



Judges Meeting Attendees: Judges and TTAI Officials – Convention Rules Committee Chair; Competition Room Chair; Judge Committee Chair; Ex-Officio, Former Competition Room Chair 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.

Competitor Scores and Protests: The judge's score as written on the submitted scoresheets are considered final once the judge finishes all their work and hands them over to the TTAI Points Keeper for data entry. Any change prior to the competitor being aware of a score must be discussed with the TTAI Competition Rules Committee before a score is changed by the judge. Once a competitor is aware of their score, the process then moves to the protest process. The protest must be initiated within one hour of the Competition Room being opened for ribbon viewing. The TTAI assesses a fee which the competitor (or judge) must pay. The TTAI Rules Committee obtains an independent judge, and the mount is re-judged without the new judge being aware of the competitor's identity. If a judge is appealing their own error made in scoring a mount, they are allowed to have a brief discussion with the TTAI Competition Rules Committee and the new judge (in one meeting.) The competitor is not involved in this process. The protest judge performs their independent review of the mount and makes the final decision about the mount score. The new score is entered into the Points Keeping database and the regular award process ensues.



Mount Critiques: A critique is given to each competitor who desires to receive a critique by the judge. Judges prioritize the Professional Division competitors before other divisions. During extenuating circumstances, the TTAI reserves the right to substitute a well-qualified person to perform the critique. Judges are asked to use their time wisely while performing a fair and accurate critique of each mount. Once the critique is complete the judge moves on to the next person in the queue. Competitors may not ask the judge to return to discuss their mount further while other competitors are awaiting their critique. A judge may elect to have a continued discussion with a competitor after all critiques are completed.

TTAI Competition Divisions

- **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: _____