

# **GOLDEN SHEARS**

## **INTERNATIONAL SHEEP SHEARING RULES**

### **1. COMPETITORS**

- (a) Competitors enter and compete at their own risk.
- (b) Competitors must be suitably dressed, including footwear. The Referee will administer this ruling. They must be suitably dressed for the presentation ceremony.
- (c) The use of drugs, intravenous fluids or oxygen is banned in all competitions. Random drug tests may be taken, and if proved positive, the competitor will pay all costs and be disqualified. See Golden Shears World Championship Rule **8**.
- (d) The referee or judge has the right to switch off the machine or disqualify any competitor whose work or conduct on the shearing board is detrimental to the image of competition shearing. Referee may stop a competitor during an event if clearly not competitive time wise. (See **6**. (f) also).

### **2. COMPETITION RULES**

- (a) A draw for Heats will be made prior to all competitions.
- (b) Competitors must provide their own hand-pieces, combs, cutters and blade shears. Sharpening equipment will be made available by the Host Committee in accordance with local regulations or law.
- (c) Competitors will each be allowed two loaded hand-pieces or two blade shears which are their responsibility and no time will be allowed for stoppage caused by their hand-piece, blade shears, or sheep escaping from the competitor on the shearing board. Should any stoppages occur through the fault of the machine or through another competitor's sheep escaping, a time allowance will be made or a re-run given, only at the Board Referee and Chief Referee's discretion. The organizing Committee may allow competitors to use up to three hand-pieces in events with three or more breeds/wool types.
- (d) A draw for stands must be made after sheep are in the catching pens for all quarter-finals, semi-finals, finals and where practical for heats. In the case of a left-handed machine shearer, that competitor's sheep will be moved to left-hand stand if one is available.
- (e) Competitors may enter their pen in the presence of a Judge, to sort and inspect their sheep. Plucking of wool before and/or after time (during if by pen assistant) will incur a penalty. (See **7**. (1))

- (f) Competitors may appeal to the Referee to have any sheep they consider sub-standard replaced before the heat, quarter, semi-final or final commences. The Referee's decision is final. Any sheep rejected by the Referee must be raddled/marked and withdrawn from the entire event.
- (g) Without assistance each competitor must:
- (i) Start and stop their machine.
  - (ii) Collect their sheep from a standing position within the catching pen, except where a ruling has been made prior to the event for safety reasons. (e.g. Scottish Blackface, where sheep may be held in a sitting position.) With own pen man.
  - (iii) Put each sheep out the porthole after shearing.
  - (iv) Switch their handpiece off between sheep.
- (h) An authorized holder is permitted in the catching pen. This person may not tip or lift the sheep for the competitor or switch the machine on or off. No unauthorized persons are permitted in the catching pen and no officials are allowed to assist a competitor in any way, except where safety is a concern. (See 2. (g) (ii) and 7. (c)).
- (i) Competitors must wait on the board and may place hand/s on the closed door/s to await the word 'Go' from the Starter.
- (j) On completion of shearing their sheep, all competitors will remain on their stand until the last competitor has finished, unless;
- (i) they need to seek urgent medical attention.
  - (ii) they have been granted permission to leave the board by the referee prior to the commencement of such heat or final.
- (k) Competitors may not present their own sheep for the Pen Judges, but may be required to present sheep from the next heat. Failure to do so when required will result in a penalty of **one whole point** from the Pen Referee.
- (l) *For Blade Shearing:*
- (i) *Competitors will be allowed to take two sets of blades onto the boards, which must be placed in the holders provided.*
  - (ii) *Blades must be placed in the holders after each sheep is shorn, including the last sheep.*  
*Two whole points per offence for non-compliance.*
- N.B. it is the responsibility of each competition to provide blade holders for each shearing stand.*

### **3. SHEEP**

- (a) Sheep chosen must be carefully selected for evenness of type and size to provide a fair competition.

- (b) Preparation of competition sheep must be kept to a minimum with uniform standard to ensure the safety of pizzle, teats and vulva.

#### **4. TIMING**

- (a) A Competition will provide a separate timekeeper with a stopwatch or an approved self-timing device for each competitor. Back up stop watch timing is recommended for self-timing devices.
- (b) Each competitor's time will be taken from the Starter's 'Go' until ---
  - (i) Machine shearers have completed their final sheep and switched off their hand-piece, or the 'Stop' button is pushed in the case of electronic timing..
  - (ii) Blade shearers have completed their final sheep and put their shears down or the 'Stop' button is pushed in the case of electronic timing.

#### **5. REFEREES**

- (a) A Chief Referee will be appointed for each competition who will be responsible for the administration and control of the competition strictly according to these International Rules, and any additional rules approved by World Council. The Chief Referee's ruling on any matter not covered by the above will be final.
- (b) Any person may seek clarification on any point from the referee. The referee may rule on the matter raised or refer it to the Disputes Committee.
- (c) The referee must be called and decide any whole point penalty as in 2. (k), 7. (k) and 9. (b)
- (d) Before the start of the competition the Chief Referee will announce whether 'socks' are to be taken off or left on, clarify where crutching starts and finishes, and signify any penalty to be applied accordingly. (See 9. (a) (iv)).

#### **6. BOARD JUDGES**

- (a) The board judges will judge for:
  - (i) second cutting of the wool;
  - (ii) breaking of fleece;
  - (iii) work before or after time;
  - (iv) skin attached to wool from merino sheep
  - (v) other penalties as per rule 7.
- (b) Board judges must start on the same stand of a particular event.
- (c) Board judges must rotate so that all competitors receive equal scrutiny.
- (d) Board judge's rotation must continue until last sheep of last shearer is finished.

- (e) Board judges using counters must, at completion of last sheep of each heat or final, record every competitor's penalty strokes on card provided.
- (f) If a competitor receives an injury causing serious bleeding, the Board Judge will stop the competitor if he believes it is in the best interest of the competitor or the competition to do so.

## **7. BOARD PENALTIES**

- (a) Second cuts – one credit card in size (85 x 55 x 10mm) equals **five penalty strokes**. **One penalty stroke** – (85 x 11 x 10mm).
- (b) **One penalty stroke** for not breaking the neck wool on full wool fleeces.
- (c) **One whole penalty point** per offence if pen handler lifts sheep to assist catch. (See 2. (h)).
- (d) **One penalty stroke** per side for obvious belly wool or brisket frimb not removed when shearing belly or for obvious fleece wool removed with belly.
- (e) Merino skin pieces – **one penalty stroke** per 15mm diameter in size, or an equivalent accumulation of smaller errors.
- (f) **One penalty stroke** for not throwing the belly wool clear.
- (g) **One penalty stroke** for wool thrown interfering with another competitor.
- (h) **Two penalty strokes** for first hind leg wool broken out deliberately by competitor on full wool sheep.
- (i) **Three penalty strokes** for using handpiece or blades to cut open neck wool unless a ruling allowing this is made by Chief Referee.
- (j) **Five penalty strokes** if a shorn sheep on release breaks up fleece or carries fleece wool out porthole.
- (k) **Two whole points** for allowing a shorn or partly shorn sheep to escape. The shearer must make a genuine effort to pen the sheep. Does not apply if sheep is properly penned and returns to shearing board.
- (l) **One whole point** per offence for work before or after time by competitor or pen handler (and during by pen handler) for plucking, removing tassels etc. To be imposed by Board Referee in consultation with judge/s. (See 2. (e))
- (m) *Two penalty strokes per offence for seconds (helpers) assisting with switching machine on or off.*
- (n) **Five whole points** be imposed for rough handling of sheep per offence, Judge and Board Referee's decision in consultation.

- (o) The Board Referee is to advise scorers of any whole point penalty under 7. (l).

### **8. THE PEN JUDGES**

- (a) Single judging system to be used. If possible, number of Judges used should divide equally into number of sheep being shorn.
- (b) The pen judges will judge shorn sheep for –
- (i) Wool left on.
  - (ii) Cuts on sheep.
- (c) The Pen Judge must call the referee to decide penalty for 9. (b), then judge the rest of that sheep.

### **9. PEN PENALTIES**

- (a)
- (i) Wool left on sheep – one credit card in size (85 x 55 x 10mm) – **five penalty strokes. One penalty stroke** – (85 x 11 x 10mm).
  - (ii) Skin cuts – **one penalty stroke** per 15mm diameter in size, or an equivalent accumulation of smaller errors.
  - (iii) Up to **two penalty strokes** per individual sock left on or up to **four penalty strokes** if very woolly, as decided by committee and Chief Referee. (See 5. (d)).
- (b) *Pen Referee must be consulted and adjudicate on cuts into flesh or muscle (not serious enough to be a full penalty of 5 whole points) where a competitor will be penalised by 5 penalty strokes plus the cut.*
- (c) *The Pen Referee must be consulted to adjudicate on*
- i. *a teat cut, which may impair the breeding ability of a ewe*
  - ii. *a cut, which may require surgical attention*
- (a teat graze may not necessarily incur a full penalty).*

*If the Pen Referee deems it serious, a penalty of 5 whole points per offence will be given (added separately to pen score).*

*The Pen Referee will write any whole point penalties in a circle on the pen card and initial it.*

*If the Pen Referee does not deem the offence to be serious, the pen judge will judge the cut as 9 (a) (ii). Add to penalty of that sheep*

*Pen Referee may require a minor cut to be stitched without imposing the whole point penalty*

- (d) *The Pen Referee must be consulted to adjudicate on*
- i. *a hamstring cut that may restrict the mobility of the sheep*
  - ii. *a pizzle cut which may inhibit or restrict normal function.*

*(A hamstring cut or pizzle graze may not necessarily incur a full penalty)*

*If the Pen Referee deems this offence to be serious, a penalty of 10 whole points per offence will be given (added separately to the pen score).*

*The Pen Referee will write any whole point penalties in a circle on the pen card and initial it.*

*If the Pen Referee does not deem the offence to be serious, the pen judge will judge the cut as in 9 (a) (ii). Then add to penalty for that sheep*

*Pen Referee may require a minor cut to be stitched without imposing the whole point penalty point.*

## **10. SHEARING POINTS CALCULATION**

**Time Points.** 1 point for each 20 seconds. Multiply minutes by 3. Divide seconds by 20.

**Board Points.** Divide each competitor's total board strokes by number of sheep shorn.

**Pen Points.** Divide total penalties by number of sheep shorn.

Add Time, Board and Pen Points together to decide competitors score. Competitor with lowest score wins.

Scorers are to be alert for full point penalties on board and pen cards.

In the event of a tie, the competitor with the lowest score for board and pen will take precedence. If there is still a tie, the competitor with the lower pen score will take precedence. If there is still a tie, the competitor with the lower board score will take precedence.

## **Quality Benchmark.**

A quality benchmark will not be used in both Machine and Blade shearing points calculations

## **11. DISPUTES**

- (a) Any disputes will be taken to a Disputes Committee chaired by the Chief Referee. A written appeal must be lodged within 15 minutes of the scores being posted after each event.*
- (b) Person/s appealing may speak to their appeal before the Disputes Committee. Other persons will not enter discussion unless requested or invited to do so by Chief Referee.*
- (c) 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 Competitors' 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.*

**12. ADDITIONAL RULES**

- (a) All competitions must be equipped with first aid kit, needle, thread and antiseptic and should have veterinary support available if possible.
- (b) Where a prize is given for the best shorn pen of sheep then the pen must have been shorn within a reasonable time as decided by the referee.
- (c) Organizing committees should endeavor to provide a clock that is visible to competitors and spectators.
- (d) Countries who have adopted the Golden Shears International Sheep Shearing Rules have the right to amend or introduce a rule in accordance with national Code of Practice or standards subject to World Council approval. For a World Championship, see introduction to Golden Shears World Championship Rules.

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