

DOLL ARTISAN GUILD® COMPETITION GENERAL RULES 2026



Please understand the importance of following all rules in the DAG Competition Invitation/Sign-Up and in the General Rules. It will make the judging easier and you will avoid losing points unnecessarily.

*Please read carefully. Some categories discussed here may not be offered in every DAG competition. Check the categories offered in the **official competition invitation** for the Competition you are entering.*

DAG Qualified Competitions have different categories and rules.

*For **DAG School of Dollmaking** title dolls, you must follow the rules on the official DAG Affidavit available from your Competition organizer and you must be a member of DAG.*

- All contestants must be current members of the Doll Artisan Guild to win a DAG Top Award *
- Entries must be pre-registered on sign-up form.
- Entries will be displayed with their ribbons, rosettes, and awards
- By entering this competition, entrants are obliged to leave their entries on display until the end of the exhibit. Entries must be picked up at the display area at the designated time.
- If your entry is not accepted in competition or disqualified, it will not be exhibited.
- Your entry may be accepted at the discretion of the DAG Director of Competitions.
- No insurance will cover the entries, but care will be taken to safeguard them.
- Photos will be taken of your entry for the exclusive right of the Doll Artisan Guild, Inc. Publication may include DOLLS Beautiful magazine and on Facebook.
- D.A.G. Top Awards may only be won by current DAG members unless otherwise approved in advance by D.A.G.

D.A.G. AWARDS

DAG Awards will be different for each event. For a complete list of DAG Awards offered, please check the Competition Invitation and Sign-Up for the event you are interested in.

MISC. AFFIDAVITS

Check your Competition Invitation to see which affidavits may apply to your entry.

Doll Artisan Guild®
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click Competition

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR D.A.G. COMPETITION

The following types of work may not be entered in General Dollmaking Categories such as Antique Reproduction, Modern Dolls and Open. This does not apply to Costuming:

- ◆ Work by you that has been entered in earlier D.A.G. or D.A.G.S.D.-qualifying competition. **EXCEPTION:** Entries previously entered in a Digital Doll Event Costume Competition may be subsequently entered in an in-person competition one time.
- ◆ commercial work;
- ◆ entries made from bisque kits or bisque blanks NOTE: Purchased greenware is ok.
- ◆ entries with "studio markings"
- ◆ entries made in seminar or class (class meaning: in a class setting under the tutelage/guidance of a teacher/instructor);
- ◆ work made in private lessons;
- ◆ work by D.A.G. judges, instructors, and teachers.

CLASSIFICATION : APPLIES TO ALL

Dollmakers are classified as **Professional** or **Non-Professional**. You must determine this for yourself. If you enter a doll and classify yourself incorrectly, D.A.G. reserves the right to change your entry.

Professional dollmakers are those who:

- (1) teach porcelain dollmaking for a fee,
- (2) have set themselves up in the business of selling their dolls
- (3) have previously won a D.A.G. Top Award such as Millie, Magge, Eva's Choice, ARTI, Sheryl Williams Award, Kitty Murks Aurora Award, Louise Hedrick Costuming Award.

Other dollmakers may class themselves in either division.

Special note: Entries in both classifications (Professional or Non-Professional) are judged the same.

PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

- ◆ Dolls must have some **mobility** (EXCEPTION: OPEN categories and THEME categories).
- ◆ Size limit: MAXIMUM OVERALL SIZE, IF NOT OTHERWISE NOTED: 31 INCHES (78cm). Size is measured from top of head to bottom of heel, including base. (Check your specific Event's Invitation & Sign-up)
- ◆ Maximum base Size: PAGE 4
- ◆ Changes in greenware are not allowed in any category (EXCEPTION: OPEN AND THEME).
- ◆ Doll heads must be of porcelain and china painted in all categories except Costuming. **Painted heads are now preferred in the Costuming categories**
- ◆ Use of decals for facial features, or any kind of wax or wax-like substance applied to the bisque is unacceptable.

◆ INCISING:

Markings: You must clearly incise – carve in green- or soft-fired ware – the entry with your name or initials and year (4 digits). For the doll head, make your incising in back of neck. Make sure it is easy to find, deep enough to read, and not hidden under wig. Incising must be visible when you lift the hair off the neck.

Shoulder heads (unjointed) may be incised on back of shoulder plate.

Entries in Decorative Porcelain Arts categories must be equally incised.

Note: Only entries that are incised as required will be accepted. Leave the incising uncovered. (Incising will be inspected at Registration and then covered.)

EXCEPTION: DOLL HOUSE DOLLS (DHD)/Miniatures —DHD may be incised wherever the dollmaker chooses Ex.: bottom of foot, top of head. Since entry cannot be completed without covering up the incising, your entry must be submitted with supplemental "Incising Affidavit" available from the Doll Artisan Guild website. Bring with your entry.



FOR CURRENT SPECIAL AFFIDAVITS:

<https://dollsbeautiful.com/competition>



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DAG COMPETITION

PREPARING YOUR ENTRY—CONTINUED

◆ IDENTIFICATION of your entry:

Write your name and address on a slip of paper, about 5 x 2" (12 x 5cm). Fold twice with name inwards, and pin under clothes in back. Do not sew any name labels into the clothes or attach name tag to stand.

◆ Stands:

Your doll should be submitted standing, held by a plain doll stand. Exceptions: Baby dolls and Large Modern dolls may sit, preferably leaning against, and fastened to the base of a regular doll stand. Baby dolls may also lean the head on, and be fastened to a little head pillow in proportion with the doll. Beds, baskets, mattresses, blankets, bed-size pillows or similar will be rejected.

◆ Chairs:

Chairs may also be used, but only for dolls brought in. The chair must be in proportion with doll, that is, feet of doll must reach down to "floor." High chairs, outsize chairs, sofas or any other device for sitting, will be rejected. If you are in doubt, bring a stand, just in case. Any chair might be rejected.

◆ Scenes:

Allowed for the following entries: All-Bisque, Doll-House Dolls, Mechanical Dolls, Open and Theme categories. See Maximum base size page 4. Use one or two dolls/pieces, max doll/item/size 14" (35.5cm). Two dolls/items as a scene will be judged as one entry. Scene decorations may not extend higher than USA 20". Scenes include "Dolls in Boxes" etc.

◆ Props and Accessories:

With dolls other than scenes, submit your dolls **without props**, if possible. Exceptions: Mechanical, Modern, Fantasy, BJD and Theme categories. If a prop is included, it may not extend higher than the height of the doll or 24" whichever is smaller and must be fastened to it. Do not use wax or hot glue to hold prop. Tie accessories and props with ribbon or wire. Fasten hats with pins or ribbon. Loose props and accessories are reason for point deduction.

◆ Positions:

Do not arrange your doll in a specific position, or expect it to be displayed for the judges exactly as you submitted it. Judges must be able to examine your work easily.

◆ General Costuming of a competition doll:

For DAGSD titles, check further under that section in your Invitation or on the appropriate Affidavit.

As the doll has to be made solely by the contestant, it is strongly suggested that the doll's costume also be made by contestant. Commercial costumes are not acceptable in competition.

Costume Kits purchased as a combination of fabrics, lace and ribbons that the dollmaker has assembled ARE ALLOWED.

Dolls must be properly dressed. Antique Reproductions must be costumed in the style of the antique. Note: Old material may be used, but it must be re sewn. If a costume is copied from an antique, it would be helpful if your entry was accompanied by an illustration; either photo, photocopy, or reference to the source (may not be returned; will not be displayed with the doll.)

Garments must be removable. EXCEPTION: *Doll-House Dolls*, where garments may be sewn on.

Enter dolls with china-painted costumes in Decorative Porcelain Arts.

Sergers are OK to use in Open, Theme and Modern categories.

Note: If costume is authentic, but out of the ordinary, always include documentation to the authenticity of your entry.

This information applies to costumes on dolls in all DOLLMAKING categories.

For COSTUME-only categories, see separate rules on page 5.

PREPARING YOUR ENTRY—CONTINUED

Bodies:

Modern composition body is allowed in any *Modern Dolls* category. Antique reproduction composition body is not accepted in a modern category. **Ceramic or ceramic type bodies** are not allowed in any category. Dollspart Jointed body is allowed as a replacement for an antique composition lady body.
Use of the wrong body can mean the loss of up to 11 points.
Must use a complete body (except Candy Container Dolls, Fortune Teller, Pin Cushion Dolls)

Maximum base size for all entries:

US 20" X 20" X 15" H (45cm x 50cm x 38cm H)

INFORMATION FOR SPECIFIC DOLLMAKING CATEGORIES

Reproductions of Antiques:

Dolls in **Reproduction Categories** will be judged for their authenticity, that is, their similarity to the antique doll – a more formal way of recreating.

The reproduction doll should be as prim and clean as the old doll was when new. Therefore do not "age" it.

Include photocopy or illustration of antique doll face that you painted from, even if you painted from a Doll Artisan Guild "Dollmakers Worksheet." Clearly Identify the photocopy or illustration with the **doll's registration number only**.

Entries with **Rochard technique** may be submitted in Categories for *Fashions* and in all *Open* and *Modern* categories.

Mechanical Dolls that are authentically recreated belong in *the Mechanical Dolls* category. All others belong in *Open* or *Modern Doll* categories. Repro. mechanical body is acceptable for all mechanicals.

Doll in Box:

Max. size of box: See **BASE SIZE**.

Open and Modern Categories:

Entries will be judged for their creativity and execution of idea – your own interpretation.

Please note that modern Dolls in **DDP-Category** must have facial features (including the eyes) painted in the DDP technique and will receive a judging especially focused on this technique. Dolls in this technique but with glass eyes and/or with glue-on lashes, may be entered in *Modern doll categories* (Not DDP).

BJD dolls painted in the DDP technique (with painted eyes) may be entered in DDP categories, BJD category, *Open* or *Fantasy*.

Special Requirement for Modern Doll Artist Dolls—Because only some Modern Doll Artists' Dolls may be reproduced, we ask you to sign a Special Affidavit. Judges will disqualify any doll that they believe might be under valid copyright protection. NOTE: This is a different document from the DAGSD Affidavit for DAGSD Titles. [LINK to affidavit: https://dollsbeautiful.com/competition](https://dollsbeautiful.com/competition)

CRYSTAL CATEGORIES—for previous Top Award winners

Note: This category is only available at select DAG events and DAG Qualified Competitions

Entries will receive a beautiful rosette which will be displayed with the entry. (There are no blue/red ribbons awarded) The entries will be judged with the best entry as determined by the Judges being awarded the Crystal Award.

- Dollmakers with entries in the category Crystal-Antique cannot also enter regular Authentic antique reproduction categories at the same event. (Example: At DAG events—if you enter category 51, you cannot also enter categories 1—14 at the same event.)
- Dollmakers with entries in category Crystal—Modern cannot also enter regular Modern Doll Artist Doll categories at the same event. (Example: At DAG events-if you enter category 52, you cannot also enter categories 23—29 at the same event.)
- Crystal Awards will be chosen from all qualified (blue ribbon) entries. Judges' decision final.



INFORMATION FOR SPECIFIC DOLLMAKING CATEGORIES—

continued



COSTUMING - ONLY CATEGORIES

UPDATED 2025

CLASSIFICATION

Contestants entering in Costuming categories will not be classified as Professional or Non-Professional.

The following types of dolls may be entered in the Costuming-only categories:

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|--|-------------------|
| Porcelain dolls: | Vinyl dolls |
| • made by you | Collectible Dolls |
| • made by someone else | Vintage dolls |
| • made in a seminar/class/under the guidance of a teacher/Instructor | Antique dolls |
| • made from a kit (pre-painted or bisque) | |

ABOUT THE DOLL

Unpainted/painted porcelain head need not be incised with name/date.

Appropriate head—type should be used. (Ex: German head on german body, modern head on modern body.)

Head must be attached in an appropriate manner to an appropriate size body.

Head should have a wig or molded hair.

The following type of work may **NOT** be entered in the Costuming-only categories:

Work by you that has been entered in earlier DAG or DAGSD-qualifying competition; commercial work; Costume made by someone other than contestant.

*NOTE: COMMERCIAL **COSTUME KITS** THAT INCLUDE FABRIC, LACE AND TRIMS WHICH IS SUBSEQUENTLY CUT OUT AND ASSEMBLED BY THE CONTESTANT USING A PATTERN **ARE ALLOWED**. Be sure to do your research when using one of these kits.*

PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

NOTE: All entries must be **submitted with a reference card** showing the date or time period being reproduced and any other pertinent information. Card may (or may not) be displayed with entry.

Size limit: MAXIMUM OVERALL SIZE, IF NOT OTHERWISE NOTED: 31 INCHES (78cm).

Size is measured from top of head to bottom of heel, including base.

DISPLAY

Costume must be displayed on an appropriate doll body securely attached to a stand. (Ex: French Fashion costume should be displayed on appropriate lady body)

Stands: Follow rule for Dollmaking Category/Stands

JUDGING

Costume will be judged on authenticity, costume appeal/color scheme, workmanship and fit. Costume should be authentically reproduced for the time period on the submitted reference card .

Accessories attached to doll will be judged as part of the overall costume.

OTHER:

Antique Costume: Before 1930. Modern: 1930 to current date.

Entry will not be entered in more than one category.

SCULPTING Categories: ORIGINAL DOLLS & FIGURINES Entry sculpted by contestant

Submit with your entry some photos of the sculpture in progress, and of final sculpture.

- Cloth body with armature preferred. Judges must be able to stretch out doll to check proportions.
- Do not put pantyhose on dolls in original categories

Note: Sculpting categories are NOT planned for 2025-6 however there is a Sculpting Award for the Tennessee Competition. See Invitation.