

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

1. Mounts must remain for the duration of the show (5 p.m. Sunday) **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
2. Mounts entered at owner's risk. Every precaution will be made to secure the entries. The MTA will not assume responsibility for loss due to damage, theft, fire and/or natural causes.
3. All nameplates indicating the taxidermist name and/or business name must be covered by the competitor before mount is entered. No pictures showing the taxidermist and/or the business shall be allowed in the judging area until judging is complete. No names or pictures are allowed on the originality sheets. Absolutely **NO** signs advertising guide services will be allowed in the show at ANY time. Failure to comply may result in disqualification of mount.
4. No business cards are to be placed on or around competition pieces on the convention floor at any time during the show with the exception of the commercial division. This ensures the safety of all competitors mounts from being damaged or stolen by ensuring the general public is not encouraged to reach across the security barriers that are in place.
5. Entries in the masters division reproduction category must be originally done by the competitor and cannot be purchased from a supplier.
6. Permits must accompany any protected species.
7. The MTA will not accept any mounts depicting man-inflicted injuries such as a trap on leg, gunshot wounds, arrows in flesh, or any mount done in poor taste. The competition chairman has the right to remove any such mount from the show.
8. There will be multiple ribbons in all divisions.
9. Two blue ribbons in Novice division in any category or combination of categories requires you to move up to the professional division the following year.
10. Reproduction parts are acceptable (i.e. duck heads, feet, fish heads).
11. Freeze-dried will be a separate division. **Exception – you may use a freeze-dried turkey head only in the Turkey categories.** Any other freeze dry method must be entered in the freeze dry category. Competition chairman will have final say in any disputes.
12. Mount receipts will be used to pick up mounts at 5 p.m. Sunday. **DO NOT LOOSE THIS RECEIPT!**
13. **NO ONE** will be allowed in the judging area until judging is complete. **ONLY people designated by competition chairman will be allowed in judging area during judging.**
14. Spotted fawns and juvenile/immature species may be entered (questionable out of season specimens must have a breeders authority). Juvenile/immature entries must have a sign for display with explanation of origin or death.
15. Domestic dogs and cats may NOT be entered.
16. Freeze Dry Category: All preparation, mounting and finish work must be done by the competitor. You cannot purchase a freeze dried specimen from a commercial vendor or private individual and enter it into competition.
17. Extra credit **MAY** be given for doing your own Reproduction parts; forms, etc. provided they are done well and in accordance with the score sheets. Please indicate so on your originality sheet.
18. No novelty mounts allowed (i.e. mounts depicting animals in a human or unnatural setting. The competition chairman will remove any mount as such brought to the show).
19. Masters division categories will be the same as Professional division, but will be judged at a higher level.
20. Qualified MTA board members or representatives shall judge Novice division.
21. The judges must break all ties for trophies or major awards before the judging is completed.
22. You may NOT enter a single category in two different divisions (Example – you may not enter a deer head in both the Novice and Professional divisions or Professional and Masters divisions, or Masters of

Masters and Masters divisions, etc.). You may enter different divisions in different categories (Example – you may enter a deer head in Novice division and a fish in Professional division or a deer head in Professional division and a fish in Masters division, etc.).

23. You **MUST** have received a blue ribbon to be eligible to receive Best of Category Award. Best of Category Awards are **ONLY** awarded in the Professional Division and Masters Divisions.
24. You **MUST** have received a blue ribbon to be eligible to receive a State Champion Award. State Champion Titles are **ONLY** awarded in the Master's Division.
25. **After the judging is complete, the judges ARE NOT allowed to change any ribbons. Do not ask them to do so. If you have a problem please contact the competition chairperson. He/she will use their discretion to settle any disputes and their ruling is final!**
26. Best All-Around (Master Division only) consists of 4 categories. They shall be Game Head, Mammal, Fish and Birds. The winner must have attained a score of at least 80 points on each of the 4 mounts to be eligible (A score of 79 or lower on any one mount will eliminate any chance of winning). The mounts may also be entered into regular competition in their respected categories and receive additional awards if they qualify (Best of Show, Best of Category, etc.). The 4 mounts entered in the Best All Around category **MUST** be chosen at the time of registration and cannot be changed once judging has started. You will be required to pay registration for general category and Best-All-Around if competing as such.
27. Educational Award Requirements – The rules for the Educational Award are as follows. It must make use of the art of taxidermy (some type of mount). It needs to provide the viewer some type of education of some phase of taxidermy, nature, natural phenomena, conservation, etc. All show judges will judge the pieces entered. To qualify the piece **MUST** score at least 80 points at the Masters level. The piece shall be judged using the following standards.... 50% of the score shall be based upon the education and the statement the overall piece provides. 25% of the score shall be based on the taxidermy skills used, and 25% of the score on the use of habitat.
28. Sportsmanship-The MTA has gone to great lengths to obtain the most experienced and qualified judges in the world. All judge's decisions will be final. Competitors should conduct themselves in a professional manner. Unsportsmanlike conduct could result in disqualification and forfeiture of any and all MTA awards as well as being barred from future competitions.
29. Habitat Award Requirements-The habitat entry fee must be paid in order to be eligible for the Habitat Award. Eligibility for entry also requires the habitat to be part of a regular specimen entry for the current year competition. Score sheets will be used by the individual judges for each entry as a basis for evaluation. Competitors may receive first, second or third place ribbons as determined by the respective judges. The overall best first place habitat piece would receive the Best of Category (if entered in the Professional Division) or State Champion (if entered in the Master's Division) award for the Habitat category. Habitats must consist of a minimum of three separate mediums. Mediums may consist of dirt, rock, grasses, trees and bushes, water, ice, snow, moss Etc. Habitats may not be purchased in a completed state from another individual or company and used to compete. Individual materials may be purchased to use in construction of the competitors original finished habitat.

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