

# **GOLDEN SHEARS**

## **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS**

The competition will be conducted according to these Golden Shears World Championship Regulations which set out the terms and conditions for Golden Shears World Championship machine and blade shearing and woolhandling competitions. These Regulations must be read in conjunction with the Golden Shears International Shearing Rules for machine and blade shearing, and the World Woolhandling Rules. Any changes or additions to the Rules must be applied for at the previous Golden Shears World Championships for approval at the Golden Shears World Council Meeting.

If approved, combined, they then become the Rules and Regulations for the next World Championship competition to be circulated by World Council at least 18 months prior to commencement of Championships.

### **1. ENTRIES**

- (a) Only one team comprising a maximum of  
TWO machine shearers  
TWO blade shearers  
TWO woolhandlers

will be eligible to compete from each country.

Each team may also include a Team Manager. Two World Council Members, Countries will be asked to nominate a Shearing Judge and a Woolhandling Judge with proven experience. The Team Manager, who may have knowledge and expertise in a specific discipline ie shearing, woolhandling, blade shearing, may replace either of the above Judges if nominated to do so by their Country. Should a team member be unable to compete due to injury or unavoidable circumstances, a substitute that is already competing in any other event, is able to replace the injured team member. Team Members compete at their own risk. (See 6. (a)).

- (b) There will be individual and team competitions for Machine Shearing, Blade Shearing and Woolhandling at World Championships. Individual and team titles will be awarded.
- (c) The individual competitors should be naturalised citizens of the country they are representing. The country nominating a competitor must be able to satisfy World Council that such nomination complies with the representation rules of that country. Proof of identity and nationality must be provided if requested by World Council.
- (d) Any competitor nominated to represent a country after having represented another country must have completed a four year 'stand down' period commencing from the date they last represented that other country.
- (e) Competitors must abide by the Rules of Golden Shears World Council.
- (f) Countries competing at a World Championship are to be responsible for the medical and insurance expenses of their officials and team members, not World Council or Host Country.

- (g) Whilst competing, competitors are encouraged to wear clothing with name and colours of their Country.
- (h) A World Team can replace a member competitor due to injury, sickness or family bereavement prior to the Championship commencement.
- (i) All contact details of competitors, judges and managers recorded at the present world championship must be forwarded to the next hoist and Golden Shears World Council within three months of the closing of that championship event.

## **2. SHEEP**

- (a) Applications to host a World Championship must provide details of the sheep and wool types to be used for competition as part of their application.
- (b) The sheep breeds and/or wool types to be used for each World Championships will be the best available and representative of the host country.
- (c) The host country must make sheep similar to the competition sheep available to the World Championship competitors prior to the World events to provide them with the opportunity to practice, test and select appropriate gear.

## **3. TIMING**

- (a) Machine shearing - 20 seconds per point to be used.  
Application must be made to World Council for approval to change.
- (b) Blade shearing - As for machine shearing.
- (c) Woolhandling -
  - (i) Full wool. If other than 10 seconds per point is to be used, application must be made to World Council for approval to change.
  - (ii) Second shear/lambs. If other than 5 seconds per point is to be used, application must be made to World Council for approval to change.

## **4. PROGRAMME**

All host nations must produce a program of the events with approximate dates and times at a reasonable time period before the commencement of the championship for scheduling purposes.

Programme details must be made available to Team Managers prior to commencement of competition.

## **Heats**

- (a) There will be a **minimum** of two qualifying rounds for machine shearing, blade shearing and woolhandling.

*Sheep numbers in 'qualifying rounds' (heats and semi-finals) will be;*

*Machine Shearing - Strong Wool*

*Qualifying Rounds - Heats 5*

*Semi-finals – 10*

*Finals - 20*

*Machine Shearing - Fine Wool*

*Qualifying Rounds - Heats 3 Semi-*

*finals - 6*

*Finals - 12*

*Blade Shearing*

*Qualifying Rounds - Heats 3*

*Semi-finals - 4*

*Finals – 6*

- (b) World competitors must be classified (according to speed ability) and then have heats drawn rather than be seeded directly. Host Committee must provide an opportunity for this to be done.

#### **Finalists – Individual**

- (c) A competitor's combined scores of the qualifying rounds will select the individual quarter or semi-finalists. All semi-finals and second round of blade shearing (if no semi-final) to be held on day of final.

- (d)
- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Individual Machine Shearing | - 6 best scores from semi finals.   |
| Individual Blade Shearing   | - 6 best scores from heat rounds or semi-finals depending on number of entries.   |
| Individual Woolhandling     | - The option of 3 or 4 top qualifiers from qualifying rounds where a wool table is to be used, or 6 top qualifiers if a wool table is not used i.e. second shear/lambs. |

- (e) Scores from qualifying rounds will not form part of final score.

#### **Finalists – Teams**

- (f)
- (i) The combined qualifying round scores of team members will select team event finalists.
  - (ii) Machine and Blade Shearing Team Final competitors to each shear half the nominated number of sheep on the same stand. (i.e. 6 teams in final).
  - (iii) Woolhandling Team Final. Both members to work as a team on same table.

### **5. WORLD COUNCIL LIAISON OFFICER**

- (a) At each World Championship, an official World Council Liaison Officer will be appointed by World Council Executive to represent the Council on the next Host Committee before and during the competition to ensure the correct interpretation and implementation of Golden Shears World Championship Regulations, the Golden Shears International Shearing rules and the World Woolhandling rules. This person

will report to World Council on a regular basis.

- (b) The World Council Executive in discussion with the next Host Committee will appoint a Liaison Officer as soon as the next venue is known before the current World Championships conclude.  
Recommendations/suggestions can be made to the World Council Executive.
- (c) The World Council Liaison Officer will ensure that the Host Committee provides member country national committees at least 6 months in advance of World Championships, information including:
  - 1 Accommodation facilities and arrangements. Eg. Breakfast, World dinner, number of days accommodation paid by host nation.
  - 2 Confirm sheep and wool types to be used.
  - 3 Recommended sources/venues for practice sheep.
  - 4 Dates and programming of World events and training/familiarisation arrangements for competitors and judges.
  - 5 Handpiece drive system to be used throughout the competition e.g. spline or pin drive.
  - 6 Judges List.
  - 7 Check shearing board suitability for both shearing and woolhandling.
  - 8 Ensure provision of water pots and sharpening blocks for blade shearers.
  - 9 A video of Host Countries sheep and wool types to be used in World Championships sent to competing Countries at least six months prior to the event would be appreciated.
  - 10 Nomination and selection of Chief Referee.  
(Chief Referee to be notified at least six months prior to Championships).
- (d) If an approved host committee is unable to proceed with organising a World Championship, refuses to cooperate with the appointed liaison officer, or ignores Golden Shears World Championship rules and regulations, the Golden Shears World Council Executive may revoke or transfer approval to another host committee which may be in a different country. Such change must be made at least 6 months prior to the original proposed date and may delay the next Championship.

## **6. REFEREES AND JUDGES**

- (a) The Host Committee will invite each world council member country to nominate only two qualified judges to attend the championships. These two judges, either one or both, ideally should have the knowledge and expertise to judge either or all three disciplines at a world event. I.e. shearing, woolhandling or blade shearing. The Host Committee may invite an additional judge from any country subject to World Council approval. A second judge from a Member country, other than the Host country, can only judge an event if the other judge from that country is referee or not rostered for the event. If a Host Committee invites an additional judge from a Member country, the Host Committee may be responsible for that person's travel expenses. (See **1. (a)**). Shearing Judges appointed must be conversant with current Golden Shears World Championship, Golden Shears International Shearing Rules and any World Council approved Shearing Rules, (if applicable).

Woolhandling Judges appointed must be conversant with the current Golden Shears World Championship, World Woolhandling, and any World Council approved Woolhandling Rules, (if applicable).

- (b) In consultation with World Council Liaison Officer, the Host Committee in conjunction with their National Committee, will appoint a Chief Referee and a Chief Judge for shearing and for woolhandling.
- (c) Chief Referee will be responsible for the administration and control of the competition strictly according to these rules and any 'Special Ruling' approved by the World Council. The Chief Referee's ruling on any matter not covered by the above will be final.
- (d) Chief Referee will appoint two Referees for each machine or blade shearing event, one to officiate on the board and one in the pen area. Referees for each event will be selected from the panel of Judges by the Chief Referee and Chief Judge. Judges shall not act as Referee and Judge for the same event.
- (e) Chief Judge will draw up Judge's roster from list provided by Host Committee. 66% of Judges rostered should be from Countries other than the Host Country.
- (f) Prior to commencement of World Championships a minimum four hours to be set aside for practise, briefing and assessment of judges. Judges who do not attend will not be included in World Championship rosters. Host Committees are requested to use International Judges in preceding local events for familiarisation.  
It is recommended that in addition to the compulsory workshop appointed judges from World Council Member countries not familiar with the judging criteria to be used at the World Championships be encouraged to arrange training within the Host Country prior to the Championships, at the individual or countries' discretion.

## **7. DISPUTES COMMITTEE**

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

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

Any member of an appointed disputes committee shall not judge but may still be appointed as referee, in any World event.

Shearing: As per rule 11 Disputes GS World Shearing rules

Woolhandling: As per rule 12. World Woolhandling Championship rules.

## **8. COUNTRY SPECIFICS**

The host country of a World Championship shall abide and adhere to the rules and regulations of the World Shearing and Woolhandling rules. Because there are differences world wide for Woolhandling techniques, sheep breeds, wool types and sheep populations, an adjustment or extension to the world rules can be exercised by the host country.

These extensions are called “Country Specifics” and although a necessity for some countries, any country specifics should be kept to a minimum. This is to avoid unnecessary diversions from the standard rules and regulations of the World Championship.

Notification of country specifics must be posted for observation ( 6 ) months before the start of the World Championship event.

## **9. DRUGS STATEMENT**

The Golden Shears World Council prohibits the use of drugs, intravenous fluids or oxygen in all competitions. Random drug tests may be taken and if proved positive, the competitor will pay all costs, be stripped of any reward at the competition, and be disqualified from competing at the next Golden Shears World Championships. (See Golden Shears International Sheep Shearing Rule **1**. (c)).

## **10. OTHER**

- (a) Golden Shears World Championships Challenge Trophies will only be competed for at recognised events approved by the World Council, but the host Committee may accept or offer additional trophies and/or awards which have been approved by the World Council.
- (b) Offers to provide a trophy or award by any interest outside World Council will, before acceptance by the World Council and the Host Committee, be referred to the World Council member representing the country of origin of the trophy or award at least four months prior to the World Championships at which it is intended that the trophy or award is to be presented.
- (c) The World Council and the Host Committee will clearly identify in all promotional material (press releases, entry forms, programmes etc.) those events which carry the World Championship title, and those which are associated events.
- (d) The World Council will provide an Information Package, including the Golden Shears World Championship Operations Manual, and list of expectations to Host Committee, i.e. list of challenge trophies, guidelines for prize money, contact names and addresses etc. upon granting of application to host a World Championship.

- (e) Recommended Host Committees have First Aid person/s available.
- (f) Host Committees must provide adequate veterinary support and equipment during the competitions.
- (g) All nominated judges for world championships who have an immediate family member/s competing shall not be eligible to judge that family member in that relevant grade/event at World Championships. Immediate Family being:  
  
Spouse or partner; parent; child or sibling; grandparent; grandchild, or spouses parent/s.  
  
If immediate family members are nominated for a countries team, the competitor should have selection preference over the family member who is a nominated judge.
- (h) All scores must be posted within 30 minutes of the completion of heats and semi-finals.
- (i) The correct title “Golden Shears World Championships” must be used as the official name used at all World Championships.
- (j) All financial costs and other expectations shall be documented or listed so World Teams know what they will be required to pay at a World Championship.
- (k) All competitors who receive trophies must complete and sign the Official Trophy Form, and that they will undertake due diligent and care and return the trophy in appropriate condition.
- (l) All hoist nations should plan for a total prize money guideline of 12000-15000 UK Pounds or equivalent if possible.
- (m) A formal dinner is not an obligation but an alternative function (eg BBQ) should be planned as a more cost effective means.
- (n) If possible all competitors/teams should be accommodated in the same venue. Individual teams to be accommodated together at the same venue.

## **11. Behaviour and Discipline**

Competitors, Pen Personal, Managers.

The host nation shall elect a panel of three people prior to the start of the event.

These nominated persons shall be called the disciplinary committee.

The disciplinary committee shall consist of chief referees or selected judges.

The selection of the disciplinary committee should be done before the judges training day, so all judges know who they are and what the protocol is.

All participants shall be briefed on the process and potential consequences during the competitors forum held before the start of the championship.

If a judge or an official is verbally abused by a competitor, manager, pen person during any part of the entirety of the World Championship Event, the recipient of the abuse is to immediately notify the disciplinary committee of the offence.

The disciplinary committee will review the incident and advise the offender and the host nation executive of any penalty appropriate for the offence.

The penalties may consist of:

Ten whole points for machine and blade shearing.

Fifty whole points for wool handling.

In severe cases the offender may be disqualified from the event or the competition.

Any offence incurred after the finish of the championship will have the incident reported to the world council executive and disciplinary action shall be applied to that offender for future events.

## **12. Major Rule Changes**

Any remit to World Council deemed by the Executive to be a major Rule change to World Shearing or Woollhandling Rules shall be appraised by a select panel. This panel, no less than 4 persons shall be selected by the executive and consist of experienced judges and referees from both hemispheres. A written report shall be submitted back to the secretary no less than 2 months prior to the World Council Meeting. All member countries shall be notified of the panel's recommendation via the agenda for discussion at the World Council Meeting.

*Approved 11 February 2017*

*Amended September 2017*

*Addition 1 May 2019 (section 8)*

*Amended France Championship 2019*

*Amended Feb 2025, addition of section 11, Behaviour and Discipline*