

Chapter 23. Auxiliary Fleece Competitions

Auxiliary Fleece competitions are an opportunity for exhibiting fiber arts and skein samples. Rules generally follow the rules for Fleece Shows with breed, age division, color combining, and class size. The Approved AOA Show logo must be on all ribbons. Championships may not be offered because they are outside the scope of normal fleece judging criteria and an AOA Certified Fleece Judge is not required for either Judges or judging criteria for these classes.

Section 1. Hand-Spun Skein

- A. Hand-spinners have an opportunity to showcase their skill working with alpaca fiber.
- B. Entries must be submitted in the name of the spinner. A completed Entry Tag must be placed in a plain clear zipper-type gallon-size bag with the skein, stating the spinner's name, address, and class number. If known, the name and a photograph of the alpaca from which the fiber was spun may also be included and attached to the Entry Tag.
- C. Skeins must have been completed during the last year.
- D. Hand-spun skeins will be divided by Group, Category, and Class as follows:
 1. Groups:
 - a. Beginner spinner (spinning less than one year).
 - 1) Junior—ages 18 and younger.
 - 2) Adult—over age 18.
 - b. Intermediate spinner (spinning for more than one year).
 - c. Advanced spinner (spinning for more than three years).
 2. Categories:
 - a. Yarn spun from commercially prepared fiber (roving, bats, tops, etc).
 - b. Yarn spun from fiber hand prepared by the spinner.
 3. Classes:
 - a. Classic yarn:
 - 1) Singles—100% Huacaya (natural or dyed).
 - 2) Singles—100% Suri (natural or dyed).
 - 3) 2 or more ply—100% Huacaya (natural or dyed).
 - 4) 2 or more ply—100% Suri (natural or dyed).
 - 5) 2 or more ply—blends (at least 50% alpaca).
 - b. Hand spindle: any ply (at least 50% alpaca).
 - c. Novelty yarn: to qualify as Novelty, the yarn must be spun using a defined technique (Nap, Core, Spiral, Knot, Slub, Boucles, Beaded, etc.), be well constructed, and comprised of at least 50% alpaca.
- E. Each exhibitor may enter two skeins per Group/Category/Class provided they are of different fiber preparations (Example of different fiber preparations—combed vs. carded or woolen vs. worsted).
- F. Skeins must be at least 50 yards in length, 1.5 to 2 yards in circumference, neatly wound, "figure 8" tied in 4 places and placed in a plain clear zipper type gallon-sized plastic bag. Points may be deducted for any skein that is not at least 50 yards in length.
- G. Each skein must be accompanied by a written construction description. The construction description requires, but is not limited to, the following information: Fiber preparation, fiber content, techniques used and intended use of the yarn (clothing, rug, decoration, etc.). This construction description will be included in the points for judging. Written construction descriptions shall not exceed a 3" x 5" card and must not contain identifying information, including but not limited to alpaca name, individual name or ranch identifying information. Note: Description cards containing identifying information will be removed and no points for written description will be awarded.
- H. No substitutions at the show.
- I. Judging criteria: Items will be judged anonymously with points given for:
 1. Visual appeal (Total possible points: 20).
 - a. Luster/Brightness (6).
 - b. Cleanliness (8).
 - c. Color (3).
 - d. Skein appearance (3).
 2. Handle (Total possible points: 20).
 3. Craftsmanship (Total possible points: 50).
 - a. Cohesiveness (Subtotal possible points: 30).
 - 1) Amount of twist and execution (8).

- 2) Appropriate number of plies (6).
- 3) Diameter of yarn (6).
- 4) Structurally durable (10).
- b. Consistent application of technique (Subtotal possible points: 20).
Note: The 20 points for consistent application of technique will be allocated evenly amongst the sub-criteria based on the class being judged.
 - 1) Dyeing/blending.
 - 2) Novelty technique.
 - 3) Plying technique.
- 4. Construction description and intent (Total possible points: 10) 3 x 5 card.
Note: Construction description should include but is not limited to the above criteria.
 - a. Yarn suitable for intended use.
 - b. Fiber preparation techniques, etc.
- J. Skeins exhibiting parasitic infestation shall be disqualified and the reason for the disqualification shall be recorded on the Judge's Worksheet.
- K. The minimum skein score to award a blue ribbon is 60. If none of the skeins in a class achieve 60 points or above then the Judge shall start placements with a red ribbon in that class.
- L. First-third place ribbons shall be awarded in each Group/Category/Class. Shows have the option to award fourth-sixth place ribbons as well.
- M. Special awards: Judge's Choice and People's Choice may be offered. The intent to offer these awards must be indicated when the show certification is requested. Limited to one of each award per breed type. An entry must have a minimum score of 80 points for Judge's Choice.
- N. The Judge or Hand-Spun Skein Show Superintendent may change the Group/Category/Class of an item at their discretion.
- O. Classes may be combined if less than four entries per class are received. If after combining classes there are still less than four entries per class, the Judge or Hand-Spun Skein Show Superintendent may combine by Group as well.
- P. Classic yarn classes may be divided, at the Judge's discretion, as follows:
 - 1. First by color, using the Color Combining Chart (see illustration under Fleece Show Color Rules).
 - 2. Then they may be further divided, by yarn weight, where weights are measured by wraps per inch:
 - a. Fine: 19 or more wraps per inch.
 - b. Medium: between 12 and 19 wraps per inch.
 - c. Bulky: 1–11 wraps per inch.
- Q. There shall be no ties in scores.
- R. Judge's decisions are final.
- S. Skein Scorecards represent feedback from the Judge, shall be completed in ink and signed in ink by the Judge, and shall be returned to the exhibitor with their skein.
- T. A Judge's Worksheet is completed in pencil and signed in ink by the Judge for each class, reflecting the exact scores and placement on the individual scorecards and is forwarded to the AOA Show System Administrator to be retained as the official record of the show. All disqualifications shall be noted on the Judge's Worksheet.
- U. The Hand-spun Skein Show Superintendent shall return the End of Show Requirements including the original signed Judge's Worksheet and Hand-spun Skein results to the AOA Show System Administrator within **20** days of the conclusion of the show as the official records of the AOA Show System.

Section 2. Mill-Spun Skein

- A. Mills have an opportunity to showcase their skill working with alpaca fiber and farms have an opportunity to showcase their fiber that has been mill-spun.
- B. Mill-Spun competition will be divided by categories and classes as follows:
 - 1. Categories:
 - a. Mill skeins: Entered by a mill demonstrating their best work.
 - b. Farm skeins: Entered by an individual farm showing the quality of yarn from their fiber.
 - 2. Classes:
 - a. Finer yarns: 100% alpaca
 - 1) Knitting Superfine/Fine Yarn (Sock, Fingering, Baby, Sport).
 - 2) Weaving 1200 yards/lb or greater.

- b. Light/Medium yarns: 100% alpaca
 - 1) Knitting (DK, Light Worsted, Worsted, Afghan, Aran).
 - 2) Weaving 850 yards/lb– 1199 yards/lb.
 - c. Bulky yarns: 100% alpaca
 - 1) Knitting Bulky/Super Bulky (Chunky, Craft, Rug, Bulky).
 - 2) Weaving less than 850 yards/lb.
 - d. Novelty yarn: Boucles, Thick and Thin, Beaded, etc., be well constructed, and comprised of at least 50% alpaca
- C.** Entries must be submitted in the name of the mill or farm depending upon Category. A completed Entry Tag must be placed in a clear zipper type gallon size bag with the skein. The tag will include the mill name if submitted by the mill (farm and mill name if submitted by the farm), address, and classification.
- D.** Skein must have been completed during the last year.
- E.** Each exhibitor may enter two entries per Category/Class provided they are from different production runs and/or dye lots.
- F.** Skeins must be at least 100 yards in length, 1.5 to 2 yards in circumference, neatly wound, “figure 8” tied in four places and placed in a zipper type gallon-size clear plastic bag. Points may be deducted for any skein that is not at least 100 yards in length.
- G.** Each skein must be accompanied by a written construction description. The construction description requires, but is not limited to, the following information: Fiber content, techniques used and intended use of the yarn (clothing, rug, decoration, etc.). The construction description will be included in the points for judging. Written construction descriptions shall not exceed a 3” x 5” card and must not contain identifying information, including but not limited to alpaca name, individual name or ranch identifying information. Note: Description cards containing identifying information will be removed and no points for written description will be awarded.
- H.** No substitutions at the show.
- I.** Identifying information or labels on items is prohibited.
- J.** Judging criteria—items will be judged anonymously with points given for:
- 1. Visual appeal (Total possible points: 20).
 - a. Luster/Brightness (6).
 - b. Cleanliness (8).
 - c. Color (3).
 - d. Skein appearance and appropriateness of class (3).
 - 2. Handle (Total possible points: 20).
 - 3. Craftsmanship (Total possible points: 50).
 - a. Cohesiveness (Subtotal possible points: 40).
 - 1) Amount of twist and execution (10).
 - 2) Appropriate number of plies (10).
 - 3) Uniformity (10).
 - 4) Structural durability (10).
 - b. Consistent application of technique (Subtotal possible points: 10).

Note: The 10 points for consistent application of technique will be allocated evenly amongst the sub-criteria based on the class being judged.

 - 1) Dyeing/blending.
 - 2) Novelty technique.
 - 3) Plying technique.
 - 4. Construction Description and Intent: (Total possible points: 10). A 3 x 5 card construction description should include but is not limited to the above description.
- K.** Skeins exhibiting parasitic infestation shall be disqualified and the reason for the disqualification shall be recorded on Judge’s Worksheet.
- L.** The minimum skein score to award a blue ribbon is 60. If none of the skeins in a class achieve 60 points or above then the Judge shall start placements with a red ribbon in that class.
- M.** First through third place ribbons shall be awarded in each Category/Class. Shows have the option to award fourth through sixth place ribbons as well.
- N.** Special awards: Judge’s Choice and People’s Choice may be offered. The intent to offer these awards must be indicated when the show certification is requested. Limited to one of each award per breed type. An entry must have a minimum score of 80 points for Judge’s Choice.

- O. The Judge or Mill-Spun Skein Show Superintendent may change the Category/Class of an item at their discretion.
- P. Classes may be combined if less than four entries per class are received. If after combining classes there are still less than four entries, then the Judge or Mill-Spun Skein Show Superintendent may combine by Category, as well.
- Q. Classes may be divided, at the Judge's discretion, by color, using the Color Combining Chart (see illustration under Fleece Show Color Rules). Classes may be further divided, by dyed or natural color.
- R. There shall be no ties in scores.
- S. Judge's decisions are final.
- T. Skein Scorecards represent feedback from the Judge, shall be completed in ink and signed in ink by the Judge, and shall be returned to the exhibitor with their skein.
- U. A Judge's Worksheet is completed in pencil and signed in ink by the Judge for each class, reflecting the exact scores and placement on the individual scorecards and is forwarded to the AOA Show System Administrator to be retained as the official record of the show.
- V. The Mill-Spun Skein Show Superintendent shall return the End of Show Requirements including the original signed Judge's Worksheet and Mill-Spun Skein results to the AOA Show System Administrator within **20** days of the conclusion of the show as the official records of the AOA Show System.

Section 3. Fiber Arts

The purpose of the Fiber Arts competition is to showcase products made with alpaca fiber.

- A. A completed Entry Tag must accompany the item, stating the farm name and/or the artisans name, address, and item's classification. If known, the name and a photograph of the alpaca from which the fiber was gathered may also be included and attached to the Entry Tag.-
- B. Items must have been completed during the last year.
- C. All entries, in all classes, must consist of a minimum of 50% alpaca fiber.
- D. Fiber Arts items will be divided by Division, Category, Group and Class as follows:
 1. Divisions:
 - a. Beginner: (working in the Fiber Art for less than two years).
 - 1) Junior—ages 18 and younger.
 - 2) Adult—over age 18.
 - b. Intermediate (working in the Fiber Arts for more than two years).
 - c. Advanced (working in the Fiber Arts for more than five years and/or has submitted to a juried event).
 2. Categories:
 - a. All handwork: 100% handspun yarns with 100% hand-made construction, and/or 100% hand felted (may use commercially prepared roving).
 - b. Partial or non-handwork:
 - 1) Use of commercially spun yarn and/or machine knitted, woven or felted.
 - 2) Less than 100% hand felting.
 3. Groups:
 - a. Woven.
 - b. Felt.
 - c. Knit.
 - d. Crochet.
 - e. Lace.
 - f. Multiple construction techniques.
 4. Classes:
 - a. Accessories—any technique.
 - 1) Gloves, hats, socks, slippers, purses and other small wearable items such as jewelry.
 - 2) Shawls and scarves.
 - b. Garments—any technique: Sweaters, jackets, dresses, vests or complete outfits.
 - c. Hearth & Home—any technique.
 - 1) Art and toys (pictures, figurines, etc.).
 - 2) Home furnishings (rugs, pillows, afghans, wall hangings, containers, etc).
- E. Each artisan may enter one item per Division/Category/Group/Class.
- F. Each item must be accompanied by a written description that provides construction details. This description will be included in the points for judging. The description requires, but is not limited to, the following information:
 1. Fiber preparation.

2. Fiber content.
 3. Techniques used.
 4. Intended use.
- G.** Written descriptions shall not exceed a 3" x 5" card and must not contain identifying information, including but not limited to alpaca name, individual name, or ranch identifying information. Note: Description cards containing identifying information will be removed and no points for written description will be awarded.
- H.** No substitutions at the show.
- I.** Judging criteria: Items will be judged anonymously with points given for:
1. Visual appeal (Total possible points: 25).
 - a. Design (9).
 - b. Color (8).
 - c. Texture (8).
 2. Craftsmanship (Total possible point: 60).
 - a. Cleanliness (5).
 - b. Cohesiveness (Subtotal possible points: 15):
 - 1) Consistency.
 - 2) Tension.
 - 3) Gauge/stitch size, etc.
 - 4) Correctness of finish.
 - c. Structural durability (Subtotal possible points: 20):
 - 1) Selvedges/joins.
 - 2) Correct needle size or correct set.
 - d. Finishing (Subtotal possible points: 20):
 - 1) Notions.
 - 2) Blocking.
 - 3) Final finishing.
 - 4) Handle.
 - e. Creativity and innovation (Total possible points: 10).
 - f. Construction description and Intent (Total possible points: 5).
- J.** Fiber Arts exhibiting parasitic infestation shall be disqualified and the reason for disqualification shall be recorded on Judge's Worksheet.
- K.** The minimum Fiber Arts Score to award a blue ribbon is 60. If none of the items in a class achieve 60 points or above then the Judge shall start placements with a red ribbon in that class.
- L.** First through third place ribbons shall be awarded in each Division/Category/Group/Class. Show may award fourth through sixth place ribbons as well.
- M.** The Judge or Fiber Arts Show Superintendent may change the Category/Class of an item at his/her discretion.
- N.** Classes may be combined if less than four entries per class are received.
- O.** Special awards: The show may choose to offer Judge's Choice and People's Choice Awards. The intent to offer these awards shall be indicated on the Application for Certification. An entry must have a minimum score of 80 points for Judge's Choice.
- P.** There shall be no ties in scores.
- Q.** Judge's decisions are final.
- R.** A Fiber Arts Scorecard shall be completed in ink and signed in ink by the Judge for each item entered. Fiber Arts Scorecards represent feedback from the Judge, and shall be returned to the exhibitor with the entry.
- S.** The Judge shall complete a Fiber Arts Worksheet in pencil and signed in ink.
- T.** The Fiber Arts Show Superintendent shall return the End of Show Requirements including the original signed Judge's Worksheet and Fiber Arts results to the AOA Show System Administrator within **20** days of the conclusion of the show as the official records of the AOA Show System.