

World International Rules

N.B those marked with # also relates to Wool handling.

Tallies			Daily Tallies
Novice	2 wins	As an accumulation	
Novice Blades	2 wins	As an accumulation	
Novice Wool Handling	2 wins	As an accumulation	
Junior	2 wins	In 1 season	150/200
Intermediate Wool Handling	2 wins	As an accumulation	
Intermediate	4 wins	As an accumulation	250/275
Senior	6 wins	As an accumulation	350/375

The minimum qualification of entrants in shearing competitions shall be a British Wool 'Blue Seal' or equivalent shearing qualification.

All shearers have the right to appeal in writing to BISCA. If a tally is reported to an Area Judge – the Area Judge is in a position to move person up a class. Shearers can request to put themselves up a class.

Only official BISCA judges MUST be used by competitions.

All organisers, competitors and sheep suppliers will uphold all relevant bio-security protocol currently applicable at all times.

1. COMPETITORS

- (a) # Competitors enter and compete at their own risk.
- (b) # Competitors must be suitably dressed, including footwear. The Referee will administer this ruling. They must be suitably dressed for the presentation ceremony.
- (c) # The use of drugs, intravenous fluids or oxygen is banned in all competitions. Random drug tests may be taken, and if proved positive, the competitor will pay all costs and be disqualified.
- (d) # The referee or judge has the right to switch off the machine or disqualify any competitor whose work or conduct on the shearing board is detrimental to the image of competition shearing, or Wool handling. Referee may stop a competitor during an event if clearly not competitive time wise. (See 6. (f) also).
- (e) # Any inappropriate action by a competitor and /or official that brings a competition and/or BISCA into disrepute may result in disciplinary action by BISCA. Disciplinary action may include suspension from future events for up to 30 competition days.
- (f) # Competitors may judge (if a registered BISCA Judge) at a contest where they are competing, but only in classes below in which they are participating.
- (g) # Competitors in competitions must be suitably attired, and this will include footwear (i.e. jandals or open sandals and caps or hats are prohibited) Earphones and iPods must not be worn while competing. The referee will administer this ruling.

2. COMPETITION RULES

(a) # A draw for Heats will be made prior to all competitions. Finalists shall draw for stands as they take the boards.

(b) Competitors must provide their own hand-pieces, combs, cutters, and blade shears. Sharpening equipment will be made available by the Host Committee in accordance with local regulations or law.

(c) Competitors will each be allowed two loaded hand-pieces or two blade shears which are their responsibility, and no time will be allowed for stoppage caused by their hand-piece, blade shears, or sheep escaping from the competitor on the shearing board. Should any stoppages occur through the fault of the machine or through another competitor's sheep escaping, a time allowance will be made or a re-run given, only at the Board Referee and Chief Referee's discretion. The organizing Committee may allow competitors to use up to three hand-pieces in events with three or more breeds/wool types. **Blade holders should be provided by the organising committee. Blades should be placed in holders before a competitor starts shearing, between sheep and on finishing the last sheep.**

(d) Where practical a draw for stands must be made after sheep are in the catching pens for finals. In the case of a left-handed machine shearer, that competitor's sheep will be moved to left hand stand if one is available.

(e) Competitors may enter their pen in the presence of a Judge, to sort and inspect their sheep. Plucking of wool before and/or after time (during if by pen assistant) will incur a penalty. (See 7.

(l)

(f) Competitors may appeal to the Referee to have any sheep they consider sub-standard replaced before the heat, quarter, semi-final or final commences. The Referee's decision is final. Any sheep rejected by the Referee must be raddled/marked and withdrawn from the entire event.

(g) Without assistance each competitor must:

(i) Start and stop their machine.

(ii) Collect their sheep from a standing position within the catching pen, except where a ruling has been made prior to the event for safety reasons. (e.g. Scottish Blackface, where sheep may be held in a sitting position.) With own pen man.

(iii) Put each sheep out the porthole after shearing.

(iv) Switch their hand-piece off between sheep

(h) An authorised holder is permitted in the catching pen. This person may not tip or lift the sheep for the competitor or switch the machine on or off. No unauthorised persons are permitted in the catching pen, and no officials are allowed to assist a competitor in any way, except where safety is a concern.

(See 2. (g) (ii) and 7. (c)).

(i) Competitors must wait on the board and may place hand/s on the closed door/s to await the word 'Go' from the Starter.

(j) # On completion of shearing their sheep, all competitors will remain on their stand until the last competitor has finished, unless.

(i) they need to seek urgent medical attention.

(ii) they have been granted permission to leave the board by the referee prior to the commencement of such heat or final.

(k) Competitors may not present their own sheep for the Pen Judges but may be required to present sheep from the next heat. Failure to do so when required will result in a penalty of one whole point from the Pen Referee.

(l) Competitors points for any titles such as BISCA Shearer of the Year or any circuit event where points are accumulated will not be taken from societies not affiliated o BISCA.

(m) # Visiting overseas competitors must compete in the same grade that is stipulated by their own country, in the case of Wool handling competitions this will be at the discretion of the Wool handling Referee, they cannot compete in a lower grade.

(n) # Competitors regardless of age cannot go back in class.

Competition	Heats	Semi-Finals	Finals
Junior	3	3	4/5
Intermediate	4	4	5/8
Senior	4	5	7/12
Open	5	8	15/20

3. SHEEP

(a) Sheep chosen must be carefully selected for evenness of type and size to provide a fair competition.

(b) Preparation of competition sheep must be kept to a minimum with uniform standard to ensure the safety of pizzle, teats and vulva.

4. TIMING

(a) # A Competition will provide a separate timekeeper with a stopwatch or an approved self-timing device for each competitor. Back up stop watch timing is recommended for self-timing devices.

(b) Each competitor's time will be taken from the Starter's 'Go' until ---

(i) Machine shearers have completed their final sheep and switched off their hand-piece, or the 'Stop' button is pushed in the case of electronic timing.

(ii) Blade shearers have completed their final sheep and put their shears down or the 'Stop' button is pushed in the case of electronic timing.

5. REFEREES

(a) A Chief Referee will be appointed for each competition who will be responsible for the administration and control of the competition strictly according to these International Rules, and any additional rules approved by World Council. The Chief Referee's ruling on any matter not covered by the above will be final.

(b) # Any person may seek clarification on any point from the referee. The referee may rule on the matter raised or refer it to the Disputes Committee.

(c) The referee must be called and decide any whole point penalty as in 2. (k), 7. (k) and 9. (b)

(d) Before the start of the competition the Chief Referee will announce whether 'socks' are to be taken off or left on, clarify where crutching starts and finishes, and signify any penalty to be applied accordingly. (See 9. (a) (iv)).

(e) # Where the outside referee is called upon in International Tests and BISCA Team selections, the final decision will be made in consultation with the Chief Referee.

6. BOARD JUDGES

(a) The board judges will judge for:

- (i) Second cutting of the wool
- (ii) Breaking of fleece
- (iii) Work before or after time

- (iv) Skin attached to wool from merino sheep
- (v) Other penalties as per rule 7
- (b) Board judges must start on the same stand of a particular event.
- (c) Board judges must rotate so that all competitors receive equal scrutiny.
- (d) Board judge's rotation must continue until last sheep of last shearer is finished.
- (e) Board judges using counters must, at completion of last sheep of each heat or final, record every competitor's penalty strokes on card provided.
- (f) If a competitor receives an injury causing serious bleeding, the Board Judge will stop the competitor if he believes it is in the best interest of the competitor or the competition to do so.

7. BOARD PENALTIES

- (a) Second cuts – one credit card in size (85 x 55 x 10mm) equals five penalty strokes. One penalty stroke – (85 x 11 x 10mm).
- (b) One penalty stroke for not breaking the neck wool on full wool fleeces.
- (c) One whole penalty point per offence if pen handler lifts sheep to assist catch. (See 2. (h)).
- (d) One penalty stroke per side for obvious belly wool or brisket frib not removed when shearing belly or for obvious fleece wool removed with belly.
- (e) Merino skin pieces – one penalty stroke per 15mm diameter in size, or an equivalent accumulation of smaller errors.
- (f) One penalty stroke for not throwing the belly wool clear.
- (g) One penalty stroke for wool thrown interfering with another competitor.
- (h) Three penalty strokes for first hind leg wool broken out deliberately by competitor on full wool sheep.
- (i) Three penalty strokes if a shorn sheep on release breaks up fleece or carries fleece wool out porthole.
- (j) Two whole points for allowing a shorn or partly shorn sheep to escape. The shearer must make a genuine effort to pen the sheep. Does not apply if sheep is properly penned and returns to shearing board.
- (k) One whole point per offence for work before or after time by competitor or pen handler (and during by pen handler) for plucking, removing tassels etc. To be imposed by Board Referee in consultation with judge/s. (See 2. (e)).
- (l) One whole penalty point per offence if seconds (pen handler) assists with switching machine on or off.
- (m) Five whole points be imposed for rough handling of sheep per offence, Judge and Board Referee's decision in consultation.
- (n) The Board Referee is to advise scorers of any whole point penalty under 7. (m).
- (o) Five whole points to be awarded if a competitor leaves the board before the final person has finished shearing.

8. THE PEN JUDGES

- (a) Single judging system to be used for outside pen judging. If possible, number of Judges used should divide equally into number of sheep being shorn.
- (b) The pen judges will judge shorn sheep for –
 - (i) Wool left on.
 - (ii) Cuts on sheep.
- (c) The Pen Judge must call the referee to decide penalty for 9. (b & c) then judge the rest of that sheep.

9. PEN PENALTIES

- (a)
 - (i) Wool left on sheep – one credit card in size (85 x 55 x 10mm) – five penalty strokes. One penalty stroke – (85 x 11 x 10mm).
 - (ii) Skin cuts – one penalty stroke per 10mm diameter in size, or an equivalent accumulation of smaller errors.
 - (iii) A cut into flesh or muscle (not serious enough to be a full penalty of five whole points) will incur a minimum of five penalty strokes plus the cut.
 - (iv) Up to two penalty strokes per individual sock left on or up to four penalty strokes if very woolly, as decided by committee and Chief Referee. (See 5. (d)).
- (b) The Pen Referee must be consulted, and a competitor will be penalised by the addition of five whole points per offence added to their calculated pen score if they
 - (i) Cut a teat and impair the breeding ability of the Ewe.
 - (ii) Severely cut any sheep to the extent that it requires surgical attention. (Referee may require a minor cut to be stitched without imposing the above penalty)
- (c) The Pen Referee must be consulted, and a competitor will be penalised by the addition of ten whole points per offence added to their calculated pen score if they -
 - (i) Cut a hamstring
 - (ii) Cut into or through the centre of a pizzle (a pizzle graze may not necessarily incur a full penalty)
- (d) If the Pen Referee deems this offence to be serious, a penalty of 10 whole points per offence will be given (added separately to the pen score). The Pen Referee will write any whole point penalties in a circle on the pen card and initial it. If the Pen Referee does not deem the offence to be serious, the pen judge will judge the cut as in 9 (a) (ii). Then add to penalty for that sheep Pen Referee may require a minor cut to be stitched without imposing the whole point penalty point.

10. SHEARING POINTS CALCULATION

Time Points.

1 point for each 20 seconds. Multiply minutes by 3. Divide seconds by 20.

Board Points.

Divide each competitor's total board strokes by number of sheep shorn.

Pen Points.

Divide total penalties by number of sheep shorn.

Add Time, Board and Pen Points together to decide competitors' score. Competitor with lowest score wins.

Scorers are to be alert for full point penalties on board and pen cards.

In the event of a tie, the competitor with the lowest score for board and pen will take precedence.

If there is still a tie, the competitor with the lower pen score will take precedence.

If there is still a tie, the competitor with the lower board score will take precedence.

Quality Benchmark.

A quality benchmark will not be used in both Machine and Blade shearing points calculations.

ADDITIONAL RULES

All Junior and Intermediate Shearers should be encouraged to inspect their shorn sheep immediately after finishing their heat where expert advice can be given on both judges scoring and technical expertise.

Where competitors are allowed to shear up a class, only Juniors that have qualified through from the Junior heats should be allowed to shear in Intermediate.

Any conduct that is detrimental to the ethics of BISCA by either competitor or official shall be notified to the Disciplinary Committee:

10 whole points for abusive behaviour by competitor or penman in any discipline to be applied by Judge in consultation with the referee.

The Disciplinary Committee has the right to suspend, for a period, or remove any mistruant from their respective list.

Video evidence will not be accepted for queries or disputes regarding judging decisions or related matters.

The decision of the Committee shall be FINAL.

Appeals have to be submitted in writing to the referee 15 minutes after the occurrence with a lodgement fee of £20/€20 returnable if upheld.