



GROOM TEXAS

Lonestar Mavens | *Professional Groomers Tradeshow*

WWW.GROOMTEXAS.COM

PROCEDURES, POLICIES & PROTOCOL (2026-2027)

Check-In Procedures

Pick up registration packet at the show desk upon arrival Thursday or at the Contest Ring starting Friday.

Check-in station opens 1 hour before contest start and closes 15 minutes before start.

Bring: contest ticket, signed rules acceptance, dog, and equipment.

Pre-contest photos will be taken; table assigned.

Arrive 45-60 minutes before start. Late arrivals (within 15 minutes of start) cannot compete. No exceptions

Competition Dog Requirements

Dog must be clean, dry, mat-free; nails clipped/filed; ears clean.

Sanitary and pads may be clipped before contest; all other grooming during contest.

Age of dog: ideally 1-10 years.

Must be healthy, parasite-free, not pregnant/nursing, and non-aggressive.

Never left unattended; properly cared for (food, water, exercise).

Leashed when not crated or being groomed.

Follow all vaccination regulations.

Prejudging & Entry Confirmation

Judges will check:

Correct class/division.

Coat growth and prep.

Time frame by size/breed/technique.

Pattern pre-set status.

Contestant notes (e.g., ear infections, scars).

Product Rules

- No decorative objects in purebred classes.
- No coloring except natural enhancement in purebred classes.
- Hair extensions (same color) allowed if applied see Groom Team Sanction Rules.
- Styling products allowed during contest; no reshaping after time is called.
- Chalk allowed before/during contest; not after time is called.
- Salon freestyle: max two bows; small color accents (≤ 1 inch) on paws, ears, tail, cheeks.

Sally Break

- Mandatory break announced at class start.
- All contestants/dogs go to designated area together.
 - Water and potty breaks provided.
 - Assistants/judges may hold dogs.
 - No grooming or discussion during break.
- Break time is extra and not counted toward grooming time.

Competition End

- Clear table of tools/hair; leave a comb.
- Dogs may be combed and freshened (spray only) after scissors down.
- No reshaping or styling after time is called.
- Stack and present dog to judges.

Judging Criteria

- Uniformity, balance, symmetry, style.
 - Purebred: correct breed profile.
 - Freestyle: best profile for body type.
 - Scissoring: plush, no marks.
 - Hand stripping: smooth, natural.
 - Clean clipper lines; neat edges.
- Difficulty level, coat type, and creativity.
- Camouflage faults and enhance profile.

Post-Contest Photos

- Taken after judging; return to table afterward.

Policies

Strictly Prohibited:

Cell phones, radios, headsets.

Standing on tables/chairs.

Non-spill-proof drinks.

Coaching during contest or break.

Written/visual instructions.

Smoking, vapes, flames, hair dryers.

Equipment:

Bring your own tables and arms. Preferred table size to not be larger than 24/36

Bring your own tools (loops, scissors, clippers, etc.).

Remove personal equipment after each class.

All grooming tools allowed; flat irons permitted.

Professional Conduct:

Wear proper attire and closed toe shoes.

Unsafe stations (e.g., open scissors) penalized.

Kind handling required; dogs never unattended.

Apply skills safely; injuries penalized.

Show good sportsmanship at all times.

Disqualifications & Warnings

Groom Texas may issue warnings, penalties, or disqualifications for rule violations at its sole discretion.

General Rules, Structure, Divisions & Awards

Competition Structure

Three-tier, multi-division format:

Open Division

Intermediate Division

Entry Division

Divisions compete **separately** for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each class.

All 1st place winners enter the **Best in Show (BIS)** lineup for their division.

All 1st place winners must attend the **BIS Awards** on **Saturday, July 18th**.

Each division awards a **Best All-Around Groomer**.

Competition Level Rules

GroomTeam Sanctioned Class rules apply to **all divisions**.

Exception:

Only **Entry Division** may use clippers, scissors, and thinning shears on breeds normally hand-stripped or carded (Sporting & Wire Coat classes).

A **15-minute time reduction** applies when using these tools.

Division Eligibility

OPEN DIVISION

Open to all competitors.

Recommended for:

Advanced stylists

Experienced competitors

Professional conformation exhibitors or certifiers

Only Open Division class winners earn GroomTeam USA points.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

Restricted to competitors who have **NOT** achieved any of the following:

Three Best in Show **or** three Best All-Around titles (Intermediate division, any show)

OR four group placements from any tiered show

OR six 1st-place Intermediate wins (any show)

Recommended for groomers with intermediate-level skills or conformation exhibitors/certifiers/instructors with similar skill levels.

ENTRY DIVISION

Restricted to competitors who have **NOT** achieved:
A Best in Show **or** Best All-Around title (any division, any show)

OR four 1st-place Entry wins

OR one group placement from any tiered show

Not permitted in Entry Division:

Conformation exhibitors

Owners/breeders/handlers who have finished a champion

Certifiers

Grooming instructors

Recommended for first-time competitors or novice-level groomers.

Advancement Rules

A minimum of **four contestants** must compete in a class for a 1st-place win to count toward level advancement.

If you place **and defeat another competitor** in:

Open Division → you may **not** compete in Intermediate or Entry.

Intermediate Division → you may **not** compete in Entry.

Awards

General Awards

All divisions judged **simultaneously**.

Each division awards **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place**.

BEST IN SHOW (BIS)

Each division has its own BIS.

BIS is chosen from the **1st place winners** of each class.

Competitors must:

Stay in the arena with their dog for BIS evaluation.

Return for the BIS Awards Presentation at the designated time.

Failure to be present = **ineligible for BIS**.

BEST ALL-AROUND GROOMER

Awarded in each division based on point totals:

Placement Points

1st - 3 points

2nd - 2 points

3rd - 1 point

Tie-breakers:

Quantity & highest placements

Example: Three 3rd places beats one 1st.

Two 1sts + one 3rd beats two 2nds + one 1st.

Number of entries defeated

If still tied → **prize money split equally**

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for Best All-Around or other cumulative awards, competitors must enter **at least three**

GroomTeam USA-sanctioned classes:

Wire Coated Breeds

Sporting Breeds

Poodles

All Other Pure Breeds

Award Policies

If enough eligible competitors are entered, **1st, 2nd, and 3rd must be awarded** in that order.

Awards may only be withheld for specific disqualifying reasons (see Warnings & Disqualifications).

Additional details are found in **Procedures and Protocols**.

SALON FREESTYLE RULES (2026–2027)

✓ Acceptable Breeds

Any mixed-breed dog.

Purebred dogs **NOT groomed in their standard breed style**

Examples:

Cocker Spaniel in a sporting trim

Shih Tzu in a puppy trim

Poodle in a Bedlington trim

Old English Sheepdog in a teddy bear trim

Asian Fusion styles allowed.

Poodle face and feet cannot be shaved.

✓ Products & Color

Up to **2 bows** allowed.

Colored hair extensions allowed.

Small color accents (1 inch or less) only on **paws, ears, tail, or cheeks**.

✓ Judging Criteria

Balance, symmetry, and style.

Groomer's ability to create the best look for the dog's body type and coat.

Scissoring: Plush finish, no marks.

Hand stripping/carding: Smooth, natural look.

Clipper work: Clean lines, no irritation.

Difficulty level based on coat type, amount removed, and pattern.

✓ Time Limits

Dogs **17" and under:** 1 hour 45 minutes

Dogs **over 17":** 2 hours

✓ Awards

All placements earn points toward **Best All Around Groomer** (must enter 3 GroomTeam USA sanctioned classes).

1st place competes for **Best in Show**.

Note: Salon Freestyle is **NOT** a GroomTeam USA sanctioned class and does **NOT** earn GroomTeam points.

For full details, check **General Contest Rules and Procedures**.

✔ Contest Overview

Two Divisions: Open and Entry (see general rules for division eligibility)

Focus: Creative sculpting, color, character design, and presentation.

Must use safe techniques for color, accessories, and costumes.

Open to all contestants.

✔ Acceptable Breeds

All purebred and mixed breeds allowed.

No live animals other than dogs as props or entries.

✔ Time Frame (Pre-Groomed and ring time)

Dog can be groomed beforehand but should be finished in the ring.

Ring time is 2 hours.

Decoration and product application must be finished within the 2 hour time frame.

✔ Products & Decorations

Must be safe for dog and stylist.

Costumes must not restrict movement (ears, legs, tail).

Decorations must be removable for judge inspection.

Glues: non-toxic, water-soluble.

No lifting of natural color.

No duct tape, carpet tape, or harmful adhesives.

No heavy or large objects on the dog.

✔ Judging Criteria

Technical Finish

Sharp clipper lines, quality scissor work.

Decorative and color application (depth, blending, separation).

Profile

Concept clear and recognizable.

Balanced, original, creative use of color and decorations.

Difficulty

Complexity of design and color work.

Amount of work done during contest time (for in-ring).

✔ Presentation Rules

Space limit: **6'x6'**.

Protect tables from glitter, glue, color.

Assistants:

2 for prop setup (10 min after scissors down).

Up to 3 on stage and 3 off stage during presentation.

Presentation: **max 2 minutes**, may include audience engagement.

Music must be submitted before contest.

No dimmed lights, smoke, confetti, streamers, or explosives.

✔ Awards

Judges select **1st, 2nd, 3rd place**.

People's Choice Award (audience applause).

*This show is open to the general public. Have fun and wow the audience with your creativity.

ABSTRACT DESIGN RUNWAY CHALLENGE RULES:

✔ Division

Open to **all competitors**, any level.
Everyone competes in **one division**.

✔ What is the Challenge?

Create a **beautiful abstract design** using the pet's coat as your canvas.
Focus on **sculpting quality and artistry**—minimal accessories and color.

Color allowed: **no more than 10% added during contest time**.

Design should be something that can be done in **one day in a salon**.

✔ Key Rules

Any **dog or cat**, purebred or mixed, any coat type.

Entire design must be completed **prior to the contest**.

Design presented in a Runway fashion at the Awards dinner.

✔ Judging Focus

Design placement

Execution and precision

Artistry, balance, and overall appeal

If color is used, it **will not affect judging**.

TEXAS TEAM DUO RULES:

✔ Overview

Two groomers work together on **one dog**, aiming for a perfect groom while entertaining the judges.

✔ Acceptable Breeds

Any purebred or mixed breed allowed.

Poodles:

Feet may be shaved **before** the contest.

Face must be shaved **during** the contest.

Show topknots can be pre-banded with extensions, but **no spray-up products before start**.

✔ Themes & Fun

Themes encouraged!

Creative gifting/bribery to judges and crowd allowed (non-food items only).

✔ Time Limit

1 hour 30 minutes for all dogs.

✔ Accessories

Allowed if they fit the style or theme.

Should not distract from the groom itself.

✔ Divisions

Open to **all competitors**, any level.

✔ Judging Criteria

Trim: Balance, symmetry, uniformity, style.

Theme: How well the groom matches the chosen theme.

Technique:

Scissored dogs: Plush finish, no marks or uneven spots.

Hand-stripped/card dogs: Smooth, natural look.

Clipper work: Clean, irritation-free.

Difficulty: Coat type, amount removed, complexity.

Teamwork: How well the duo works together.

Placements: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

Best Bribe/ Theme

MODEL DOG COMPETITION RULES:

Entry Requirements

Contestants must provide their own model dog.

All entries must be **fully finished prior to submission**. No additional work may be done once the model dog has been turned in.

Completed model dogs must be submitted **no later than 10:00 AM on Saturday, July 18th** at the Competition Ring and stay on display until 4:30 pm .

Model dogs **may not** have been used in any previous competition.

Awards

Three awards will be presented:

Best Creative

Best Asian Fusion

Best Breed Profile

Spirit of the Event

Bring your imagination, showcase your artistry, and enjoy the experience.

Be creative and let's have some fun!

Winners will be presented during the Groomer Baron's Ball. Contestants Responsible for moving dogs to Ballroom by 6:00pm Saturday