



Virginia Taxidermist Association

Rules for Competition/Attendance

Amended April 2025

1. The VTA, its officers and/or Board of Directors shall not be responsible for damage, theft, accidents, etc to any mounts entered in the competition, under any circumstances, or for the bodily injury or accident of any person involved in or viewing the competition. Anyone feeling the need for insurance on their entries shall purchase such through their local insurance agent.
2. All members entering mounts in competition will be required to fill in the mount declaration and sign this form stating that they have read, understand and obeyed all competition rules.
3. Entrant must be a member in good standing of the VTA, or a reciprocal association of the VTA before entering VTA competition. Each entrant must also be registered for the convention.
4. Protected species will not be allowed in the VTA competition without proper permits and/or documents with specimen.
5. The Competition Committee reserves the right to restrict viewing of any entry deemed inappropriate or detrimental to the image of fishing, hunting, and/or taxidermy. All such entries will be judged privately.
6. The judges will make the FINAL decision on how mounts place in competition. If the entrant wishes to challenge a judge's decision, the challenger/entrant must pay a \$25.00 challenge fee to the VTA. At this time, the next most qualified person in attendance, as picked by the VTA officers, will re-judge the mount in private, with no knowledge of the previous score. The second judging will be final.
7. Only the Competition Committee can be in the competition room with the judges while judging is in progress.
8. Soliciting by suppliers or members in the competition area will be prohibited.
9. Members in the competition area during public viewing are encouraged to wear VTA apparel and their name badge.
10. Entries may be entered by individuals, shop employees or as a collective group. If assistance is given by shop employees or the mount was a collective effort by more than one person, the mount must be entered under the name of the studio or everyone's name that assisted. Individual entries must be mounted entirely by the person entering it, with no assistance from anyone in any way. If reasonable proof is established that this rule has been violated, the person in question may be required to mount the same type of specimen entered in competition for a panel of the Board of Directors and Officers.
11. No mount or part of any mount can be entered in competition that has been judged in a previous Virginia competition.
12. Entries in cases must have a removable top and sides. Cases must be removed by the entrant before judging.
13. If a combination mount is presented at registration and multiple pieces are paid for and entered separately, they will be scored and awarded accordingly.
14. Any member found violating competition rule will be subject to the loss of any and all awards. No refunds of any kind will be made.
15. To be eligible for Judges Choice Best in Category or any of the other major awards (Wasco, Breakthrough, etc) a mount must score 90 points or better.
16. To be eligible for the Best All Around Taxidermist of the VTA, you must enter a total of four mounts, all in different categories (Gamehead, mammal, bird, fish or reptile), either all 4 in professional for best all around professional or all four in masters for best all around masters. There is a minimum combined score of 320 before award will be given out.
17. An entrant may enter a piece solely for Wildlife Art and Commercial Division competition. It will not be judged by the judges, nor will it be eligible for any of the judge's awards.
18. An entrant may remain at the Amateur level of competition until he/she receives a blue ribbon in that category. He may choose to move up to the Professional level prior to that, but once moved up, he/she may not move back to the Amateur level. An entrant may remain at the Professional level of competition until he/she has received two blue ribbons in that category of competition. He/she may choose to move up to the Master level prior to that but once moved up he/she may not move back to the Professional level.
19. Any infraction of any VTA rules will result in disqualification of the entry and forfeiture of any awards and/or monies won by that entry. Registration and entry fees will not be refunded.
20. Any Member in good standing requiring ADA support in order to attend the annual conference must give a minimum 60 day notice to Board so that services can be obtained. If a Member requests ADA services with a minimum 60 day notice and fails to attend the conference the Member can be charged by the Agency providing the services. Requests for services without a minimum 60 day notice will be the responsibility of the Member.