show must be tested for BVDV using the PCR test. One test in the lifetime of the alpaca is sufficient to ensure that it is not a Persistently Infected (PI) alpaca. The BVDV "negative" or BVDV "not detected" test result must be written on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) along with the date of the test, the lab that performed the test and the testing method (PCR).
- E.** All AOA Certified shows that require additional health testing must apply that additional testing equally, across-the-board to all animals at the venue.
- F.** Shows must provide a point of contact to answer questions regarding the additional testing with the name, phone and/or e-mail.
- G.** Refer to Chapter 17, Section 1, Health Regulations, for additional information.

Chapter 8. Rules Relating to the Show Ring

- A. All alpacas shall be presented for judging with a plain halter and lead line. Ornamentation, tassels, pompoms, etc., are prohibited. No ranch names, alpaca names, or other identifying stud, farm, ranch or personal logo shall be displayed on the exhibitor, handler, or alpaca while in the ring.
- B. Exhibitors/handlers shall have their entries at ringside ten minutes prior to the scheduled class.
- C. No person shall accompany the Judge into the show ring except persons appointed for that purpose by Show Management.
- D. Any alpaca that the Judge deems to be unsound or unfit to compete shall be removed from the ring by the Ring Steward at the direction of the Judge.
- E. The use of sedatives (herbal or medicinal), tranquilizers, or stimulants (chemical or herbal), is strictly prohibited for alpacas to be shown in halter or performance classes. Use of these items can result in expulsion from the AOA Show System.
- F. Alpacas should stand quietly for examination of the bite and fleece by the Judge in the ring. Unruly alpacas may be dismissed or placed lower in the class if they cannot be evaluated adequately. Handlers in halter classes must be able to control their alpacas and perform basic tasks required to show their entry. It is strongly recommended that children under 12 only show in the juvenile halter classes. The Ring Steward may provide assistance, however he/she is not responsible for controlling unruly alpacas. The safety and welfare of all participants in the ring is paramount.
- G. **No person or alpaca shall enter or exit the judging ring after judging of a class begins. Exhibitors and their alpaca must remain in the ring until judging of that class has been completed and awards for that class have been presented. Upon entering the ring, the exhibitor and alpaca are not permitted to leave except when excused by the Judge. In such instances, permission must be granted by the Judge along with notification of the Show Superintendent when appropriate. Exiting the ring without permission will result in the alpaca no longer being eligible for judging in that class unless permission is granted.**
- H. The handler of an alpaca in the show ring shall remain with the alpaca until judging has been completed and the Judge has finished giving his/her comments, unless the Judge authorizes a change of handler or removal of the alpaca from the show ring due to the handler's inability to control the alpaca or for other reasons as determined by the Judge.
- I. Alpacas that have been subject to prohibited surgical or chemical cosmetic enhancements or alterations cannot be shown.
 - 1. Prohibited surgical procedures include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Straightening of legs.
 - b. Cropping of ears.
 - c. Correction of non-descended testicles.
 - d. Any other surgery that may alter or improve appearance or correct a potentially heritable defect.

Chapter 9. Rules Relating to Modifications and Preparation of Alpacas and Their Fleece

- A. Alpacas are pasture animals and as such their fleeces may be exposed to different environmental conditions, one from another. Alpaca fleece should be shown in a naturally clean **unenhanced show ready** condition with as little disruption to the fleece architecture as possible. **Naturally clean unenhanced show ready condition specifically refers to the appearance of the alpaca as presented to the Judge in the show ring.** Cleanliness is the relative absence of contaminants in the fleece. This includes excessive mud, dung, or vegetable matter that may interfere with the Judge's ability to adequately assess the fleece quality.
- B. For any alpacas entered in Full Fleece Halter competition, Walking Fleece Show or Composite classes, or any fleeces entered in a Fleece Show, the use of any shampoos, conditioners, luster enhancers, silicone based products, dyes, color dressings, oil dressings, any enhancing agent and toenail painting is prohibited **at any time** and shall be basis for reduced placement or disqualification by the Judge. The Judge may have the option to begin awards with second place in which case the second place winner will be ineligible to compete in a championship class. The Judge is authorized to reduce placement or disqualify an alpaca or fleece if there is evidence of, or a strong suspicion of, any prohibited grooming, fittings or preparations displayed on the alpaca or fleece. Enforcement of any prohibited grooming, fittings or preparations also applies to any alpaca entered in the show that has been purchased whose specific fleece at the time of the purchase is either still on the alpaca or entered in the Fleece Show.

Section 1. Preparation rules for Huacayas in Full Fleece Halter Show and Walking Fleece Show Classes

- A. Allowable modifications and preparation for Huacayas:
 - 1. Uniform shearing to the skin, or in the case of crias, a cria's first uniform shearing to the skin, for the purpose of removing the entire fleece. Uniform shearing is the complete removal of fleece from the entire body of the alpaca.
 - 2. Trimming/tapering of the fleece on the head, legs, and tail.
 - 3. Complete removal of belly fiber for heat stress prevention only (this does not include the apron or chest).
 - 4. Superficial (outside of the fleece) rinsing with water to eliminate residue.
 - 5. Trimming fecal matter from the tail area.
- B. Prohibited modifications and preparation for Huacayas: The artificial enhancement or alteration of an alpaca to gain advantage in the show ring, include, but are not limited to the following:
 - 1. The practice of cutting, trimming, blocking, tipping, plucking, singeing or otherwise altering a Huacaya alpaca's fleece (other than a uniform shearing to the skin or in the case of crias, a cria's first uniform shearing to the skin, for the purpose of removing the entire fleece). When evaluating full fleeced Huacaya classes of all ages, the Judge shall reduce the placement or disqualify an alpaca based on his/her evaluation that trimming or tipping has occurred, including but not limited to:
 - a. Evening the length of the fleece to hide the guard hair.
 - b. Reshaping the alpaca to create an appearance other than its natural body shape; or trimming an alpaca's fleece to alter or enhance the appearance of the alpaca. Barrel cuts or "lion cuts" are not permitted. The Judge shall consider factors including, but not limited to, general lack of reasonable staple length for the time of year, a general absence of weathered tipping, lack of reasonable uniformity in staple length, lack of visible guard hair extending beyond the fiber where guard hairs are discovered by the Judge tactility, and where the body shape as determined tactility does not closely resemble the body shape visible to the Judge.
 - 2. The use of any shampoos, conditioners, luster enhancers, silicone based products, dyes, color dressings, oil dressings and any enhancing agent shall be basis for reduced placement or disqualification by the Judge.
 - 3. Soaking in any type of pool or dunk tank.

Section 2. Preparation rules for Suris in Full Fleece Halter Show and Walking Fleece Show Classes

- A. Allowable modifications and preparation for Suris:
 - 1. Uniform shearing for the purpose of removing the entire fleece. Uniform shearing is the complete removal of fleece from the entire body of the alpaca.
 - 2. Grooming shall be limited to the removal of vegetable matter and dung.
 - 3. Trimming/tapering of the fleece on the head, legs and tail.
 - 4. Complete removal of belly fiber for heat stress prevention only (this does not include the apron or chest).
 - 5. Superficial (outside of the fleece) rinsing with water to eliminate residue.

6. Trimming fecal matter from the tail.
- B. Prohibited modifications and preparation for Suris:**
1. The artificial enhancement or alteration of an alpaca to gain advantage in the show ring include, but are not limited to the following:
 2. The practice of cutting, trimming or otherwise altering a suri alpaca's fleece (other than a uniform shearing for the purpose of removing the entire fleece). Barrel or "lion cuts" are not permitted.
 3. The use of any shampoos, conditioners, luster enhancers, silicone based products, dyes, color dressings, oil dressings, and any enhancing agent shall be basis for reduced placement or disqualification by the Judge.
 4. Soaking in any type of pool or dunk tank.
 5. Twisting, curling or other enhancing practices (e.g., the removal/stripping of matted, cotted, felted, dead fiber) that will alter or enhance the fleece/lock structure in any way.

Section 3. Preparation Rules for Huacayas and Suris in Composite and Shorn Halter Show Classes

- A. Allowable modifications and preparation for Huacayas and Suris in composite and shorn halter classes:**
1. Uniform shearing for the purpose of removing the entire fleece.
 2. Trimming/tapering of the fleece on the head, legs, and tail.
- B. Prohibited modifications and preparation for Huacayas and Suris in composite and shorn halter classes:** The artificial enhancement or alteration of an alpaca to gain advantage in the show ring include, but are not limited to the following:
1. The practice of cutting, trimming or shaping an alpaca (other than a uniform shearing for the purpose of removing the entire fleece) in order to make the alpaca appear more conformationally correct.
 2. Reshaping the alpaca to create an appearance other than its natural body shape. Barrel or "lion cuts" are not permitted. The Judge may consider a violation exists in cases where the body shape as determined tactility does not closely resemble the body shape visible to the Judge.
 3. The use of any shampoos, conditioners, luster enhancers, silicone based products, dyes, color dressings, oil dressings and any enhancing agent shall be basis for reduced placement or disqualification by the Judge.
 4. Soaking in any type of pool or dunk tank.

PART III. INFORMATION FOR SHOW MANAGEMENT

Chapter 10. Rules Relating to Show Superintendents and Show Management

Show management is defined as the Event Coordinator(s) and Superintendent(s) of each Halter, Fleece, and Performance show. The adherence to the following rules is the responsibility of show management.

- A. The Superintendent and Event Coordinator shall be a Business Member of AOA.
- B. A show must be conducted in full accordance with AOA Show System rules as stated in this Handbook, and any exceptions must be approved, in writing, prior to the show by the AOA Show Rules Committee.
- C. By entering into a written agreement with the AOA Show System for certification of their show, Show Management agrees to abide by the Handbook rules and any directives issued by the AOA Show System.
- D. Show Management is responsible for managing their show in an ethical and fair manner, applying show rules equally to all participants.
- E. A show should be conducted according to procedures set forth in the show catalog/book. Any alteration of these procedures should be clearly communicated to all exhibitors prior to the show by Show Management/ Superintendent.
- F. The Halter Show Event Coordinator and Superintendent shall not handle any alpaca in front of the Judge. The Fleece Show Event Coordinator and Superintendent may show fleeces in their Fleece Show as long as they do not personally check in and/or weigh the fleece.
- G. The Show Superintendent shall ensure that all necessary details of every alpaca and fleece entered as exhibits in each respective class are recorded in the show catalog/book.
- H. An alpaca's age and parentage will be as recorded on the AOA Alpaca Registry certificate, not necessarily as recorded on the exhibitor's show entry form.
- I. The show is responsible for all ribbons and awards that are owed to exhibitors based on their placement. If the show runs out of ribbons or awards, the show must provide these awards in a timely manner.
- J. The Superintendent shall contact the AOA Show System Administrator at any point prior to, during, or after the show if the Superintendent cannot determine correct and proper resolution of any issue, conflict, or any potential violation of conflict of interest rules.
- K. The Superintendent acts to manage and resolve any issues or conflicts that can be immediately remedied while at the show. If the Show Superintendent cannot determine resolution or if immediate resolution is unattainable, then the Show Superintendent must contact the Show System Administrator who will determine the appropriate steps required to achieve final resolution.
- L. Management will direct anyone seeking to register a complaint to follow the procedures documented in Part IX Standards of Proper Conduct in this Handbook and AOA Show System website.
- M. Show Management is required to file show information with the AOA Show System Administrator within 20 days of the conclusion of the show.
 - 1. Show Management is required to provide "End of Show" information to the Show System Administrator's office in the format designated by the Administrator. This may include, but is not limited to, electronic submission using specific file formats, applications, and/or databases and spreadsheets.
 - 2. If End of Show requirements including show results are not received from the Show Superintendent by the Show System Administrator within 20 days following the end of a show, the Show System Administrator will notify the AOA Board of Directors. If a Superintendent does not transmit data in a timely fashion, he or she may be barred from serving as a Superintendent in any future AOA Certified Shows.
 - 3. Superintendents are responsible for the accuracy of the information and results will be posted as received by the Show System Administrator.
- N. Show Management is responsible for ensuring that Judges are paid in a timely manner, and at the minimum, no later than 30 days after the completion of the show.
- O. Penalties may be imposed and certification may be denied for future shows if Show Management fails to adhere to these rules.
- P. Refer to Chapters 6–9 and throughout the remainder of Part III for additional rules and responsibilities for Halter Show and Fleece Show Superintendents and Management.

Chapter 11. Show Positions and Officials

Alpaca shows may be coordinated and organized solely by volunteers or may be organized and staffed by paid individuals. The following is a list of key positions for shows of all sizes. In many instances and depending on the size of the show, these positions can be combined.

Section 1. Halter Show Officials

- A.** Event Coordinator (may also be called the Event Manager) (required). The Event Coordinator may be an individual or a committee. At some shows the Event Coordinator may also serve as the Show Superintendent. The Event Coordinator typically organizes the event including, but not limited to, the following responsibilities by:
1. Determining the scope of the event (e.g., seminars, type of show, sale).
 2. Preparing the budget.
 3. Arranging for the facility.
 4. Arranging for distribution of ribbons and prizes or arranging for sponsors to do so for each class.
 5. Securing sponsors for the event.
 6. Arranging for concessionaires and vendors.
 7. Arranging for and organizing volunteers and paid staff.
 8. Arranging accommodations and transportation to and from the show for the Judge or the Apprentice Judge if requested by the Judge or the Apprentice Judge to do so.
 9. Arranging transportation for the Judge or Apprentice Judge from the hotel to the show grounds.
 10. Ensuring that the Judge's or Apprentice Judge's needs are met during the course of the show.
 11. Ensuring that the show ring(s) and staging area(s) are adequate for the show level.
 12. Registering the event with the host state for all shows.
- B.** Halter Show Superintendent (required). The Halter Show Superintendent is the individual responsible for coordinating the show. The Halter Show Superintendent:
1. Shall enforce all rules pertaining to the show and is the final authority in the enforcement of all the rules pertaining to the show, except final color determination, based upon the rules contained herein.
 2. Shall not also serve as a Fleece Show Superintendent for Level II, III and IV Fleece Shows.
 3. Shall not serve as Ring Steward at that show.
 4. Shall be present on the show grounds for the duration of the show. The Show Superintendent should remain at ringside during and until judging is completed. Should the Show Superintendent need to leave the show area, they must be available by two-way radio or cellular telephone to handle any emergencies that may arise.
 5. Shall apply for certification of the show, choose the conditions of entry, and set the schedule for the classes.
 6. Shall oversee the selection and hiring of the Judge and other show personnel.
 7. Shall ensure procurement of ribbons and/or trophies.
 8. Shall produce the premium listing which contains the list of classes offered, ribbons, prizes, or premiums and the show entry form.
 9. Shall organize the classes according to the rules.
 10. Shall produce the show catalog which contains the show order and listing of entries in their appropriate classes.
 - a. Required information: Class Number, Name of Class (Breed Type, Gender, Age Division, Color, Class Type), Exhibitor Number, AOA Registry Number, Alpaca Name, Owner Name and Farm Name, DOB, Color Designation, Sire Name, Dam Name.
 - b. Encouraged information: Handler Name.
 11. Shall receive the entries and examine for accuracy, including verifying that the show entry matches the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificates.
 12. Shall retain the copies of the AOA Registry Certificates with their show records.
 13. Shall require all owners to submit a copy or photocopy of the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) with all necessary State tests and mandated AOA tests such as BVDV "negative" or BVDV "not detected" by PCR testing listed for all alpacas entering the venue, whether in competition or entering the premises for any other reason. The Show Superintendent shall keep the copy or photocopy as part of their permanent show records.

14. Shall ensure that as of the first day of scheduled judging, the fleece growth in months (rounded to the nearest tenth) and the age in months (rounded to the nearest tenth) of each alpaca is displayed on the front of the exhibitor's number placard/arm band. In the Yearling 3"–11" Suri classes, method of shearing (hand or electric) must be stated on the placard/arm band.
 15. After entries have been received and classes have been assembled, provide the Judge with a list that shows only the proposed classes and the estimated number of alpacas in each class. The list shall also show the class order.
 16. May direct the Gate Steward to re-check the microchip number for each alpaca in a class held at the gate prior to entering the ring to verify the identity of the alpacas in the class.
 17. May excuse any alpaca or exhibitor from the show prior to or during judging if exhibitor is deemed to be in violation of rules contained herein.
 18. Shall be responsible for reporting show results to the Show System Administrator in the required format.
- C. Halter Judge (required). The Halter Judge is a paid professional, trained to assess alpacas and fleece. The Halter Judge shall:
1. Not hold any other position of Show Management.
 2. Establish a consistent pattern for exhibitors to follow throughout the show, and instruct the Ring Steward on directing exhibitors through the pattern.
 3. Assess and place alpacas according to the AOA judging criteria for each of the two breed types (Huacaya and Suri).
 4. Line up the alpacas in order of placement consistently from left to right facing the audience for each class.
 5. Using a microphone, give comparative oral reasons in an accurate and timely fashion of the top placing alpacas first through sixth place in each class based upon the judging criteria rules stated herein.
 6. Be ultimately responsible for final placement of classes.
 7. It is the Judge's responsibility to audit the number of entries, fill out the official placing card, sign, and date it. Upon the Judge's signature, all results are final.
 8. Conduct himself/herself according to and abiding by all AOA Show System rules and proper conduct as set forth in this Show Handbook.
 9. Have authority over the activities in the show ring including final authority on color and fleece length based upon the rules contained herein.
 10. Allow an Apprentice Judge to accompany them into the show ring when feasible.
 11. Be allowed to conduct seminars or workshops at any show at which he/she is judging halter classes. The Judge may conduct seminars or presentations prior to or during the course of the show if the following limitations are strictly enforced:
 - a. The subject matter of the presentation shall be informative or educational in nature.
 - b. Contact with exhibitors and handlers shall be limited to a brief greeting.
 - c. A designated show official must accompany the Judge from the time of the Judge's arrival until his/her departure, as well as to and from the presentation.
 - d. The presentation may not involve any alpacas to be shown at the show in halter competition.
 - e. The Judge shall leave the seminar or workshop immediately at the conclusion of the presentation.
- D. The Apprentice Halter Judge (optional). The Apprentice Halter Judge is in training and is expected to conduct him/herself according to and abiding by all AOA Show System rules and proper conduct as stated for Halter Judge and as set forth in this Handbook.
1. There may be only one Apprentice Judge allowed per Judge per show.
 2. Apprentices are responsible for communicating with the Judge under whom they will be apprenticing and with Show Management receiving all necessary approvals to apprentice at the show.
 3. The Apprentice Judge shall not serve as a Ring Steward at a show where he/she is an apprentice.
- E. Barn Manager (recommended). The Barn Manager shall:
1. Arrange stall layout if needed and assign stalls and exhibit space for all exhibitors.
 2. Welcome the exhibitors upon their arrival and direct them to stations for veterinary check and compliance checking.
 3. Arrange facilities for checking Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) and compliance checking.
 4. Ensure that lighting conditions for compliance checking and Judge's Color Verification shall be identical to the lighting conditions of halter class judging.
 5. Arrange for verification of, and be responsible for, microchip identification numbers on all alpacas entered in an AOA Certified Show, as well as microchip identification numbers for all alpacas entering the venue of the show and not entered into the competition, as listed on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI).

6. Ensure that quarantine facilities are available.
 7. Advise exhibitors of any meeting times and locations.
 8. Direct exhibitors to trailer parking and exhibitor parking.
- F. Compliance Checker (required).** The Compliance Checker shall:
1. Be knowledgeable with the contents of the Halter Show Compliance Checking Manual (see Chapter 19).
 2. Have the responsibility of:
 - a. Verifying the color of all alpacas entered in an AOA Certified Show to ascertain compliance with the conditions of entry.
 - 1) If the verification of the color results in the exhibitor's alpaca being moved to a different color class, the exhibitor will be advised of the change and the change shall be reported to the Show Superintendent in writing. The Show Superintendent shall verify and ensure the change is accomplished. The exhibitor shall verify the class change with the Show Clerk.
 - 2) Verifying the fleece length of all alpacas entered in an AOA Certified Show to ascertain compliance with the conditions of entry for minimum and maximum fleece lengths. If the verification of the fleece length results in the exhibitor's alpaca being moved to a different class, the exhibitor will be advised of the change and the change shall be reported to the Show Superintendent in writing. The Show Superintendent shall verify if another class is available, if not then the alpaca will be ineligible to show. The exhibitor shall verify the class change with the Show Clerk.
 - b. Check the entry to verify that all the information is correct according to the Halter Show Compliance Checking Manual (see Chapter 19).
- G. Gate Steward (required).** The Gate Steward shall:
1. Call classes to the show ring in a timely manner.
 2. Check each entry to verify correct class and line up in the proper order to enter the ring.
 3. In the event that a discrepancy is discovered by the Gate Steward (for example an alpaca's date of birth is checked and it is discovered that the alpaca is a yearling entered into a juvenile class), the Gate Steward shall immediately bring the error to the attention of the Show Superintendent.
 4. At the direction of the Show Superintendent, re-check the microchip number for each alpaca in a class held at the gate prior to entering the ring to verify the identity of the alpacas in the class. In the event that a discrepancy is discovered by the Gate Steward, the Gate Steward shall immediately bring the error to the attention of the Show Superintendent.
 5. Control the waiting classes until such time as they enter the show ring when control passes to the Ring Steward.
 6. Ensure that only alpacas and their handlers be present in the gate area.
- H. Ring Steward (required).** One of the key positions needed on the day of the show is an experienced Ring Steward. There shall be a Ring Steward assisting each Judge. The Ring Steward shall:
1. Not hold the position of Show Superintendent, Show Clerk or Halter Apprentice Judge at a show where he/she serves as Ring Steward.
 2. Not personally show their alpacas before the Judge in that show after serving as Ring Steward.
 3. At the direction of the Judge have the authority to remove unsportsmanlike exhibitors from the ring.
 4. At the direction of the Judge have charge of and control activities occurring in the show ring.
 5. Convey the Judge's directions to the exhibitors; any questions that the exhibitor may have while in the ring are to be addressed to the Ring Steward and not to the Judge.
 6. Assist so that the Judge can complete the hands on evaluation of the alpaca. The safety and welfare of all participants in the ring is paramount.
 7. Record on the placing card the number of entries in the class (except in Color Championship classes).
 8. After the Judge has filled out the placing card, check that the numbers are correct and that the Judge has signed the placing card, then turn the card into the Show Clerk.
 9. Assist the Judge in lining up the class winners.
- I. Halter Show Clerk (required).** The Halter Show Clerk is responsible for:
1. Recording results of the classes upon the official results sheet and turning those results in to Show Management.
 2. Tallying scores for performance classes and examining score cards to break ties in same.
 3. Tallying scores for Composite classes Option A.
 4. Providing the Show Announcer the class results for broadcasting at the conclusion of the class.
 5. Ensuring that the correct number of alpacas are shown in a Color Group in order to offer a Championship in that Color Group.

- J. Announcer (required).** The Announcer is responsible for communicating what is happening in the show ring to the exhibitors and the audience.
1. Extends welcomes to the exhibitors and spectators and introduces and welcomes the Judge(s).
 2. After the Judge's oral reasons announces the results of each class including the name of the alpaca, farm name, and alpaca number.
 3. Shall call classes to the ring upon direction from the Show Superintendent or their designee.
 4. Shall refrain from making personal comments regarding individual animals and/or farms.
 5. Communicates relevant information to the audience during the course of judging.
 6. At the conclusion of the show, thanks Show Management, volunteers, exhibitors, sponsors, Judge(s), and the general public for their attendance.

Section 2. Fleece Show Officials

- A. Event Coordinator (may also be called the Event Manager) (required).** The Event Coordinator may be an individual or a committee. At some shows the Event Coordinator may also serve as the Show Superintendent. The Event Coordinator typically organizes the event including, but not limited to, the following responsibilities by:
1. Determining the scope of the event (e.g., seminars, type of show, sale).
 2. Preparing the budget.
 3. Arranging for the facility.
 4. Arranging for distribution of ribbons and prizes for each class.
 5. Securing sponsors for the event.
 6. Arranging for concessionaires and vendors.
 7. Arranging for and organizing volunteers and paid staff.
 8. Arranging accommodations and transportation for the Judge or Apprentice Judge from the hotel to the show grounds.
 9. Ensuring that the Judge's or Apprentice Judge's needs are met during the course of the show.
 10. Ensuring that the check-in and judging area(s) are adequate for the show level.
- B. Fleece Show Superintendent (required).** The Fleece Show Superintendent is the individual responsible for coordinating the show. The Fleece Show Superintendent shall:
1. Enforce all rules pertaining to the show and is the final authority in the enforcement of all the rules pertaining to the show, except final color determination, based upon the rules contained herein.
 2. Not serve as the Halter Show Superintendent at Level II, III and Level IV Fleece Shows.
 3. Be present at the Fleece Show area for the duration of the show.
 4. Apply for certification of the Fleece Show, choose the conditions of entry and set the schedule for the classes.
 5. Oversee the selection and hiring of the Judge and other show personnel.
 6. Ensure procurement of ribbons and/or trophies.
 7. Produce the premium listing, which contains the list of fleece classes and awards, and the show entry form.
 8. Organize the classes according to the rules pertaining to the level of the Fleece Show.
 9. Produce the show catalog which contains the listing of entries in their appropriate classes.
 10. Receive the entries and examine for accuracy, including verifying that the show entry matches the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificates.
 11. Retain the copies of the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificates with their show records.
 12. Arrange the facilities and setup for the Fleece Show.
 13. Arrange for staff to receive the fleeces at the show, follow the procedures in Chapter 23, sort the fleeces into classes and assist the Fleece Judge.
 14. After entries have been received provide the Judge with a list that shows only the proposed classes and the estimated number of fleeces in each class.
 15. Be responsible for reporting show results to the Show System Administrator in the required format.
- C. Fleece Judge (required).** The Fleece Judge is a paid professional, trained to assess shorn alpaca fiber. The Fleece Judge shall:
1. Not hold any other position of Show Management.
 2. Assess and place fleece according to the AOA judging criteria for each of the two breed types (Huacaya and Suri). Fleeces are judged individually against the AOA Fleece Judging Scorecard.
 3. Be ultimately responsible for final placement of classes.

4. Assess fleeces by removing them completely from their plastic bags and unfolding/unrolling them flat in an accurate and timely fashion.
 5. Conduct him/herself according to and abiding by all AOA Show System rules and proper conduct as set forth in this Handbook.
 6. Instruct the Clerk or Assistant in their duties.
 7. Allow Apprentices to accompany him/her in evaluating fleeces when requested when feasible.
 8. Be allowed to conduct seminars and workshops on the subject of fleece at shows where he/she is judging.
- D. Apprentice Fleece Judge (optional).** The Apprentice Fleece Judge is in training and is expected to conduct him/herself according to and abiding by all AOA Show System rules and proper conduct as stated for Fleece Judge and as set forth in this Handbook.
1. There may be only one Apprentice Judge allowed per Judge per show.
 2. Apprentices are responsible for communicating with the Judge under whom they will be apprenticing and with Show Management receiving all necessary approvals to apprentice at the show.
- E. Fleece Show Staff:**
1. Fleece Check-in Clerk (required) (see Chapter 22). The Fleece Check-in Clerk is responsible for:
 - a. Ensuring that Fleece Entry Tags are complete and accurate by:
 - 1) Affixing the unique entry number assigned by the Fleece Show Superintendent for each fleece in each section on the tag.)
 - 2) Separating and returning the "Fleece Pickup" portion of the completed Entry Tag to exhibitor to identify fleece at pickup following the show.
 - 3) Placing the top portion of the Fleece Entry Tag inside the bag with the fleece.
 - b. Preparing the fleece entry for judging as directed by the Fleece Show Superintendent by:
 - 1) Placing the entry number on the Judge's Scorecard).
 - 2) Weighing the fleece, calculating the annualized weight and recording it on the Entry Tag, Judge's Fleece Scorecard and Judge's Worksheet.
 - 3) Recording the number days of growth on the Judge's Worksheet.
 - c. Checking the fleece color against AOA Color Chart to ensure entry into correct class.
 - d. Removing the exhibitor information portion from the Entry Tag to be given to the Fleece Show Superintendent per their instructions.
 - e. Sorting fleeces into appropriate age and color groups.
 2. Class Setup Clerk(s) (required) (see Chapter 22). The Class Setup Clerk(s) shall:
 - a. Arrange each class on tables and remove fleeces from bags according to Judge's instructions.
 - b. Return fleeces to bags or boxes after judging.
 - c. Return judged fleeces to display area, attach ribbons, arrange in placing order.
 - d. Reattach exhibitor information portion of tag upon completion of all judging (including Championships and Specialty awards) at the direction of the Show Superintendent.
 3. Fleece Transcription Clerk(s) (required) (see Chapter 22). The Fleece Transcription Clerk shall:
 - a. Verify the mathematical addition of scores on the Judge's Worksheet for each entry in the class using a calculator/adding machine with a tape and attach the adding machine tape to the Judge's Scorecard.
 - b. Record placements on the Judge's Scorecard (in ink), along with points and comments at the Judge's request.
 4. Fleece Scribe (required) (see Chapter 22). The Fleece Scribe shall:
 - a. Record the Judge's scores on the Judge's Worksheet at the Judge's direction.
 - b. Total the scores for each entry in the class.
 - c. Check the Judge's Work Sheet for completion and placements.
 - d. Not scribe for a Judge if they have a fleece entered in the class being judged.
 5. Compliance Checker (required). The Compliance Checker shall:
 - a. Be knowledgeable with the Fleece Show rules for fleece length and color.
 - b. Have the responsibility of verifying the color and checking fleece length of all alpacas entered in an AOA Certified Show to ascertain compliance with the conditions of entry.
 - c. Check the entry in accordance with the Fleece Show rules for fleece length and color.
 - d. Verify the color and fleece length and if the color check results in the exhibitor's fleece being moved to a different class, the Show Superintendent must be advised of the change in writing.

6. Fleece Check-out Clerk (required). The Fleece Check-out Clerk shall:
 - a. Check pickup tag against fleece tag.
 - b. Release fleece to exhibitor.

Section 3. Performance Show Officials

- A. Performance Show Superintendent: The Halter Show Superintendent typically serves as the Performance Show Superintendent.
- B. Performance Judge (required). The Performance Judge is a paid professional, trained to assess alpacas and their handlers as they move through a set series of obstacles or movements. The Performance Judge shall:
 1. Assess and place alpacas and handlers according to the AOA judging criteria for performance.
 2. Be ultimately responsible for final placement of performance classes.
 3. Conduct themselves according to and abide by all AOA Show System rules and proper conduct as set forth in this Show Handbook.
 4. Have authority over the activities in the show ring.
 5. Allow an Apprentice to accompany them into the show ring when feasible.
 6. Be responsible for designing the showmanship pattern.
 7. Review all obstacle course descriptions prior to posting to exhibitors.
 8. Be responsible for approving the safety of obstacles.
 9. Have final approval of the course(s) during walk through.
- C. Apprentice Performance Judge (optional). The Apprentice Performance Judge is in training and is expected to conduct him/herself according to and abiding by all AOA Show System rules and proper conduct as stated for Performance Judge as set forth in this Handbook.
 1. There may be only one Apprentice Judge allowed per Judge per show.
 2. Apprentices are responsible for communicating with the Judge under whom they will be apprenticing and with Show Management receiving all necessary approvals to apprentice at the show.
- D. Gate Steward (required). The Gate Steward shall:
 1. Call classes to the show ring in a timely manner.
 2. Check each entry to verify correct class and line up in the proper order to enter the ring.
 3. At the direction of the Show Superintendent, recheck the microchip number for each alpaca in a class held at the gate prior to entering the ring to verify the identity of the alpacas in the class.
 4. Control the waiting classes until such time as they enter the show ring when control passes to the Ring Steward.
 5. Ensure that only alpacas and their handlers be present in the gate area.
- E. Course Designer (required). The Course Designer is responsible for:
 1. Designing, constructing and overseeing setup of the performance courses.
 2. Ensuring all courses and obstacles are constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accidents.
 3. Keeping in mind that the idea is not to trap or eliminate an alpaca by making an obstacle too difficult, but rather to show the versatility, training and trust between alpaca and handler.
- F. Ring Crew (required). The Ring Crew is responsible for setting up the performance courses and resetting the courses as necessary after each alpaca has completed the course.

Chapter 12. Show Certification and Show Entry Requirements

- A. AOA Certified Shows will adhere to the AOA Show System Mission Statement of “wide participation” of industry members and therefore will not restrict participation to a geographical location of affiliate membership.
- B. Certified Halter and Fleece Shows must have a minimum of 5 different exhibitors showing at least 36 total entries in a minimum of three classes.
- C. Shows should follow the show format appropriate for the size of the show. The classes listed for the appropriate show level should be offered.
- D. Shows may offer Novice and/or Small Breeder classes for farms that meet the entry criteria. (See details Chapter 17)
- E. Shows may offer various cash prizes or awards within the framework of existing show rules. A description shall be provided by the show on the AOA Certification Application.
- F. An AOA Certified Halter Show shall begin when the first alpaca enters the venue that has been approved as the site per the AOA Certification Application for that show and is over when the last alpaca leaves the venue. An AOA Certified Fleece Show is over when all judging is complete, results are verified and the Judge declares the show is over.
- G. Any and each competition or competitive event held in the venue and/or associated with an AOA Certified Show must be listed on the Application for Certification and approved by the Show System Administrator at the time of certification.
- H. Shows violating the AOA Show rules may forfeit certification in future years.

Section 1. Show Certification Procedures

- A. The Event Manager or Show Superintendent shall contact the AOA Show System Administrator in writing or by e-mail. The completed Show Certification Application(s), certification fee(s), a copy of the proposed entry form(s), the class schedule(s), a draft of the premium book(s) or a copy of the general show information, copy of the Exhibitor Disclosure form, copies of the Judge contracts, and copies of the show Entry Tags must be submitted to the Show System Administrator at least 120 days prior to the date of the show.
- B. A nonrefundable fee must accompany the application form for the Halter Show based on the following expected number of entries:

Level I	36–99	\$50
Level II	100–299	\$100
Level III	300–499	\$150
Level IV	500–799	\$250
Level V	800+	\$350
- C. A nonrefundable fee must accompany the application form for the Fleece Competitions based on the following expected number of entries:

Level I	36–74	total from Fleece Show + Walking Fleece + Spin-Off + Innovative Fleece Assessment = \$50
Level II	75–174	total from Fleece Show + Walking Fleece + Spin-Off + Innovative Fleece Assessment = \$100
Level III	175–349	total from Fleece Show + Walking Fleece + Spin-Off + Innovative Fleece Assessment = \$150
Level IV	350+	total from Fleece Show + Walking Fleece + Spin-Off + Innovative Fleece Assessment = \$250
- D. The Show System Administrator will review the proposed entry form(s), the class schedule(s) and the draft of the premium book for completeness and compliance with AOA Show System rules. After any changes for compliance have been made and received, the Show System Administrator will notify the Show Superintendent of certification.
- E. Upon certification, the Show System Administrator will post the show on the AOA Show System web site.
- F. Shows seeking AOA certification shall not be advertised as Certified, or Certification-pending until the actual notification of certification status is received via e-mail from Show System Administrator.
- G. The deadline for show entries must be at least three weeks prior to the show. Shows accepting late entries may add a late fee per alpaca. This fee is retained by the show.

Section 2. Request Approval for New Classes

- A. The AOA Show System Administrator in consultation with the AOA Show Rules Committee may approve new classes on a show-by-show basis.
- B. These new classes may provide opportunities for innovation. Such new classes must still adhere to existing judging criteria and show rules.
- C. Any show wishing to add these classes must complete the Request Approval for New Classes of the Application for Certification form. Until written approval is provided by the AOA Show System Administrator, these classes may not be offered or promoted in any way.
- D. Classes must be approved for each show, each year.

Section 3. Exhibition Classes

- A.** Exhibition classes are those not meeting the criteria for official AOA classes herein, and may include new or experimental classes and fun classes.
- B.** Exhibition class placings are not officially recognized by AOA; therefore ribbons or awards displaying the AOA logos shall not be awarded and results will not be recorded as part of the official show results on the AOA website. Awards and any advertising shall state "Exhibition Class".
- C.** Approved Exhibition classes are Best Head and Best Profile. The criteria for these classes are:
 - 1. That they be offered as fun, possibly money making events for the show
 - 2. That judging is used as an educational opportunity to inform breeders about the parameters for selection while describing the traits
 - 3. One award per breed type only; gender and ages are combined
- D.** The Show System Administrator in consultation with the Show Rules Committee (SRC) may approve additional Exhibition classes on a show-by-show basis.
 - 1. Any show wishing to add these classes must complete an Exhibition Class Approval Request on the Application for Certification form. Until written approval is provided by the Show System Administrator, these classes may not be offered or promoted in any way.
 - 2. These Exhibition classes must be approved for each show, each year. If an Exhibition class is approved for a given show that show must reapply to host the same class the following year.

Section 4. Rules for Show Entry and Registration

(See Part II, Chapter 7 for Rules and Requirements for Show Entry and Registration)

Section 5. Show Recording Fees

- A.** A \$8.00 recording fee shall be charged for each halter class entry. (For example, full fleece, composite, shorn, open gelding, Bred and Owned, Breeder's Best Three, Produce of Dam, Get of Sire, and/or any additional halter class entry.) A \$8.00 recording fee shall be charged for each fleece class entry. (For example, Fleece Show, Walking Fleece, Innovative Fleece Assessment, Get of Sire and/or Produce of Dam.) A \$8.00 recording fee shall be charged for each Spin-Off entry. These nonrefundable fees are remitted to AOA. Note: Entries in Youth Performance are exempt.
- B.** A \$3.00 recording fee must be charged for each Auxiliary Fleece entry. These nonrefundable fees are remitted to AOA.
- C.** Exhibitors who are not registered with the AOA Show System must pay an \$80.00 nonrefundable fee per farm per event for exhibiting in an AOA Certified Show (Halter, Performance, Fleece, Spin-Off). This fee is remitted to AOA.
 - 1. Only exhibitors who are members of AOA may be registered with the AOA Show System.
 - 2. Entries in Youth Performance classes are exempt. Entries in Auxiliary Fleece are exempt.

Section 6. End of Show Requirements

These fees are nonrefundable.

- A.** Original signed placing cards for Halter, Fleece, Walking Fleece, Innovative Fleece Assessment, Performance, Spin-Off, Auxiliary Fleece; End of Show Summary; and show fees must be received by the AOA Show System Administrator within 20 days following the ending date of the show. If a show fails to do so, show certification for the next year may be denied.
 - 1. If End of Show Requirements and show results are not received from the Show Superintendent by the Show System Administrator within 20 days following the end of a show, the Show System Administrator will notify the AOA Board of Directors. If a Superintendent does not transmit data in a timely fashion, he or she may be barred from serving as a Superintendent in any future AOA shows.
 - 2. Superintendents are responsible for the accuracy of the information and results will be posted as received by the Show System Administrator.
- B.** The AOA Show System Administrator will post the show results on the Show System website.
- C.** AOA Certified Show results are to be posted on the www.AlpacaInfo.com website within 60 days following the end of the show.

Section 7. Judge Employment and Show Management Responsibilities

- A.** It is strongly recommended that there are different Walking Fleece Judge(s) and Halter Judge(s) for a Walking Fleece and Halter Show event.
- B.** The individual or individuals who contract for employment or who actually employ a Judge shall not personally show their alpacas before the Judge in that show.

- C. Shows must employ only AOA Certified Judges for specific judging tasks: Breed Type—Huacaya or Suri, Color, Gender, Halter classes, Production classes, Performance, Championship classes, Fleece, etc. Once the show has hired and assigned judging tasks and the show is published on the AOA Show System website, www.AlpacaInfo.com/show, no changes in judging tasks can occur prior to or during the show. In the event of an emergency, no changes in judging tasks shall occur without prior approval of the AOA Show System Administrator.
- D. Multiple Judges per class:
 - 1. Each halter class shall be judged by one Judge or can be co-judged.
 - 2. Every class within a gender in a Color Group shall be judged by the same Judge(s) and the same Judge(s) shall also Judge the Color Championships.
 - 3. Multiple Judges can co-judge Production classes and Judge's Choice.
- E. A Judge may judge the same show in consecutive years in the same capacity.
- F. Judges are required to submit a copy of their current Disclosure Statement with their signed Judge's/Show Contract.
- G. Judges are required to submit a copy of their current Disclosure Statement to the Show Superintendent when they arrive at the show and before they will be allowed to judge.
- H. Judges shall be paid in a timely manner, no later than 30 days after the completion of the show, in accordance with the provisions of AOA Judge's contract. If a show fails to do so, Show Certification for the next year may be denied.
- I. Judges are independent contractors and will be paid a daily fee as negotiated with Show Management and stated in their AOA Judge Agreement with the show.
- J. **Judging time is a nine hour maximum per day including lunch and paperwork and shall be uniform for all competitions. Extended hours are permissible at the Judge's discretion at an overtime rate per hour as stated in the AOA Judge Agreement. Show Management must communicate with the Judge prior to the show as to the expected number of entries.**
- K. Shows are encouraged to provide a private area for Judges to prepare themselves prior to the show, to take breaks and to be served their meals. This area should be away from, and off limits to, exhibitors and the public.
- L. Shows are encouraged to provide reasonable breaks for Judges at least 15 minutes every four hours and 30 minutes for scheduled meal breaks.
- M. Estimated minimum time required for Halter Shows is based upon the average of 160 alpacas per day per Judge (Note: In figuring the time, you must include all alpacas in your Halter, Championship, Group and Performance classes). In the event that an Apprentice is being trained, these figures should be adjusted to reflect an average of 140 alpacas per day per Judge.

1. **Halter Show** suggested Staffing Guide

#Entries	#Judges	#Days	#Rings
36–99	1	1	1
100–299	2	1.5	2
300–499	2	2	2
500–799	3	2	3
800–1099	3	2.5	3
1100–1499	4	3	4

Section 8. Additional Guidelines and Requirements for Halter Shows

Refer to Part V, Chapter 17, Halter Shows for additional Halter Show information regarding guidelines for stalls, rings, flooring, requirements for a quarantine area and additional Halter Show information.

Section 9. Additional Guidelines for Requirements for Fleece Shows

Refer to Part VI, Chapter 21, Fleece Competitions for additional information.

PART IV. INFORMATION FOR JUDGES

Chapter 13. Rules Relating to Judges

The designation of AOA Certified Judge is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by the AOA Show System according to procedures formulated by it to individuals whose alpaca expertise and personal character merit the honor. Judges are presumed to be honest, competent and dedicated. The privileges granted with the designation of AOA Certified Judge and AOA Senior Certified Judge may be temporarily or permanently revoked if disciplinary action is deemed appropriate by the AOA Show System.

Section 1. General Rules

The adherence to the following rules is the responsibility of the Judge.

- A. Judges are required to perform their duties in accordance with the current AOA Show System Handbook rules.
- B. Judges are bound by all of the terms and conditions of the AOA Judge's Agreement.
- C. Prior to judging at AOA Certified Shows during the current show season, Judges must sign and submit the AOA Judge's Agreement.
- D. In addition to the AOA Judge's Agreement judges must sign and submit:
 - 1. A complete, accurate, and current Judge's Disclosure of Ownership Entities Statement to be on file with the AOA Show System Administrator's office prior to judging at AOA Certified Shows. The Judge's Disclosure of Ownership Entities is defined as a listing of all entities under which the Judge owns alpacas including but not limited to partners, partnerships, corporations or outright ownership.
 - 2. A complete, accurate and current Consulting and Service Contracts Disclosure to be on file with the AOA Show System Administrator's office prior to judging at AOA Certified Shows.
- E. Judges shall not misrepresent or suggest circumventing the rules as published in this AOA Show System Handbook in any oral or written communications, either publicly or privately, including but not limited to communications with their current or prospective clients.
- F. The Judge shall not use his/her position in judging any show to place classes in a manner to gain either personal or financial benefit or to provide benefit, financial or otherwise, to anyone.
- G. Class placing will be based on the merit of the alpacas presented in accordance with the AOA Show System rules as presented in this Handbook.
- H. The Judge shall not be a house guest of any exhibitor within the week prior to, during, or the week following the show.

Section 2. Rules While at the Show

- A. A Fleece Show Judge shall not exhibit fleeces at any Fleece Show where he/she is judging fleeces, but the Halter or Performance Judge may exhibit their fleeces at any show at which he/she is judging.
- B. The Halter, Performance, or Fleece Judge shall be subject to the following provisions at the show at which they are judging. The Judge shall:
 - 1. Be allowed to enter alpaca(s) or item(s) into an auction conducted at the show.
 - 2. Not have any alpacas in which they have an ownership interest entered into the Halter, Walking Fleece, or Performance Shows.
 - 3. Not market the Judge's alpaca breeding program with the exception of B.1. Said marketing is understood to include, but not limited to
 - a. The distribution of printed materials.
 - b. Banner displays.
 - c. Information or vendor booth(s).
 - d. The display of alpacas.
 - e. The display or sale of any products or merchandise.
- C. The Judge shall refrain from socializing with exhibitors until completion of the show, but may attend approved exhibitor functions with a designated show official.
- D. It is the intention of the AOA Show System to allow Judges to participate in certain show-related events as described in this section. Judges shall not engage exhibitors or handlers in private dialog, as conversations must be limited to a simple greeting.
 - 1. Seminars: The Judge may conduct seminars or presentations prior to or during the course of the show subject to the rules for seminars:
 - a. The subject matter of the presentation shall be informative or educational in nature.

- b. Contact with exhibitors and handlers shall be limited to a brief greeting.
 - c. A designated show official must accompany the Judge from the time of the Judge's arrival until his/her departure, as well as to and from the presentation.
 - d. The presentation may not involve any alpacas to be shown at the show in halter competition.
 - e. The Judge shall leave the seminar or workshop immediately at the conclusion of the presentation.
- E. Halter and Performance Judges should arrive on the show grounds no earlier than one hour prior to the pre-show Exhibitor's Meeting unless the Judge is attending an approved event.
 - F. Upon arrival at a show, the Judge shall proceed immediately to the Show Management office for orientation and directions. No person, other than a show official or Ring Steward, shall engage the Judge in conversation, nor shall the Judge engage such persons in conversation, before judging commences or during the show other than during the Exhibitor's Meeting to be held prior to the show. The Show Management office and concession stands are often located in, or adjacent to, alpaca stalling areas. A designated show official shall escort the Judge to and from these facilities and to the show ring.
 - G. The Judge shall refuse to examine any show-related catalog/book that comes to his/her attention by any means until judging of that show is completed. Prior to the show, the Judge shall not examine or have contact with any alpacas entered in the show. Contact is defined to include viewing alpacas on the show grounds or at a show related auction.
 - H. A Halter Judge, excluding the Performance Judge, shall participate in Judge's Color Verification at the show where he/she is judging. It is strongly recommended that all Halter Judges judging at the show participate in Judge's Color Verification.
 - I. The Judge shall evaluate and place classes in accordance with the AOA Show System rules as presented in the Handbook. Full Fleece halter and Production classes are to be evaluated utilizing a comparative basis of 50/50 for fleece and conformation. Fleeces in the Fleece Show are judged individually against the AOA Fleece Judging Scorecard.
 - J. The Judge is required to evaluate the alpaca and to ignore the identity of the owner or handler.
 - K. The Judge shall not make disparaging comments regarding Show Management, other Judges, the exhibitors or their alpacas, show rules or placings at any time.
 - L. Although Judges may have a need to confer with one another at a show, all such conferences without exception shall occur either at the Clerk's Table or at a discrete location away from show participants.
 - M. It is the Judge's responsibility to audit the number of entries, fill out the official placing card, sign, and date it. Upon the Judge's signature, all results are final.
 - N. No re-judging of classes shall be permitted.
 - O. If an alpaca is disqualified after the Judge has signed the final placing cards, placements for the other alpacas in the class shall remain as signed on the final placing card.

Chapter 14. Conflict of Interest Rules

Section 1. Rules Relating to a Person

- A. A person, including his/her immediate family members, will be prohibited from personally handling any alpaca in the ring in front of a Judge if:
 - 1. They co-own an alpaca with the Judge.
 - 2. They are an immediate family member of the Judge.
 - 3. They are a domestic partner of the Judge.
 - 4. They are a business partner of the Judge.
 - 5. They are an employee or employer of the Judge.
 - 6. They are involved in a current, significant business transaction with the Judge (If clarification is needed, please consult with the AOA Show Administrator.).
 - a. This prohibition exists for a period of three months after the date when the final payment has been made.
 - b. In a circumstance of completion of payment of a long-term contractual agreement, the three-month time period is waived.
 - c. If a person is prohibited from personally handling any alpaca in the ring in front of the Judge, he/she may appoint a handler to show an eligible alpaca on their behalf.
- B. A person is prohibited from entering a fleece in a Fleece Show in front of any Judge judging at that Fleece Show if:
 - 1. They co-own the alpaca with any Judge judging at that Fleece Show.
 - 2. They are an immediate family member of any judge judging at that Fleece Show.
 - 3. They are a domestic partner of any Judge judging at that Fleece Show.
 - 4. They are an employee or employer of any Judge judging at that Fleece Show.

Section 2. Rules Relating to an Alpaca

- A. An alpaca is disqualified from the Halter Show or Walking Fleece Show if:
 - 1. The alpaca during the three months prior to the date of the show has been purchased from any Judge judging at that Halter Show or Walking Fleece Show.
 - 2. The alpaca during the three months prior to the date of the show has been boarded on a property under the control of any Judge judging at that Halter Show or Walking Fleece Show.
 - 3. That Judge has acted as a consultant or agent on behalf of the alpaca/alpaca's owner during the three months prior to the date of the show.
 - 4. That Judge has assisted in the purchase of, or brokered the alpaca during the three months prior to the date of the show.
 - 5. That Judge stands to make, or has made any gain, financial or otherwise, from the alpaca in the three months prior to the date of the show.
 - 6. Any Judge (Halter, Performance, Fleece) judging at the show has a share or ownership in the alpaca.

Section 3. Rules Relating to Auctions.

- A. The following chart defines the scenarios where a person/s or the alpaca/s are in a conflictual situation with that Judge judging at a Halter Show.

Scenario	Consignor?	Buyer?	Alpaca?
1. Judge is Event Host	yes	no	no
2. Judge is Consignor/Seller	n/a	yes	yes
3. Judge is Buyer	yes	n/a	yes
4. Judge is Color Commentator	no	no	yes
5. Judge is Proxy Bidder to Buyer	no	yes	yes
6. Judge is Private Consultant	no	yes	yes
7. Judge is Promoter of Client Consignment	yes	no	yes
8. Judge is Seminar Speaker	no	no	no
9. Judge is Paid Evaluator by Host	no	no	yes
10. Judge is Attendee/Visitor at Auction	no	no	no

- B. Disqualification applies for the period of three months from the date of the auction and/or until the final payment is made of a contractual agreement.

Section 4. Rules Relating to Shorn Fleece.

- A. A shorn fleece is disqualified from the Fleece Show competition when:
- During the three months prior to the date of the show, the alpaca has been:
 - Boarded on a property under the control of any Judge judging at that Fleece Show.
 - Purchased from any Judge judging at that Fleece Show.
 - During the three months prior to the date of the show, the Judge judging at that Fleece Show has participated in any way in the purchase, sale (including auction), promotion or brokerage of that alpaca.
 - A Judge is hired to provide a herd evaluation, consultation or conduct a seminar and in so doing assesses shorn fleeces, those specific shorn fleeces are prohibited from being shown in front of that Judge in a Fleece Show.
 - The fleece was skirted by the Judge.

Chapter 15. Judge Certification

Information regarding the training and certification of AOA Alpaca Judges can be found at www.AlpacaInfo.com/show/handbook under Supplemental AOA Show System Information.

PART V. AOA CERTIFIED HALTER SHOW INFORMATION

Chapter 16. Halter Show Color Rules

All of the fleece color nomenclature and color definitions contained in this AOA Show System Handbook are phenotypic descriptions only, and are not intended or construed to be genotypic descriptions of any color.

Section 1. Definitions of Color Terms

- A. Color Group refers to the eight major groups of color designations, and includes white, light, fawn, brown, black, grey, roan, and multicolor. Multiple color designations may fall into one of the above Color Groups.
- B. Color Designation refers to the individual colors within a Color Group. The specific color designation is determined by the color shown in the current AOA Color Chart plus the roan color group and multicolor types described in this chapter.
- C. Solid Color: Solid color alpacas shall be defined as animals with solid color blankets/prime fiber (as matched to the AOA Color Chart at mid-side) and may have the presence of minimal, not easily recognizable, secondary color regardless of the color on the head and extremities.

Section 2. Color Groups

The eight Color Groups and the color designations within their Color Groups are defined as follows:

- A. GREY Color Group: A grey alpaca is visually “grey” from the exterior or upon opening the fleece. The alpacas in this group will be predominantly white on the head or face and may have a white tuxedo on portions of the neck. They may also have white on the legs and/or appearing in sections of the prime blanket. Rose grey is a reasonably uniform distribution of brown/fawn (MF or DF) with white/light/grey fiber and may or may not have black fibers present. Silver grey is a reasonably uniform distribution of grey with or without black or white/light fibers. In any grey designation, the prime fiber may be a consistent shade of grey or may exhibit spots of secondary color. The spots are clearly defined and demonstrate distinct borders of a specific color. These fleeces usually exhibit a large variation in fineness between the different light/dark fibers present when viewed against both a black and white background.
 - 1. Rose Grey
 - LRG Light Rose Grey**
 - MRG Medium Rose Grey**
 - DRG Dark Rose Grey**
 - 2. Silver Grey
 - LSG Light Silver Grey**
 - MSG Medium Silver Grey**
 - DSG Dark Silver Grey**
- B. ROAN Color Group: From the exterior, roan alpacas may or may not appear to have white/light fibers at all and often appear as their base color when viewed from a distance. Upon opening the fleece, the white/light fibers throughout the fleece are evident. The face/head will not be predominantly white, nor will the neck, legs, and tail. However, some roan alpacas do exhibit areas of white spots or patches on the head or face, yet still qualify as roan due to the distribution of fibers throughout the blanket and on various parts of the body. Roan alpacas have fleeces that are a mix of black/grey and or brown/fawn (MF or DF)/grey fibers with easily recognizable white/light fibers uniformly distributed throughout the blanket. All solid color prime blankets with white/light fibers uniformly distributed and easily recognizable are considered roan, including fawn (MF or DF) where the prime fiber area has variegated white/light fibers within individual staple groups throughout the blanket. Note: Patches of color transitions are often evident on roan alpacas; however, these areas of color change are usually not well defined as distinct spots with clear borders.
- C. BLACK Color Group is composed of the following Black color designations:
 - 1. BB Bay Black
 - 2. TB True Black
- D. BROWN Color Group is composed of the following Brown color designations:
 - 1. LB Light Brown
 - 2. **MB Medium Brown**
 - 3. DB Dark Brown

- E. FAWN Color Group** is composed of the following Fawn color designations:
1. **MF Medium Fawn.** Definition of a Medium Fawn alpaca: In addition to alpacas with solid color medium fawn prime fiber, this class also includes alpacas exhibiting gradations of medium fawn in the prime fiber area, or may have variegated white/fawn fibers within individual staple groups throughout the blanket. The alpaca does not qualify as a white due to color shading in the blanket and does not exhibit sufficient abrupt color changes to qualify for the pattern or other multicolor class. This shading of medium fawn possibly lightens to light fawn as viewed from the topline to the mid-side. When the mid-side color is light fawn, the alpaca shall be placed in the light fawn class. When the mid-side color falls between light and medium fawn, the alpaca shall be placed in the medium fawn class. All shaded fiber in question is prime blanket fiber.
 2. **DF Dark Fawn.** Definition of a Dark Fawn alpaca: In addition to alpacas with solid color dark fawn prime fiber, this class also includes alpacas exhibiting gradations of dark fawn in the prime fiber area, or may have variegated white/fawn fibers within individual staple groups throughout the blanket. The alpaca does not qualify as a white due to color shading in the blanket and does not exhibit sufficient abrupt color changes to qualify for the pattern or other multicolor class. This shading of dark fawn possibly lightens to medium fawn as viewed from the topline to the mid-side. When the mid-side color is medium fawn, the alpaca shall be placed in the medium fawn class. When the mid-side color falls between medium and dark fawn, the alpaca shall be placed in the dark fawn class. All shaded fiber in question is prime blanket fiber.
- F. LIGHT Color Group** is composed of the following Light color designations:
1. **BG Beige:** In addition to alpacas with solid-color beige prime fiber, this class also includes alpacas exhibiting gradations of beige in the prime fiber area. The alpaca does not qualify as a white due to color shading in the blanket and does not exhibit sufficient abrupt color changes to qualify for the pattern or other multicolor class color designation. This shading of beige possibly lightens to white as viewed from the topline to the mid-side. All shaded fiber in question is prime blanket fiber.
 2. **LF Light Fawn:** In addition to alpacas with solid-color light fawn prime fiber, this class also includes alpacas exhibiting gradations of light fawn in the prime fiber area, or may have variegated white/fawn fibers within individual staple groups throughout the blanket. The alpaca does not qualify as a white due to color shading in the blanket and does not exhibit sufficient abrupt color changes to qualify for the pattern or other multicolor class color designation. This shading of light fawn possibly lightens to beige or white as viewed from the topline to the mid-side. All shaded fiber in question is prime blanket fiber.
- G. WHITE Color Group** is composed of the following White color designation:
1. **WH White**
- H. MULTICOLOR Color Group** is composed of the following Multicolor color designation:
1. **Indefinite Light:** White or beige alpacas/fleece with easily recognizable dark fibers uniformly interspersed throughout the blanket of which the primary color is not grey/roan.
 2. **PT Pattern:** An alpaca shall qualify as a pattern if it displays a secondary distinct (at least two color designations apart according to the current AOA Color Chart) solid patch of color at the skin on the blanket, providing that any single solid patch of color shall be greater than 6 inches in length in any direction. The primary color shall not be grey/roan.
 3. **PN Pinto:** An alpaca that exhibits two distinct colors one of which is white. The extremities are predominantly white and the majority of the blanket is fawn or darker. (see Chapter 19 for illustrations)
 4. **FN Fancy:** Blanket fiber that exhibits three or more distinct (at least two color designations apart according to the current AOA Color Chart) colors of which the primary color is not grey/roan.
 5. **AP Appaloosa:** Blanket fiber that exhibits six or more spots of distinct (at least two color designations apart according to the current AOA Color Chart) secondary color(s) of which the primary color is not grey/roan. Harlequin appaloosas are alpacas that have speckles/spots over the muzzle and often over other parts of the whole body, i.e., belly, blanket, feet, lower leg. The blanket fleece may appear as a certain color designation from the outside, but the primary color underneath is another color designation, including grey/roan, with solid-colored spots prevalent throughout. Note: There are some cases when the grey/roan is so dark that the individual spots are difficult to distinguish within the blanket area. Leopard appaloosas are alpacas that have frequently distributed spots which are in proximity throughout the blanket and over the entire body. Any alpacas or fleeces that are perceived to be and registered for the show as appaloosa are required to go through Judge's Color Verification for each show they are entered in.

Section 3. Color Identification for Show Entry

- A.** Exhibitors shall match the fiber of each alpaca to the color swatch identified on the current AOA Color Chart. Fiber color shall be checked mid-side at the skin (see illustration under Section 5, Color Checking) with noted exceptions for roan, beige, light fawn and multicolor (refer to definitions of roan, beige, light fawn and multicolor, Chapter 16, Section 2).

- B. If a color falls between two color designations, the alpaca shall be placed in the darker color designation.

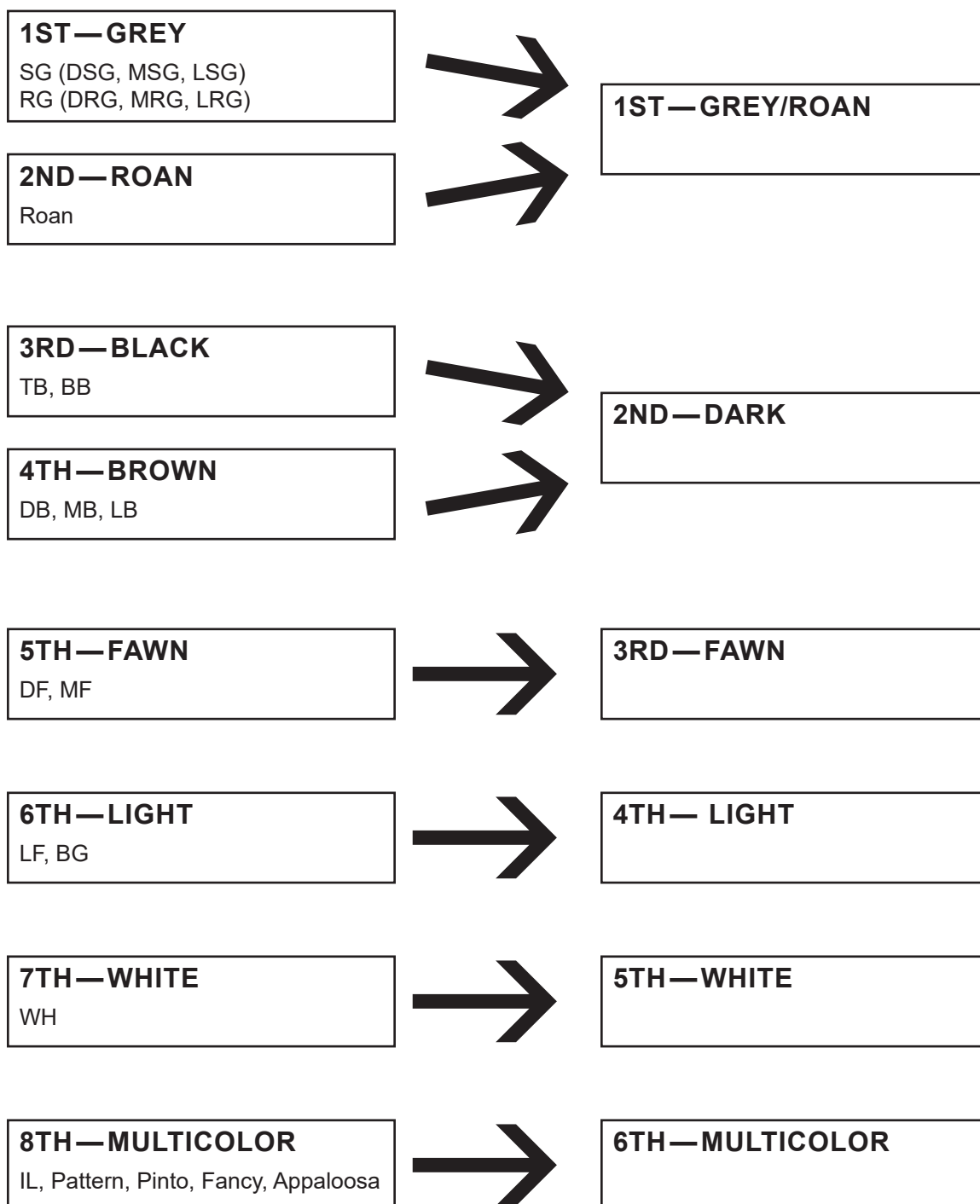
Section 4. Combining of Colors and Color Groups

- A. It is recommended that any color designation be shown as a separate class when four or more alpacas of one gender and age division are entered within that color designation. Color designations refer to the specific color, for instance LF is Light Fawn.
- B. When the entries of a particular color designation do not result in a minimum of four entries per age/ gender, the classes within a Color Group may be combined with other classes of the same age/gender in the closest color designation within that Color Group to form a class. (Refer to diagram)

Section 5. Color Combining Diagram for All Levels—Halter Shows

Basic Color Groups

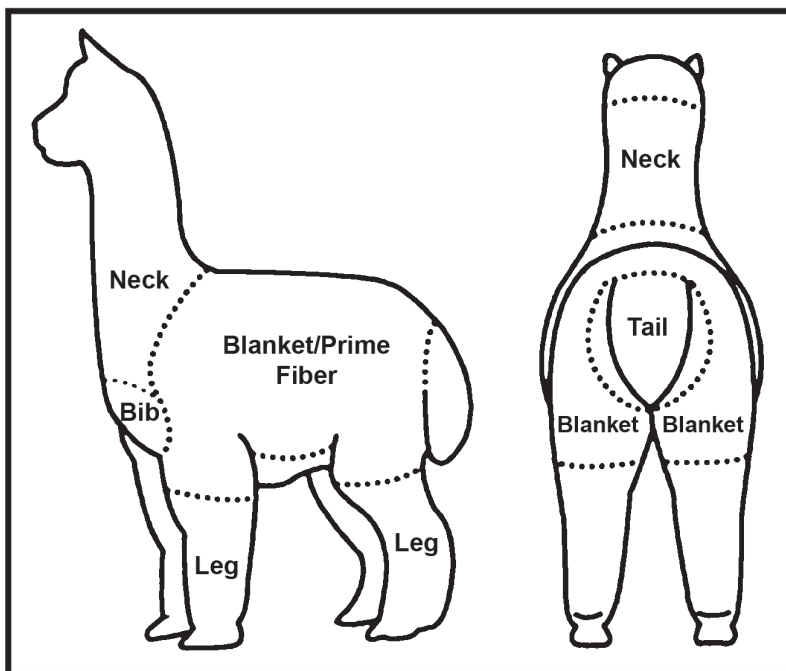
Combined Color Groups



Section 6. Color Checking

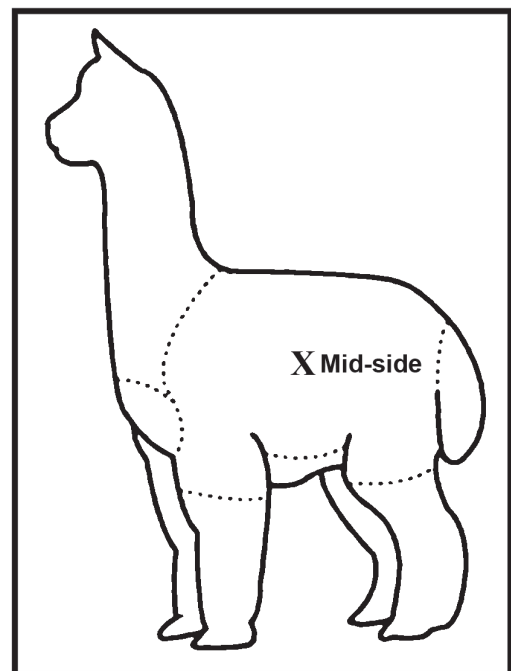
- A. Checking shall be accomplished in accordance with the Halter Show Compliance Checking Manual (see Chapter 19). The FRONT of the exhibitor placard or armband shall list the unique exhibitor number for each alpaca (the same number shall be used for both Halter and Walking Fleece competitions), age in months, fleece growth in months, shearing method (E or H) and color of alpaca. If the color is changed during Compliance Checking, that change will be denoted. If the color is changed by the Judge during Judge's Color Verification, the Judge shall initial next to the new color. The BACK of the placard or armband shall list at a minimum the tag #, name of the alpaca, name of farm, DOB, shear date, breed type, age, group and gender.
- B. Lighting conditions for compliance checking and Judge's Color Verification shall be identical to the lighting conditions of halter class judging. The Event Manager and Show Superintendent must concur on the protocol for compliance checking and convey that information to exhibitors prior to registration. If stalling occurs in a different room from the show ring, then compliance checking must be held in the room where the judging is taking place.
- C. A Compliance Checker shall be available to:
 1. Inspect all show entries by comparing the blanket area of the fleece mid-side (see illustration below) at the skin with noted exceptions for roan, beige, light fawn and multicolor (refer to definitions of roan, beige, light fawn and multicolor, (Chapter 16, Section 2) to the AOA Color Chart to verify entry into the proper color class.
 - a. Greys will have their color determined by inspection of the entire alpaca. The color designation shall be determined by comparing the blanket area of the fleece at mid-side (see illustration below) to the AOA Color Chart to verify entry into the proper color class.
 - b. Roans will have their color determined by inspection of the entire alpaca.
 - c. Pintos will have their color designation determined by inspection of the entire alpaca.
 - d. Multicolors will have their color determined by inspection of the entire alpaca.
 - e. Alert the Show Superintendent if the color check results in the exhibitor being moved to a different class. The exhibitor will be advised of the change and the change shall be reported to the Show Superintendent in writing. The exhibitor shall verify the class change with the Show Clerk.
 2. Ensure that exhibitors understand that it is ultimately the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure that their alpaca is entered in the correct color class and that alpacas exhibited in the incorrect class shall be removed or penalized by the Judge.

Diagram of Blanket Prime Fiber Location



Courtesy of Emilee Booher

Diagram of Location to Color Check



Section 7. Judge(s) Color Verification Process

In the event that during compliance check, the exhibitor disagrees with the decision of the Color Compliance Checker regarding the color of their alpaca, it shall be immediately brought to the attention of the Show Superintendent. The

Show Superintendent will make arrangements for a Show Official to take the alpaca to be color checked by the Judge who will be the final authority for determining the color of the alpaca based upon the rules contained herein. If a Halter Judge exercises their final authority to change an animal or fleece to another class, a written form must be completed and signed and submitted to the appropriate Show Superintendent. The Judge shall initial the front of the exhibitor card or placard along with the color change. Once an alpaca goes through Judge's Color Verification, that alpaca's color cannot be changed by any other Judge at that show or in the case of a multiple show event, at any of those shows. Once an alpaca at a multiple show event has shown in the first show, that alpaca's color shall not be changed for any subsequent shows at that event.

If there are adverse weather conditions affecting the Judge's assessment of the color of the fleece on an alpaca(s) on the day of check-in (e.g., fleece(s) is very wet), it is strongly recommended that Judge's Color Verification be done on the morning of the show.

Any alpacas that are perceived to be and registered for the show as appaloosa are required to go through Judge's Color Verification for each show they are entered in.

Chapter 17. Halter Shows

Full Fleece and Production classes are judged comparatively on a 50/50 basis of fleece and conformation.

The level of show shall be determined by adding the total number of Huacaya entries with the total number of Suri entries.

Level I	36–99
Level II	100–299
Level III	300–499
Level IV	500–799
Level V	over 800 entries

Novice classes are intended to encourage new or novice breeders to show their alpacas with other novice breeders. A farm qualifies as a Novice Breeder if it has owned alpacas for five years or less. Small Breeder classes are intended for small breeders to show their alpacas with other similarly sized farms. A farm qualifies as a Small Breeder if it has no more than 20 AOA registered females 18 months to less than 15 years of age at the time of registration for that show. These classes are meant to foster and further the education of novice and/or small breeders through class placements and Judge comments. Show Superintendents shall verify eligibility through an active AOA account and/or Owner of Record for Show Entry.

Section 1. Health Regulations

- A. All exhibitors must meet the appropriate state regulations for movement of livestock.
- B. It is the responsibility of the owner of every alpaca entering the venue of an AOA Certified Show to corroborate the identity of each alpaca. The identification of each alpaca is accomplished by microchip. Microchip identification shall be verified at entry check/veterinary check. Also acceptable are alpacas identified with official USDA approved ear tags embedded with a microchip. In situations where the number cannot be detected by scanning, this same microchip number is located on the back button of the ear tag and is acceptable for show entry if it matches the number stated on the CVI.
- C. It is the responsibility of the owner of every alpaca entering the venue of an AOA Certified Show to submit a copy or photocopy of the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) to the Show Superintendent. That CVI shall include each alpaca's name, microchip ID number, location of that microchip, and BVDV information as noted in Section 1, E. The owner shall also provide any additional transportation certificates to meet the host state requirements. The Show Superintendent shall maintain the copy or photocopy of the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) as part of the permanent records of the show.
- D. Even if state regulations do not require the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, exhibitors shall have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) completed not more than 30 days prior to the last date of the show for each alpaca transported to the show. This includes companion alpacas.
- E. All alpacas entered in or present at the show must be tested for BVDV using the PCR test. One test in the lifetime of the alpaca is sufficient to ensure that it is not a Persistently Infected (PI) alpaca. The BVDV "negative" or BVDV "not detected" test result must be written on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) along with the date of the test, the lab that performed the test and the testing method (PCR).
- F. All AOA Certified shows that require additional health testing must apply that additional testing equally, across-the-board to all animals at the venue.
- G. Shows must provide a point of contact to answer questions regarding the additional testing with the name, phone and/or e-mail.
- H. It is required that a veterinarian be present at check-in to screen for the presence of any contagious disease or illness. The AOA Show Administrator must be contacted in the event of an emergency that prevents the presence of a veterinarian at check-in. A show has the authority to impose reasonable quarantine procedures on any alpaca that exhibits evidence of contagious disease, such as signs of fresh diarrhea or respiratory illness. It is required that all shows utilize a basic veterinary check-in protocol which includes the following:
 - 1. Doing the veterinary check of all alpacas while still in the transport vehicle prior to unloading into the show venue. The Show Superintendent must be present prior to the unloading of any alpacas.
 - 2. Disinfecting hands and footwear between transport vehicles or using disposable gloves and foot booties and replacing them with clean ones before moving on to the next transport vehicle.
 - 3. Examining each CVI to verify that the date of examination on the CVI is within 30 days of the last date of the show as described in Section 1, D.

4. Cross-matching and verifying the microchip number of each alpaca to the number on the CVI. Verifying that each alpaca is BVDV negative by the PCR test as described in Section 1. Also, verifying negative results for any additional testing and/or other requirements that are mandated by state regulations for movement of livestock.
5. Examining each alpaca for signs of any contagious disease or illness, such as evidence of fresh diarrhea or respiratory illness.

Section 2. Guidelines for Stalls, Rings, and Flooring

- A. Stall size and design or type:
 1. A minimum size of 8' x 8' x 4' high is recommended.
 2. Sides should be stock panels but may be solid sides.
 3. The stocking capacity of pens shall depend upon pen size and shall be set by Show Management.
- B. Show ring:
 1. Show ring(s) and staging area(s) for halter classes should be of adequate size to accommodate the largest class expected in the show. A minimum show ring size of 60' x 80' is suggested.
 2. A ring for performance classes should be of sufficient size to allow adequate space between obstacles.
 3. The surface of the ring should be firm but not slippery. Bare concrete is not acceptable. Deep sawdust and mulch affect the alpaca's movement and should be avoided.
 4. Lighting must be adequate to fully evaluate fleece characteristics at all times of the day. For indoor arenas, supplemental lighting is recommended.
- C. Flooring: Main traffic areas should be of a type to ensure safe footing for participants and alpacas.

Section 3. Requirements for Quarantine Area

An area for quarantine stalls is required for all halter shows (including Performance and Youth).

- A. Quarantine area shall be located 30 feet from all other alpacas.
- B. Quarantine stalls must be of the same quality as the standard stalls for that show.

Section 4. Recommended Show Order for Halter Classes

- A. Group Production classes. Group Production classes (Get of Sire, Produce of Dam, Breeder's Best Three) may be held at any time during the show, providing that all other halter classes for that breed type are halted while the Group Production classes are occurring. Group Production classes must be held at the completion of a Color Group. All of the Group Production classes for their breed type must be held consecutively. When Group Production classes have sufficient entries to split, the order of judging will be Mixed/Dark followed by Light.
- B. Full Fleece Halter classes
 1. Full Fleece classes
 2. Bred and Owned Production classes. Bred and Owned classes, including Best Bred and Owned can be held at any time during the show, but must be held prior to Judge's Choice. The order of judging for Bred and Owned classes will be Dark followed by Light.
 3. Novice and Small Breeder classes
- C. Shorn classes

Section 5. Required Color Class Order

Color Group order (please refer to Color combining illustration, Chapter 16, Section 4)

1. Grey
2. Roan
3. Black
4. Brown
5. Fawn
6. Light
7. White
8. Multicolor

Section 6. General Halter Show Requirements All Halter Shows

- A. Must use an AOA Certified Judge
- B. Must have a minimum of 5 individual breeders or farms with a minimum of 36 total entries and must offer a minimum of three classes
- C. Huacayas and Suris shall be shown separately.

- D. Must hold separate classes for males and females
- E. Must offer all eight Color Groups. May combine Color Groups (see Halter Show Color Rules for the illustration) if less than eight Huacayas or six Suris are entered per age per gender per Color Group.
- F. When the entries of a particular color designation do not result in a minimum of four entries per age/gender, the classes within a Color Group may be combined with other classes of the same age/gender in the closest color designation within that Color Group to form a class.
- G. Any color designation may be shown as a separate class when four or more alpacas of one gender and age division are entered within that color designation. Color designations refer to the specific color (for instance LF = Light Fawn, etc.).
- H. Maximum class size is 11. A class cannot be split until it exceeds the maximum class size of 11. Classes of 12 or more must be split into two classes of equal size, and divided by age. When this rule is exercised separate awards must be given.
- I. The Exhibitor Rule applies (Full Fleece/Composite class or Fleece/Innovative Fleece Assessment/Spin-Off Competition). The owner may enter only **three** alpacas in a class per breed type per gender per age division per color designation. Note: Take care if single color designations are split into two or more classes due to the maximum class size rule. Regardless of the number of classes due to a split for a single color designation, the Exhibitor Rule of **three** per color designation is applicable (see Chapter 7, Section 2).
- J. Assemble classes as follows:
 1. First, divide by breed type.
 2. Second, divide by gender.
 3. Third, divide by age (see Section 7.D).
 4. Fourth, (applicable to yearling Suris only), divide by fleece length. Yearling 3" – 11" (must have been shorn within 380 days of the first day of scheduled judging): Minimum of 3 inches and maximum of 11 inches on the blanket, neck, and legs.
- K. Color Championships may be offered for full fleece halter and composite classes if the required minimums are met.

Section 7. Halter Class Rules

- A. Full Fleece and Production classes are judged comparatively on a 50/50 basis of fleece and conformation.
- B. When an alpaca's birthday falls on the first scheduled day of judging, the alpaca moves up to the next older class. For example, if an alpaca is born on 3/15/2025 and the first scheduled day of judging starts on 3/15/2026, then the alpaca must be entered and shown in the yearling class. If the alpaca is born on 3/16/2025 and the first day of scheduled judging is 3/15/2026, then the alpaca shows as a juvenile and does not change age groups.
- C. Alpacas shall enter the ring for judging in order of age from oldest to youngest.
- D. Age divisions for halter classes:
 1. Full Fleece and Composite classes. Must offer four age divisions based on the age of the alpaca on the first scheduled day of judging of the show.
 - a. Juvenile: 6 months through 12 months.
 - b. Yearling: First birthday through 24 months.
 - c. Two-Year-Old: Second birthday through 36 months.
 - d. Mature: Third birthday and older.
- E. When Color Groups are combined and still result in classes of less than **four** of a color designation or group which cannot be fairly combined with other color designations or groups, those classes are not considered exhibition classes.
- F. If the Judge determines, in any class, that there is a serious fault or multiple moderate faults in all alpacas in the class, then the Judge may have the option to begin awards with second place; in which case the second place winner will be ineligible to compete in a Championship class.
- G. Exhibitor's Meetings: An Exhibitor's Meeting of up to one hour in length shall be scheduled prior to the start of judging. It is preferable that the meeting take place immediately before the start of the show. This meeting shall be held in the show ring area without alpacas present except that an alpaca which is not entered in the show may be used for demonstration purposes. All exhibitors are expected to attend; there shall be no fee charged to exhibitors for the meeting. The purpose is to introduce the Judge(s) and give the Show Superintendent and the Judge(s) the opportunity to explain the conduct of the show and ring protocol. The Judge may respond to general questions regarding showing procedures. There shall be no questions regarding, nor viewing of, alpacas that are entered in the show. The Judge may at this time instruct the exhibitors on his/ her preference in ring procedures and handling alpacas in the show ring, including techniques for restraining alpacas and for showing the alpaca's bite.

- H. Placings first through sixth shall be made provided there are sufficient entries and shows must award ribbons for placings first through sixth:

First place: blue

Second place: red

Third place: white

Fourth place: pink

Fifth place: yellow

Sixth place: green

Champion (ribbon or banner): purple

Reserve Champion (ribbon or banner): lavender

Judge's Choice: burgundy (recommended)

Best Bred and Owned: black (recommended)

The Certified AOA Show logo must be on all ribbons and banners.

Note: Banners, using stipulated placing colors, may be substituted for ribbons. Banners/ribbons shall not include words such as "National", "Grand," or "Supreme" (exception: AOA National Halter Show) and shall only include the class name, e.g., "Get of Sire," "Produce of Dam."

Section 8. Halter Class Descriptions

- A. Full Fleece halter classes: Fleece staple length on the blanket shall be measured by inserting a ruler at the middle of the side (mid-side) and gently stretching the fleece to determine the minimum full staple length. Maximum full staple length shall be measured in the same location without stretching the fiber. Barrel cuts or "lion cuts" are not permitted.
1. Huacaya:
 - a. Juvenile: Shows January 1 through June 30: Minimum of 3 inches and no maximum.
 - b. Juvenile: Shows July 1 through December 31: Minimum of 2 inches and no maximum.
 - c. Yearling and older: Shows January 1 through June 30: Minimum of 3 inches and a maximum of 8 inches on the blanket, neck and legs.
 - d. Yearling and older: Shows July 1 through December 31: Minimum of 2 inches and a maximum of 8 inches on the blanket, neck and legs.
 2. Suri (January 1 through December 31):
 - a. Juvenile: Minimum of 3 inches and no maximum.
 - b. Yearling 3"–11" (must have been shorn within 380 days of the first day of scheduled judging): Minimum of 3 inches and maximum of 11 inches on the blanket, neck and legs.
 - c. Yearling 3"–No Maximum (not previously shorn or previously shorn beyond 380 days): Minimum of 3 inches and no maximum on the blanket, neck and legs.
 - d. Two-year-old and mature: Minimum of 3 inches and maximum of 9 inches on the blanket, neck and legs.
- B. Novice and Small Breeder classes may be offered and integrated within a regular halter show. These classes are meant to foster and further the education of Novice and/or Small Breeders through class placements and Judge comments. Show Superintendents shall verify eligibility through an active AOA account and/or Owner of Record for Show Entry.
- Novice classes are intended to encourage new or novice breeders to show their alpacas with other novice breeders. A farm qualifies as a Novice Breeder if it has owned alpacas for five years or less.
- Small Breeder classes are intended for small breeders to show their alpacas with other similarly sized farms. A farm qualifies as a Small Breeder if it has no more than 20 AOA registered females 18 months to less than 15 years of age at the time of registration for that show.
1. Novice and Small breeder classes shall be held in each breed, gender, age, and color as in the regular halter classes at the show.
 2. Qualifying Novice and Small breeder farms can enter in one of the following categories in shows that offer such classes: 1) Novice category, 2) Small Breeder category, or 3) regular halter category. A qualifying farm can register in only one category and entry into that category shall be consistent for all its entries.
 3. Novice and Small Breeder farms that enter Group Production classes and/or Bred and Owned will compete in the regular halter category.
 4. Any co-owned alpacas must be entered in the regular halter category if the co-owner is not a Novice or Small Breeder.

5. The category in which a farm has entered cannot be changed once the show program and class listing is printed.
 6. Entries in Novice, Small Breeder and regular halter shall be split into color designations only if every color designation within that Color Group has a minimum of four entries.
 7. The minimum of eight Huacayas and six Suris to hold a Color Championship in each Color Group shall be the combined total of alpacas in Novice, Small Breeder and regular halter classes in that Color Group.
 8. First and second place winners in Novice, Small Breeder and regular halter classes shall advance to the Color Championship in each Color Group providing that minimum numbers of eight Huacayas and six Suris are met. All rules for Color Championships and Judge's Choice (Chapter 17, Section 9) apply.
 9. Recommended show format: Alternate between regular halter classes, Novice and/or Small Breeder classes.
 10. Ribbons and banners for Novice and Small Breeder classes shall have a tag added designating Novice or Small Breeder.
 11. It is recommended that some type of symbol (such as a colored dot) be placed on the front of the placard or armband with the Novice or Small Breeder designation as this may foster additional Judge comments.
- C. Shorn halter classes:**
1. Will be shown separately from full fleece and composite classes.
 2. Age divisions for shorn halter classes:
 - a. Must offer three age divisions based on the age of the alpaca on the first day of scheduled judging of the show.
 - b. Juvenile: 6 months through 12 months.
 - c. Yearling: First birthday through 24 months.
 - d. Two-Year-Old: Second birthday and older.
 3. Shorn classes shall be separated in the following order:
 - a. First by breed type.
 - b. Then by gender.
 - c. Then by age. Yearling and two-year-old and older classes may be combined by age if the minimum class size of four is not met.
 4. Shorn classes may be divided by Color Group, following the same groups as listed for full fleece class levels.
 5. Shorn alpacas shall not be divided into color designations.
 6. Maximum class size is 11; classes of 12 or more must be split into classes of equal size divided by age. When this rule is exercised, then separate awards must be given.
 7. Shorn alpacas will be judged 100% on conformation. Topknots, fiber and other non-conformation criteria will not be considered in judging shorn classes.
 8. Staple length is not to exceed:
 - a. Huacaya (all ages):
 - 1) Three inches (January 1 through June 30) on neck and blanket. Legs must be clean shorn or tapered from elbow/stifle to the toes.
 - 2) Two inches (July 1 through December 31) on neck and blanket. Legs must be clean shorn or tapered from the elbow/stifle area to the toes.
 - b. Suri (all ages): 3 inches (January 1 through December 31) on neck and blanket. Legs must be clean shorn or tapered from the elbow/stifle to the toes.
 - c. Longer lengths around the head will not be allowed more than 2 inches below the jaw line.
 9. Barrel cuts or "lion cuts" are not permitted.
 10. Color Championships shall not be offered.
- D. Bred and Owned Production classes:** These classes emphasize production from an ongoing breeding program rather than alpacas that are purchased from another breeder. The alpacas shown must be owned by the exhibitor and must be from dams that were owned by the exhibitor at the time the dams were bred as evidenced on the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificates for the each entry.
1. These classes are split by breed type, age, gender, and Dark and Light. The order of judging for Bred and Owned classes will be Dark followed by Light.
 2. The following classes offered for Bred and Owned are:
 - a. Juvenile Dark and Light male and female.
 - b. Yearling Dark and Light male and female.

- c. Two-Year-Old Dark and Light male and female.
- d. Mature Dark and Light male and female.
- 3. The Dark class includes Medium and Dark Fawn, Brown, Black, Grey, Roan, and Multicolor (excluding Indefinite Light).
- 4. The Light class includes White, Beige, Light Fawn and Indefinite Light
- 5. Only full fleece classes are offered. **Yearling 3"–11" and Yearling 3"–No Maximum are not shown as separate classes in any of the Production or Group classes.**
- 6. Entry is limited to **three** entries per Dark and Light class in each age and gender per breed type.
- 7. None of the Bred and Owned entries are eligible for entry in their respective full fleece halter class, however, they can enter any Group Production class for which they are eligible.
- 8. Winners in each Bred and Owned class will compete for the Best Bred and Owned Male and Female (one winner in each gender per breed type).
- 9. A minimum number of five combined Light and Dark per gender for Huacayas or four combined Light and Dark per gender for Suris is required to award Best Bred and Owned in that gender and breed type.
- 10. The winners of the Best Bred and Owned Male and Female are eligible to compete in the Judge's Choice competition if Judge's Choice is held at the show.
- E. Group Production classes: Group Production classes may be held at any time during the show, providing that all other halter classes for that breed type are halted while the Group Production classes are occurring. Group Production classes must be held at the completion of a Color Group. All of the Group Production classes for their breed type must be held consecutively. The Group Production classes are not to be split regardless of the number of entries unless otherwise specifically indicated.
 - 1. Get of Sire class: The Get of Sire class is comprised of three alpacas that are the progeny of the same sire. All three of these progeny are evaluated simultaneously in the ring and should represent their sire's ability to transmit his positive traits to each progeny in a uniform and consistent manner.
 - a. The Get of Sire class may be divided into two classes, provided that there is a minimum of at least four Get entries in each of the Light or Mixed/Dark class:
 - 1) Light Get of Sire class (White, Beige, Light Fawn or Indefinite Light), and
 - 2) Mixed/Dark Get of Sire class (at least one of the three alpacas within a Mixed/Dark entry must be Medium or Dark Fawn, Brown, Black, Grey, Roan, or Multicolor (excluding Indefinite Light)). When Get of Sire classes have sufficient entries to split, the order of judging will be Mixed/Dark followed by Light
 - b. Rules for Get of Sire Classes:
 - 1) Alpacas of Get must be eligible and entered in the show in their respective halter class.
 - 2) Only full-fleeced classes may be offered.
 - 3) Both genders can be represented, but must be from three different dams.
 - 4) The color and age of each alpaca within the group shall not be a discriminating factor.
 - 5) Show entry is made in the name of the sire on the show entry form and must be accompanied by a copy of the sire's AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate.
 - a) A copy of the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate for each of the three progeny must also be provided to the Show Superintendent.
 - b) Show Superintendent shall verify the qualification of the three progeny.
 - 6) Limit one entry per sire.
 - 7) The sire is not shown with this group entry. If the exhibitor is not the owner of the sire, that exhibitor must obtain the sire owner's written permission prior to the time of show entry.
 - 8) Entry is limited to **three** sire entries per owner.
 - 9) Judging criteria for the Get of Sire class shall include:
 - a) Consistency of positive conformational traits exhibited by all of the alpacas within the group.
 - b) Uniformity of positive fleece characteristics exhibited by all of the alpacas within the group.
 - c) Uniformity of type and style exhibited by all of the alpacas within the group.
 - d) Absence of negative traits.
 - 2. Produce of Dam class: The Produce of Dam class is comprised of two alpacas that are the progeny of the same dam. Both of these progeny are evaluated simultaneously in the ring and should represent their dam's ability to transmit her positive traits to each progeny in a uniform and consistent manner.
 - a. The Produce of Dam class may be divided into two classes, provided there is a minimum of at least three Produce entries in each of the Light or Mixed/Dark class:
 - 1) Light Produce of Dam class (White, Beige, Light Fawn or Indefinite Light), and

- 2) Mixed/Dark Produce of Dam class (at least one of the two alpacas within a Mixed/Dark entry must be Medium or Dark Fawn, Brown, Black, Grey, Roan, or Multicolor (excluding Indefinite Light)). When Produce of Dam classes have sufficient entries to split, the order of judging will be Mixed/Dark followed by Light.
- b. Rules for Produce of Dam classes:
 - 1) Alpacas of Produce must be eligible and entered in the show in their respective halter class.
 - 2) Only full-fleeced classes may be offered.
 - 3) Both genders can be represented.
 - 4) There must be a minimum age difference of 11 months between each of the two progeny.
 - 5) The color and age of each alpaca within the group shall not be a discriminating factor.
 - 6) Show entry is made in the name of the dam on the show entry form and must be accompanied by a copy of the dam's AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate.
 - a) A copy of the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate for each of the two progeny must also be provided to the Show Superintendent.
 - b) Show Superintendent shall verify the qualification of the two progeny.
 - 7) Limit one entry per dam.
 - 8) The dam is not shown with this group entry. If the exhibitor is not the owner of the dam, that exhibitor must obtain the dam owner's written permission prior to the time of show entry.
 - 9) Entry is limited to **three** dam entries per owner.
 - 10) Judging criteria for the Produce of Dam class shall include:
 - a) Consistency of positive conformational traits exhibited by both of the alpacas within the group.
 - b) Uniformity of positive fleece characteristics exhibited by both of the alpacas within the group.
 - c) Uniformity of type and style exhibited by both of the alpacas within the group.
 - d) Absence of negative traits.
 - 11) While entry into the Produce does not require the two alpacas to be from different sires, the Judge may grant positive consideration in his/her evaluation to those alpacas that are sired by different males. EXCEPTION: The two alpacas must be from two different sires for the AOA National Show.
3. Breeder's Best Three class: The Breeder's Best Three class is comprised of three alpacas that represent the highest quality production from the breeder's herd. All three of the alpacas are evaluated simultaneously in the ring and a collective judgment is made on the group, which is based upon the individual excellence of each alpaca within the group.
 - a. The Breeder's Best Three class may be divided into two classes, provided that there is a minimum of at least four Breeder's Best Three entries in each of the Light or Mixed/Dark class.
 - 1) Light Breeder's Best Three class (White, Beige, Light Fawn or Indefinite Light).
 - 2) Mixed/Dark Breeder's Best Three class (at least one of the three alpacas within a Mixed/Dark entry must be Medium or Dark Fawn, Brown, Black, Grey, Roan, or Multicolor (excluding Indefinite Light)). When Breeder's Best Three classes have sufficient entries to split, the order of judging will be Mixed/Dark followed by Light.
 - b. Rules for Breeder's Best Three Classes:
 - 1) Breeder's Best Three must be eligible and entered in the show in their respective halter class.
 - 2) Only full-fleeced classes are offered.
 - 3) Both genders may be represented.
 - 4) Any age may be represented.
 - 5) The color and age of each alpaca within the group shall not be a discriminating factor.
 - 6) The alpacas that comprise a group do not have to be related.
 - 7) All alpacas must be owned by the exhibitor and must be from dams that were owned by the exhibitor at the time the dams were bred as evidenced on the AOA Registration Certificate.
 - 8) Show entry is made in the name of the breeder as shown on the AOA Registration Certificate.
 - 9) Limit one entry per breeder per breed type.
- F. Composite classes Options A and B may be offered. Contact AOA Show System Administrator for rules and descriptions.
- G. OPTIONAL: Youth halter classes may be offered. Contact AOA Show System Administrator for details.

Section 9. Color Championship Classes

- A. Color Championships may be offered for full fleece and composite halter classes at any show if the following minimum totals as verified on the AOA Certified Show Placing Cards are met:

1. Eight alpacas per Huacaya breed type, per gender, per Color Group.
2. Six alpacas per Suri breed type, per gender, per Color Group.
- B. There may be a Female Championship and a Male Championship in each of the Color Groups.
- C. Huacayas and Suris shall not be combined to meet the minimum.
- D. Males and females shall not be combined to meet the minimum.
- E. If there are sufficient alpacas per breed type, per gender, in each of the two Basic Color Groups (Grey/Roan; Black/Brown) to hold a Championship in each Basic Color Group, then a Championship must be held in each respective Basic Color Group.
- F. If there are insufficient alpacas per breed type, per gender in either of the two Basic Color Groups (Grey/Roan; Black/Brown) then the Championship must be held as a Combined Color Group Championship. The alpacas that will compete in the Combined Color Group Championship must have been shown in their respective Color Group halter class.
- G. Full Fleece Color Championships
 1. First and second place alpacas from each age/Color Group will progress into the Color Championship final.
 2. First and second place alpacas are lined up in the ring in two rows following class order. The first place alpacas will be in the front row and the second place alpacas in the second row, directly behind the first place alpaca in its respective halter class.
 3. The Color Champion is then selected by the Judge(s) from the front row.
 4. The corresponding second place alpaca then moves up to the front row. After a second place alpaca has moved to the front row, the remaining second place alpacas are excused from the ring. The Judge(s) then selects the Reserve Color Champion from the entire front row.
- H. Judge's Choice: Judge's Choice must be awarded by only the Judge(s) judging at that Halter Show.
 1. Huacayas: Shows that meet the minimum of five Color Championships in a gender may offer Judge's Choice for that gender.
 - a. Color Champion candidates for each Color Group are eligible, The Best Bred and Owned winners are also eligible, but do not count towards the minimum numbers of championships.
 - b. Must represent excellence as the summation of positive characteristics for the most outstanding of all judging criteria.
 2. Suris: Shows that meet the minimum of four Color Championships in a gender may offer Judge's Choice for that gender.
 - a. Color Champion candidates for each Color Group are eligible, The Best Bred and Owned winners are also eligible, but do not count towards the minimum numbers of championships.
 - b. Color Champion candidates for each Color Group are eligible, The Best Bred and Owned winners are also eligible.
 - c. Must represent excellence as the summation of positive characteristics for the most outstanding of all judging criteria.

Section 10. Halter Class Judging Criteria

Full Fleece and Production classes are judged comparatively on a 50/50 basis of fleece and conformation.

- A. Definitions of judging terms:
 1. Soundness is freedom from defect, disease or injury.
 2. Unsoundness is a physical disability that diminishes the function of a part of the body.
 3. Conformation is the appropriate alignment of body parts with respect to the whole alpaca.
 4. Balance is generally considered to be a component of conformation and may be defined as the symmetrical proportioning of the body parts in relation to each other.
 5. Blanket is the back and side of a fleece from the base of the neck to the base of the tail and the sides from the back bone to the belly, including the haunches.
 6. Prime fiber is the best quality fiber the alpaca produces, usually found in the blanket and may include neck fiber.
 7. Architecture of fleece is the general structure and lay of fibers within the locks, which go together to make up the fleece as a whole.
 8. Type refers to characteristics specific to Huacaya or Suri.
- B. Judging conformation, soundness and balance:
 1. Positive traits for conformation, soundness, and balance

- a. General appearance: Squared-off appearance with four strong legs, graceful and well proportioned with the neck being two-thirds of the length of the back and the legs matching the length of the neck and well covered with fiber from the top of the head to the toes.
 - b. Head: The head should be balanced, triangular and symmetrically formed. Ears should be erect, spear-shaped and of appropriate length. Eyes should be bright and free from injury, illness or defect.
 - c. Bite: Jaw fitting well with lower incisors, properly aligned to meet upper dental pad. Lower incisors must meet corresponding edge of upper dental pad. Central incisors must meet leading, forward edge of upper dental pad. Lower gum line should be set back from the leading edge of the upper dental pad.
 - d. Forequarter and front legs: Neck should be in balance with the body. Front legs are relatively straight and square with generally forward facing toes and correct angulation.
 - e. Body: The back should be relatively straight and level providing the solid basis for depth and capacity of chest continuing down through the abdomen.
 - f. Hindquarters and hind legs: Rump should be broad and slightly sloping downward to the tail. Hind legs are strong, relatively straight and square with generally forward facing toes and correct angulation.
 - g. Movement: All limbs should move freely and smoothly in a fluid, integrated motion.
 - h. Male testicles must be developed adequately relative to age.
 - i. Female external genitalia should be normal in appearance and size.
 - j. Tail: Should be straight (has no displacement) or can readily be straightened manually along the entire length of the tail. Any bump(s) palpated along the length of the tail, including at the tip of the tail, is not a fault if the tail is straight or where the tail can be readily straightened manually. A permanent kink in the last vertebrae (J-tail) is not a fault. Adequate length of tail should cover external genitalia.
2. Negative traits for conformation, soundness, and balance
- a. Minor faults: degree of deviation from the normal conformation, soundness and balance which is minimal and may include:
 - 1) Slight lack of balance due to short/long neck or legs in proportion to overall body; slightly short or long body.
 - 2) Minor deviation of ears from the normal shape, such as long or tipped ears.
 - 3) Slight dip at connection of shoulders/withers to neck (U-neck).
 - 4) Forelegs: slight lateral deviation; slight medial deviation; slight calf knee; slight buck knee.
 - 5) Hind limbs: slight cow hock; slight sickle hock; slightly steep or flat croup.
 - 6) Both front and hind limbs: slight base narrow or wide; slightly post legged; slightly camped under or out.
 - 7) Slightly weak fetlock; slightly erect pastern.
 - 8) Toes pointing slightly laterally; slightly pigeon toed, slightly splayed toes.
 - 9) Slightly humped or swayed back.
 - 10) Slight lack of body capacity.
 - 11) Inappropriate body condition: slightly obese or thin.
 - 12) Movement: slight abnormality in movement, e.g., slight "winging".
 - 13) More or fewer than four teats: both genders.
 - b. Moderate faults: a moderate expression of the deviation from the normal conformation may include:
 - 1) Moderate lack of balance.
 - 2) Moderate deviation of ears from the normal shape, such as long or tipped ears.
 - 3) Moderate incisor malocclusion/jaw misalignment.
 - 4) Moderate dip at connection of shoulder/withers to neck (U-Neck).
 - 5) Forelegs: moderate knock knees; moderate bow legged; moderate calf knee, moderate buck knee.
 - 6) Hind limbs: Moderate cow hock; moderate sickle hock; moderately steep or flat croup.
 - 7) Both front and hind limbs: moderate base narrow or wide; moderate post leg; moderately camped under or out.
 - 8) Moderate weak fetlock or pastern not upright.
 - 9) Toes pointing moderately laterally; moderately pigeon toed, moderately splayed toes.
 - 10) Moderate humped back or swayed back.
 - 11) Moderate lack of body capacity.
 - 12) Inappropriate body condition: moderately obese or thin.
 - 13) Moderate abnormality in movement.

- 14) Male testicles lack consistency, symmetry, form or normal size and development for the age of the alpaca.
 - 15) Female genitalia lack normal size and development for the age of the alpaca.
 - c. Serious faults: a deviation from the normal conformation that may be extreme enough to warrant disqualification from the show ring and may include:
 - 1) Extreme lack of balance.
 - 2) Extreme dip at connection of shoulder/withers to neck; (U-Neck).
 - 3) Luxating patella.
 - 4) Extreme lack of body capacity.
 - 5) Extremely obese or thin.
 - 6) Kinked or inadequate length of tail.
 - d. Disqualifying Faults: a deviation from the normal conformation that is extreme enough to warrant disqualification from the show ring:
 - 1) Severe incisor malocclusion/jaw misalignment, wry face.
 - 2) Deafness, gopher ear, fused ears, "banana ears".
 - 3) Entropion, blindness, bilateral cataracts.
 - 4) Forelegs: severe knock knee; severe bow legged; severe calf knee; severe buck knee.
 - 5) Hindlimbs: severe cow hock; severe sickle hock; severely steep or flat croup.
 - 6) Both front and hind limbs: extremely base narrow (feet cross the midline when the alpaca walks; extremely base wide; severe post leg; severely camped under or out.
 - 7) Severely dropped fetlocks and extremely weak pasterns.
 - 8) Toes pointed extremely laterally; severely splayed toes, fused toes; extremely pigeon toed; extra toes.
 - 9) Obvious scoliosis or kyphosis (deformity of the spine or neck).
 - 10) Severe abnormalities in movement (rope walking or crossing the midline, severe winging, any lameness.
 - 11) Male genitalia: Ectopic testicles, gonadal hypoplasia, cryptorchidism in yearlings and older.
 - 12) Female genitalia abnormalities: small size, clitoral tip, abnormal appearance consistent with hermaphroditism.
 - e. Disqualifying conditions: any alpaca that the Judge deems to be unsound or unfit to compete shall be removed from the ring by the Ring Steward at the direction of the Judge. Criteria that determines unsoundness may include but is not limited to:
 - 1) Severely debilitated body condition.
 - 2) Severe watery diarrhea covering or obscuring perineal or genital areas.
 - 3) Severe mucopurulent discharges from eyes, nostrils or ears.
 - 4) Open, wet sores, draining wounds or purulent exudates evident on body.
- C. Traits for judging fleece in halter classes:
- 1. Positive traits for Huacaya fleece:
 - a. Fineness: A measurement of fiber diameter expressed in microns. The micron is important because it determines the fineness of the yarn. Fineness (micron) accounts for 75-80% of the value of the processed top.
 - b. Handle: A degree of softness exhibited by a given fleece. It is an indication of uniformity of micron throughout the staple/fleece as well as fineness. The handle is the actual tactile feel.
 - c. Density: Is associated with fleece weight since the more fibers per square unit of measurement, the heavier the fleece relative to micron (provided other traits do not alter). Fleece weight on each alpaca is assessed relative to the others in the class. A dense fleece also acts as a barrier to dirt and weathering.
 - d. Staple Length: The average length of fiber in a fleece measured from the skin to the tips of the individual fibers. Longer staple length relative to growth period is a positive trait.
 - e. Absence of Guard Hair: Associated with strong quality fibers (higher than 30 microns in diameter). Normally, they are more obvious in the regions of the chest, in the head, lower belly and legs. Guard hairs are true hair fibers, and therefore do not have the same spinning and dyeing properties as fine fibers. They also reflect light differently than fine alpaca fibers and are undesirable in processing as they also add to the prickle factor.
 - f. Character/Staple Type/Crimp:

- 1) Character is the term used to express the regularity/evenness of the crimp throughout the staple and entire fleece. The character is an indicator of how well the fibers are aligned in the staple.
 - 2) Staple type is the arrangement of the fibers into a group.
 - 3) Crimp refers to the natural wave formation that results from the growth of individual fibers organized and aligned within staple groups. The expression of crimp is determined by genetics, and is influenced by overall fleece fineness, density and uniformity of length in the staple. Variations in crimp styles can be observed in the amplitude (the distance from the midpoint of a wave to the maximum or crest) and the frequency (the number of crimps that occur within a unit of measure). Crimp styles exist along a continuum from poor (no visible crimp wave), to average/ good (easily observable wave amplitude and frequency), to excellent (highly advanced fiber alignment with deep wave amplitude in relation to frequency).
- g. Uniformity: The degree of consistency in a fleece from one area to another in fineness, staple length, character, color and density.
 - h. Brightness: A term used to describe the property by which fiber reflects light.
 - i. Coverage: The abundance of fiber covering the entire alpaca from the head, body and legs.
 - j. Natural Pasture Condition: The general health of the fleece which may include evidence of a natural dust line.
2. Negative traits for Huacaya fleece: (The categorization of minor, major and serious faults shall be assessed by the Judge according to the degree of the fault present).
 - a. Coarse fleece.
 - b. Harsh handle, not soft.
 - c. Lack of density, fluffy open fleece, volume without weight.
 - d. Lack of crimp or staple definition.
 - e. Lack of consistency of fineness, staple length, character, color and density.
 - f. Insufficient length of staple for growth period.
 - g. Dull fleece with diminished brightness.
 - h. Lack of coverage on head, legs and body.
 - i. Presence of guard hair.
 - j. Dry, brittle and/or tender breaks.
 - k. Lack of natural pasture condition.
 - l. Excessive dung tags, vegetation and debris.
 3. Positive traits for Suri fleece:
 - a. Luster: The natural sheen, gloss or shine of the fleece and fiber, due to the reflection of light off the smooth scales of each fiber.
 - b. Uniformity: The degree of consistency in a fleece from one area to another in lock type, staple length, fineness, density, luster and color.
 - c. Handle: The degree of softness exhibited by a given fleece. It is an indication of uniformity of micron throughout the staple/fleece as well as fineness. The handle is the actual tactile feel.
 - d. Fineness: A measurement of fiber diameter expressed in microns. The micron is important because it determines the fineness of the yarn. Fineness (micron) accounts for 75-80% of the value of the processed top.
 - e. Lock Structure and Formation: The compact grouping of fibers, which gives a Suri its sleek, drapey appearance. Lock should be well defined to the skin, independent and free flowing. Lock character or structure exists on a continuum from tightly twisted to straight. All lock styles are equally desirable. Emphasis is placed on consistency of lock structure throughout the fleece.
 - f. Density: Is associated with fleece weight since the more fibers per square unit of measurement, the heavier the fleece relative to micron (provided other traits do not alter). Fleece weight on each alpaca is assessed relative to the others in the class. A dense, well-locked fleece also acts as a barrier to dirt and weathering.
 - g. Coverage: The abundance of fiber covering the entire alpaca from the head, body and legs.
 - h. Staple Length: The average length of the fibers in a lock measured from the skin to the tip.
 - i. Longer staple length relative to growth period is a positive trait.

- j. Absence of Guard Hair: Associated with strong quality fibers (higher than 30 microns in diameter). Normally, they are more obvious in the regions of the chest, in the head, lower belly and legs. Guard hairs are true hair fibers, and therefore do not have the same spinning and dyeing properties as fine fibers. They also reflect light differently than fine alpaca fibers and are undesirable in processing as they also add to the prickle factor.
 - k. Natural Pasture Condition: The general health of the fleece which may include evidence of a natural dust line.
4. Negative traits for Suri fleece: (The categorization of minor, major and serious faults shall be assessed by the Judge according to the degree of the fault present):
- a. Presence of crimp.
 - b. Dull, flat; with diminished luster.
 - c. Lack of consistency of fineness, staple length, lock style, color and density.
 - d. Harsh handle, not soft.
 - e. Coarse fleece.
 - f. Poor lock definition, presence of matting or cotting.
 - g. Lack of density; fluffy, volume without weight.
 - h. Lack of coverage on head, legs, and body.
 - i. Insufficient length of lock for growth period.
 - j. Presence of guard hair.
 - k. Dull, chalky, lifeless, tender, stress breaks.
 - l. Lack of natural pasture condition.
 - m. Excessive dung tags, vegetation and debris.
5. Disqualifying traits for Huacaya and Suri fleece:
- a. Extreme presence of external parasites.
 - b. Proof of prohibited enhancement(s).

Chapter 18. Futurity Shows

Section 1. Definitions

- A. **Futurities:** These are most often privately run or commercial events, often with significant cash awards. They are usually limited to a younger subset of the general population of alpacas.
 - 1. **Open Futurities:** These are Futurities that are open to all breeders with no restrictions as to eligibility of the exhibitors.
 - 2. **Closed Futurities:** These are Futurities that are promotional farm events, are fully funded by one or more farms, and have certain restrictions as to who may participate in them.
- B. **Age of alpacas:** Alpacas shown must be less than three years of age.
- C. **Participation:** Limited to offspring of registered (nominated sires) or (at the option of Show Management) entries (sires) that are “self-nominated” by the participant/exhibitor.
- D. **Cash awards:** In order to remain a certified AOA Futurity, at least \$25,000 in verifiable prize money and/or awards must be awarded.
- E. **Self-nominated entry:** An exhibitor who wants to enter an offspring of a herdsire who is not nominated by the owner of that herdsire may pay a fee to make that single entry eligible for the show.
- F. **Nominated herdsire:** A herdsire who is nominated by the owner(s) of that herdsire.

Section 2. General Rules for Futurities

- A. The show must use an AOA Certified Judge or Judges and AOA judging criteria.
- B. Judging shall be based on current AOA Show Rules used in all AOA Shows. Other than those rules “Specific to Futurities” all other AOA Show System rules shall be enforced.
- C. Only Open Futurities are eligible for AOA Certification.

Section 3. Rules Specific to Futurities

The general rules for Halter Shows will apply with the following exception:

- A. Age brackets for Futurities shall be limited to:
 - 1. Juveniles: 6 months to 12 months.
 - 2. Yearlings: First birthday to 24 months.
 - 3. Two-Year-Olds: Second birthday to 36 months.
- B. **Color Championships:** AOA Futurities are subject to the same minimum number of entries for championships as required for other AOA Certified Shows, with the exception of any Futurity shows established prior to January 1, 2013.
- C. Judges judging at the Futurity must provide to Show Management their AOA Disclosure Statements. In addition to their AOA Disclosure Statements, Judges judging at the Futurity will also include the names and AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate numbers of all herdsires in which they have full or partial ownership.
- D. The Management/organizers of a Futurity may recognize other forms of competition “premium awards” such as Herdsire awards, Dam awards, Breeder of the Year awards, Public Relations, etc. These “premium awards” shall be made known to the AOA Show System Administrator at the time of application for certification.
- E. Herdsires, fully or partially owned by Judges judging at the Futurity, cannot be nominated for the Futurity.
- F. Offspring sired by a herdsire owned fully or in part by a Judge who is judging at the Futurity may participate in the Futurity only if Show Management allows “self-nomination” of an entry.
 - 1. Any “self-nominated” entry, whose herdsire is owned fully or in part by a Judge who is judging at the Futurity is prohibited from being shown in front of that Judge.
 - 2. When an entry is “self-nominated”, the name and AOA Registration number of that entry’s herdsire cannot be published in the show program or reported in Futurity show results.
- G. The herdsires of “self-nominated” entries are excluded from eligibility for any cash awards or premium prizes such as Herdsire of the Year. Futurity exhibitors are subject to the AOA Exhibitor Disclosure requirements as set forth by AOA Show Rules. Failure to comply may result in expulsion and/or suspension.
- H. Certification does not imply any financial liability on the part of AOA or its committees. Distribution of prize money is strictly at the discretion and responsibility of Show Management/Organizers.

Chapter 19. Procedures for Show Management—Halter Show Compliance Check Manual

The following is a guide for each team to use in the compliance checking process.

Section 1. Recommended Compliance Team

- A. Compliance checkers must be designated in an appropriate number for the size of the show. On average each team can do 25–30 alpacas an hour.
- B. Best performed in teams of three people: a compliance checker, a scribe who asks the breeder questions and documents any changes necessary, and a handler to help hold while color and length are checked. Compliance checking can be done with two people, a compliance checker and a recorder or a compliance checker and a handler, but remember that an owner brings several alpacas to a show and cannot help hold one alpaca while trying to hold the rest of his alpacas and answer questions. You will also find that many times the owner of the alpacas is not present when the alpacas are presented to be compliance checked.
- C. When assigning volunteers, keep in mind that compliance checking requires close contact with alpacas and an ability to control animals.
- D. Any of the compliance checkers may also have entries in the show, but make sure one of the other teams or the Superintendent compliance checks their alpacas.

Section 2. Procedures

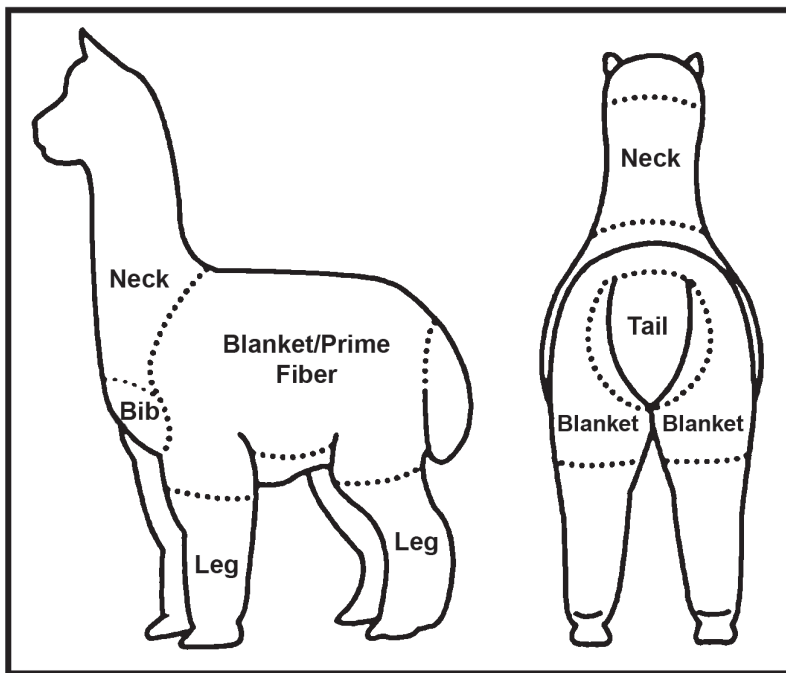
- A. Background required to perform task:
 - 1. Thorough familiarity with AOA Color Charts.
 - 2. Thorough knowledge of current year's AOA Show rules regarding color.
 - 3. Thorough familiarity with minimum and maximum fleece lengths allowed per class.
- B. The compliance team asks the owner (or person bringing in the alpacas for color check) the name of the alpaca and farm name.
- C. The scribe references the class list or entry list to verify the class entered. Please read aloud the class information to the owner for verification:
 - 1. Correct date of birth (DOB).
 - 2. Correct class for its age division (e.g., juvenile, yearling).
 - 3. Correct gender.
 - 4. Correct breed type (Huacaya or Suri).
 - 5. Correct class (i.e., shorn, full fleece, composite).
 - 6. Correct class for yearling Suris (shorn within 380 days or unshorn and previously shorn 380+ days).
- D. The compliance checker identifies the correct color and fleece length of the alpaca. The compliance checker should also verify the correct gender of the alpaca by lifting its tail.
- E. Making changes:
 - 1. Note any necessary changes in writing on the Change Sheet if available, or other means provided by the Show Superintendent.
 - 2. Write changes in red on the alpaca Change Sheet if available. If the Show Superintendent authorizes, you may also write the change on the alpaca show number for the owner/handler's benefit. The Show Superintendent may want you to mark the front of each show entry's number with a stamp or initial to indicate that color checking is complete.
 - 3. Turn in the changes to Show Superintendent as directed.
- F. Lighting conditions for compliance checking and Judge's Color Verification shall be identical to the lighting conditions of halter class judging. The Event Manager and Show Superintendent must concur on the protocol for compliance checking and convey that information to exhibitors prior to registration. If stalling occurs in a different room from the show ring, then compliance checking must be held in the room where the judging is taking place.

G. Some Do's:

1. Do treat the exhibitors and their alpacas as you would want to be treated.
2. Do take care not to disrupt the fleece except the mid-side to check color and measure.
3. Do run your hand over the side of the blanket after you've color checked to put the fibers back in place.
4. Do measure the blanket length. Visually inspect the neck and legs, if minimum/maximum fleece length is questionable, measure to verify.
5. Do visually inspect both sides of the alpaca to look for spots and color variations, especially on grey, roan, and multicolored colored alpacas.
6. Do lift the alpaca's tail to verify correct gender.
7. Do have fun!
8. Suggested set up for the Change sheet:

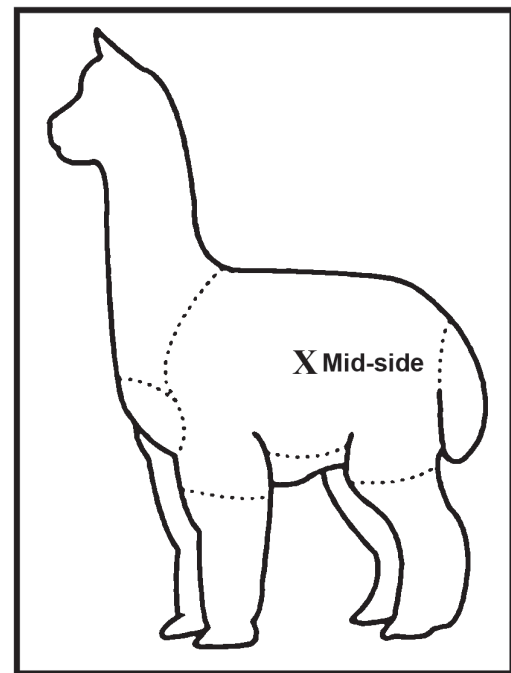
Alpaca Show No.	Alpaca Name	Gender	Type (H or S)	DOB	Color as Verified	Color Change	Class Change	Move to Class #
4173	Miss Pris	F	S	2/2/2025	DB	DB was LB	222 was 112	222 Suri Yearling Female DB

Diagram of Blanket Prime Fiber Location



Courtesy of Emilee Booher

Diagram of Location to Color Check



Section 3. Description of Compliance Checking Process

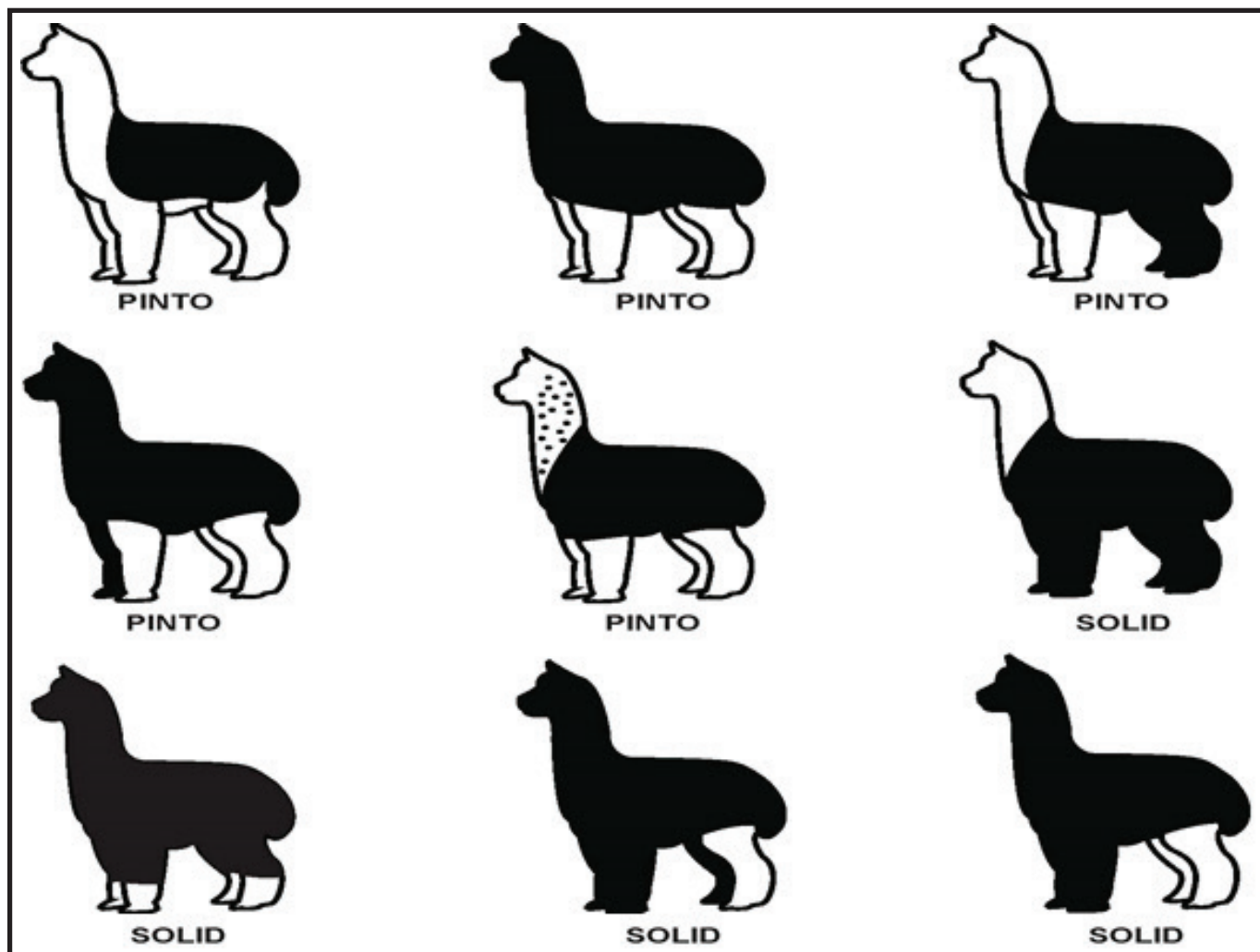
- A. The compliance checker is responsible for verifying color, fleece length for each entry and that all the information is correct on the class or entry list according to the Halter Show Compliance Manual (See Chapter 19, Section 2) on all alpacas entered in an AOA Certified Show.
- B. The compliance checker's responsibility involves checking the mid-side color on the alpaca with noted exceptions for beige, light fawn, roan and multicolor (refer to definitions of beige, light fawn, roan and multicolor Chapter 19, Section 3, C, 5, and C, 8-14) and comparing it to the color chart. Note: An alpaca that has a small percentage of white fiber interspersed in its prime blanket fleece is not considered a grey and goes into the appropriate solid class.
- C. Summary of guidelines for color checking:
 1. Fiber color is checked mid-side with noted exceptions for beige, light fawn, roan and multicolor (refer to definitions of beige, light fawn, roan and multicolor (Chapter 19, Section 3, C, 5, and C, 8–14) closest to the skin (see illustration). Fold the color chart so that the actual fibers are on the edge of the color chart and choose the color that most closely resembles the color of the fiber that is directly at the skin of the alpaca.
 2. If the color at the skin of the alpaca falls between two color designations on the color chart, choose the darker shade.
 3. Use the AOA Color Chart.

4. The blanket is defined as: Back and side of a fleece from the base of the neck to the base of the tail and sides from backbone to belly, elbow (front legs) and stifle (hind legs) (see illustrations above).
5. All white, beige and light fawn alpacas must be checked on the top of the blanket to look for beige or light fawn shading along the top-line.
 - a. Beige color designation: In addition to alpacas with solid-color beige prime fiber, this class also includes alpacas exhibiting gradations of beige in the prime fiber area. The alpaca does not qualify as a white due to color shading in the blanket and does not exhibit sufficient abrupt color changes to qualify for the pattern or other multicolor class. This shading of beige possibly lightens to white as viewed from the topline to the mid-side. All shaded fiber in question is prime blanket fiber.
 - b. Light Fawn color designation: In addition to alpacas with solid-color light fawn prime fiber, this class also includes alpacas exhibiting gradations of light fawn in the prime fiber area, or may have variegated white/fawn fibers within individual staple groups throughout the blanket. The alpaca does not qualify as a white due to color shading in the blanket and does not exhibit sufficient abrupt color changes to qualify for the pattern or other multicolor class. This shading of light fawn possibly lightens to beige or white as viewed from the topline to the mid-side. All shaded fiber in question is prime blanket fiber.
6. If there is a distinct (easily identified by the naked eye) spot of color on the blanket that is less than 6 inches in any direction at the skin in an otherwise white or solid color alpaca, that alpaca goes in the solid color class that best matches the color at the mid-side. Note: Greys are never considered multicolor.
7. Fawn color group:
 - a. Medium Fawn color designation: In addition to alpacas with solid color medium fawn prime fiber, this class also includes alpacas exhibiting gradations of medium fawn in the prime fiber area, or may have variegated white/fawn fibers within individual staple groups throughout the blanket. The alpaca does not qualify as a white due to color shading in the blanket and does not exhibit sufficient abrupt color changes to qualify for the pattern or other multicolor class. This shading of medium fawn possibly lightens to light fawn as viewed from the topline to the mid-side. When the mid-side color is light fawn, the alpaca shall be placed in the light fawn class. When the mid-side color falls between light and medium fawn, the alpaca shall be placed in the medium fawn class. All shaded fiber in question is prime blanket fiber.
 - b. Dark Fawn color designation: In addition to alpacas with solid color dark fawn prime fiber, this class also includes alpacas exhibiting gradations of dark fawn in the prime fiber area, or may have variegated white/fawn fibers within individual staple groups throughout the blanket. The alpaca does not qualify as a white due to color shading in the blanket and does not exhibit sufficient abrupt color changes to qualify for the pattern or other multicolor class. This shading of dark fawn possibly lightens to medium fawn as viewed from the topline to the mid-side. When the mid-side color is medium fawn, the alpaca shall be placed in the medium fawn class. When the mid-side color falls between medium and dark fawn, the alpaca shall be placed in the dark fawn class. All shaded fiber in question is prime blanket fiber.
8. Pattern color designation: An alpaca shall qualify as a Pattern color designation if it displays a secondary distinct (at least two color designations apart according to the current AOA Color Chart) solid patch of color at the skin on the blanket, providing that any single solid patch of color shall be greater than 6 inches in length in any direction. The primary color shall not be grey/roan.
9. Pinto color designation: Alpacas are placed in a Pinto color designation if they exhibit two distinct colors one of which is white. The extremities are predominantly white and the majority of the blanket is fawn or darker. Pintos will have their color designation determined by inspection of the entire alpaca (see Pinto diagrams at end of this chapter).
10. Fancy color designation: Alpacas are placed in Fancy color designation if the blanket fiber exhibits three or more distinct (at least two color designations apart according to the current AOA Color Chart) colors of which the primary color is not grey/roan.

11. Appaloosa color designation: An alpaca is considered an Appaloosa color designation if their blanket fiber exhibits six or more spots of distinct (at least two color designations apart according to the current AOA Color Chart) secondary color of which the primary color is not grey/roan. Harlequin appaloosas are alpacas that have speckles/spots over the muzzle and often over other parts of the whole body, i.e., belly, blanket, feet, lower leg. The blanket fleece may appear as a certain color designation from the outside, but the primary color underneath is another color designation, including grey/roan, with solid-colored spots prevalent throughout. Note: There are some cases when the grey/roan is so dark that the individual spots are difficult to distinguish within the blanket area. Leopard appaloosas are alpacas that have frequently distributed spots which are in proximity throughout the blanket and over the entire body. Any alpacas that are perceived to be and registered for the show as appaloosa are required to go through Judge's Color Verification for each show they are entered in.
12. Indefinite Light color designation: White or beige alpacas/fleece with easily recognizable dark fibers uniformly interspersed throughout the blanket of which the primary color is not grey/roan.
13. Grey Color Group: A grey alpaca is visually "grey" from the exterior or upon opening the fleece. The alpacas in this group will be predominantly white on the head or face and may have a white tuxedo on portions of the neck. They may also have white on the legs and/or appearing in sections of the prime blanket. Rose grey is a reasonably uniform distribution of brown/fawn (MF or DF) with white/light/grey fiber and may or may not have black fibers present. Silver grey is a reasonably uniform distribution of grey with or without black or white/light fibers. In any grey designation, the prime fiber may be a consistent shade of grey or may exhibit spots of secondary color. The spots are clearly defined and demonstrate distinct borders of a specific color. These fleeces usually exhibit a large variation in fineness between the different light/dark fibers present when viewed against both a black and white background. Note: An alpaca that has a small percentage of white fiber interspersed in its prime blanket fleece is not considered a grey and goes into the appropriate solid class.
 - a. Greys will have their color determined by inspection of the entire alpaca. The color designation shall be determined by comparing the blanket area of the fleece at mid-side (see Diagram of Location to Check Color) to the AOA Color Chart to verify if it is a silver or rose grey.
14. Roan Color Group: From the exterior, roan alpacas may or may not appear to have white/light fibers at all and often appear as their base color when viewed from a distance. Upon opening the fleece, the white/light fibers throughout the fleece are evident. The face/head will not be predominantly white, nor will the neck, legs, and tail. However, some roan alpacas do exhibit areas of white spots or patches on the head or face, yet still qualify as roan due to the distribution of fibers throughout the blanket and on various parts of the body. Roan alpacas have fleeces that are a mix of black/grey and or brown/fawn (MF or DF)/grey fibers with easily recognizable white/light fibers uniformly distributed throughout the blanket. All solid color prime blankets with white/light fibers uniformly distributed and easily recognizable are considered roan, including fawn (MF or DF) where the prime fiber area has variegated white/light fibers within individual staple groups throughout the blanket. Note: Patches of color transitions are often evident on roan alpacas; however, these areas of color change are usually not well defined as distinct spots with clear borders.
 - a. Roan color will be determined by inspection of the entire alpaca.
15. Alpacas in the shorn class may also be placed into their respective color classes so you will need to color check them and measure the length of their fiber to ensure they meet the length requirements for shorn class.
16. Alpacas in the composite class: Color check them and measure the length of their fiber to ensure they meet the length requirements for composite class.
17. Use the measuring tape or ruler to check the length of the fiber on all alpacas. Fleece staple length on the blanket should be measured by inserting the tape or ruler at the middle of the side and gently stretching the fleece to determine the minimum full staple length. Take care not to pull so tight that you are pulling the skin and causing a false measurement. Maximum length shall be measured in the same location without stretching the fiber.
18. Fiber length—Full Fleece classes:
 - a. Huacaya:
 - 1) Juvenile: Shows January 1 through June 30: Minimum of 3 inches and no maximum. Juvenile: Shows January 1 through June 30: Minimum of 3 inches and no maximum.
 - 2) Juvenile: Shows July 1 through December 31: Minimum of 2 inches and no maximum.
 - 3) Yearling and older: Shows January 1 through June 30: Minimum of 3 inches and a maximum of 8 inches.
 - 4) Yearling and older: Shows July 1 through December 31: Minimum of 2 inches and a maximum of 8 inches.

- b.** Suri (January 1 through December 31):
 - 1)** Juvenile: Minimum of 3 inches and no maximum.
 - 2)** Yearling 3"–11" (must have been shorn within 380 days of the first day of scheduled judging): Minimum of 3 inches and maximum of 11 inches on the blanket, neck and legs.
 - 3)** Yearling 3"–No Maximum (not previously shorn or previously shorn beyond 380 days): Minimum of 3 inches and no maximum on the blanket, neck and legs.
 - 4)** Two-Year-Old and mature: Minimum of 3 inches and maximum of 9 inches on the blanket, neck and legs.
- 19.** Fiber Length—Shorn and Composite classes:
 - a.** Huacaya:
 - 1)** Shows January 1 through June 30: Maximum of 3 inches on neck and blanket. Legs must be clean shorn or tapered from the elbow/stifle to the toes.
 - 2)** Shows from July 1 through December 31: Maximum of 2 inches on neck and blanket. Legs must be clean shorn or tapered from the elbow/stifle to the toes.
 - b.** Suri: Shows January 1 through December 31: Maximum of 3 inches on neck and blanket. Legs must be clean shorn or tapered from the elbow/stifle to the toes.
 - c.** Longer lengths around the head will not be allowed more than 2 inches below the jaw line.
- 20.** A suggestion for checking Suris at the mid-side. Ask the owner if they would like to lift the fiber up so you can color check their Suri. Most Suri owners are very adept at lifting the fiber without disturbing the locks. If they decline, then follow the mid-fibers down to the tip of the lock, place hands underneath them and lift the fibers up. Fold the color chart so that the actual fibers are on the edge of the color chart and place the color chart for Suris on the skin and choose the color that most closely matches, going to the darker of the two. Note: At the same time you can measure the Suri fiber for length, if necessary. When the color checking is complete, put the fiber back in place by flicking it down and running your hand down the blanket.

Section 4. Diagram of Color Rules Definition for Pinto Alpacas (Halter Shows)



Alpacas are placed in a Pinto designation if they exhibit two distinct colors one of which is white. The five extremities (neck and four legs) are predominantly white (a minimum of 50% of the total area of the five extremities being white, for example, three of the five extremities are white or all five extremities are at least 50% white) and the majority (a minimum of 50% of the blanket area) is fawn or darker. A pinto could have a solid colored blanket as long as the extremities are predominantly white. Pintos will have their color designation determined by inspection of the entire alpaca.

PART VI. AOA CERTIFIED FLEECE COMPETITIONS INFORMATION

Chapter 20. Fleece Show Color Rules

All of the fleece color nomenclature and color definitions contained in this AOA Show System Handbook are phenotypic descriptions only, and are not intended or construed to be genotypic descriptions of any color.

Section 1. Definitions of Color Terms

- A.** Color Group—Refers to the eight major groups of color designations, and includes white, light, fawn, brown, black, grey, roan, and multicolor. Multiple color designations may fall into one of the above Color Groups.
- B.** Color designation—Refers to the individual colors within a Color Group. The specific color designation is determined by the color shown in the current AOA Color Chart plus the roan and multicolor types described in this chapter.
- C.** Solid Color—A fleece from a solid color blanket/prime fiber (as matched to the AOA Color Chart at mid-side) which may have the presence of minimal, not easily recognizable, secondary color.

Section 2. Color Groups

- A.** The eight Color Groups and the color designations within their Color Groups are defined as follows:
 - 1.** White Color Group is composed of the following White color designation:
 - a.** WH White
 - 2.** Light Color Group is composed of the following Light color designations:
 - a.** BG Beige. Definition of a Beige fleece: In addition to fleeces with solid-color beige blanket/prime fiber, this class also includes fleeces exhibiting gradations of beige in the prime fiber area. The fleece does not qualify as a white due to color shading in the blanket and does not exhibit sufficient abrupt color changes to qualify for the pattern or other multicolor class color designation. This shading of beige possibly lightens to white as viewed from the topline to the mid-side. All shaded fiber in question is prime blanket fiber.
 - b.** LF Light Fawn. Definition of a Light Fawn fleece: In addition to fleeces with solid-color light fawn blanket/prime fiber, this class also includes fleeces exhibiting gradations of light fawn in the prime fiber area, or may have variegated white/fawn fibers within individual staple groups throughout the blanket. The alpaca does not qualify as a white due to color shading in the blanket and does not exhibit sufficient abrupt color changes to qualify for the pattern or other multicolor class color designation. This shading of light fawn possibly lightens to beige or white as viewed from the topline to the mid-side. All shaded fiber in question is prime blanket fiber.
 - 3.** Fawn Color Group is composed of the following Fawn color designations:
 - a.** MF Medium Fawn. Definition of a Medium Fawn fleece: In addition to fleeces with solid color medium fawn prime fiber, this class also includes fleeces exhibiting gradations of medium fawn in the prime fiber area, or may have variegated white/fawn fibers within individual staple groups throughout the blanket. The alpaca does not qualify as a white due to color shading in the blanket and does not exhibit sufficient abrupt color changes to qualify for the pattern or other multicolor class. This shading of medium fawn possibly lightens to light fawn as viewed from the topline to the mid-side. When the mid-side color is light fawn, the alpaca shall be placed in the light fawn class. When the mid-side color falls between light and medium fawn, the fleece shall be placed in the medium fawn class. All shaded fiber in question is prime blanket fiber. Note: Fawns are never considered grey or white.
 - b.** DF Dark Fawn. Definition of a Dark Fawn fleece: In addition to fleeces with solid color dark fawn prime fiber, this class also includes fleeces exhibiting gradations of dark fawn in the prime fiber area, or may have variegated white/fawn fibers within individual staple groups throughout the blanket. The fleece does not qualify as a white due to color shading in the blanket and does not exhibit sufficient abrupt color changes to qualify for the pattern or other multicolor class. This shading of dark fawn possibly lightens to medium fawn as viewed from the topline to the mid-side. When the mid-side color is medium fawn, the fleece shall be placed in the medium fawn class. When the mid-side color falls between medium and dark fawn, the fleece shall be placed in the dark fawn class. All shaded fiber in question is prime blanket fiber. Note: Fawns are never considered grey or white.

4. Brown Color Group is composed of the following Brown color designations:
 - a. LB Light Brown
 - b. **MB Medium Brown**
 - c. DB Dark Brown
5. Black Color Group is composed of the following Black color designations:
 - a. BB Bay Black
 - b. TB True Black
6. GREY Color Group: A grey alpaca is visually “grey” from the exterior or upon opening the fleece. The alpacas in this group will be predominantly white on the head or face and may have a white tuxedo on portions of the neck. They may also have white on the legs and/or appearing in sections of the prime blanket. Rose grey is a reasonably uniform distribution of brown/fawn (MFor DF) with white/light/grey fiber and may or may not have black fibers present. Silver grey is a reasonably uniform distribution of grey with or without black or white/light fibers. In any grey designation, the prime fiber may be a consistent shade of grey or may exhibit spots of secondary color. The spots are clearly defined and demonstrate distinct borders of a specific color. These fleeces usually exhibit a large variation in fineness between the different light/dark fibers present when viewed against both a black and white background.
 - a. Rose Grey
 - LRG Light Rose Grey**
 - MRG Medium Rose Grey**
 - DRG Dark Rose Grey**
 - b. Silver Grey
 - LSG Light Silver Grey**
 - MSG Medium Silver Grey**
 - DSG Dark Silver Grey**
7. ROAN Color Group: From the exterior, roan alpacas may or may not appear to have white/light fibers at all and often appear as their base color when viewed from a distance. Upon opening the fleece, the white/light fibers throughout the fleece are evident. The face/head will not be predominantly white, nor will the neck, legs, and tail. However, some roan alpacas do exhibit areas of white spots or patches on the head or face, yet still qualify as roan due to the distribution of fibers throughout the blanket and on various parts of the body. Roan alpacas have fleeces that are a mix of black/grey and or brown/fawn (MF or DF)/grey fibers with easily recognizable white/light fibers uniformly distributed throughout the blanket. All solid color prime blankets with white/light fibers uniformly distributed and easily recognizable are considered roan, including fawn (MF or DF) where the prime fiber area has variegated white/light fibers within individual staple groups throughout the blanket. Note: Patches of color transitions are often evident on roan alpacas; however, these areas of color change are usually not well defined as distinct spots with clear borders.
8. Multicolor Color Group is composed of the following Multicolor color designations:
 - a. PT Pattern. Definition of Pattern: A fleece shall qualify as a pattern if it displays a secondary distinct (at least two color designations apart according to the current AOA Color Chart) solid patch of color at the cut side on the blanket, providing that any single solid patch of color shall be greater than six inches in length in any direction. The primary color shall not be grey.
 - b. PN Pinto. Definition of Pinto: Blanket fiber that exhibits two distinct colors one of which is white. The majority of the blanket is fawn or darker.
 - c. FN Fancy. Definition of Fancy: Blanket fiber that exhibits three or more distinct (at least two color designations apart according to the current AOA Color Chart) colors of which the primary color is not grey.
 - d. AP Appaloosa. Definition of Appaloosa: Blanket fiber that exhibits six or more spots of distinct (at least two color designations apart according to the current AOA Color Chart) secondary color(s) of which the primary color is not grey. Harlequin appaloosas are alpacas that have speckles/spots over the muzzle and often over other parts of the whole body, i.e., belly, blanket, feet, lower leg. The blanket fleece may appear as a certain color designation from the outside, but the primary color underneath is another color designation, including grey/roan, with solid-colored spots prevalent throughout. Note: There are some cases when the grey/roan is so dark that the individual spots are difficult to distinguish within the blanket area. Leopard appaloosas are alpacas that have frequently distributed spots which are in proximity throughout the blanket and over the entire body.
 - e. IL Indefinite Light. Definition of Indefinite Light: White or beige fleeces with easily recognizable dark fibers uniformly interspersed throughout the blanket of which the primary color is not grey.

Section 3. Color Identification for Show Entry

Note for all 2026 Fleece Shows: Any fleeces that are perceived to be and registered for the show as grey, roan or appaloosa are required to go through Judge's Color Verification for each show they are entered in. Optional photo accompaniment is accepted (for Fleece Show Superintendent use only).

- A. Exhibitors shall match the fiber of each fleece to the color swatch identified on the current AOA Color Chart. Fiber color shall be checked mid-side at cut side (see under Color Checking) with noted exceptions for beige, light fawn, roan, and multicolor (refer to definitions of beige, light fawn, roan, and multicolor, Chapter 20).
- B. If a color falls between two color designations, the fleece shall be placed in the darker color designation.

Section 4. Combining of Colors and Color Groups

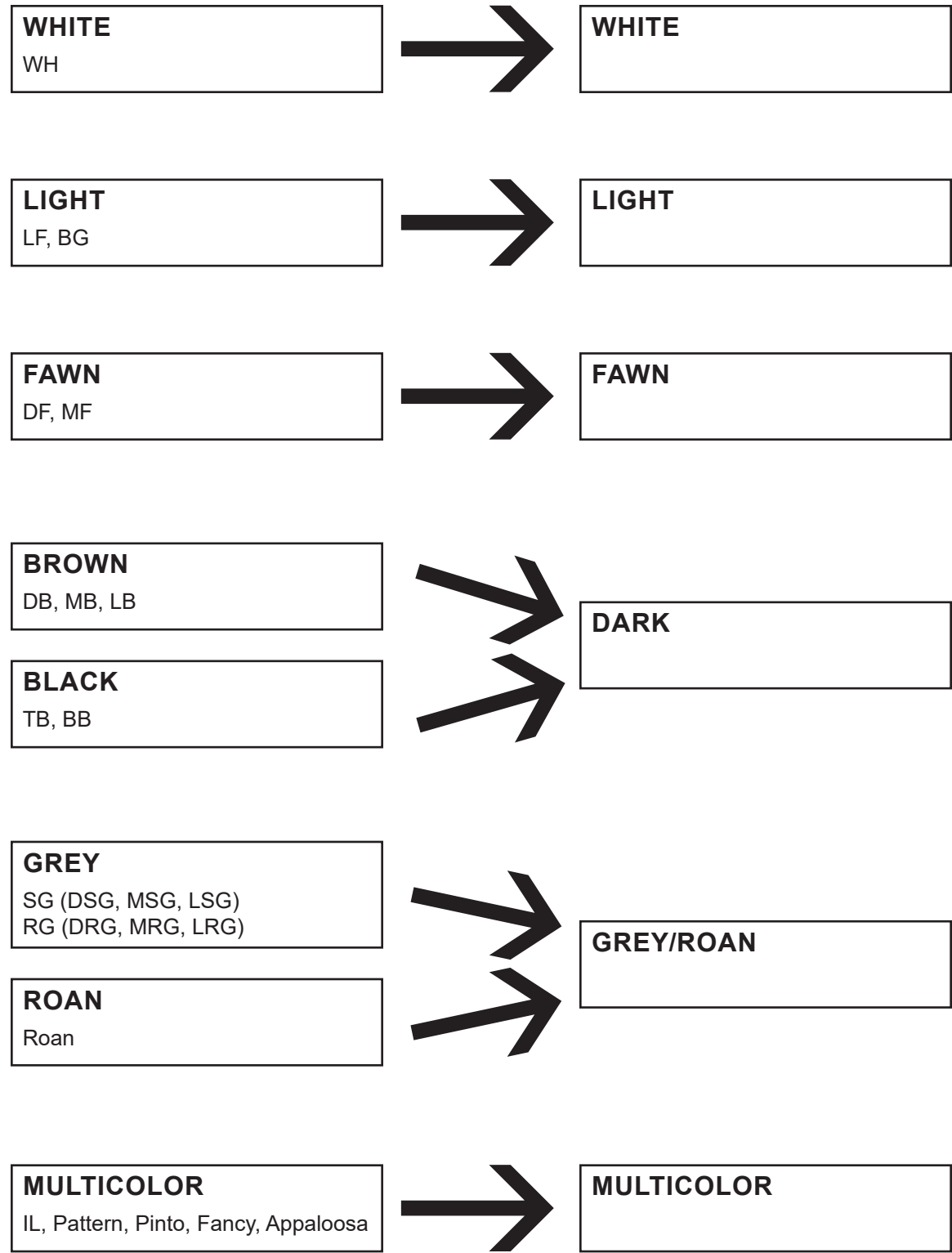
- A. It is recommended that any color designation be shown as a separate class when four or more fleeces of one age division are entered within that color designation in a Level I, II, and III Fleece Show, or four or more fleeces of one gender and age division are entered within that color designation in a Level IV Fleece Show. Color designations refer to the specific color (for instance LF—Light Fawn, etc.).
- B. When the entries of a particular color designation do not result in a minimum of four entries per age and gender (if applicable), the classes within a Color Group may be combined with other classes of the same age and gender (if applicable) in the closest color designation within that Color Group to form a class (refer to Color combining diagram for all levels—Fleece Shows).

Section 5. Color Checking

- A. Checking shall be accomplished in accordance with Fleece Show rules for fleece length and color.
- B. A Compliance Checker shall be available to:
 - 1. Inspect all show entries by comparing the blanket area of the fleece at mid-side on the cut side with noted exceptions for beige, light fawn, roan, and multicolor (refer to definition of beige, light fawn, roan, and multicolor, (Chapter 20, Section 2) to the AOA Color Chart to verify entry into the proper color class.
 - 2. Alert the Show Superintendent if the color check results in the exhibitor being moved to a different class. The change shall be reported to the Show Superintendent in writing.
 - 3. Encourage that color checking of all fleeces shall be completed at least three hours prior to the start of the show for Level I and Level II, and at least a day prior to the start of the show for Level III and IV.
- C. The Judge will be the final authority for determining the color of the fleece based upon the rules contained herein. If a Fleece Judge exercises their final authority to change the fleece to another class, a written form must be completed and signed and submitted to the appropriate Show Superintendent.

BASIC COLOR GROUPS

COMBINED COLOR GROUPS



Chapter 21. Fleece Competitions

Five categories fall under AOA's Fleece Competitions:

- Fleece Show
- Innovative Fleece Assessment
- Walking Fleece Show
- Handcrafter's Spin-Off
- Auxiliary Fleece Show

Section 1. Fleece Show

In the AOA Fleece Judging System, evaluation is based upon the commercial fiber industry and its end product use. Fleeces are judged individually against the AOA Fleece Judging Scorecard and are judged anonymously. Fleeces are judged by comparing them to an ideal fleece, which is expressed by a perfect score on the AOA Suri or Huacaya Fleece Scorecard. The Scorecard is divided into sections, with each section describing a particular fleece characteristic and the maximum number of points allocated for the ideal of that characteristic. A fleece is evaluated for each characteristic and a number of points are assigned according to how close it comes to the ideal.

The scores from all sections are then added to give the total score for the fleece. The fleece with the highest score wins the class.

A. Show Format

1. Fleece Show levels—The level of show shall be determined by adding the total number of Huacaya entries with the total number of Suri entries.
 - Level I 36–74
 - Level II 75–174
 - Level III 175–349
 - Level IV 350+
2. All Fleece Show levels:
 - a. Must use AOA Certified Judge.
 - b. Must have a minimum of 5 individual breeders or farms with a minimum of 36 total entries and must maintain three age divisions.
 - c. Must have Huacaya and Suri shown separately.
 - d. Must offer a minimum of eight Color Groups (see Chapter 20, Fleece Show Color Rules).
 - e. Maximum class size is 11; classes of 12 or more must be split into equal size class by age. When this rule is exercised, separate awards must be given.
 - f. Any color designation may be shown as a separate class when four or more fleeces of one age division are entered within that color designation. Color designations refer to the specific color (for instance LF = Light Fawn, etc.).
 - g. When entries of a particular color designation do not result in a minimum of four entries per age, the classes within a Color Group may be combined with other classes of the same age in the closest color designation within that Color Group to form a class.
 - h. A class containing a single color designation cannot be split until it exceeds the maximum class size of 11; classes of 12 or more must be split into two classes of equal size, and divided by age. When this rule is exercised separate awards must be given.
 - i. C, D, and E classes with fewer than four entries in a class shall be combined. The following table shows some examples:

C	D	E	Combined Class
4	2	3	D/E (Adult/Mature)
2	4	5	C/D (Two Years & Older)
2	2	2	C/D/E (Two Years & Older)
1	5	3	C/D/E (Two Years & Older)
1	0	3	C/D/E (Two Years & Older)

3. Combined genders Fleece Shows:
 - a. Huacaya and Suri shall be shown separately.
 - b. Must maintain three age divisions (A, B, and C) based on age of the alpaca at time of shearing. Fleeces are judged relative to their actual age division.

- [A] = 6 through 12 months (juvenile).
- [B] = First birthday through 24 months (yearling).
- [C] = Second birthday through 36 months (two-year-old).
- [D] = Third birthday through 60 months (adult).
- [E] = Fifth birthday and older (mature).

c. Assemble classes as follows:

- 1) First, divide by breed type.
- 2) Second, divide by age division.
- 3) Third, divide by Color Group, following rules for Championship minimums as stated in Fleece Rules, Color Championship Classes.
- 4) Last, divide by single color designation, if possible.

d. Exhibitor Rule: The owner may enter only **three** alpacas per breed type, per age division, per color designation. (Example: An owner may enter a maximum of **three** Suri juvenile dark fawn and **three** Suri juvenile medium fawns. If the show combines color designations or color groups, then properly entered alpacas may still exhibit even though the owner would have more than **three** alpacas in the combined class):

- 1) Take care if single color designations are split into two or more classes due to the maximum class size rule. Regardless of the number of classes due to a split for a single color designation, the Exhibitor Rule of **three** per color designation is applicable.
- 2) In the event that an alpaca's color designation is changed as a result of the color compliance process, the Exhibitor Rule of **three** entries applies. Example: An owner enters **three** Huacaya juvenile whites and one Huacaya juvenile beige in the Fleece Show. During compliance check, the beige juvenile Huacaya is reclassified as a white juvenile Huacaya. One of the resulting **four** white entries must be scratched in order to comply with the Exhibitor Rule.

4. Split genders Fleece Shows:

a. Huacaya and Suri shall be shown separately.

b. Males and females shall be shown separately.

- 1) When the minimum number of 175 fleeces in a breed type is reached, classes shall be split by gender so long as Color Championships are preserved within EACH gender for that Color Group.
- 2) However, if Color Championship minimums are not met for both genders within a Color Group, that Color Group will not be split by gender and will remain as combined gender classes.

c. Age divisions based on age of the alpaca at time of shearing. Fleeces are judged relative to their actual age division.

- [A] = 6 through 12 months (juvenile).
- [B] = First birthday through 24 months (yearling).
- [C] = Second birthday through 36 months (two-year-old).
- [D] = Third birthday through 60 months (adult).
- [E] = Fifth birthday and older (mature).

d. Assemble classes as follows:

- 1) First, divide by breed type.
- 2) Second, divide by gender.
- 3) Third, divide by age division.
- 4) Fourth, divide by Color Group, following rules for Championship minimums as stated in Fleece Rules, Color Championship Classes.
- 5) Last, divide by single color designation, if possible.

e. Exhibitor Rule: The owner may enter only **three** alpacas per breed type, per gender, per age division, per color designation. (Example: An owner may enter a maximum of **three** Suri female juvenile dark fawns and **three** Suri female juvenile medium fawns. If the show combines color designations or Color Groups, then properly entered alpacas may still exhibit even though the owner would have more than **three** alpacas in the combined class):

- 1) Take care if single color designations are split into two or more classes due to the maximum class size rule. Regardless of the number of classes due to a split for a single color designation, the Exhibitor Rule of **three** per color designation is applicable.

- 2) In the event that an alpaca's color designation is changed as a result of the color compliance process, the Exhibitor Rule of **three** entries applies. Example: An owner enters **three** Huacaya male juvenile whites and one Huacaya male juvenile beige in the Fleece Show. During compliance check, the beige juvenile Huacaya is reclassified as a white juvenile Huacaya. One of the resulting **four** white entries must be scratched in order to comply with the Exhibitor Rule.

B. Fleece Show Rules:

1. An alpaca or its fleece must be entered in the name of the owner as listed on the Show Entry Form or the individual listed as owner on the Owner of Record for Show Entry Form. A spouse or domestic partner is regarded as synonymous with the owner entered to be in compliance with the Exhibitor Rule.
2. Partnership investment on the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate will be considered as full ownership in determining show entry and is considered as an entry subject to the Exhibitor Rule for the entering farm. Partners in these alpacas are eligible to enter the fleeces in their own names subject to these same restrictions.
3. Each fleece entry shall be accompanied by the following (incomplete or missing information may result in disqualification of entry):
 - a. Copy of AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate (refer to Chapter 7, Section 1, D).
 - b. Accurate date of this shearing.
 - c. Accurate date of prior shearing.
 - d. Method of shearing (hand or electric).
 - e. Accurate total days of growth.
 - f. Owner identification.
4. Fleece shall consist of the prime fiber only (defined as blanket area which may include portions of the upper leg and neck that are consistent with the blanket in quality and length) and shall be displayed full and intact, not prepared or artificially enhanced in any manner (see full rules prohibiting enhancement in Halter Rules—does not include “dryer sheets” used for moth/pest control), must be skirted, and shall be displayed cut side up. The exhibitor must enter the fleece in the required clear plastic bag with SKU #S-10920. Sources for the mandatory, allowable plastic bags can be found at www.alpacainfo.com/show/handbook.
5. Fleeces entered in a “noodled” presentation must follow the rules as stated in Chapter 5. Helpful Tips—Getting Fleeces Ready for the Fleece Show. The method and materials used to noodle a fleece must meet these AOA requirements as specified in Chapter 5, Section 3. Only one plastic sheet of the mandatory plastic bag SKU #S-10920 described on www.alpacainfo.com/show/handbook is permitted if the fleece is entered in this noodled manner. A fleece improperly noodled in any material other than the specified clear plastic sheet will be disqualified by the show.
6. The show makes no guarantee that any entered noodled fleece will be returned to the exhibitor in a noodled condition, although every attempt will be made to preserve the method of presentation.
7. Fleece entries shall be judged by entry number only, with exhibitor information being removed from Fleece Tag prior to judging.
8. Length of fiber:
 - a. Huacaya: Minimum length of fleece presented to be three inches with no maximum under first birthday, with a maximum of eight inches for first birthday and older.
 - b. Suri: Minimum length of fleece presented to be three inches with no maximum under second birthday, with a maximum of nine inches for second birthday and older.
9. Fleeces with a high degree of vegetable matter or contamination are difficult to evaluate and may be marked down accordingly.
10. Fleeces shall not be washed, artificially enhanced, trimmed, blocked or plucked (removal of guard hairs throughout the blanket). See full rules prohibiting modifications and preparation of alpacas and their fleece in Chapter 9. (Does not include “dryer sheets” used for moth/pest control).
11. Fleeces shall not be shown beyond 380 days of shearing date.
12. When shearing dates for two fleeces from the same alpaca fall within the 380 day rule, those fleeces are both eligible to show in the same Fleece Show as long as the fleeces are entered in separate age divisions.
13. A Fleece Scorecard shall be completed in ink for each fleece entered in the show unless the fleece is disqualified. If disqualified, the reason shall be stated on the Scorecard and the Judge's Worksheet.
14. Fleece Scorecards represent feedback from the Judge, shall be signed by the Judge, and shall be returned to the exhibitor in the fleece bag after judging.

15. A Judge's Worksheet is completed in pencil and signed in ink by the Judge for each class, reflecting the exact scores and placements on the individual scorecards and is forwarded to the AOA Show System Office to be retained as the official record of the show. If the fleece is disqualified, the reason shall be stated on the Judge's Worksheet.
 16. Maximum class size is 11. A class cannot be split until it exceeds the maximum class size of 11. Classes of 12 or more must be split into two classes of equal size, and divided by age. When this rule is exercised, separate awards must be given.
 17. Placing first through sixth shall be made, provided there are sufficient entries in the class. The following ribbon colors shall be used for Fleece classes:
 - First place: blue
 - Second place: red
 - Third place: white
 - Fourth place: pink
 - Fifth place: yellow
 - Sixth place: green
 - Champion (ribbon or banner): purple
 - Reserve Champion (ribbon or banner): lavender
 - Judge's Choice: burgundy (recommended)

The Certified AOA Show logo must be on all ribbons and banners.
 18. The Fleece Show is over when all judging is complete, results are verified and the Judge declares the show is over.
- C. Fleece Show Judging Criteria:** The following are the judging criteria used and maximum points that may be awarded. The points are recorded in ink on a Fleece Show Scorecard and in pencil on the Judge's Worksheet for both Huacaya and Suri fleeces.
1. Huacaya points:
 - Uniformity of Length (5)
 - Fineness (15) and Handle (5)
 - Uniformity: Secondary /Primary Micron Range (5), Absence of Fibers > 30 (5), and Uniformity of Micron (10)
 - Style: Character (Crimp) (10) and Density (5)
 - Brightness (10)
 - Color Consistency (5)
 - Absence of impurities/fleece damage (5)
 - Annualized fleece weight (20)
 2. Suri points:
 - Uniformity of Length (5)
 - Fineness (10) and Handle (5)
 - Uniformity: Secondary /Primary Micron Range (5), Absence of Fibers > 30 (5), and Uniformity of Micron (10)
 - Style: Lock Structure (10) and Density (5)
 - Luster (20)
 - Color Consistency (5)
 - Absence of impurities/fleece damage (5)
 - Annualized fleece weight (15)
 3. Tender fleece, matted fleece and fleece with excess debris will be marked down accordingly but will not be disqualified in a show.
 4. The minimum fleece score to award a blue ribbon is 60. If none of the fleeces in a class achieve 60 points or above then the Judge shall start placements with a red ribbon in that class, in which case the second place winner will be ineligible to compete in a Championship class.
 5. Grey and roan fleeces are eligible to receive full points out of 5 for uniformity of color. Multicolor fleeces receive 0 points for uniformity of color and have a total possible point value of 95 instead of 100. In these classes, the minimum fleece score required to award a blue ribbon is 57.
 6. Fleeces shall be disqualified that:
 - a. Are showing parasitic infestation.
 - b. Do not meet the three inches minimum or that exceed maximum length.
 - c. The reason for disqualification shall be recorded on the Scorecard and the Judge's Worksheet.

D. Fleece Production Classes:

1. **Get of Sire Fleece Class:** The Get of Sire class is comprised of three alpacas that are the progeny of the same sire. All three of these progeny's fleeces are evaluated simultaneously and should represent their sire's ability to transmit his positive traits to his progeny in a uniform and consistent manner.
 - a. The Get of Sire class may be divided into two classes, provided that there is a minimum of at least four Get entries in each of the Light or Mixed/Dark class:
 - 1) Light Get of Sire class (White, Beige, Light Fawn or Indefinite Light), and
 - 2) Mixed/Dark Get of Sire class (at least one of the three alpacas within a Mixed/Dark entry must be Medium or Dark Fawn, Brown, Black, Grey, Roan, or Multicolor (excluding Indefinite Light)).
 - b. Rules for Get of Sire Fleece Classes:
 - 1) Alpacas of Get must be eligible and entered in the Fleece Show in their respective fleece class.
 - 2) Both genders can be represented, but must be from three different dams.
 - 3) Color and age of each alpaca in the group shall not be a discriminating factor.
 - 4) Show entry is made in the name of the sire on the show entry form and must be accompanied by a copy of the sire's AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate.
 - a) A copy of the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate for each of the three progeny must also be provided to the Show Superintendent.
 - b) Show Superintendent shall verify the qualification of the three progeny.
 - 5) Limit one entry per sire.
 - 6) The sire's fleece is not shown with this group entry. If the exhibitor is not the owner of the sire, that exhibitor must obtain the sire owner's written permission prior to the time of show entry.
 - 7) Entry is limited to **three** sire entries per owner.
 - 8) Judging criteria for the Get of Sire fleece class shall include:
 - a) Consistency of positive fleece traits exhibited by all the alpacas within the group.
 - b) Uniformity of positive characteristics exhibited by all of the alpacas within the group.
 - c) Uniformity of type and style exhibited by all of the alpacas within the group.
 - d) Absence of negative traits.
2. **Produce of Dam Fleece Class:** The Produce of Dam class is comprised of two alpacas that are the progeny of the same dam. Both of these progeny's fleeces are evaluated simultaneously and should represent their dam's ability to transmit her positive traits to each progeny in a uniform and consistent manner.
 - a. The Produce of Dam class may be divided into two classes, provided there is a minimum of at least four Produce entries in each of the Light or Mixed/Dark class:
 - 1) Light Produce of Dam class (White, Beige, Light Fawn or Indefinite Light), and
 - 2) Mixed/Dark Produce of Dam class (at least one of the two alpacas within a Mixed/Dark entry must be Medium or Dark Fawn, Brown, Black, Grey, Roan, or Multicolor (excluding Indefinite Light)).
 - b. Rules for Produce of Dam Fleece Classes:
 - 1) There must be a minimum age difference of 11 months between each of the two progeny.
 - 2) Alpacas of Produce must be eligible and entered in the Fleece Show in their respective fleece class.
 - 3) Both genders can be represented.
 - 4) The color and age of each alpaca within the group shall not be a discriminating factor.
 - 5) Show entry is made in the name of the dam on the show entry form and must be accompanied by a copy of the dam's AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate.
 - a) A copy of the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate for each of the two progeny must also be provided to the Show Superintendent.
 - b) Show Superintendent shall verify the qualification of the two progeny.
 - 6) Limit one entry per dam.
 - 7) The dam's fleece is not shown with this group entry. If the exhibitor is not the owner of the dam, that exhibitor must obtain the dam owner's written permission prior to the time of show entry.
 - 8) Entry to is limited to **three** dam entries per owner.
 - 9) Judging criteria for the Produce of Dam fleece class shall include:
 - a) Consistency of positive fleece traits exhibited by both the alpacas within the group.
 - b) Uniformity of positive characteristics exhibited by both of the alpacas within the group.
 - c) Uniformity of type and style exhibited by both of the alpacas within the group.
 - d) Absence of negative traits.
3. **Judging Protocol for Fleece Production Classes:**

- a. Both of these classes will be judged relatively using the absolute scorecard for fleece judging.
- b. Both of these classes will be judged by all of the Fleece Judges judging at the show. Decisions on final class placement will be made by consensus.
- c. A written comment (similar to oral reasons) will be provided for the top six placing entries only.
- d. Both of these classes will be judged at the conclusion of all other Fleece Show judging.
- e. It is highly recommended that the Fleece Show Superintendent find one volunteer to oversee the task of managing the identification and staging of these classes in an area designated for group class judging.

E. Awards

1. Fleece Show Championship Classes:

- a. Color Championships may be offered in any level of show where 8 Huacaya fleeces or 6 Suri fleeces are exhibited in a Color Group or combination of Color Groups (Black/Brown; Grey/Roan).
- b. If there are insufficient fleeces in either of the two basic Color Groups (Black/Brown; Grey/Roan) then the Championship must be held as a Combined Color Group Championship.
- c. First place fleeces from each age/Color Group will progress into the Color Championship final.
- d. First place fleeces are lined up following class order on the Judge's Worksheet.
- e. The Color Champion Fleece is the highest scoring first place fleece.
- f. The corresponding second place fleece is then placed with the remaining first place fleeces. The Reserve Color Champion fleece is the next highest scoring fleece.
- g. A minimum of 70 points is required for a Championship award (66.5 points required for Multicolor).
- h. In the event that any two Huacaya alpacas which are tied have identical fleece scores, the tie will be broken based on the Fleece Scorecard in the following order: Fineness and handle first, then uniformity of micron, then absence of fibers >30 and SP range, then brightness.
- i. In the event that any two Suri alpacas which are tied have identical fleece scores, the tie will be broken based on the Fleece Scorecard in the following order: Luster first, then fineness and handle, then uniformity of micron, then absence of fibers >30 and SP range.
- j. If a Fleece Color Championship is awarded, all breeder identification on the Fleece Scorecards of those fleeces competing for the award shall remain anonymous until judging is completed.
- k. A Judge's Worksheet must be completed and signed by the Judge for the Championship class.

2. Judge's Choice (awarded by breed type): Breed type must meet the minimum number of entries required for a Level 1 Fleece Show in order for the Judge's Choice award to be considered.

- a. Judge's Choice may be awarded to any superior fleece in the show that has achieved a minimum fleece score of 80 points (based upon a 100 point maximum fleece score), or a minimum fleece score of 76 points (based upon a 95 point maximum fleece score in the Multicolor Color Group).
- b. This most highly coveted fleece award is the result of the exciting and extensive deliberation and consideration of all traits between every eligible contender on the part of the Judge(s), requiring detailed analysis of minute degrees of difference.
- c. It may be the highest scoring fleece in the show but does not have to be.
- d. The AOA Certified Fleece Judge has discretion in awarding or withholding this award based upon the quality of fleeces entered in the show.
- e. In shows that have been split by gender, the Judge(s) at that show may award a Judge's Choice in both genders.
- f. Judge's Choice is awarded to the fleece(s) that best fulfill the following criteria:
 - 1) It is deemed the most elite fleece in the show.
 - 2) It demonstrates a high degree of excellence in every trait across the entire blanket, including staple length for growth time.
 - 3) All traits corresponding to uniformity are evidenced, representing ease of processability to end-use.

3. Advanced Fleece Certificate: Shall be awarded to fleeces that score 80 points and above.

4. Special Awards (awarded by breed type). Separate male and female awards may be given if genders have been split. The intent to offer Special Awards must be indicated on the Application for Certification Form. Special Awards may bear the AOA logo and must be judged by AOA Certified Fleece Judges. The AOA Certified Fleece Judge has discretion in awarding or withholding these Special Awards based upon the quality of fleeces entered in the show.

- a. Spirit of the Fiber Industry Award (awarded by breed type): This award recognizes the individual alpaca that holds and even increases its value to its owner by maintaining a fleece that remains commercially viable at the highest quality over time. These traits should be recognized as very valuable in long term breeding strategies. The AOA Certified Fleece Judge has discretion in awarding or withholding this award based upon the quality of fleeces entered in the show. Ideally, this award is given to a fleece in the three-year-old and older categories, if it demonstrates the following criteria:
 - 1) Maintain fineness and handle into the mature shearing age of the alpaca.
 - 2) Maintain an impressive re-growth rate (staple length) into the mature shearing age of the alpaca.
 - 3) Demonstrate good annual harvest weight (density) into the mature shearing age of the alpaca.
 - 4) Demonstrate good crimp/character (Huacaya) and good lock structure (Suri) throughout the blanket into the mature shearing age of the alpaca.
 - 5) Maintain visible brightness/luster into the mature shearing age of the alpaca.
 - 6) Demonstrate low guard hair incursion into the blanket (uniformity of micron) into the mature shearing age of the alpaca.
 - 7) Demonstrate the ability to compete and excel against fleeces from alpacas of a younger age.
- b. Best Hand
- c. Best Luster (Suri)
- d. Best Lock (Suri)
- e. Best Crimp (Huacaya)
- f. Best Brightness (Huacaya)
- g. Best Prepared (recognizes the Judge's selection of best preparation in regard to appropriate skirting)
5. Any additional Special Awards must be indicated when show certification is requested and is subject to approval by the AOA Show Administrator in consultation with the AOA Show Rules Committee.
- F. Refer to Chapter 22 for Fleece Show procedures.

Section 2: Innovative Fleece Assessment

The Innovative Fleece Assessment (IFA) competition provides opportunities for all grades of fiber to compete in appropriate grade categories. Fleeces are categorized into grade based on the average micron reading of four samples pulled during judging. Micron is measured by machine at the show. Uniformity of grade and length across the blanket are highly emphasized. Please contact the AOA Show Administrator for specific details on how to set up and plan all components of this competition.

- A. Show Format/Rules and Class Structure
 1. Minimum number to hold an IFA Fleece Show is 36 entries.
 2. A fleece cannot be entered in IFA and the regular Fleece Show at the same event.
- B. Color Rules
 1. White is never combined with any other color group. (It is always separated in every grade.)
 2. When a grade has less than 12 fleeces, no splits will be given other than white and grey.
 3. When a grade has 12-20 fleeces in that grade, that grade can be split into White, Grey, Light and Dark color groups. Separate placings and awards will be given.
- C. Color Groups
 1. White
 2. Grey
 3. Light: beige, light fawn, medium fawn, light based multi, indefinite light
 4. Dark: dark fawn, browns, blacks, roan, multicolor
 5. When a grade has 21–40 fleeces in that grade, it can be split into the major color groups defined in the AOA Show System Handbook.
 6. When a grade has 40+ fleeces, that grade can be split into the major color groups by gender.
- D. Awards
 1. Awards are determined by grade and color groups within that grade.
 - a. Placements will be determined by final score, which includes Fleece Traits and Management Faults.
 2. Maximum placements are 1 thru 3 (first thru third)* when minimum score points are achieved.
 3. Tie Breakers*:
 - a. Example: If there are two first places with identical scores, placements will be two firsts (1, 1) then one second (2) and one third (3).

- b. Example: If there are two first places with identical scores and two second places with identical scores, placements are two firsts (1,1), two seconds (2, 2), and one third place.
- 4. A minimum score of 60 points is required to award first place.
- 5. A minimum score of 70 points is required to receive Championship placement.
- 6. A minimum score of 80 points is required to receive the Advanced Fleece Award.
- E. Fleece Production Classes:
 - 1. Rules follow the same as outlined in the Fleece Show production classes.
- F. Championships
 - 1. In grades that contain less than 21 fleeces a Champion and Reserve Champion may be awarded if a fleece achieves the required minimum score necessary to be a Champion. In grades that contain more than 21 fleeces, a Champion and Reserve Champion may be awarded by Color Groups as long as the minimum of eight Huacayas and six Suris is achieved in that Color Group. Fleeces that do not have enough numbers for a color group may be combined into a combined championship.
 - 2. Championship Tie Breaker. Take the total points from the traits in the following order until the tie is broken.
 - a. Uniformity from Four Locations
 - b. Visual Uniformity
 - c. Uniformity of Length
 - d. Lack of Fibers Greater than 30 micron
- G. Special Awards are awarded at Judge's discretion.
 - a. Most Uniform fleece per grade
 - b. Longevity per grade
 - c. Spirit of the Fiber Industry
 - d. Best Brightness (Huacaya)
 - e. Best Luster (Suri)
 - f. Judge's Select (follows the same rules as Judge's Choice as outlined in the Fleece Show)

Section 3. Walking Fleece Show

The Walking Fleece Show is an opportunity for the exhibitor to enter a fleece competition where the prime fleece is evaluated while still on the alpaca. Each fleece is judged individually against the AOA Walking Fleece Judging Scorecard on an absolute basis in contrast to halter judging which is judged on a comparative basis relative to the other alpacas in the class. Conformation is not assessed. An AOA Walking Fleece Scorecard will be completed for each alpaca in the course of the evaluation/judging process. Placements are made on a highest point basis once all evaluations are completed and tabulated. This is a time consuming competition, and exhibitors must be cognizant that they may need additional handlers, particularly if they are also participating in the regular halter classes which could very well be occurring simultaneously.

- A. Walking Fleece General Requirements
 - 1. Must use AOA Certified Judge.
 - 2. Must have a minimum of 5 individual breeders or farms with a minimum of 36 total entries and must maintain three age divisions.
 - [A] = 6 through 12 months (juvenile).
 - [B] = First birthday through 24 months (yearling).
 - [C] = Second birthday through 36 months (two-year-old).
 - [D] = Third birthday through 60 months (adult) (optional).
 - [E] = Fifth birthday and older (mature) (optional).
 - 3. Must have Huacaya and Suri shown separately.
 - 4. Males and females shall be shown separately.
 - a. When the minimum number of 175 fleeces in a breed type is reached, classes shall be split by gender so long as Color Championships are preserved within EACH gender for that Color Group.
 - b. However, if Color Championship minimums are not met for both genders within a Color Group, that Color Group will not be split by gender and will remain as combined gender classes.
 - 5. Must offer a minimum of eight Color Groups.
 - 6. When entries of a particular color designation do not result in a minimum of four entries per age, the classes within a Color Group may be combined with other classes of the same age in the closest color designation within that Color Group to form a class.

7. Any color designation may be shown as a separate class when four or more fleeces of one age division are entered within that color designation. Color designations refer to the specific color (for instance LF = Light Fawn, etc.).
 8. Maximum class size is 11; classes of 12 or more must be split into equal size class by age. When this rule is exercised, separate awards must be given.
 9. A class containing a single color designation cannot be split until it exceeds the maximum class size of 11; classes of 12 or more must be split into two classes of equal size, and divided by age. When this rule is exercised separate awards must be given.
 10. The Exhibitor Rule applies. The owner may enter only **three** alpacas in a class per breed type per age division per color designation per gender (for split gender Walking Fleece Shows). Note: Take care if single color designations are split into two or more classes due to the maximum class size rule. Regardless of the number of classes due to a split for a single color designation, the Exhibitor Rule of **three** per color designation is applicable.
 11. Color Championships may be offered if minimum numbers are met. Additional special awards shall not be awarded.
- B. Walking Fleece Certification Procedures and Staffing Requirements**
1. A show must list the Walking Fleece Show on the Fleece Application for Certification. A specific Walking Fleece Coordinator must be listed on the Application. The Fleece or Halter Show Superintendent cannot be the Walking Fleece Coordinator if those competitions are ongoing or overlapping with the Walking Fleece Show in any way.
 2. There are specific staffing requirements for this competition that are separate from the Halter and Fleece Shows. Show Management must contact and work directly with the AOA Show System Administrator to ensure that there is adequate staffing for this competition at their show.
 3. The following staff is required for each Walking Fleece Judge:
 - a. One Scribe
 - b. One Transcription clerk
 - c. One Gate Steward
 - d. One Ring Steward

NOTE: While a separate Gate Steward and Ring Steward are recommended, the positions may be combined at the show's discretion.
 4. Judge staffing guidelines: Not to exceed 80–85 entries per day per Judge. A nine hour day must also factor in a one hour minimum for paperwork per Judge. If a Walking Fleece Judge is apprenticing, entries should not exceed 70–75 entries.
 5. It is strongly recommended that there are different Walking Fleece Judge(s) and Halter Judge(s) for a Walking Fleece and Halter Show event.
 6. At shows where Walking Fleece judging is beginning and occurring simultaneously with Halter Show judging, a specific Color Group order for Walking Fleece judging must be followed:
 - a. One Walking Fleece Judge: Fawn, Light, White, Multi, Grey, Roan, Black, and Brown
 - b. Two Walking Fleece Judges:

Judge One—Fawn, White, Grey, Roan

Judge Two—Light, Multi, Black, Brown
 7. Staging area(s) for Walking Fleece classes must be of adequate size to accommodate the largest class expected in the show.
- C. Walking Fleece Rules for Entry**
1. An alpaca or its fleece must be entered in the name of the owner as listed on the Show Entry Form or the individual listed as owner on the Owner of Record for Show Entry Form. A spouse or domestic partner is regarded as synonymous with the owner entered to be in compliance with the Exhibitor Rule.
 2. Partnership investment on the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate will be considered as full ownership in determining show entry and is considered as an entry subject to the Exhibitor Rule for the entering farm. Partners in these alpacas are eligible to enter the fleeces in their own names subject to these same restrictions.
 3. Each entry shall be accompanied by the following (incomplete or missing information may result in disqualification of entry):
 - a. Copy of AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate (refer to Chapter 7, Section 1, D).
 - b. Accurate date of this shearing.
 - c. Accurate date of prior shearing.

- d. Method of shearing (hand or electric).
 - e. Accurate total days of growth. This must match halter entry information.
 - f. Owner identification.
4. Length of fiber will follow the Fleece Show rules with the noted exception* for fall shows:
- a. Huacaya: Minimum length of fleece presented to be three inches with no maximum under first birthday, with a maximum of eight inches for first birthday and older.
 - b. Suri: Minimum length of fleece presented to be three inches with no maximum under second birthday, with a maximum of nine inches for second birthday and older. (Not previously shorn and previously shorn Suris are not shown separately).
 - c. EXCEPTION: For fall (July 1—December 31) shows: Fleece length minimums will follow the fleece length rules for Halter Shows. The Judge (Halter or Walking Fleece) has the authority to disqualify any alpaca that does not meet the minimum fleece length.
 - 1) Huacayas: Minimum of 2 inches
 - 2) Suris: Minimum of 3 inches
5. The color of each Walking Fleece entry is determined by Halter Show Color Rules, and must be the same color as its entry in halter at that show. (EXCEPTION: Class placement of a Multicolor with a solid colored blanket may be determined by the Show Superintendent or Walking Fleece Judge.) Once an alpaca at a multiple show event has shown in the first show, that alpaca's color shall not be changed for any subsequent shows at that event.
- D. Walking Fleece Format**
- 1. All the alpacas that constitute a class shall assemble at the staging area and be judged consecutively. Judging shall still be allowed if an unforeseen event causes an alpaca to miss its class, providing that the Walking Fleece Show is still occurring.
 - 2. Each alpaca in a Walking Fleece class shall be evaluated in the ring individually.
 - 3. Alpacas may be re-called to the Walking Fleece staging area in the rare circumstance that they need to be present to break a tied score.
 - 4. Oral comments by the Judge may be given during the hands-on evaluation.
 - 5. The Walking Fleece Show is over when all judging is complete, results are verified and the Judge declares the show is over. Awards and scorecards are distributed at a time to be determined by Walking Fleece Coordinator and Show Management.
- E. Walking Fleece Judging Criteria**
- 1. The following are the judging criteria and maximum point that may be awarded. The points are recorded in ink on a Walking Fleece Show Scorecard and in pencil on the Judge's Worksheet for both Huacaya and Suri.
 - a. Huacaya points:
 - Uniformity of Length (5)
 - Fineness (15) and Handle (5)
 - Uniformity: Secondary /Primary Micron Range (5), Absence of Fibers > 30 (5), and Uniformity of Micron (10)
 - Style: Character (Crimp) (10) and Density (5)
 - Brightness (10)
 - Color Consistency (5)
 - Absence of impurities/fleece damage (5)
 - Maximum Point Total For Huacayas: 80 points
 - b. Suri points:
 - Uniformity of Length (5)
 - Fineness (10) and Handle (5)
 - Uniformity: Secondary /Primary Micron Range (5), Absence of Fibers > 30 (5), and Uniformity of Micron (10)
 - Style: Lock Structure (10) and Density (5)
 - Luster (20)
 - Color Consistency (5)
 - Absence of impurities/fleece damage (5)
 - Maximum Point Total For Suris: 85 points
 - 2. For Huacayas, the minimum Walking Fleece score to award a blue ribbon is 48 or 60%. For Suris, the minimum Walking Fleece score to award a blue ribbon is 51 or 60%. If none of the total points in a class achieve 48 points or above for Huacayas and 51 points or above for Suris, then the Judge shall start placements with a red ribbon in that class.

3. Grey and Roan fleeces are eligible to receive full points out of 5 for uniformity of color. Multicolor fleeces receive 0 points for uniformity of color and have a total possible point value of 75 for Huacayas and 80 for Suris. In these classes, the minimum fleece score required to award a blue ribbon is 45 or 60% for Huacayas and 48 or 60% for Suris.
 4. Tiebreakers are the same as in the Fleece Show rules:
 - a. In the event that any two Huacaya alpacas which are tied have identical fleece scores, the tie will be broken based on the Fleece Scorecard in the following order: Fineness and handle first, then uniformity of micron, then absence of fibers > 30 and SP range, then brightness.
 - b. In the event that any two Suri alpacas which are tied have identical fleece scores, the tie will be broken based on the Fleece Scorecard in the following order: Luster first, then fineness and handle, then uniformity of micron, then absence of fibers > 30 and SP range.
- F. Walking Fleece Awards**
1. Placing first through sixth shall be made, provided there are sufficient entries in the class. The following ribbon colors shall be used for Walking Fleece classes:
 First place: blue
 Second place: red
 Third place: white
 Fourth place: pink
 Fifth place: yellow
 Sixth place: green
 Champion (ribbon or banner): orange
 Reserve Champion (ribbon or banner): light orange
 The Certified AOA Show logo must be on all ribbons and banners.
 2. Color Championships may be offered where 8 Huacaya or 6 Suri entries are exhibited in a Color Group or combination of Color Groups (Grey/Roan; Black/Brown). A minimum of 56 points is required for a Huacaya Championship award. A minimum of 59.5 points is required for a Suri Championship award. Multicolor fleeces require a minimum of 52.5 points for a Huacaya Championship award and 56 points for a Suri Championship award.

Section 4. Handcrafter's Spin-Off

The Handcrafter's Spin-Off competition is an opportunity for the exhibitor to enter a sample of fleece which is evaluated on criteria relevant to the production of finished goods. Rules generally follow the rules for Fleece Shows according to breed, age divisions, Color Groups and class size. There must be a minimum of three individual breeders or farms with a minimum of 25 total entries. The "AOA Approved Event" logo may be imprinted on ribbons awarded in these classes. Color Championships shall not be offered because they are outside the scope of normal fleece judging criteria. An AOA Certified Fleece Judge is not required for either Judges or judging criteria for these classes. An AOA Accredited Handcrafter's Spin-Off Judge is required.

- A.** This competition provides exhibitors with an opportunity to have a small amount of fiber from their best fibered alpacas spun by expert hand spinners.
- B.** A two ounce sample of clean prime fleece is submitted at least three months prior to the show.
- C.** Entries are to be submitted in a clear, unmarked, plain, gallon-size zipper type plastic bag with the completed "AOA Handcrafter's Spin-Off Entry Tag" inserted in the bag. Optional: a photo no larger than 4" x 6" of the alpaca from whom the fiber sample was collected shall be included with the entry.
- D.** Fiber shall not be carded, combed, washed or otherwise enhanced, but should be handpicked to remove debris and vegetable matter.
- E.** Length of fiber:
 1. Huacaya: Minimum length of two ounce fleece sample presented to be three inches with no maximum under first birthday, with a maximum eight inches for first birthday and older.
 2. Suri: Minimum length of two ounce fleece sample presented to be three inches with no maximum under second birthday, with a maximum of nine inches for second birthday and older.
- F.** Entry must be made in the name of the alpaca and current owner as matched to the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate or Owner of Record for Show Entry Form and must accompany exhibitor's entry signed by owner of record of the alpaca as shown on AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate. A copy of the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate must accompany the entry form (refer to Chapter 7, Section 1, A–I).
- G.** Entries are subject to the Exhibitor Rule and are limited to **three** entries per breed type, per age division at time of shearing, per color designation.
- H.** Entries of fleeces shorn after January 1 of the previous year shall be accepted.

- I. If there are two fleeces from an alpaca that are eligible to show in the same competition, those fleeces must be entered in separate age divisions.
- J. Classes will be divided according to the number of entries that determine Fleece Show Levels I, II, and III as follows:
 - First, by breed type.
 - Second, by age of alpaca at time of shearing.
 - Third, by Combined Color Group.
 - Fourth, by Basic Color Group.
 - Last, by color designation.
- K. Classes will be divided according to the number of entries that determine Fleece Show Level IV as follows:
 - First, by breed type.
 - Second, by gender.
 - Third, by age of alpaca at time of shearing.
 - Fourth, by Combined Color Group.
 - Fifth, by Basic Color Group.
 - Last, by color designation.
- L. Age divisions with less than four entries may be combined and judged with other age divisions in a Color Group as per Fleece Show rules for level of show. Ages C, D and E can be combined into one age division "C" (second birthday and older) for Levels I, II and III shows. Age division A and B are never combined in any level show. All age divisions must remain separate in a Level IV show.
- M. Judging criteria: Judges will card and spin an equal portion of the fiber from each sample entered. No washing or scouring of the sample prior to spinning is allowed, but the spun skein sample shall be washed as part of the evaluation process. The skein shall be washed by the Judge using only soap and rinsed in clear water with no other enhancing products added (fabric softener, conditioner and other enhancing products) using the same method and procedure for each skein. Scoring will be based on:
 - 1. Fleece criteria (40):
 - First impression (5).
 - Cleanliness: Absence of vegetation (6), Absence of dirt or other contamination (4).
 - Absence of second cuts (5).
 - Absence of guard hair (5).
 - Uniformity of length (5), Uniformity of micron (5).
 - Preparation of entry (5).
 - 2. Spinning criteria (35).
 - Preparation for spinning: Ease of debris removal (7), Ease of carding (5).
 - Ease of drafting (8).
 - Ease of spinning (10).
 - Degree of production loss (5).
 - 3. Finished product (25):
 - First impression of yarn (6).
 - Usability of yarn (7).
 - Brightness/Luster of yarn (6).
 - Handle of yarn (6).
- N. Fiber that is unsound, felted, contains tender breaks, mats, or excessive debris will be discounted appropriately but will not be disqualified. However, fiber samples exhibiting parasitic infestation or fiber not meeting the three inches minimum or exceeding the maximum staple lengths shall be disqualified and the reason for disqualification shall be recorded on the Judge's Scorecard and the Judge's Worksheet.
- O. Points may be deducted for failure of exhibitor to submit at least two ounces of fiber for proper and adequate sampling and judging. Point deductions would result in one point deducted for every 0.1 ounce short of the two ounce sample.
- P. When more than four ounces are submitted, a one point deduction would result for every 0.1 ounce over the four ounce sample.
- Q. There shall be no ties in scores.
- R. The minimum Spin-Off score to award a blue ribbon is 60. If none of the entries in a class achieve 60 points or above then the Judge shall start placements with a red ribbon in that class.
- S. Judge's decisions are final.
- T. The following ribbon colors shall be used for Spin-Off classes:
 - First place: blue
 - Second place: red

Third place: white
Fourth place: pink
Fifth place: yellow
Sixth place: green
Judge's Choice: burgundy recommended.

The Approved AOA Show logo must be on all ribbons.

- U.** Special Awards such as Judge's Choice and Highest Scoring Fleece in Color Group may be offered for Handcrafter's Spin-Off for both Huacaya and Suri. The Judge's Choice is limited to one award per breed type and will be awarded to any superior Spin-Off entry that has achieved a minimum score of 80 points and by a consensus of all the Spin-Off Judges. Judge's Choice shall not be awarded if consensus of all the Spin-Off Judges cannot be reached. The AOA Accredited Handcrafter's Spin-Off Judge has discretion in awarding or withholding this award based upon the quality of fleeces entered in the show. The intent to offer such awards must be indicated when the show certification is requested and is subject to approval by the AOA Show System Administrator in consultation with the AOA Show Rules Committee.
- V.** Spinners shall:
 - 1.** Evaluate, prepare and spin a portion of the sample, taking care to ensure that all samples are prepared in the same manner (i.e., hand or drum carded) and that prepared portions are relatively equal portions of one fleece sample to another. No washing or scouring of the raw fiber prior to spinning is allowed.
 - 2.** Wash the spun skein to properly evaluate hand feel and softness of the resulting yarn.
 - a.** Washing or scouring of the sample after spinning is allowed, and the spun skein sample shall be washed as part of the evaluation process.
 - b.** The skein shall be washed by the Judge using only soap or a scouring product and rinsed in clear water with no other enhancing products added (e.g., fabric softener, conditioner and other enhancing products) using the same method and procedure for each skein.
 - 3.** Return the spun and washed skein to the zipper type plastic bag containing the unspun fleece, or place the skein into a smaller size clear bag which then is returned to the zipper type bag containing the unspun fleece.
 - 4.** Complete a Scorecard (in ink) containing scores and comments or feedback for the exhibitor for each sample and include it in the zipper type bag. This Scorecard is to be returned to exhibitor, after display of results and at conclusion of show. If disqualified, the reason for disqualification shall be noted on the Scorecard.
 - 5.** Complete and sign a Judge's Worksheet recording scores and placings for each entry in each class. Note: All disqualifications and reason for disqualification shall be noted on the Judge's Worksheet.
 - 6.** Return judged entries to Spin-Off Show Superintendent at least one week prior to the event where the competition is to be displayed.
- W.** The Spin-Off Show Superintendent shall supply End of Show Requirements including the original signed Judge's Worksheet and Spin-Off results to the AOA Show System Office within 20 days of the conclusion of the show as the official records of the AOA Show System.

Chapter 22. Procedures for Show Management—Fleece Shows

Section 1. Fleece Show Stations and Setup

In order for Fleece Shows to proceed efficiently, the following steps are suggested.

A. Setup (4+ Volunteers for every 50 Fleecees)

1. Lighting (full spectrum preferred) must be adequate to fully evaluate fleece characteristics at all times of the day.
2. Arrange tables for:
 - a. Fleece classes—The number of tables necessary to accommodate your Fleece Show will be determined by the length and depth of tables available for your use and by the size of fleece boxes you've chosen to use. (For example, a table 24" wide by 8' long can accommodate six 16" x 16" boxes side to side so against a wall eighteen 16" x 16" fleece boxes will easily fit on an 8" table. If the table is in a center aisle with access to both sides then the boxes can be stacked side to side and back to back three high; so a table in a center aisle will minimally accommodate thirty-six 16" x 16" fleece boxes.)
 - b. Judging areas—The judging tables should be of a height so that the Judge does not have to bend at the waist to evaluate the fleece. The tables should be of adequate width to accommodate the largest fleece (suggested minimum width is 24"). It is most efficient to set up the judging stations in a "U" shape. On the floor underneath the entire judging station, a thick pad covered in carpeting on which the Judge will stand is also highly suggested.
 - c. Check-in/Check-out/verification of fleece scores—These three functions can be performed in the same location.
3. Build fleece boxes and arrange in classes on fleece tables.
4. It is suggested to keep all classes within a Color Group together. (Example: Do not have the WH juvenile classes on one end of the Fleece Show and the WH yearling classes on the other end of the Fleece Show. Keep them grouped as close together as feasible as this will save wear and tear on you, the Judges, and your volunteers.)
5. Tape signs to the wall, or table tops, including the class number and color and age division for each class including the number of fleeces in each class. It is also advisable to have the exact number of boxes on the tables needed for each class.
6. Each fleece entry must be weighed twice at the specified times as described in this Section. Setup and calibrate the scale: Only one scale must be used for weighing all of the fleeces in the show. It must be a digital scale (not a postal scale) and set to weigh in pounds and 1/10 pounds (decimal system), not in pounds and ounces or kilograms. It should have a "tare" function and will be more accurate if it will only weigh up to 20 pounds maximum. The scale must be set on an immovable, solid surface for weighing each fleece. The scale must be calibrated at the beginning of every Fleece Show, and fleeces shall not be weighed until any issues with calibration are resolved.
7. Make certain all supplies are ready: (Sign-in list; paid list; color charts; clip boards; Judge's Scorecards; Judge's Worksheets; clear plastic bags of 1 mil or less thickness and approximately 30 gallons; calculators; at least one adding machine with a tape for final addition verification; calendars; scissors; mechanical pencils; ink pens).

B. Setup Check-in Stations.

1. Station # 1: Verify entry name and payment. If Fleece Entry Tags have not been completed have the owner complete them now. If the fleece bag does not comply with the required up to 1 mil thickness and approximately 30 gallon size, have the exhibitor re-bag the fleece into the required bag. After confirming that entry tags are complete, send exhibitor/owner to Station # 2. NOTE: It is required that the Fleece Show Superintendent procure the mandatory, allowable plastic bags identified on the website, www.AlpacaInfo.com/show/handbook, and have them available at the show. All fleeces entered in any other bag size MUST be transferred to an acceptable new bag.
2. Station # 2: Exhibitor/owner receives pre-assigned "Entry Number" for each fleece. Copy of the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate is checked against Fleece Entry Tag for correct birthday, AOA registry number and owner name. Unique "Entry Number" is verified with the master list. Unique "Entry Number" is written in all three sections of the Fleece Entry Tag.
 - a. The lower portion of Fleece Entry Tag is cut off and given to exhibitor for pickup of fleece.
 - b. The middle portion of Fleece Entry Tag containing the exhibitor name and alpaca name is cut off and kept separate from fleece.
 - c. The top portion of the Fleece Entry Tag is placed in the bag so it is easily visible.

3. Station # 3: Entry number is written in ink on the appropriate Judge's Score card (Huacaya or Suri) which is also placed in the fleece bag so it is easily visible.
4. Station #4: Weigh the fleece for the first time. A solid surface or container (such as a box) large enough to contain the ENTIRE fleece must be set on the scale for weighing each fleece. The scale must be tared to read "0.0" pounds to include the weight of the container on the scale. It is strongly recommended that one individual assumes oversight and supervision for the process or weighing all of the fleeces in the show. Once the fleece is accurately weighed, the fleece weight in pounds and 1/100 pounds is written on the Fleece Entry Tag. Next, the Annualized Fleece Weight must be calculated. It is imperative that the individuals performing this task are well versed and accurate in calculating the annualized weight of each fleece. The Annualized Fleece Weight is calculated in the following manner: Multiply the actual pounds by 365, then divide the result by the number of days of growth. This result is then written on the Fleece Entry Tag in pounds and rounded to 1/10 pounds.

Example: Fleece weighs 3.26 pounds X 365 days in a year = 1189.9. Fleece number of days of growth = 350. 1189.9 divided by 350=3.399 (round of 3.4).

When weighing a noodled fleece, the fleece must be removed from the carrying bag and ONLY the noodled fleece wrapped in a plastic sheet is to be weighed.

5. Station # 5: Color Steward checks the color of the entry for appropriateness against AOA Color Chart. (Note: the fleece is not removed from the bag to accomplish this task! If there is a question about appropriateness of a fleece's color, this shall be brought to the attention of the Fleece Judge(s) who will determine the color of the fleece.) Color checking for a noodled fleece entry requires that the plastic be unrolled and gently opened to at least the center of the fleece. After color designation has been verified, the plastic will be laid back across the fleece and the fleece will be re-rolled and placed back into its plastic carrying bag to move to the appropriate class.
6. Station # 6: Fleeces are sorted and placed into their appropriate class, by age division and Color Group/ Designation.
7. Weigh the fleece for the second time. This second weighing would be done prior to judging and just before the volunteer places the fleece on the table for the Judge.
8. Make certain all supplies are ready: Sign- in list; paid list; color charts; clip boards; Judge's Scorecards; Judge's Worksheets; required clear plastic bags SKU # S-10920; calculators; scissors; mechanical pencils; ink pens.

C. Assistants(s) to Judge(s):

1. Scribe: This assistant must have acute listening and transcribing skills and be able to succinctly interact with the Judge and accurately reflect onto the Judge's Worksheet the Judge's scores for a fleece. The scribe will also add the fleece scores as the Judge concludes that fleece's scoring. The Judge's Worksheets shall be written in pencil, and signed by the Judge in ink. Although the scribe should interact at the Judge's direction, the scribe is there to listen not to initiate conversation.
2. Transcription Clerks: The transcription clerk will take the Judge's Worksheet and will transcribe the information for each fleece from the Judge's Worksheet onto individual Scorecards for each fleece in the class. The Scorecard is re-added by the transcription clerk as a second verification to the accuracy of the addition of the score. If an error in addition is discovered, this error is to be brought immediately to the attention of the Judge. The Scorecard shall be transcribed in ink. The Scorecard is returned to the Judge with the appropriate Judge's Worksheet and the Judge shall sign the Scorecard in ink. The signed Scorecard is then placed into the appropriate fleece bag.
3. Class Setup Clerks: A minimum of two volunteers are needed per Judge to retrieve fleece classes and place them on the Judge's table for the Judge to review and judge the class. They will carefully remove fleeces from their bags, assure that the Fleece Entry Tags remain with the appropriate fleeces, carefully re-bag fleeces and replace the appropriate Fleece Entry Tag with the fleece when judging of the class has concluded, and return the judged fleeces to their appropriate boxes and class on the fleece tables.
Note: There should be no downtime for the Judge; except for sweeping clear the judging table of any fiber from the previous class. The next class should be ready to go onto the Judge's table once any fiber from the previous class is removed.
4. Fleece Check-out Clerks: Take pick-up tag from exhibitor/owner, find matching fleece, remove/keep the top portion of the Fleece Entry Tag and releases the fleece to the exhibitor/owner. The Scorecard remains in the bag with the fleece for the exhibitor/owner.

Section 2. Walking Fleece Show

- A.** Staging area(s) for Walking Fleece classes must be of adequate size to accommodate the largest class expected in the show.
- B.** Lighting must be adequate to fully evaluate fleece characteristics at all times of the day.
- C.** Optional: There may be two judging stations for each Walking Fleece Judge. For example, a table can be used to create two stations, where the alpaca being judged is evaluated on one side of the table, and the next alpaca to be judged is positioned on the other side of the table so the Judge can simply turn and walk around to evaluate the next alpaca.
- D.** The following staff is required per Walking Fleece Judge:
 - 1. One Scribe
 - 2. One Transcription Clerk
 - 3. One Gate Steward
 - 4. One Ring Steward

NOTE: While a separate Gate Steward and Ring Steward are recommended, the positions may be combined at the show's discretion.
- E.** The following protocol and assigned tasks shall be adhered to for each Walking Fleece class:
 - 1. Scribe: The scribe writes the scores on the Walking Fleece Judge's Worksheet for each entry as the Judge calls out points. The scribe will add the scores as the Judge concludes that fleece's scoring. The Judge's Worksheets shall be written in pencil, and signed by the Judge in ink.
 - 2. Transcription Clerk: The transcription clerk will take the Judge's Worksheet and will transcribe the information for each entry in the class from the Judge's Worksheet onto the individual Scorecard for that entry. The Scorecard is re-added by the transcription clerk as a second verification to the accuracy of the addition of the score. If an error in addition is discovered, this error is to be brought immediately to the attention of the Judge. The Scorecard shall be transcribed in ink. The Scorecard is returned to the Judge with the appropriate Judge's Worksheet and the Judge shall sign the Scorecard in ink.

Chapter 23. Auxiliary Fleece Competitions

Auxiliary Fleece competitions are an opportunity for exhibiting fiber arts and skein samples. Rules generally follow the rules for Fleece Shows with breed, age division, color combining, and class size. The Approved AOA Show logo must be on all ribbons. Championships may not be offered because they are outside the scope of normal fleece judging criteria and an AOA Certified Fleece Judge is not required for either Judges or judging criteria for these classes.

Section 1. Hand-Spun Skein

- A. Hand-spinners have an opportunity to showcase their skill working with alpaca fiber.
- B. Entries must be submitted in the name of the spinner. A completed Entry Tag must be placed in a plain clear zipper-type gallon-size bag with the skein, stating the spinner's name, address, and class number. If known, the name and a photograph of the alpaca from which the fiber was spun may also be included and attached to the Entry Tag.
- C. Skeins must have been completed during the last year.
- D. Hand-spun skeins will be divided by Group, Category, and Class as follows:
 - 1. Groups:
 - a. Beginner spinner (spinning less than one year).
 - 1) Junior—ages 18 and younger.
 - 2) Adult—over age 18.
 - b. Intermediate spinner (spinning for more than one year).
 - c. Advanced spinner (spinning for more than three years).
 - 2. Categories:
 - a. Yarn spun from commercially prepared fiber (roving, bats, tops, etc).
 - b. Yarn spun from fiber hand prepared by the spinner.
 - 3. Classes:
 - a. Classic yarn:
 - 1) Singles—100% Huacaya (natural or dyed).
 - 2) Singles—100% Suri (natural or dyed).
 - 3) 2 or more ply—100% Huacaya (natural or dyed).
 - 4) 2 or more ply—100% Suri (natural or dyed).
 - 5) 2 or more ply—blends (at least 50% alpaca).
 - b. Hand spindle: any ply (at least 50% alpaca).
 - c. Novelty yarn: to qualify as Novelty, the yarn must be spun using a defined technique (Nap, Core, Spiral, Knot, Slub, Boucles, Beaded, etc.), be well constructed, and comprised of at least 50% alpaca.
- E. Each exhibitor may enter two skeins per Group/Category/Class provided they are of different fiber preparations (Example of different fiber preparations—combed vs. carded or woolen vs. worsted).
- F. Skeins must be at least 50 yards in length, 1.5 to 2 yards in circumference, neatly wound, “figure 8” tied in 4 places and placed in a plain clear zipper type gallon-sized plastic bag. Points may be deducted for any skein that is not at least 50 yards in length.
- G. Each skein must be accompanied by a written construction description. The construction description requires, but is not limited to, the following information: Fiber preparation, fiber content, techniques used and intended use of the yarn (clothing, rug, decoration, etc.). This construction description will be included in the points for judging. Written construction descriptions shall not exceed a 3" x 5" card and must not contain identifying information, including but not limited to alpaca name, individual name or ranch identifying information. Note: Description cards containing identifying information will be removed and no points for written description will be awarded.
- H. No substitutions at the show.
- I. Judging criteria: Items will be judged anonymously with points given for:
 - 1. Visual appeal (Total possible points: 20).
 - a. Luster/Brightness (6).
 - b. Cleanliness (8).
 - c. Color (3).
 - d. Skein appearance (3).
 - 2. Handle (Total possible points: 20).
 - 3. Craftsmanship (Total possible points: 50).
 - a. Cohesiveness (Subtotal possible points: 30).
 - 1) Amount of twist and execution (8).

- 2) Appropriate number of plies (6).
- 3) Diameter of yarn (6).
- 4) Structurally durable (10).
- b. Consistent application of technique (Subtotal possible points: 20).
Note: The 20 points for consistent application of technique will be allocated evenly amongst the sub-criteria based on the class being judged.
 - 1) Dyeing/blending.
 - 2) Novelty technique.
 - 3) Plying technique.
- 4. Construction description and intent (Total possible points: 10) 3 x 5 card.
Note: Construction description should include but is not limited to the above criteria.
 - a. Yarn suitable for intended use.
 - b. Fiber preparation techniques, etc.
- J. Skeins exhibiting parasitic infestation shall be disqualified and the reason for the disqualification shall be recorded on the Judge's Worksheet.
- K. The minimum skein score to award a blue ribbon is 60. If none of the skeins in a class achieve 60 points or above then the Judge shall start placements with a red ribbon in that class.
- L. First-third place ribbons shall be awarded in each Group/Category/Class. Shows have the option to award fourth-sixth place ribbons as well.
- M. Special awards: Judge's Choice and People's Choice may be offered. The intent to offer these awards must be indicated when the show certification is requested. Limited to one of each award per breed type. An entry must have a minimum score of 80 points for Judge's Choice.
- N. The Judge or Hand-Spun Skein Show Superintendent may change the Group/Category/Class of an item at their discretion.
- O. Classes may be combined if less than four entries per class are received. If after combining classes there are still less than four entries per class, the Judge or Hand-Spun Skein Show Superintendent may combine by Group as well.
- P. Classic yarn classes may be divided, at the Judge's discretion, as follows:
 - 1. First by color, using the Color Combining Chart (see illustration under Fleece Show Color Rules).
 - 2. Then they may be further divided, by yarn weight, where weights are measured by wraps per inch:
 - a. Fine: 19 or more wraps per inch.
 - b. Medium: between 12 and 19 wraps per inch.
 - c. Bulky: 1–11 wraps per inch.
- Q. There shall be no ties in scores.
- R. Judge's decisions are final.
- S. Skein Scorecards represent feedback from the Judge, shall be completed in ink and signed in ink by the Judge, and shall be returned to the exhibitor with their skein.
- T. A Judge's Worksheet is completed in pencil and signed in ink by the Judge for each class, reflecting the exact scores and placement on the individual scorecards and is forwarded to the AOA Show System Administrator to be retained as the official record of the show. All disqualifications shall be noted on the Judge's Worksheet.
- U. The Hand-spun Skein Show Superintendent shall return the End of Show Requirements including the original signed Judge's Worksheet and Hand-spun Skein results to the AOA Show System Administrator within **20** days of the conclusion of the show as the official records of the AOA Show System.

Section 2. Mill-Spun Skein

- A. Mills have an opportunity to showcase their skill working with alpaca fiber and farms have an opportunity to showcase their fiber that has been mill-spun.
- B. Mill-Spun competition will be divided by categories and classes as follows:
 - 1. Categories:
 - a. Mill skeins: Entered by a mill demonstrating their best work.
 - b. Farm skeins: Entered by an individual farm showing the quality of yarn from their fiber.
 - 2. Classes:
 - a. Finer yarns: 100% alpaca
 - 1) Knitting Superfine/Fine Yarn (Sock, Fingering, Baby, Sport).
 - 2) Weaving 1200 yards/lb or greater.

- b. Finer yarns: At least 50% alpaca
 - 1) Knitting Superfine/Fine Yarn (Sock, Fingering, Baby, Sport).
 - 2) Weaving 1200 yards/lb or greater.
 - c. Light/Medium yarns: 100% alpaca
 - 1) Knitting (DK, Light Worsted, Worsted, Afghan, Aran).
 - 2) Weaving 850 yards/lb– 1199 yards/lb.
 - d. Light/Medium yarns: At least 50% alpaca
 - 1) Knitting (DK, Light Worsted, Worsted, Afghan, Aran).
 - 2) Weaving 850 yards/lb– 1199 yards/lb.
 - e. Bulky yarns: 100% alpaca
 - 1) Knitting Bulky/Super Bulky (Chunky, Craft, Rug, Bulky).
 - 2) Weaving less than 850 yards/lb.
 - f. Bulky yarns: At least 50% alpaca
 - 1) Knitting Bulky/Super Bulky (Chunky, Craft, Rug, Bulky).
 - 2) Weaving less than 850 yards/lb.
 - g. Novelty yarn: Boucles, Thick and Thin, Beaded, etc., be well constructed, and comprised of at least 50% alpaca
- C.** Entries must be submitted in the name of the mill or farm depending upon Category. A completed Entry Tag must be placed in a clear zipper type gallon size bag with the skein. The tag will include the mill name if submitted by the mill (farm and mill name if submitted by the farm), address, and classification.
- D.** Skein must have been completed during the last year.
- E.** Each exhibitor may enter two entries per Category/Class provided they are from different production runs and/or dye lots.
- F.** Skeins must be at least 100 yards in length, 1.5 to 2 yards in circumference, neatly wound, “figure 8” tied in four places and placed in a zipper type gallon-size clear plastic bag. Points may be deducted for any skein that is not at least 100 yards in length.
- G.** Each skein must be accompanied by a written construction description. The construction description requires, but is not limited to, the following information: Fiber content, techniques used and intended use of the yarn (clothing, rug, decoration, etc.). The construction description will be included in the points for judging. Written construction descriptions shall not exceed a 3” x 5” card and must not contain identifying information, including but not limited to alpaca name, individual name or ranch identifying information. Note: Description cards containing identifying information will be removed and no points for written description will be awarded.
- H.** No substitutions at the show.
- I.** Identifying information or labels on items is prohibited.
- J.** Judging criteria — items will be judged anonymously with points given for:
- 1. Visual appeal (Total possible points: 20).
 - a. Luster/Brightness (6).
 - b. Cleanliness (8).
 - c. Color (3).
 - d. Skein appearance and appropriateness of class (3).
 - 2. Handle (Total possible points: 20).
 - 3. Craftsmanship (Total possible points: 50).
 - a. Cohesiveness (Subtotal possible points: 40).
 - 1) Amount of twist and execution (10).
 - 2) Appropriate number of plies (10).
 - 3) Uniformity (10).
 - 4) Structural durability (10).
 - b. Consistent application of technique (Subtotal possible points: 10).

Note: The 10 points for consistent application of technique will be allocated evenly amongst the sub-criteria based on the class being judged.

 - 1) Dyeing/blending.
 - 2) Novelty technique.
 - 3) Plying technique.
 - 4. Construction Description and Intent: (Total possible points: 10). A 3 x 5 card construction description should include but is not limited to the above description.

- K. Skeins exhibiting parasitic infestation shall be disqualified and the reason for the disqualification shall be recorded on Judge's Worksheet.
- L. The minimum skein score to award a blue ribbon is 60. If none of the skeins in a class achieve 60 points or above then the Judge shall start placements with a red ribbon in that class.
- M. First through third place ribbons shall be awarded in each Category/Class. Shows have the option to award fourth through sixth place ribbons as well.
- N. Special awards: Judge's Choice and People's Choice may be offered. The intent to offer these awards must be indicated when the show certification is requested. Limited to one of each award per breed type. An entry must have a minimum score of 80 points for Judge's Choice.
- O. The Judge or Mill-Spun Skein Show Superintendent may change the Category/Class of an item at their discretion.
- P. Classes may be combined if less than four entries per class are received. If after combining classes there are still less than four entries, then the Judge or Mill-Spun Skein Show Superintendent may combine by Category, as well.
- Q. Classes may be divided, at the Judge's discretion, by color, using the Color Combining Chart (see illustration under Fleece Show Color Rules). Classes may be further divided, by dyed or natural color.
- R. There shall be no ties in scores.
- S. Judge's decisions are final.
- T. Skein Scorecards represent feedback from the Judge, shall be completed in ink and signed in ink by the Judge, and shall be returned to the exhibitor with their skein.
- U. A Judge's Worksheet is completed in pencil and signed in ink by the Judge for each class, reflecting the exact scores and placement on the individual scorecards and is forwarded to the AOA Show System Administrator to be retained as the official record of the show.
- V. The Mill-Spun Skein Show Superintendent shall return the End of Show Requirements including the original signed Judge's Worksheet and Mill-Spun Skein results to the AOA Show System Administrator within **20** days of the conclusion of the show as the official records of the AOA Show System.

Section 3. Fiber Arts

The purpose of the Fiber Arts competition is to showcase products made with alpaca fiber.

- A. A completed Entry Tag must accompany the item, stating the farm name and/or the artisans name, address, and item's classification. If known, the name and a photograph of the alpaca from which the fiber was gathered may also be included and attached to the Entry Tag.-
- B. Items must have been completed during the last year.
- C. All entries, in all classes, must consist of a minimum of 50% alpaca fiber.
- D. Fiber Arts items will be divided by Division, Category, Group and Class as follows:
 - 1. Divisions:
 - a. Beginner: (working in the Fiber Art for less than two years).
 - 1) **Youth All ages are as of January 1 of the calendar year of the show.**
 - a) **Sub-junior Youth 5–8 years**
 - b) **Junior Youth 9–10 years**
 - c) **Intermediate Youth 11–13 years**
 - d) **Senior Youth 14–18 years**
 - 2) **Adult—over age 18.**
 - b. Intermediate (working in the Fiber Arts for more than two years).
 - c. Advanced (working in the Fiber Arts for more than five years and/or has submitted to a juried event).
 - 2. Categories:
 - a. All handwork: 100% handspun yarns with 100% hand-made construction, and/or 100% hand felted (may use commercially prepared roving).
 - b. Partial or non-handwork:
 - 1) Use of commercially spun yarn and/or machine knitted, woven or felted.
 - 2) Less than 100% hand felting.
 - 3. Groups:
 - a. Woven.
 - b. Felt.
 - c. Knit.
 - d. Crochet.
 - e. Lace.

- f. Multiple construction techniques.
- 4. Classes:
 - a. Accessories—any technique.
 - 1) Gloves, hats, socks, slippers, purses and other small wearable items such as jewelry.
 - 2) Shawls and scarves.
 - b. Garments—any technique: Sweaters, jackets, dresses, vests or complete outfits.
 - c. Hearth & Home—any technique.
 - 1) Art and toys (pictures, figurines, etc.).
 - 2) Home furnishings (rugs, pillows, afghans, wall hangings, containers, etc).
- E. Each artisan may enter one item per Division/Category/Group/Class.
- F. Each item must be accompanied by a written description that provides construction details. This description will be included in the points for judging. The description requires, but is not limited to, the following information:
 - 1. Fiber preparation.
 - 2. Fiber content.
 - 3. Techniques used.
 - 4. Intended use.
- G. Written descriptions shall not exceed a 3" x 5" card and must not contain identifying information, including but not limited to alpaca name, individual name, or ranch identifying information. Note: Description cards containing identifying information will be removed and no points for written description will be awarded.
- H. No substitutions at the show.
- I. Judging criteria: Items will be judged anonymously with points given for:
 - 1. Visual appeal (Total possible points: 25).
 - a. Design (9).
 - b. Color (8).
 - c. Texture (8).
 - 2. Craftsmanship (Total possible point: 60).
 - a. Cleanliness (5).
 - b. Cohesiveness (Subtotal possible points: 15):
 - 1) Consistency.
 - 2) Tension.
 - 3) Gauge/stitch size, etc.
 - 4) Correctness of finish.
 - c. Structural durability (Subtotal possible points: 20):
 - 1) Selvedges/joins.
 - 2) Correct needle size or correct set.
 - d. Finishing (Subtotal possible points: 20):
 - 1) Notions.
 - 2) Blocking.
 - 3) Final finishing.
 - 4) Handle.
 - e. Creativity and innovation (Total possible points: 10).
 - f. Construction description and Intent (Total possible points: 5).
- J. Fiber Arts exhibiting parasitic infestation shall be disqualified and the reason for disqualification shall be recorded on Judge's Worksheet.
- K. The minimum Fiber Arts Score to award a blue ribbon is 60. If none of the items in a class achieve 60 points or above then the Judge shall start placements with a red ribbon in that class.
- L. First through third place ribbons shall be awarded in each Division/Category/Group/Class. Show may award fourth through sixth place ribbons as well.
- M. The Judge or Fiber Arts Show Superintendent may change the Category/Class of an item at his/her discretion.
- N. Classes may be combined if less than four entries per class are received.
- O. Special awards: The show may choose to offer Judge's Choice and People's Choice Awards. The intent to offer these awards shall be indicated on the Application for Certification. An entry must have a minimum score of 80 points for Judge's Choice.
- P. There shall be no ties in scores.

- Q.** Judge's decisions are final.
- R.** A Fiber Arts Scorecard shall be completed in ink and signed in ink by the Judge for each item entered. Fiber Arts Scorecards represent feedback from the Judge, and shall be returned to the exhibitor with the entry.
- S.** The Judge shall complete a Fiber Arts Worksheet in pencil and signed in ink.
- T.** The Fiber Arts Show Superintendent shall return the End of Show Requirements including the original signed Judge's Worksheet and Fiber Arts results to the AOA Show System Administrator within 20 days of the conclusion of the show as the official records of the AOA Show System.

PART VII. AOA CERTIFIED PERFORMANCE COMPETITIONS

Chapter 24. Performance Show Overview

Section 1. Performance Show Classes

- A. Performance Show classes may be held at any AOA Certified Show and include:
 - 1. Showmanship
 - 2. Public Relations
 - 3. Obstacle
- B. Performance Shows may offer various cash prizes, jackpots, or awards within the framework of existing show rules. A description shall be provided by the show on the AOA Certification Application. The Certified AOA Show logo must be on all ribbons and banners.

Section 2. Age Class Categories

- A. Youth classes:
 - 1. All ages are as of January 1 of the calendar year of the show.
 - a. Sub-junior Youth: 5–8 years
Note: Entries in sub-junior youth classes will be judged and placed as in the older youth divisions. Entries that do not place may receive participant ribbons of the same quality and size as the placement ribbons.
 - b. Junior Youth: 9–10 years
 - c. Intermediate Youth: 11–13 years
 - d. Senior Youth: 14–18 years
 - 2. Maximum class size is 11; classes of 12 or more entries must be split into two classes of equal size according to the chronological age of the youth.
 - 3. Youth must show in appropriate age classes. Classes may not be combined regardless of the number of entries in each age class.
 - 4. AOA Certified youth classes may be held as freestanding shows offering only youth/exhibition/fun classes.
- B. Adult classes:
 - 1. Adult age is 19 years and older as of January 1 of the calendar year of the show.
 - 2. Maximum class size is 11; classes of 12 or more entries must be split into two classes of equal size.

Section 3. Eligibility

- A. Exhibitor eligibility:
 - 1. Obstacle and public relations entries are made in the name of the registered animal.
 - 2. Showmanship entries are made in the name of the handler.
 - 3. Exhibitors may enter only one alpaca per showmanship, obstacle and public relations class.
 - 4. Youth must have written permission (signature on entry forms) of a parent, project leader, 4-H advisor or FFA advisor to participate in a youth event.
- B. Alpaca eligibility:
 - 1. An alpaca shown in a youth obstacle or youth public relations class may not be shown in an Adult obstacle or Adult public relations class.
 - 2. Alpacas shown in any Performance Show classes may not be used more than twice in classes that use the identical course.

Section 4. General Rules for Performance Shows

NOTE: Due to potential scheduling constraints, Exhibitors must be aware that there may be ring/time conflicts if an alpaca is entered in other halter classes in addition to the Performance classes (showmanship, obstacle and public relations) at the show.

- A. Show Management must fill performance coordinator, score keeper, and course designer assignments prior to the show.
- B. The alpaca must be shown in a naturally clean pasture condition wearing a well-fitted halter and lead. Conservative colors for halter and lead are suggested. The alpaca may not wear any other ornamental item, nor have toenails or fleece painted in any way.
- C. Obstacles should be constructed with safety of the alpaca and exhibitor in mind.

- D. If there is just one Judge, the competitors will work through obstacle courses one at a time.
- E. If there is more than one Judge for the course, the next competitor begins the course as soon as the Judge is ready and the first section of the course is clear.
- F. 4-H or FFA approved apparel may be worn in the show ring in youth classes only with personal names covered.
- G. Attire should be neat, conservative and appropriate for the class. Dark trousers or skirts and white shirts or blouses are recommended for showmanship classes. Only closed toe and closed heel shoes are permitted to be worn in the show ring.
- H. Alpacas may be shown full fleece or shorn.
- I. Training aids such as clickers and treats may not be used in the show ring.

Section 5. Approved Performance Show Awards

- A. Youth Performance Champion awards (youth classes only):
 - 1. Open to youth in all of the age divisions.
 - 2. To be eligible at shows where this award is offered the youth and the same alpaca must be entered in:
 - a. Appropriate age division youth showmanship class.
 - b. Appropriate age division youth public relations class.
 - c. Appropriate age division youth obstacle class.
 - 3. Shows offering youth Performance Champion and Reserve Champion awards must have at least three entrants in all three classes in an age division (Example: three junior youth in each of the three junior classes).
 - 4. When youth classes in an age division are split, only one Performance youth Champion and one Reserve Champion will be awarded.
 - 5. Points are awarded in each class according to the AOA Point Chart (see chart at the end of this section). Highest accumulated total wins.
 - 6. If an age class exceeds the maximum class size and has to be split, points will be determined by using the total number of entries in that age class, and not for each split class.
 - 7. Ties will be broken by the placings in the showmanship class.
- B. Advanced Showmanship (youth classes):
 - 1. This optional class is open to intermediate and senior youth age divisions. These age divisions will be combined into one class. The objectives of this class require:
 - a. A higher degree of difficulty on the patterns and questions asked of the handlers.
 - b. A switch of handlers and alpacas. The handler and the same alpaca from showmanship class will enter the ring together. Once lined up, the Judge will make the decision on exchanging alpacas with the other handlers in the class.
 - 2. Eligibility: Must have taken first place in showmanship class.
 - 3. This class will not be included in Championship and Reserve Championship scores.
 - 4. All showmanship rules apply.

Section 6. AOA Point Chart

The following chart is utilized to determine the youth Performance Champion.

POINT CHART	PLACE AWARDED						
# of Entries	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
3 or 4	1						
5	2	1					
6	3	2	1				
7	4	3	2	1			
8 to 11	5	4	3	2	1		
12 to 15	6	5	4	3	2	1	
16+	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Section 7. Youth Performance Exhibition Classes

Youth Performance Exhibition classes may be offered. Contact AOA Show Administrator for details.

Chapter 25. Approved Performance Show Classes

Section 1. Showmanship Class

- A. Showmanship class description: The showmanship class is judged solely on the handler's ability to prepare and present their alpaca at halter. The alpaca participates with the handler during the class to demonstrate the handler's preparation and style of presenting their alpaca to the Judge for evaluation. The alpaca's quality is not part of the judging.
- B. Showmanship class conduct and scoring:
 - 1. Appearance:
 - a. It is recommended that handlers wear white shirts, dark long pants or skirts. Only closed toe and closed heel shoes are permitted to be worn in the show ring.
 - b. The ideal showmanship performance consists of handlers who are poised, confident, courteous, and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times, quickly recognizing and correcting faults in the positioning of themselves or their alpaca.
 - c. The handler should continue showing their alpaca until the class has been completed, or they have been excused, unless otherwise directed by the Judge.
 - d. The handler should appear attentive, stand quietly at setup, move in a straight, natural, and upright manner, and display a positive attitude.
 - e. The alpaca shown in the showmanship class may be either full fleece or shorn. When presenting in full fleece, the alpaca needs to be in a naturally clean pasture condition, is show ready and performs the required movements with promptness and willingness.
 - f. The alpaca's face and legs should be clean and toenails trimmed. When presenting a shorn alpaca, the alpaca needs to be clean and toenails trimmed.
 - g. The alpaca can wear no ornamentation or fleece or toenail dressings of any kind.
 - 2. Presentation:
 - a. The team should perform the requested work accurately and smoothly with a reasonable amount of speed, however accuracy and smoothness should not be sacrificed for speed.
 - b. The alpaca should lead, stop, turn, back up, and set up willingly with minimal visible or audible cueing.
 - c. The handler should walk on the alpaca's left side holding the lead in the right hand 8 to 16 inches from the halter, not on the snap or snap attachment, with the tail of the lead folded neatly in the left hand. The lead shall not be used to continuously pull the alpaca's head up nor used to hold up the handler's hand and arm, but should be held slightly to the left of the halter ring with no continuous pressure applied. When walking, the handler should be positioned just behind the eye of the alpaca.
 - d. When setting up for inspection, the handler should stand with their feet in a 45 degree angled position off the alpaca's shoulder and pointing at the alpaca's feet (see performance illustration in Chapter 27). The handler should maintain a position that is safe for themselves and the Judge during the inspection (see performance illustration in Chapter 27). The position of the handler should not obstruct the Judge's view of the alpaca and should allow the handler to maintain awareness of the Judge's position at all times. While moving around the alpaca, the handler should change sides in front of the alpaca slowly and smoothly and should assume the same position on the right side of the alpaca that they had on the left side.
 - e. The position of the handler, when executing a turn to the right, is done by turning to face the alpaca from leading position and having the alpaca move away from them to the right. When backing the handler should face to the rear of the alpaca from leading position with their right arm across their chest and step forward while the alpaca moves backward.
 - f. The Judge will ask the handler a question during the individual work. Questions will be about the handler's alpaca, alpacas in general and/or questions on conformation, names and/or locations of body parts. An incorrect answer does not disqualify the handler or necessarily place them below all others who answered correctly. It is merely one aspect of the overall performance section of scoring.
- C. Showmanship class procedures and individual work:
 - 1. The Judge shall describe the required pattern to the handlers at ringside just before the class begins. Patterns should be designed to test the handler's ability to effectively present the alpaca to the Judge.
 - 2. Entries should enter in Worksheet order.
 - 3. All handlers may enter the ring one after another in a group and then do their individual work, or each handler may be worked individually from the gate.
 - 4. The handler should encourage the alpaca to walk out briskly on a slack line and follow command.

5. The alpaca should be led from its left side with the lead in the handler's right hand at least eight inches from the halter. The remaining portion of the lead should be held in the handler's left hand. The lead should never be coiled around the hand.
6. The handler should understand quadrant positions to provide the Judge with an unobstructed view of the alpaca at all times. (Refer to illustration in Chapter 27 "Quadrant Position of Handler, Judge, and Alpaca in Showmanship Class").
7. The Judge will have the handlers as a group line up either in profile and/or side to side sometime during the class.
 - a. The alpaca should at all times stand or be set up squarely on all four feet.
 - b. If asked to move out of the lineup, the handler and alpaca should move in a straight line forward. The handler should be positioned at the left side of the alpaca close to the shoulder unless specifically asked to lead from the right. The handler should never stand or lead directly in front of the alpaca.
 - c. The handler should use a haunch turn when changing positions. The haunch turn is defined as turning to the right towards the alpaca.
8. The handler may be asked to perform the following maneuvers during individual work:
 - a. Follow directions from the Judge or Ring Steward.
 - b. Lead forward at a walk or trot.
 - c. Back in a straight line. When backing, the alpaca should respond to the handler's request to back a minimum number of steps indicated by the Judge, and then continue with the class pattern.
 - d. Demonstrate a change of pace.
 - e. Come to a halt.
 - f. Turn 90, 180, 270, or 360 degrees.
 - g. Show bite.
 - h. Hold alpaca for fleece inspection.
 - i. The Judge will ask the handler specific questions on their alpaca, alpacas in general and/or answer questions on conformation, names and/or locations of body parts. An incorrect answer does not disqualify the handler or necessarily place them below all others who answered correctly. It is merely one aspect of the overall performance section of scoring (see illustration Chapter 27).
9. The handler may have to touch the alpaca during the class in order to reposition, rebalance or move it forward or backward. While permissible, these actions may be judged accordingly. Any errors in the position of the alpaca should be recognized and promptly corrected. Handlers should avoid excessive manipulation and maneuvering and should remain as natural as possible.
- D. Showmanship class placings:
 1. Will be based on accumulation of positive showing actions based on overall preparation and appearance, presentation and proper ring procedure.
 2. Scoring is from 0 to 100 points.

Section 2. Public Relations Class

- A. Public relations class description: The public relations class demonstrates the teamwork between the handler and their alpaca through a variety of obstacles associated with public events, appearances, or parades. The alpaca works with the handler to show its level of training, poise, and willingness to cooperate, and its performance contributes to the handler's score throughout the course. The alpaca's physical quality is not part of the judging. The ideal performance is a calm, poised team that completes the required movements promptly and willingly on a loose lead.
- B. Public relations class course:
 1. There are no mandatory obstacles for the public relations class. The pattern to be used during the class should be posted outside the ring at least one hour prior to the beginning of the class and earlier if possible. Alternatively the Judge will perform a "walk through" of the course just prior to the first team's performance with all entrants encouraged to participate. This is a handler only "walk through" without the alpaca.
 2. The course for the sub-junior youth class shall be determined by Show Management.
 3. The minimum requirements for the difficulty of obstacles in each of the age classes are listed below. A show can increase the difficulty of obstacles in age classes as long as the number of total obstacles in the age class remains the same.
 - a. The junior youth course shall consist of eight total obstacles, with no more than three obstacles of medium difficulty and the remaining obstacles of easy difficulty.
 - b. The intermediate and senior youth course shall consist of ten approved obstacles prepared for any combination of easy to medium difficulty.

- c. The intermediate and senior youth courses shall differ from the junior youth course by at least three obstacles.
 - d. The youth public relations courses shall differ from the adult public relations course by at least four obstacles, which may be completely different obstacles or obstacles of increasing level of difficulty.
- C. Public relations class procedure:
 - 1. Entries in the class may enter the ring in any order.
 - 2. Each team performs in the ring solo, unless using a two Judge system, and then the next team will enter the course when the first Judge indicates to do so.
 - 3. Exhibitor teams may be asked to leave the ring after the third refusal.
 - 4. The Judge will indicate during the walk through if this rule will be invoked during the class.
 - 5. The scoring on the first obstacle begins as soon as the team enters the gate or beginning cones and ends half way between the first obstacle and the next obstacle and so forth.
 - 6. The scoring on the last obstacle ends when the team passes the exit cones or the exit gate whichever is indicated as the end of the course.
 - 7. After completing the course the team leaves the ring and awaits the completion of the course by all teams. The scores will then be tallied and the final results will be announced.
- D. Public relations class conduct:
 - 1. The team should perform over the required course and its obstacles accurately and smoothly with a reasonable amount of speed, however accuracy and smoothness should not be sacrificed for speed. The alpaca should willingly stride forward with its handler in leading position throughout the course with minimum visible or audible cueing.
 - 2. Touching, pushing, or pulling is not forbidden, but is discouraged and points will be deducted.
 - 3. Striking the alpaca or forcibly yanking the lead is grounds for disqualification.
 - 4. Failure to follow the prescribed pattern or pattern instructions from the Judge will not disqualify the team, but the team cannot place above other teams who have done the pattern or pattern instructions correctly. Listen carefully to the Judge during walk through.
 - 5. Handlers should be poised, confident, courteous, and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times.
 - 6. Depending on the obstacle to be negotiated, the handler should generally walk on the alpaca's left side holding the lead in the right hand 8 to 16 inches from the halter, but not on the snap or snap attachment, with the tail of the lead folded neatly in the left hand.
 - 7. The lead shall not be used to continuously pull the alpaca along (dragging), nor used to hold up the handler's hand and arm, but should be held slightly to the left of the halter ring with no continuous pressure applied. When walking, the handler should be positioned just behind the eye of the alpaca. This is the ideal leading position.
 - 8. Some obstacles may require that the team go single file. When doing so, the handler shall hold their right hand slightly behind their right hip with the alpaca following directly behind without continuous pressure on the lead. Turning to face the alpaca while going single file is discouraged and points will be deducted accordingly.
 - 9. The position of the handler, when executing a turn to the right, is done by turning to face the alpaca from leading position, and having the alpaca move away from them to the right.
 - 10. When backing the handler needs to face to the rear of the alpaca from leading position with their right arm across their chest and walk forward while the alpaca moves backward.
- E. Public relations class scoring:
 - 1. Each obstacle in the course is worth ten points.
 - 2. The team begins each obstacle with the maximum 10 points. Points or point increments will be deducted based on the team's performance over each obstacle as they move through the course.
 - 3. Each team's point total will then be tallied with the winner having the highest point total.
 - 4. Ties are to be broken using ranked obstacles named by the Judge prior to the beginning of the class.
 - 5. Any team that "breaks" the pattern or goes "off course" during their performance cannot place higher than teams who completed the course correctly. Repeating an obstacle is not considered breaking the pattern.
- F. Public relations class approved obstacles:
 - a. Bridge with step(s) or ramp or both.
 - b. Jump(s) with heights of 8 inches (easy), 12 inches to 18 inches (medium) and a maximum height of 20 inches.
 - c. Flexibility or maneuverability around objects.
 - d. Change of pace.

- e. Backing, straight 5 steps (easy), straight more than 5 steps or use two directions (medium).
- f. Load in trailer up to 12" rise (easy) up to 18" rise (medium).
- g. Load in a vehicle such as a minivan or SUV (difficult).
- h. Go through a door, gate, or similar passage.
- i. Tolerate handling or petting by people other than the handler.
- j. Go under a rail or limbo bar.
- k. Show teeth or pick up a foot, left front foot (easy), right front foot (medium), hind foot (difficult).
- l. Meet other people, animals, or strange objects.
- m. Demonstrate a safety tie.
- n. Tolerate a loud or noisy object.
- o. Go through dangling or hanging ribbons, balloons, or flags.
- p. Put a hat or sunglasses on the alpaca.
- q. Put a towel or similar small sized cover over alpacas back and remove during course.
- r. Go through curtains.
- s. Change of surface, walk over tarpaulin, plastic, sand, or plywood (easy), through water or rattling material (medium).
- t. Demonstrate willingness to complete other new obstacles of a public relations nature. New obstacles must be approved by the Judge as safe for both alpaca and handler.

Section 3. Obstacle Class

- A. Obstacle class description: The obstacle class demonstrates the teamwork between the handler and their alpaca through a variety of obstacles. The alpaca works with the handler to show its level of training and willingness to cooperate, and its performance contributes to the team's overall score. The alpaca's physical quality is not part of the judging. The ideal performance is a calm, poised team that completes the required movements promptly and willingly on a loose lead.
- B. Obstacle class course:
 - 1. The pattern to be used during the class should be posted outside the ring at least one hour prior to the beginning of the class and earlier if possible. Alternatively the Judge will perform a "walk through" of the course just prior to the first team's performance with all entrants encouraged to participate. This is a handler only "walk through" without the alpaca.
 - 2. The course for the sub-junior youth class shall be determined by Show Management.
 - 3. The minimum requirements for the difficulty of obstacles in each of the age classes are listed below. A show can increase the difficulty of obstacles in age classes as long as the number of total obstacles in the age class remains the same.
 - a. The junior youth course shall consist of eight total obstacles, with no more than three obstacles of medium difficulty and the remaining obstacles of easy difficulty.
 - b. The intermediate and senior youth course shall consist of 10 approved obstacles prepared for any combination of easy to medium difficulty.
 - c. The intermediate and senior youth courses shall differ from the junior youth course by at least three obstacles.
 - d. The youth obstacle courses shall differ from the Adult obstacle course by at least four obstacles, which may be completely different obstacles or obstacles of increasing level of difficulty.
 - e. The adult class shall consist of 10 obstacles.
- C. Mandatory obstacles for all obstacle classes except the Sub-junior youth class:
 - 1. Bridge with step(s) or ramp or both (one obstacle)
 - 2. Jump(s) with heights of 8 inches (easy), 12 inches to 18 inches (medium) and a maximum height of 20 inches. Multiple jumps must be separated by at least 5 feet.
 - 3. Flexibility or maneuverability.
 - 4. Change of pace.
 - 5. Backing, straight five steps (easy), straight more than five steps or in two directions as an "L" (medium).
- D. Additional approved obstacles for obstacle classes:
 - 1. Load in trailer up to 12 inches rise (easy) up to 18 inches rise (medium).
 - 2. Go through a gate or door.
 - 3. Walk over a teeter totter.
 - 4. Go under limbo bar.

5. Pick up a foot: left front foot (easy), right front foot (medium), hind foot (difficult).
 6. Walk through tires.
 7. Demonstrate a safety tie.
 8. Haunch turn, whole alpaca inside a rope circle.
 9. Forehand turn, front feet only inside a rope circle (easy) or tire (medium to difficult).
 10. Side pass over rail on ground, one direction only (easy), both directions (medium).
 11. Change of surface, walk over tarpaulin, plastic, sand, or plywood (easy), through water or rattling material (medium).
 12. Demonstrate willingness to complete other new obstacles approved by the Judge as safe for both alpaca and handler.
- E. Obstacle class procedure.**
1. Entries may enter the ring in any order.
 2. Each team performs in the ring solo, unless using a two Judge system, and then the next team will enter the course when the first Judge indicates to do so.
 3. Exhibitor teams may be asked to leave the ring after the third refusal. The Judge will indicate during the walk through if this rule will be invoked during the class.
 4. The scoring on the first obstacle begins as soon as the team enters the gate or beginning cones and ends half way between the first obstacle and the next obstacle and so forth.
 5. The scoring on the last obstacle ends when the team passes the exit cones or the exit gate whichever is indicated as the end of the course.
 6. After completing the course, the team leaves the ring and awaits the completion of the course by all teams. The scores will then be tallied and the final results will be announced.
 7. It is suggested but not required for the youth to bring their alpaca partner with them into the ring to accept their awards.
- F. Obstacle class conduct:**
1. The team should perform over the required course and its obstacles accurately and smoothly with a reasonable amount of speed, however accuracy and smoothness should not be sacrificed for speed.
 2. The alpaca should willingly stride forward with its handler in leading position throughout the course with minimum visible or audible cueing.
 3. Touching, pushing, or pulling is not forbidden, but is discouraged and points will be deducted.
 4. Striking the alpaca or forcibly yanking the lead is grounds for disqualification. Failure to follow the prescribed pattern or pattern instructions from the Judge will not disqualify the team, but the team cannot place above other teams who have done the pattern or pattern instructions correctly. Listen carefully to the Judge during walk through.
 5. Handlers should be poised, confident, courteous, and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times.
 6. Depending on the obstacle to be negotiated, the handler should generally walk on the alpaca's left side holding the lead in the right hand 8 to 16 inches from the halter, but not on the snap or snap attachment, with the tail of the lead folded neatly in the left hand.
 7. The lead shall not be used to continuously pull the alpaca along (dragging), nor used to hold up the handler's hand and arm, but should be held slightly to the left of the halter ring with no continuous pressure applied. When walking, the handler should be positioned just behind the eye of the alpaca. This is the ideal leading position.
 8. Some obstacles may require that the team go single file. When doing so, the handler shall hold their right hand slightly behind their right hip with the alpaca following directly behind without continuous pressure on the lead. Turning to face the alpaca while going single file is discouraged and points will be deducted accordingly.
 9. The position of the handler, when executing a turn to the right, is done by turning to face the alpaca from leading position, and having the alpaca move away from them to the right.
 10. When backing the handler needs to face to the rear of the alpaca from leading position with their right arm across their chest and walk forward while the alpaca moves backward.
- G. Obstacle class scoring:**
1. Each obstacle in the course is worth 10 points.
 2. The team begins each obstacle with the maximum 10 points. Points or point increments will be deducted based on the team's performance over each obstacle as they move through the course.

3. Each team's point total will then be tallied with the winner having the highest point total.
4. Ties are to be broken using ranked obstacles named by the Judge prior to the beginning of the class.
5. Any team that "breaks" the pattern or goes "off course" during their performance cannot place higher than teams which completed the course correctly. Repeating an obstacle is not considered breaking the pattern.

Section 4. Optional Classes for Fun

Note: The use of an AOA Certified Performance Judge is not required.

A. Gambler's Choice

It is suggested that all ages participate together. This is a timed event, with each team receiving 60 seconds to complete as many obstacles as possible. Each obstacle has a point value based on difficulty, and the competitor with the highest score wins. Every obstacle may be attempted twice, but not consecutively.

B. Costume Class

Separate youth and adult classes shall be held and never combined. When there is adequate youth participation, Show Management should consider offering separate youth classes for sub-junior, junior, intermediate, and senior. The Costume Class consists of three components: the alpaca's costume, the exhibitor's costume, and the written story describing the entry's costumes. Exhibitors must have actively participated in creating both costumes. No written scores are provided for this competition.

1. Judging for this class is based upon:

- a. 70% approximate emphasis—The originality and complexity of costume worn by the alpaca. Generally, the alpaca's costume will be rewarded for:
 - 1) Items worn on the alpaca's head and face (The alpaca must still be able to see and move safely.)
 - 2) Items worn on the alpaca's back and extend under the belly and/or chest
 - 3) Items worn on the legs
 - 4) Items that bounce and bump on the alpaca as it moves
 - 5) Items being pulled by the alpaca
 - 6) The complexity of the theme
 - 7) The imagination and creativity of the theme
- b. 20% approximate emphasis—How the alpaca's costume and the exhibitor's costume complement each other.
- c. 10% approximate emphasis—A short story prepared and written by the exhibitor that describes the characters represented by the alpaca and the exhibitor. The story must be given to the Ring Steward before the class and will be read by the announcer while the exhibitor and their alpaca parade around the ring.

C. Egg and Spoon Race

The exhibitor and their alpaca navigate a short obstacle course as quickly as possible while the exhibitor carries an egg on a spoon. In some variations, the exhibitor holds the egg and spoon while racing their alpaca against the other exhibitors in the class. The exhibitor must not touch the egg. The team that completes the course in the shortest time without breaking the egg wins.

D. Simon Says Class

This fun class emphasizes listening skills and general alpaca knowledge. There are no obstacles. Exhibitors and their alpacas enter the ring together, and the Fun Class Coordinator or a volunteer explains that only instructions preceded by the words "Simon Says" should be followed. Any instruction or question not preceded by "Simon Says" must be ignored. Once an exhibitor fails to follow the proper instruction, they are directed to wait with their alpaca in a designated area of the ring until the class is complete and a winner is determined. The winner is the last remaining exhibitor who continues to follow the correct instructions. It is suggested that all youth participate together, with adults competing in a separate class. A microphone for the Fun Class Coordinator or volunteer is helpful. Safety is encouraged at all times, and good sportsmanship is expected.

1. Examples of verbal instructions:

- a. "Simon Says, all Huacayas circle left." Complete.
- b. "Simon Says, all Suri handlers show the bite." Complete.
- c. "What's your name?" Ignore.
- d. "Simon Says, complete a haunch turn." Complete.
- e. "Stop!" Ignore.

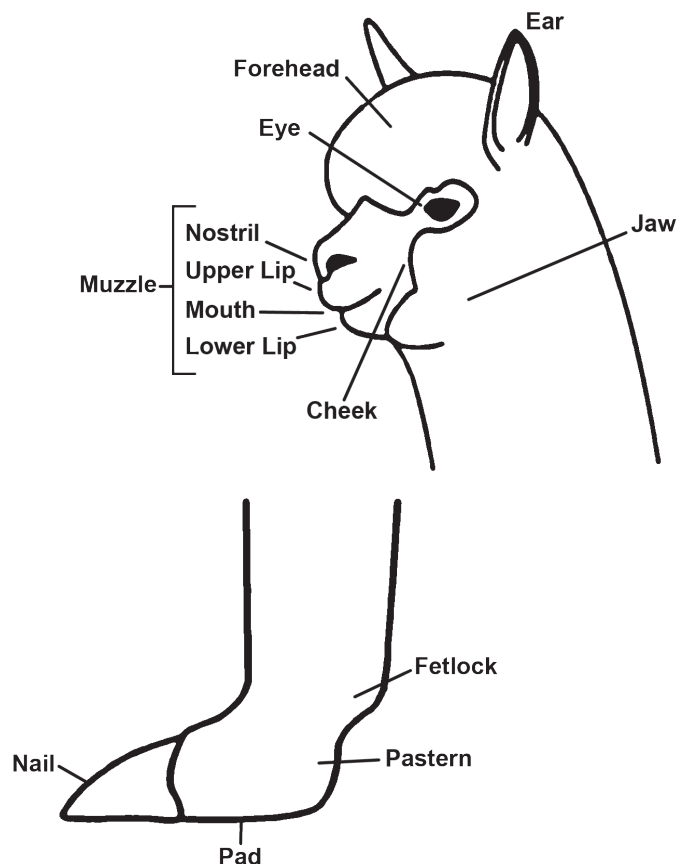
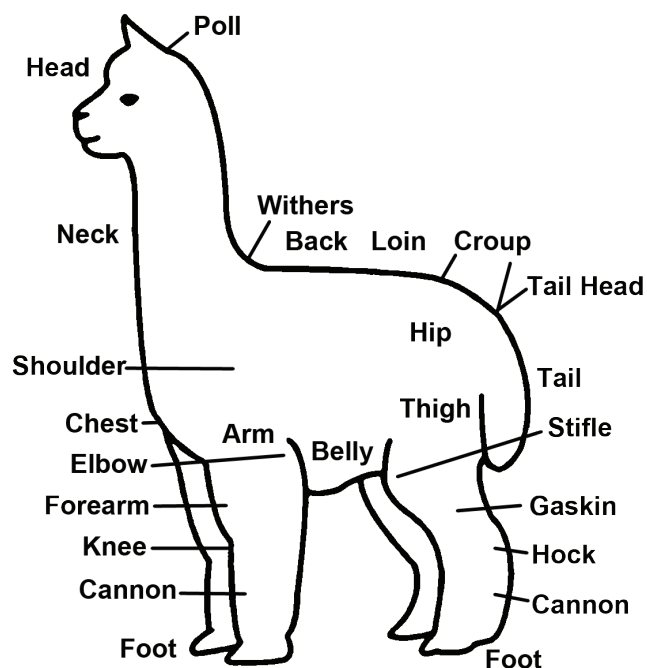
Chapter 26. Performance Faults

- A. Handler errors (Deduct 1–3 points):**
 - 1. Tight lead.
 - 2. Short lead.
 - 3. Not paying attention to alpaca.
 - 4. Lack of “team effort”/handler rapport.
 - 5. Lack of flow:
 - a. Touching, pushing, or pulling the alpaca.
 - b. Loud voice commands.
 - 6. Leading the alpaca from the wrong side.
- B. Minor faults (Deduct 1–3 points):**
 - 1. Touching obstacles.
 - 2. Turns too wide or too tight.
 - 3. Slow response to handler’s cues.
 - 4. Alpaca not paying attention.
 - 5. Bad disposition or unwillingness of alpaca.
 - 6. Nervousness, agitation, or fearfulness.
 - 7. Poor jumping form.
 - 8. Spooking when something is placed on the alpaca.
 - 9. Alpaca persistently ahead of handler.
 - 10. Too slow a pace through course.
 - 11. Moderate safety hazard.
 - 12. Failure to execute a complete stop.
- C. Major faults (Deduct 3–5 points):**
 - 1. Knocking down poles or other obstacle parts.
 - 2. Stepping out of obstacle confinements or off of bridge or ramp (one to three legs).
 - 3. Extreme irritation, spooking or nervousness.
 - 4. Rushing ahead of handler when exiting or entering an obstacle.
 - 5. Improper or unsafe knots when tying lead rope.
 - 6. Taking an obstacle backwards.
 - 7. Taking multiple jumps in the wrong order.
 - 8. Going in and out of the wrong door of a trailer.
 - 9. Alpaca gets fully away from handler.
- D. Safety faults (Deduct points as allocated below):**
 - 1. For safety faults, the handler shall be stopped and the fault corrected. One to three points will then be deducted off of the current obstacle and each remaining obstacle after the fault was corrected and includes the following safety faults:
 - a. Dangling lead rope.
 - b. Wrapping the lead rope around the hand, wrist, or arm.
 - 2. For the following safety fault the handler shall be stopped and the fault corrected, three to five points will be deducted off the obstacle:
 - a. Letting the alpaca jump ahead out of a trailer or off an obstacle.
 - 3. For the following safety fault the handler shall be stopped and the fault corrected, with three to eight points deducted off the obstacle:
 - a. Backing across an obstacle
- E. Incompletions (Deduct 1–9 points):**
 - 1. Not closing a gate.
 - 2. Missing a marker in a weaving obstacle.
 - 3. Not completing one of a series of jumps.
 - 4. Not backing all the way.
 - 5. No response to request for change of pace.

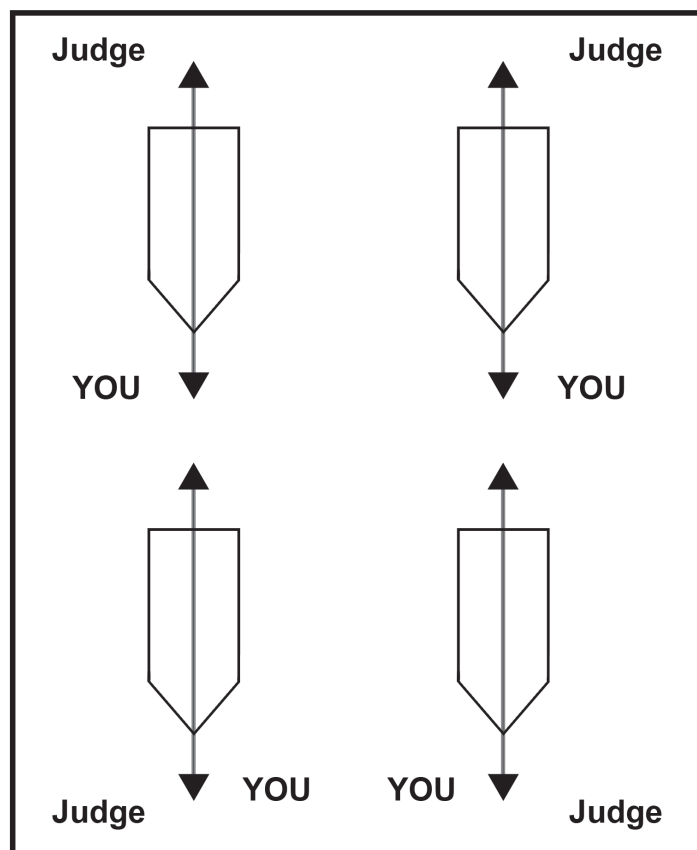
6. Stepping completely out of obstacle confinements or off of bridge or ramp (all four legs), for example once on, alpaca gets completely off side of bridge or ramp without another successful attempt to complete the obstacle.
 7. Entering but not successfully completing or exiting any obstacle or activity. Example: four feet on a bridge and then off the side = incomplete.
- F. Off course (Deduct ten points):** Note: If deduction is made the alpaca cannot place higher than an alpaca that stayed on course
1. Forgetting an obstacle.
 2. Taking an additional obstacle.
 3. Taking an obstacle out of sequence from the official course.
 4. Intentionally skipping an obstacle or specific requirement.
- G. Refusal (Deduct five points upon first refusal and an additional five points for the second refusal):**
1. Firmly planting all four feet refusing to move.
 2. No response to pressure on the lead rope to move forward.
 3. Refusing to be touched.
 4. Refusing placement of objects onto the alpaca.
 5. Stepping to the side of the obstacle to avoid the obstacle.
 6. Taking a step backward from the obstacle. Example: two feet on the obstacle and then backing off = Refusal.
- H. Elimination/disqualification:**
1. Alpaca unruly to the point of being unsafe to other animals or handlers.
 2. Refusing three obstacles on course.
 3. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
 4. Cruel or unnecessarily rough treatment of alpaca

Chapter 27. Performance Illustrations

Alpaca Anatomy for Showmanship



Quadrant Position of Handler, Judge, and Alpaca in Showmanship Classes



Your Correct Position in Relationship to the Judge is:

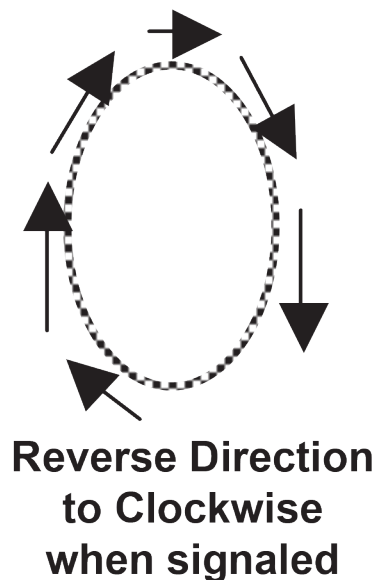
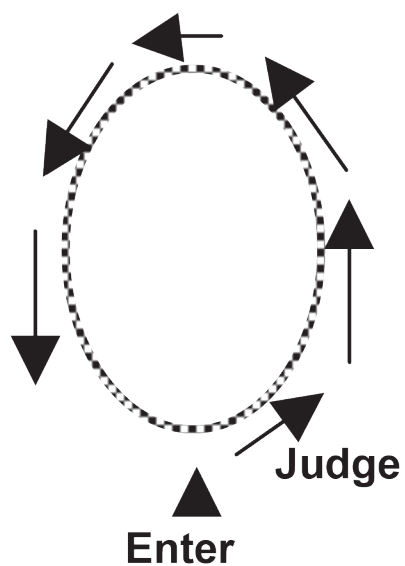
If the judge is at the back side of the alpaca, you should be on the same side as the judge.

If the judge is at the front side of the alpaca, you should be on the opposite side of the judge.

Sample Showmanship Pattern

Enter the arena at a brisk walk, turn to the right and circle the arena once counter clock-wise. When the signal is given, reverse your direction and circle the arena once clock-wise at a walk. Line up as directed by the Judge or Ring Steward leaving six to eight feet between alpacas.

Enter and Proceed Counterclockwise



Individual work: The actual pattern for individual work will vary from Judge to Judge. One example follows: The Judge will move down the line-up cross the arena from you. When directed, leave the line-up at a walk and walk toward the Judge. Back your alpaca four steps, settle and walk forward four steps. Square your alpaca for inspection. Reverse through a 180 degree haunch turn and trot back to your original place in the line-up

PART VIII. YOUTH JUDGE TRAINING

Chapter 28. Youth Judge Training and Hands-on Educational Experience Demonstration

Purpose: It is hoped that this training and Hands-on Experience will provide an opportunity for young people to explore their interest in alpacas and potentially pursue becoming alpaca judges. This designed experience is not as rigorous as found in the Youth Alpaca Judging Competition but will be an educational opportunity for youth.

- A. Eligibility:** Youth ages 11 to 18 (on January 1st of the event year).
- B. Event Coordinator:** It is important that at least one individual be responsible for organizing this event. Their responsibilities include:
 - 1. Securing a Certified AOA Judge to conduct the event (probably in tandem with other show management).
 - 2. Identifying the spaces at the venue for this event to occur—both classroom (projector and screen) and a “ring” area.
 - 3. Recruitment of Youth Judge Training participants (Trainees).
 - 4. Creating a list of Youth Judge Training participants (Trainees).
 - 5. Providing handouts to the Youth Judge Trainees prior to the day of instruction.
 - 6. Identifying alpacas for the event (a minimum of eight alpacas of varying quality will be required, four for training and four for judging).
 - a. Alpacas for training—half of these alpacas should be Huacaya and the other half Suris.
 - b. Alpacas for the Hands-on Experience—a minimum of four (it is preferred that there be two classes—a class of four Huacayas and a class of four Suris).
- C. The Event:** These Training and Hands-on Experience events may only be taught and conducted by AOA Certified Halter Judges. Specially qualified instructors may be invited to assist with instruction only with approval of the AOA Show System Administrator. This event consists of three major components:
 - 1. Classroom Experience: Approximately one hour of classroom training to include:
 - a. Review of the Youth Judge Trainee Handout that will include: Anatomy Overview, the Huacaya and Suri Breed Standards, the AOA Alpaca Emphasis Guide, the Oral Reasons Template, and a glossary of judging terminology. Learning materials should be given prior to training day. (It is highly recommended that Trainees acquire a copy of *The Art and Science of Alpaca Judging*.)
 - b. Powerpoint Presentation which provides the principles and importance of livestock judging, illustrations of correct and incorrect conformation, and illustrations of Suri and Huacaya fleece traits.
 - 2. Alpaca Evaluation Training: Demonstration and participation evaluating the alpaca as it walks, as it stands, and during the hands-on assessment. The Youth Judge Trainer evaluates alpacas with the entire group of Trainees. This part of training requires a minimum of two Huacayas and two Suris. This portion of training must include the following:
 - a. Ring Procedure
 - b. Gross Observation to include:
 - 1) Gait
 - 2) Balance and proportion
 - 3) Strength of frame, capacity, topline
 - 4) Proper leg conformation
 - c. Closer/Hands-on Inspection:
 - 1) Head: Jaw alignment, eyes, ears, muzzle, and fiber coverage
 - 2) Body condition and strength of topline
 - 3) Tail and genitalia
 - 4) Fleece—How to examine fleece to include six locations (mid-side, shoulder, and rump on both sides) for:
 - a) Uniformity of micron, color, and fleece traits across the blanket
 - b) Character—staple and lock
 - c) Fineness and handle
 - d) Staple length
 - e) Brightness/Luster
 - f) Density

3. Youth Judge Training Hands-on Experience:

- a. Prior to the Youth Judge Training Hands-on Experience, the Youth Judge Trainer will assess and place the alpacas in each class and determine the cuts for the placements in each class.
- b. The Youth Judge Training Hands-on Experience requires at least one class of four alpacas—but preferably two classes of four alpacas—one class of Huacayas and one class of Suris. Classes should provide a clear 1st and 4th place.
- c. Each Youth Judge Trainee will be given a Youth Judge Training Hands-on Experience Scoresheet for each class they are to judge and place.
- d. The entire group of Trainees will evaluate the alpacas independently, but simultaneously. Trainees will place the class 1st through 4th, without conferring with one another.
- e. After judging and placing the alpacas in a class, Trainees will fill out their Youth Judge Training Hands-on Experience Scoresheet for the class and give it to the Youth Judge Trainer.
- f. Immediately before providing their oral reasons, the Trainee's Scoresheet is returned to aid them. The Judge Trainer listens to the oral reasons given by each Trainee, one on one, and assigns their score.
- g. Oral Reasons: The maximum score will be 30 points—10 points for each category below:
 - 1) Correct use of terminology and accurate identification of fleece and conformational characteristics.
 - 2) Accurate justification of placement (whether placement is correct or not).
 - 3) Correct flow—organized explanation of placements from 1st to 4th.
- h. The Youth Judge Training Hands-on Experience Scoresheet is given back to the Judge Trainer and the oral reasons score is entered on the Scoresheet.
- i. When the Hands-on Experience is complete, the Judge Trainer or a scribe will enter the Trainees' placings on The Youth Judge Trainer's Hands-on Experience Worksheet.
- j. Using the Hormel Scoring System adopted by AOA, the Judge Trainer will compute the scores for each Trainee's placements, and then add the placement score to the Trainee's Oral Reasons score.
- k. Once all Youth Judge Trainee scores are entered and tabulated, the Trainees are placed according to their score total—highest score achieving 1st place. Placements will be made 1st through 6th.
- l. Trainees will be placed based on the scores they earn on the two parts of the Hands-on Experience. This is done to help trainee understand how they scored as compared to others in the experience. A maximum of 50 points may be acquired for placing the alpacas in the class. A maximum of 30 points may be given for the oral reasons score. A maximum total of 80 points is possible for Trainees per class.
- m. If more than one class is judged, the Trainee's final score will be an average of the scores from the classes they judged and their Hands-on Experience placement will be based on that average.
- n. While training, class time, and the Youth Judge Training Hands-on Experience will be done as a single group, the Hands-on Experience awards may be split into age divisions by Show Management.

PART IX. YOUTH ALPACA JUDGING COMPETITION

Chapter 29. Rules and Regulations

- A. 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 AOA Youth Alpaca judging competition.
- B. 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. Youth ages 11 to 18 (on January 1st of the calendar year of the show).
 - 3. There will be four age divisions, Senior, Intermediate, Junior, and Sub-junior. 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 postsecondary 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.
- C. 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 entered 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 bite 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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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.


G. General Information: For general information contact the Show Superintendent. Current AOA judging criteria will be used in all official placings. Fleece and conformation will be used in placing and judged 50/50.

H. Judging Software: Winjudge is the software system that all AOA Certified Shows will use. It may be purchased directly at 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.

I. Placing/Ribbons: There are 1st–6th place individual placings, as well as 1st–3rd team placings.

J. Youth Alpaca Judging Scoring Card

NOTE: The scoring card below can be downloaded from the AOA website.

 Youth Alpaca Judging Scorecard	1234		A
	1243		B
	1324		C
	1342		D
	1423		E
	1432		F
	2134		G
	2143		H
	2314		I
	2341		J
Contestant ID	2413		K
	2431		L
	3124		M
Class Name	3142		N
	3214		O
	3241		P
Event Name	3412		Q
	3421		R
	4123		S
Comments	4132		T
	4213		U
	4231		V
Reason Score	4312		W
	4321		X

PART X. STANDARDS OF PROPER CONDUCT

Chapter 30. Show System Rules and Procedures

The AOA Show System provides explicit Standards of Proper Conduct for all participants. This section is reviewed and updated regularly to promote a positive, unbiased, and professional environment for competitively judging alpacas and fleece. AOA Certified Shows must be conducted according to the highest ethical standards, with all alpacas judged solely on their merit.

This part of the Handbook outlines the rules and procedures that protect the integrity of the Show System. It also establishes the methodology for addressing alleged violations through a complaint and grievance process, designed to prevent explicitly unethical behavior and situations that may create or appear to create impropriety.

Section 1. Authority to Regulate Show System Related Activities

The AOA Show System Standards of Proper Conduct apply to all members of the Show System, including Judges, Show Management, Show Committee or subcommittee members, volunteers, and non-member exhibitors or handlers. These standards apply both at the show venue and away from it when an individual is involved in Show System–related activities.

Show System–related activities are defined as any activities, occurring at or away from the show venue, that relate to Show System business. This includes, but is not limited to, shows; any committee or subcommittee of the Show System; any person registered with the Show System; or any activities defined as Show Related Activities in this Handbook.

Anyone alleged to have violated these Standards of Proper Conduct, or to have acted in a manner detrimental to the Show System while involved in Show System–related activities, may be subject to investigation and possible action.

Section 2. Standards of Proper Conduct Violations

Examples of unacceptable behavior which may violate the AOA Show System Standards of Proper Conduct, include but are not limited to:

- A. Demonstrations of dissatisfaction with a Judge's decision, including refusal to accept an award at an AOA Certified Show. Judges who are the target of abusive or suggestive language, gestures or requests in the show ring shall report directly to the Show Superintendent who will help deal with the immediate issue. The situation shall also be reported in writing directly to the Show System Administrator within 15 days after the last day of the show.
- B. Negative, obstructive, or disruptive public behavior at an AOA Certified Show.
- C. Abusive or foul language in public at an AOA Certified Show.
- D. Cruelty and mistreatment of alpacas at an AOA Certified Show, as defined by the State of Colorado cruelty to animal statute.
- E. Lack of complete compliance with AOA Show System rules including attempts to circumvent rules and procedures.
- F. Falsification of information required by the Show System or any Certified Show, including but not limited to: Entry information, disclosure statements, shearing dates, birth dates, registration certificates, ownership of show alpacas, or filing false statements with the Show System.
- G. Alpacas shown which exhibit any evidence of prohibited modifications and preparations, or fleeces which exhibit any evidence of shampoos, conditioners, luster enhancers, silicone based products, dyes, color dressings or any other enhancing agents.
- H. Alpacas shown which have been subjected to prohibited surgical or chemical cosmetic enhancements or alterations.
- I. Falsification, intentional omissions, or inaccurate information on the Exhibitor's or Judge's Disclosure Forms.
- J. Unsportsmanlike conduct that includes making false accusations against other individuals.
- K. Any individual or entity who violates the rules as described in this AOA Show System Handbook.

Section 3. Complaints and Grievances

- A.** Any complaint or potential grievance relating to an AOA Certified Show must be submitted in writing to the Show System office within 15 days after the last day of the show.
 - 1.** The Show System Administrator will review the submission and is authorized to determine if resolution of the issue will be: a) handled at the Show System office level, b) forwarded on to the appropriate show committee(s) or c) forwarded on to the grievance procedure. The Show System Administrator may seek input from any of the show committees in making such a determination and/or in resolving the issue.
 - 2.** An individual or entity cannot directly request to file a grievance.
- B.** Grievance Procedure: If the Show System Administrator determines that a complaint should be handled as a grievance, the Grievance Review Committee (GRC) will be informed and the following standard procedure will be initiated:
 - 1.** The Grievance Review Committee (GRC) shall consist of four people, with one member each from the Show Rules Committee (SRC), Judge Training and Certification Committee (JTCC), Judges Advisory Committee (JAC), and Board of Directors. The Show System Administrator will serve as a non-voting committee advisor.
 - 2.** There is a \$100 fee for filing a grievance.
 - 3.** The GRC shall be empowered to make an investigation of the grievance including gathering written statements and interviewing the parties to the incident. The written record of the grievance investigation shall be maintained by the Show System office.
 - 4.** All grievances shall be held in confidence by the GRC.
 - 5.** The GRC will file a report and direct proposed action to the appropriate Show System committee or to the Board of Directors. The report shall be in summary form and not include the names of the individuals involved or the specific show involved.

GLOSSARY

Annualized Weight: The clean fiber weight from an alpaca adjusted to reflect the length of time between shearings.

Architecture: General structure and lay of fibers within the locks which go together to make up the fleece as a whole.

Arm: The region of the forelimb between the shoulder and elbow.

Back: The term “back” of the alpaca can be used two ways. The back is that part from the base of the neck to the tail head formed by the vertebrae. Back can also be used for topline, though topline is a more precise term.

Balance: A component of conformation; symmetrical proportioning of the body parts in relation to each other. The legs and neck should be the same in length and approximately two-thirds of the length of the body.

Banana Ears: Asymmetrical curving ears, as on a llama.

Base Narrow: Legs or feet too close together.

Base Wide: Legs or feet too far apart.

Belly: Abdomen, or the area of the body between the chest and hips; can also refer to the fiber from the lower abdominal area of the alpaca.

Bilateral Cataracts: An abnormality in one or both (bilateral) eyes characterized by opacity of the lens.

Blanket: Back and side of a fleece from the base of the neck to the base of the tail and sides from backbone to belly, elbow (front legs) and stifle (hind legs).

Body Capacity: The breadth and depth of the body, chest, and abdomen.

Body Condition: The relative amount of muscle and fat that is carried on the frame or body of an animal.

Break: A weakening of fibers in the staple, allowing them to break under strain.

Breast: The front of the body between the forelimbs.

Breeder: The individual(s) shown on the AOA Alpaca Registry Certificate as the “Dam Owner at time of Conception”; the individual(s) who decides to which male the female will be bred.

Breed Type: Characteristics specific to Suri or Huacaya.

Brightness: A term used to describe the property by which fiber reflects light.

Brow: Front half of the topknot for the purposes of defining a classic grey alpaca.

Buck Knee: Forward at the knee or carpus.

BVDV: Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus.

Calf Knee: Back at the knee or carpus.

Camped Out: Front legs out in front and/or hind legs out behind.

Camped Under: Front and/or hind legs too far underneath.

Cannon: The metacarpal area between the knee and fetlock, or metatarsal area between the hock and fetlock.

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI): Official health certificate obtainable only through an accredited veterinarian. A CVI is required for every alpaca that enters any AOA Certified Show venue.

Character: Term used to express the regularity/evenness of structure throughout the staple and entire fleece.

Cheek: The side of the face below the eyes.

Chest: The region formed by the ribs, thoracic vertebrae, and sternum.

Coarse: Fiber of large diameter.

Cocked Ankle: Knuckled over.

Color Designation: Refers to one of the colors shown in the current AOA Color Chart plus the Indefinite and Multicolor types.

Color Group: Is a combination of color designations.

Composite Class: Alpacas evaluated in a combined fleece and shorn conformation class.

Conformation: The appropriate alignment of body parts with respect to the whole alpaca.

Cotted: Fleece which is matted together.

Cow Hock: Hocks turned inward or toward each other when viewed from the back.

Crimp: Pronounced corrugations in the entire fiber staple; occurs uniformly in the fibers of the lock in the same plane.

Croup: The rump, from the sacroiliac joint to the rear of the alpaca. The angle is formed by the angle of the pelvis.

Cryptorchidism: Failure of one or both testicles to descend into the scrotum.

Dental Pad: The most forward facing portion of the upper jaw which meets the incisors of the lower jaw.

Dropped Fetlocks: Weak fetlock joints with too much angulation relative to the range of flexion.

Ectopic: Out of place, e.g. ectopic testicles are in the wrong place.

Elbow (Joint): Between the humerus and radius/ulna. Joint between the arm and forearm.

Entropion: Eyelids turn inward so hairs rub the eyes.

Exhibitor: The owner who enters the alpaca or its fleece.

Fetlock: The joint between the cannon and phalanges.

Forehead: The region in front of the ears and between the eyes.

Foot: The area of the phalanges including pastern, digital pad, and nail.

Fused Ears: Ears don't unfold normally before birth so the edges are fused together.

Fused Toes: Toes on an individual foot are fused together. Pad is fused.

Gaskin: The region of the rear limb between the stifle and the hock.

Gonadal Hypoplasia: Inappropriately small testicles.

Gopher Ear: Abnormally short ears.

Grade: A definition of fineness representing a close range of micron values.

Guard Hair: True hair fibers which contain a hollow core or medulla.

Handle: Degree of softness exhibited by a fleece; the handle is the actual tactile feel.

Handler: The individual who actually leads the alpaca in the show ring.

Haunch: Turning to the right toward the alpaca.

Hermaphroditism: Possessing both male and female anatomy.

Hip: The coxofemoral joint between the pelvis and the femur.

Hock: The tarsal region of the rear leg.

Humped Back: Convex topline (spine).

Immediate Family Member: Immediate Family Member is hereby defined as: owner, spouse/domestic partner, parents, children, children's spouse, or any other family member living with you.

Juvenile: Term used in showing; an alpaca between 6 months and its first birthday.

Kyphosis: Humped withers.

Lateral: To the outside.

Loft: The springiness in fiber as it returns to normal position after it has been squeezed.

Loin: The lumbar region of the back.

Luster: The sheen, gloss or shine of fleece and fiber, due to the reflection of light off the smooth scales of each fleece.

Luxating Patella: Condition where the kneecap dislocates out of its normal anatomical location.

Natural Pasture Condition: The general health of the fleece which may include evidence of a natural dust line.

Malocclusion: Imperfect alignment of the teeth and jaw with the opposing teeth or dental pad.

Medial: To the inside.

Micron: A unit of measurement equal to one thousandth of a millimeter; often used to describe average fiber diameter.

Modern Grey: The alpaca's face must be predominantly any colors other than white.

Open Fleece: Fleece which does not hang together as a unit—usually a lighter weight fleece.

Owner: The individual(s) who owns the alpaca or the individual(s) entering the alpaca or its fleece to be shown.

Pad: The digital pad on the bottom of the foot.

Pastern: The region of the first phalanx just distal to the fetlock joint.

PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction Test—the methodology required to test for BVD for entry into any AOA Certified Show venue.

Persistently Infected (PI) cria: A cria that was infected in utero with the BVD virus.

Pigeon Toed: Feet point medially, in other words both toes point medially.

Plucking: Pulling out the guard hairs in the fleece of an alpaca.

Post Leg: Legs too straight.

Prickle: The quality in fleece that causes itchiness when pressed against human skin.

Primary: Refers to the first fiber follicles to mature in the dermis of the developing cria in-utero whose function is to produce primary fibers. Primary fiber diameter is generally broader in comparison to secondary follicle fibers.

Prime Fiber: Best fiber the alpaca produces; usually found in the blanket, but can include neck and upper thigh.

Quadrant Position: Position in relationship to the judge which gives an unobstructed view of the alpaca at all times.

Rope Walking: The alpaca moves in an extremely base narrow manner so the feet are placed on a single line.

Rump: The croup, from the sacroiliac joint to the rear of the alpaca; formed by the angle of the pelvis; sloped region from the sacrum to the tail head.

S/P Micron Range: The estimated difference in micron between the secondary and primary fiber diameters.

Second Cuts: Small pieces of shorn fleece remaining in the fiber, caused by poor shearing technique.

Scoliosis: Crooked spine.

Secondary: Refers to the fiber follicles that mature subsequent to the primary follicles in the dermis of the developing cria in-utero whose function is to produce secondary fibers. Secondary fiber diameter is generally finer in comparison to primary follicle fibers.

Show Ready: An alpaca or its fleece that is presented for show in optimal condition.

Sickle Hock: Too much angulation to the hock when viewed from the side.

Singeing: Burning off the tips of the fleece on an alpaca.

Skirting: The process of removing lower grade fiber, urine and dung stain, debris and other excessive vegetable matter from the fleece. This is done in preparation for processing or showing.

Soundness: Freedom from defect, disease or injury.

Splay Feet: Feet point laterally, in other words both toes point laterally.

Splay Toes: Toes on an individual foot spread apart.

Staple: Arrangement and alignment of fibers into a group.

Staple Length: The average length of fiber in a fleece measured from the skin to the tips of the individual fibers.

Swayed Back: Concave topline (spine).

Tender Fleece: Fiber which has a distinct weakness or break in it; usually the result of poor health, poor nutrition or stress.

Tensile Strength: Ability of fiber to resist breaking by pulling with the hands.

Tippling: Trimming the tips of the fleece on an alpaca that is not a uniform shearing to the skin for the purpose of removing the entire fleece.

Top Knot: The fiber on an alpaca's head between its ears; also called "Wool cap."

Topline: The top of the alpaca from the base of the neck to the sacrum.

Uniform Shearing: The complete removal of fleece from the entire body of the alpaca.

Uniformity: The degree of consistency in a fleece from one area to another in fineness, staple length, character, color, and density.

Unsoundness: Physical disability that diminishes the function of a part of the body; also used to describe a fleece with tender breaks or matting.

Winging Out: The alpaca moves with the feet swinging out before being placed on the ground.

Withers: The highest point of the alpaca's back, formed by the tallest thoracic vertebrae.

Yearling: An animal between its first and second birthday.

Yield: The amount of clean fiber sheared from a particular alpaca.

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