

GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITION JUDGES

Local & Zone Levels

INTRODUCTION

The aim of Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition is to find a person most suited to represent young rural women of NSW. This covers many official and informal situations during the Sydney Royal Easter Show, as well as her travels within NSW and interstate. The Society therefore seeks an articulate and presentable person with a pleasant personality.

The winner will be required to meet a wide variety of people and should be able to converse intelligently about Australia in general and her own district. She will be interviewed by press, radio and television and will be asked to speak about her experiences before a range of groups.

The RAS defines a 'local' representative as a person with strong personal, educational, or business associations within the local community. She must also be approved and nominated by her local Show Society and have a genuine interest in and understanding of rural and regional issues.

PROCEDURE

The following judging procedure is suggested for Local Competitions following a Zone Final format and Zone Finals:

Judging Panel: The individual Show Society selects Judges for local Shows. AgShows will advise Zone Hosts of the Judges for Zone Finals. Judging panels for Zone consist of three judges. The AgShows NSW Director will act as Chief Judge. The Chief Judge is responsible for guiding the judging process, ensuring it runs to schedule and collating the individual scores. The Chairperson should also hold the sealed envelope that nominates a runner-up. Judges must not have any conflict of interest with the Competition. Any potential conflict must be disclosed prior to the Judging appointment.

Venue: A venue for judging is selected by the Show Society/Zone Host. It is suggested that the Judges and entrants first meet as an informal group in a relaxed atmosphere so that entrants can get to know the Judges a little better prior to the interview. A separate room is set aside to interview each entrant individually. During the interview no other person is to be in the room.

Clothes: Judges are required to judge on dress and general presentation of the entrants. The entrants are interviewed in smart daywear. If desired, cocktail or evening clothes may be worn to the announcement of winners during an evening presentation for local Show level competitions. For Zone Finals, entrants must be in formal wear. Judges are required to wear **smart daywear (jacket and tie for males)** during the day and appropriate evening wear for evening presentations. At all Zone Finals the minimum requirement for evening wear will be lounge suit however this will be advised by the Zone Host.

Judging Timetable: The coordinator will prepare a judging timetable that sets out entrant names and interview times. Time should be set aside prior to judging to formulate the questions and to select the Chairperson of the judging panel. Interviews take approximately 15 minutes depending on the number of entrants and each entrant *must* be allocated the same amount of time. It is recommended that five minutes be given between interviews for judges to discuss. No entrant should feel that she has not received the same amount of time with the judges.

Questions: Prior to judging, the coordinator will provide to each of the Judges a copy of the entrants' resumes, which can be used as the basis for discussion. The judges prior to interviews should prepare questions and a standard pattern should be set so that all entrants can be equally evaluated. For Zone Finals it is required that all entrants attending that Zone be asked the same set of questions. These may differ slightly to take account of the entrant's background; however, the overall context is to be the same in each case. An example of appropriate questions may include:

- Where employed or where studying.
- Discussion regarding their part of the country - primary production, industries, and any local areas of interest.
- Current affairs topic – State, Australian and International.
- Hobbies, sports, interests, participation in local Shows, social life, community involvement etc.
- Some general knowledge questions, e.g., who the Premier of NSW is, local Member of Parliament, topical issues.
- Future ambitions.
- Their view of the Competition and why they have entered.

Scoring: It is suggested that a standard points system of judging is used to assess the entrants. The coordinator will supply a set of judging forms to each Judge on the day of judging. It is also of assistance to write notes when several entrants are being interviewed over a long period of time.

Interview: Entrants are to be interviewed individually. The coordinator, or in some cases the out-going winner, will usher the entrant in and introduce her to the Judges by name and the Show Society she represents if at a Zone Final. Some entrants will be reserved at first and the judging panel should do everything possible to encourage the entrants to do most of the talking. This will provide an opportunity to assess her personality, her ease in handling the interview, her capacity to express herself clearly and logically and to evaluate her character. Arrange the interview room to be as comfortable and intimate as possible.

It may be apparent in the first few minutes that the entrant is not suitable, however it is crucial that the judging procedure is adhered to, and that each candidate feels that she has received full consideration and the nominated amount of time.

The Steward must always appear detached and impartial. Her presence and involvement should not influence the panel's decision in any way.

Note: Judges must refrain from any criticism of entrants during the interview or evening function as suggestions are often misinterpreted. They are asked not to mention personal political preferences or to make comments comparing entrants to those of previous years.

Conclusion of the Interview: Judges should advise each entrant not to discuss the questions put to her with other entrants. Entrants should be thanked for their participation.

Meal: It is suggested at local Show Competitions that the Judges have a meal with the entrants so that the Judges can observe each candidate in a social environment and assess their ability to mix freely with others, their dress sense, table manners and general etiquette.

At all Zone Finals a sit-down judging lunch is required.

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Presentation Speeches/Interview: When at Zone level, Judges are to take the entrant's speech/interview during the evening presentation into consideration prior to making a final decision. Judging is not complete until after the speeches conclude at which time the finalist/s can then be decided upon. During this on-stage interview, Judges are required to assess the entrant's ability to address an audience. The entrant's composure, confidence and general dialogue should also be taken into consideration. When at local Show level, it is at the discretion of the individual Show Society whether to implement the above judging condition into their competition.

Selecting Placegetters: It is at the discretion of the individual Show Society whether to have only one winner or to select placegetters. If the latter is the case, it is usual to select a winner and runner-up, although sometimes Show Societies like to choose a third placegetter if there are many candidates. When judging has been completed, the Chief Judge is to write down the name of the winner, seal the name in an envelope and hand it to the official-in-charge. In the case of multiple placegetters, all names can be placed in the one envelope in order of merit or placed into individual envelopes. The envelope/s should be opened by a person selected by the Society at the formal announcement of placegetters. In the case of one winner only, and no other placegetters, the name and address of an agreed runner-up should be kept in confidence by the Chief Judge of the judging panel. In the event of the winner not being able to complete her reign as the local Show Young Woman, the second placegetter, whether publicly announced or not, should be invited to take up this role and therefore compete at the Zone Final.

At Zone Finals, Judges are required to select a runner-up whose name is to be kept in a sealed envelope and given to the AgShows NSW staff member present at the evening presentation. If at any time and for whatever reason a selected State Finalist is unable to take up her role as the representative for her Zone prior to the State Final taking place, the RAS Coordinator will contact the AgShows NSW Coordinator to ascertain who the runner-up is. That person will subsequently become the Zone's new State Finalist. The representative unable to attend will lose her title as State Finalist.

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JUDGING SCORE SHEET – CUMULATIVE TOTALS

ENTRANT NAMES						
PERSONALITY (15 POINTS)						
CONFIDENCE (10 POINTS)						
AMBITIONS/GOALS (10 POINTS)						
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (LOCAL/AUST/INTERNATIONAL) (15 POINTS)						
RURAL KNOWLEDGE (GENERAL, LOCAL, SHOW) (15 POINTS)						
PERSONAL PRESENTATION (GROOMING, DICTION & SPEECH) (10 POINTS)						
VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION (15 POINTS)						
ON-STAGE INTERVIEW (10 POINTS)						
TOTAL/100						
GENERAL NOTES						

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**Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Competition
Entrant Judging Score Sheet**

NAME: _____ SHOW SOCIETY: _____

JUDGING CRITERIA	COMMENTS	POINTS
PERSONALITY		/ 15
CONFIDENCE		/ 10
AMBITIONS & GOALS		/ 10
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (Local/Aust/Intl)		/ 15
RURAL KNOWLEDGE (General, Local, Show)		/ 15
PERSONAL PRESENTATION (Grooming, Diction & Speech)		/ 10
VOLUNTEER/ COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION		/ 15
ON-STAGE INTERVIEW (if applicable)		/ 10
TOTAL		/ 100