



Judges Meeting Attendees: Judges and TTAI Officials – Convention Rules Committee Chair; Competition Room Chair; Judge Committee Chair; Ex-Officio and former Competition Room Chair (Roy Holdridge) and TTAI President

TTAI Judge Expectations

- Judges are expected to read and adhere to key items from the TTAI Handbook, and our rules as outlined below.
 - The TTAI is not just another state show. It is not easy to win blue ribbons in the Professional and Masters Divisions in Texas.
- If a mount deserves a blue ribbon, award it. If it does not deserve a blue ribbon, do not award it.
 - Our experience is that awarding too many blue ribbons, when not justified, creates discontent the following year. Especially if the taxidermist is forced to advance to the next competition level.
- The TTAI's overarching objective is to advance artists through the different divisions and grow great taxidermists.

General Competition Information: The TTAI works diligently to hire well-qualified, and respected judges to assess each mount and then explain how the competitor can improve their mounts. Based upon our members' prior successes at the national and world competitions, the TTAI has a track record of growing great taxidermists. We are not just another state show. It is not easy to win blue ribbons and big awards at the Texas competition. Successful competitors are those who have the artistic talent and have put the time and effort into it. Those who successfully compete in several TTAI competitions, learning from various TTAI judges, are well positioned to compete anywhere.

Judging and Critique Process : Judging individual member competition piece(s) is considered complete when scoresheets and Masters scores on the Judges Audit Sheet are turned in to the TTAI Points-keeper. Any changes after that time require a protest process unless an extenuating circumstance is approved by the Competition Rules Committee.

Professional and Amateur critiques are the priority and are completed prior Masters critiques. Once a critique is completed the conversation with that competitor is considered complete. Should follow up questions occur after completion of a critique , judges may respond to that competitor after all other critiques must be completed before any continued conversation occurs. If needed, critiques may continue after the Awards Banquet. Masters score sheets will not contain their score until after the Awards Banquet. They are provided individually upon request by the TTAI Competition Room Chair immediately after the Awards Banquet.

TTAI Competition Divisions



Texas Taxidermy Association, Inc Competition - Judges Instructions

- **Amateur Division:** The Amateur Division competition is geared toward early beginner taxidermists and hobbyists, artists who may be entering one of their first pieces ever mounted, wishing to have the most basic concepts of taxidermy explained in further detail with a much more relaxed critique.
- **Professional Division:** The Professional Division is for the taxidermist who wishes to put their skills to the test. Anatomy, grooming, finishing, and composition are key points to be judged and discussed in a more in-depth critique, along with consideration for artistic creativity. Those who successfully compete at this level are well positioned to compete nationally.
- **Masters Division:** The Masters Division is the most elite division in the TTAI competition. The competitor knows what is expected of a world-class mount. Building upon all skills mastered in the Professional Division, the Masters Division has a strong focus on artistic composition and creativity. Those who win the top scoring blue ribbon in each category of this division earn the title "Texas State Champion".

As a TTAI judge, I attest that I have read the information contained in this excerpt and will use my best efforts to read relevant sections of the TTAI Handbook. I will adhere to the TTAI's expectations for judging as outlined in this document. If I have any questions I will ask the Competition Room Chairperson.

Judge Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Judge Signature: _____