

NARBC Wool-Skein-Garment (WSG) Contest Rules & Guidelines

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WSG RULES & INFORMATION

1. All entries must be the work of the exhibitor(s). Open and Youth exhibitors will be shown together in one contest.
2. Interested persons are welcome to watch the judging, but are instructed not to talk to, or question judge(s) during judging.
3. Absolutely no identifiers may be attached to entries (i.e. name, business card) and no prices may be attached. No photos of animals. These will disqualify an entry.
4. All entries are to be unscented. Perfumed and scented entries will be disqualified.
5. Entries must make the minimum weight posted. Underweight entries will be disqualified.
6. Spinner's samples and fleece entries are to be harvested within 1 calendar year of the NARBC WSG Contest date. Skeins and other entries are to be finished within 1 calendar year of the NARBC WSG Contest date.
7. Entries showing signs of parasite or moth-infestation will be disqualified.
8. After judging, wool, skeins, and garments will be released unless other arrangements are made. Checkout procedures must be followed by all exhibitors. Exhibitors are to collect their items, verify with show staff, and sign entry form upon receipt of all items returned. Items are welcome to remain on display but NARBC is not responsible for theft or damage. Winning items are encouraged to be displayed at the exhibitor's consent (initial entry form). Entries marked yes for display may be handled, touched, and/or examined by non-show persons.
9. The Fiber Committee will make every effort to display and care for the items entered, but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage. If you would like your item covered, please provide a garment bag, container, etc. *Please note birds are occasionally present in the buildings.
10. Results will be announced and posted in the booth, reported in the newsletter, and posted on the club website(s), and social media. Photos of entries may also be posted to website and social media.

WSG SANCTIONS & SWEEPSTAKES

1. Sanction request will be sent to the NARBC WSG Chairperson. The request and payment must be either postmarked if postal mail, or emailed 30 days prior to the Contest date. Sanction requests will be accompanied with the sanction fee of \$5.00. Sanction fee payment may be made via PayPal to NARBC@ at yahoo.com or by check payable to NARBC.
2. Local Host Cubs reserve the right to add classes as they wish but points will not be accrued for sweepstakes i.e. adding raw wool classes for German Angoras, JW, or AFL, other adding skein, garment, or processed fiber classes. These additional classes are exempt from being considered for Best Wool/ Skein/Garment.
3. National WSG Contest Sweepstakes run from August 1st through July 31st, with awards given at or before the ARBA National Convention for the top Sweepstakes points earner in each category of Wool, Skein, and Garment. Additional placement awards will be considered as sweepstakes participation grows.

Sweepstake points are valued as follows:

- 6 times number in class for 1st place
- 4 times number in class for 2nd place
- 3 times number in class for 3rd place
- 2 times number in class for 4th place
- 1 times number in class for 5th place

Bonus Points:

- Bonus points are calculated using the category the winning item was entered in. Example: Subclass Garment A1 won Best-In-Show, the 100 bonus points will be added to the category of Garment.
 - Best Wool, Best Skein, and Best Garment receives an additional one point bonus times the number entered in the category.
 - An additional 100 points will be awarded for any Best-In-Show. Judges Choice will be awarded an additional 50 bonus points.
 - Double points will be awarded for all classes, bonuses, and Best-In-Show at National Angora Specialty Shows and the ARBA national Convention.
4. The WSG Contest Chair will send the WSG Contest Host Report to the NARBC WSG Chairperson within 30 days of the completion of the Contest.
 5. The NARBC WSG Chairperson creates the WSG Sweepstakes Contest Report. Then sends a current monthly Sweepstakes totals to the NARBC Secretary to be published on the NARBC website.
 6. The NARBC WSG Chairperson will send the WSG Sweepstakes Contest Report to the WSG Contest Chair.

WSG CONTEST HOST CHECKLIST

Note: If hosting a NARBC National Specialty or ARBA Convention, be sure to obtain a copy of the current "Hosting an NARBC National Specialty or ARBA Convention Show Policy and Procedures".

1. Selecting a WSG Judge.

An ideal WSG Contest judge is one who is well-versed in fiber arts, including the following;

- Many spinning techniques, crafting techniques including knitting, crochet, weaving, and felting.
- Has experience with many fiber types both natural and synthetic.
- Has used many dyes including chemical and natural.
- Understands the differences in all 4 recognized ARBA Angora breeds as per ARBA SOP guidelines, and understands what makes each Angora breed unique.
- Has an idea of handle for the 4 breeds and appreciates the appropriateness of yarn and garments made from each breed.
- The judge does not need to be credentialed.

Note for Potential Writers/Judges:

We welcome enthusiasts of all skill levels to participate in the WSG Contest as writers/judges! While the ideal judge possesses extensive knowledge in various fiber arts, including spinning techniques, crafting skills, and familiarity with different fiber types, we want to emphasize that these criteria are not meant to discourage anyone from taking on the judging role. Volunteering to write for a WSG judge is an excellent means of gaining knowledge and experience towards taking on a future judging position.

If you have a passion for fiber, and an interest in learning, we encourage you to join us as a writer or judge, regardless of whether you meet all the listed requirements. Your unique perspective and enthusiasm for the craft are valuable contributions to our community.

2. WSG Mini-Guide must be printed in your show catalog.
3. Print off the WSG Entry Forms and WSG Comment Cards for people to use, or share them electronically.
4. Collect and organize your entries. Have someone available onsite to help organize and answer questions.
5. The following number system must be used to number entries. This will ensure the exhibitors can match up the sheet to the item should they be separated. Example: If Exhibitor #9 enters 10 items of wool for Class A1 then the label on the item should be: Exhibitor # 9, Class: A1, Item Number: 1/10 (indicating this is 1 of 10 items in the class entered by that exhibitor) **This MUST be entered on the label on the items as well as on the judging sheet.** If the exhibitor only enters one item in the class then it would be: Exhibitor #8, Class: A1, Item Number: 1/1. The judging sheets may then be placed back in the bag or placed in an envelope with the exhibitor number. (The envelope is similar to ARBA Convention checkout envelope).

6. Judge your contest.
7. After the finalization of the contest, send your completed Contest Host Report to the NARBC WSG Chairperson within 30 days. This will be published in the next available NARBC Newsletter, along with pictures.

8. Awards:

Best Wool - Award Determined by WSG contest host
Best Skein - Award Determined by WSG contest host
Best Garment - Award Determined by WSG contest host
Best-In-Show - Award Determined by WSG contest host
Judge's Choice - Award Determined by WSG contest host
1st in each Class - * Rosette supplied by NARBC
2nd & 3rd in each Class - * Ribbon supplied by NARBC

*Note: * Rosettes and * Ribbons noted are supplied by NARBC for only the National Angora Contests and the ARBA Convention WSG Contests.*

Contact NARBC Show Advisory Coordinator for the current NARBC WSG Award Budget, Rosettes, & Ribbons.

While hosting local WSG Contests, each local club has the flexibility to choose and provide the awards of their preference. The host Club is responsible for organizing and presenting awards during the event, allowing creativity and customization in recognizing achievements.

9. Be prepared to hand out awards at the end of the contest. This can be done as the contestants pick up their entries and/or hand them out at the banquet. WSG Awards can be announced at the banquet (or at annual membership meeting at ARBA Convention).
10. Take LOTS of pictures! We would love to share the creativity of all fiber entries on social media, as well as the upcoming NARBC Newsletter. Creativity encourages creativity. Let's grow our WSG competitions!

WOOL RULES

Option 1 - Spinner's Sample

NOTE: See Wool Presentation Guide, page 18.

1. Weight of wool is to be at least ¼ oz excluding packaging. Samples under ¼ ounce will be disqualified.
2. Wool should be presented neatly lined up and placed in tissue paper then inserted into a clear, gallon size zipped bag. No demerits for wool that needs to be folded into the bag. Points are given for clean, neat presentation. No color restrictions. White and colored wool are to be judged together.
3. English, French, Giant, and Satin angoras are four separate breeds and must be judged separately from each other according to the ARBA Standard of Perfection (excluding color restrictions).

Option 2 - Fleece

1. Fleeces are to be placed loosely in a large clear zipped bag as removed from the animal.
2. No minimum or maximum weight required of fleece.
3. Fleece should be skirted and presented clean and free of vegetable matter. The fleece should contain only prime wool and not include legs, feet, tail or belly wool.
4. Breeds are judged separately according to the ARBA Standard of Perfection (excluding color restrictions). There is no differentiation of plucked versus clipped.

WOOL CLASSES:

A1 English Spinner's Sample
A2 English Whole Fleece
B1 French Spinner's Sample
B2 French Whole Fleece

C1 Giant Spinner's Sample
C2 Giant Whole Fleece
D1 Satin Spinner's Sample
D2 Satin Whole Fleece

SKEIN RULES

1. All skeins must be handspun within one year prior to the date of WSG competition.
2. All entries must contain at least 50% Angora.
3. Weight of skein is to be at least 1 oz, except for classes A-1, B-1, C-1, D-1, & E; which is to be at least ½ oz. Underweight skeins will be disqualified.
4. Skeins must be appropriately tied. Four ties each of the figure 8 ties, evenly spaced throughout the skein.

SKEIN CLASSES:

Note: The Handspun Skein Classes are separated into 3 Sub-Classes. For more detailed descriptions of the different yarn weights refer to the Standard Yarn Weight System as documented by the [Craft Yarn Council \(craftyarncouncil.com\)](http://craftyarncouncil.com).

1. *Singles or two-ply; fine and even as possible
(This is equal to Lace or Fingering)*
 2. *Two or three-ply; medium, or bulky
(This is equal to Sock, Sport, DK, Worsted, Chunky, or Bulky)*
 3. *Other ply or novelty;
(This is equal to Super bulky, other multiply, or novelty yarns)*
- A. 100% Angora- white or natural color
1. Singles or two-ply, fine and even as possible
 2. Two or three-ply, medium, or bulky
 3. Other ply or novelty
- B. 100% Angora- dyed
1. Singles or two-ply, fine and even as possible
 2. Two or three-ply, medium, or bulky
 3. Other ply or novelty
- C. Blended Angora(carded) (must be at least 50% Angora)-natural or dyed
1. Singles or two-ply, fine and even as possible
 2. Two or three-ply, medium, or bulky
 3. Other ply or novelty
- D. Angora plied with other fiber (must be 50% angora, may use commercial yarn for plying)
1. Singles or two-ply, fine and even as possible
 2. Two or three-ply, medium, or bulky
 3. Other ply or novelty
- E. Novice spinner-spinning 1 year or less, or under 18 years of age. Anything Goes!

GARMENT RULES

1. All entries must contain at least 50% Angora, except where noted (Woven/Felted/Novelty/Cottage).
2. Please indicate if your pattern is original. If you are using someone else's pattern, please include credit to the owner. If no pattern is used, make a note of that on the comment card.
3. If an item is made by more than one person, the entry should be entered in all the person's names. Make note if fiber/yarn is purchased, and who the fiber/yarn was purchased from.

GARMENT CLASSES:

- A. Large Wearable (sweater, vest, shawl, etc.)
 1. 100% Angora
 2. Combination Angora & other fiber
- B. Small Wearable (mittens, scarf, hat, collar, etc.)
 1. 100% Angora
 2. Combination Angora & other fiber
- C. Baby/Children's Article
- D. Cottage, a commercially spun yarn with a minimum of 50% Angora
 1. Milled using Angora that has been raised by the person entering the garment entry
 2. Other sourced Angora yarn
- E. Handwoven Wearable
 1. Large Wearable
 2. Small Wearable
- F. Felted Wearable
NOTE: Make note if wet felted or needle felted
 1. Large Wearable
 2. Small Wearable
- G. Novelty (Toys, crafts jewelry, wall hanging, afghan, felted item, purse, or bag)

NOTE: Make note of type of construction or what the item is.

H. Processed Fibers(Batts)

1. Batts must have a minimum 2 oz to max 4 oz.
Two identical batts may be entered as one entry to reach a minimum 2 oz requirement.
2. All batt entries must contain at least 50% Angora.
3. All other fibers and their percentages must be listed on the entry form.
4. Batts should be carefully presented so as not to compress or compact the fibers.
Remember the goal of a carded batt is to provide well blended, lofty, and airy fibers for spinning.
5. Appropriate end use of yarn spun from the batt must be listed on all the entries.
Consideration should be made as to fiber combinations and their response when spun together.

PROCESSED FIBER CLASSES:

- A. Blended batts
- B. Textured batts
- C. Art batts
- D. Color scheme batt, with picture inspiration

JUDGING GUIDELINES

In the WSG contest, entries are scored based on 4 specific categories. Judges will assign points to each category, using the following scale:

Excellent: 25 - 21 points

Good: 20 - 13 points

Fair: 12 - 6 points

Poor: 5-0 points

Each category is evaluated independently, with judges considering factors as described within the Judges Guidelines.

Once all categories are scored, the points for each entry are totaled to determine the final score. For example a perfect score of 25 points in each of the 4 categories would be a total of 100 points. The entry with the highest total score is declared the winner in its respective class, and the remaining entries would be placed as per their total points. In the case of ties, the judge would re-evaluate the tied items and assign placements as necessary.

This point system allows judges to assess entries objectively, rewarding excellence in wool, skein, and garment creations, while maintaining fairness and transparency in the judging process.

WOOL:

NOTE: Wool Fleece is to be judged according to the ARBA Standard of Perfection, without color restrictions. Fleeces are to be placed loosely in a large zipped bag and evaluated as a whole. The Fleece should be consistent throughout and skirted for proper presentation.

The judge will assign a point value for each category listed below;

Density; Density is the most important factor and is composed of the number of follicles in any given surface area (evaluate this to the best of your ability off the animal), the thickness of each shaft for both guard hair and underwool, and the crimp giving volume to each lock.

Texture; Texture should be appropriate for the breed and is composed of the handle of the wool, appropriate proportion of guard hair to underwool, the tactile comfort factor created by the density and balance, and overall smoothness and feel of the locks.

Balance & Condition; Balance & Condition per ARBA Standard, should be well balanced and fairly good length, with differential between the guard hair and underwool. A dense fresh fleece may be shorter in length than a lifeless, flat, long fleece. Density and texture are the important factors, but they should be coupled with a uniform length. The underwool should be strong and springy without stress breaks in the staple or signs of molt, parasites, vegetable matter, urine, or dander. The guard hair should be glossy and alive, not brittle or dry. Points should be reduced for inconsistency of crimp and second cuttings not removed. No preference given to plucked versus sheared fleece.

Presentation; Wool should be clean with no vegetable matter, and well presented. Tissue color should showcase the wool and make it stand out from the paper.

SKEIN:

The judge will assign a point value for each category listed below;

Balance & Condition; Skeins should be presented neatly, twisted and tied appropriately. Condition is to include handle, color, & luster. Balance is to include twist per inch, angle, presentation, & strength. Yarn should have a consistent diameter throughout.

Texture; The skein should be fresh and alive and be springy, not crisp, limp or brittle. The texture should be appropriate for the breed(s), display a halo and be non-shedding.

Appropriate End Use; The end-use should be appropriate for the weight, twist, and texture of the skein. Yarn should be structurally durable and show consistent dyeing/blending throughout.

Twist & Angle; Skeins should be untwisted for full evaluation and hung up to determine balance. Yarn should show the twist evenly executed and appropriate plying twist.

GARMENT:

The judge will assign a point value for each category listed below;

Yarn Quality; The original yarn quality should be evaluated based on the Judging Skein Classes.

Appropriate Gauge; The needle or hook size should be appropriate for the gauge of the yarn. Stitches should not be too tight so as the fabric cannot breathe or be flexible, nor too loose unless a lace appearance is desired.

Woven fabrics should have the appropriate warp to as not distract from the weft and not so tight as to create a stiff fabric. Needle-Felted objects would evaluate the appropriate gauge needle was used or that wet-felt is consistent and even throughout.

Garments that were fulled (knit or woven then felted) will be evaluated on primary gauge followed by felt technique.

Design/Pattern; The overall design and difficulty of the pattern should be considered. Suitability of yarn to the article, consistency of spinning, appropriate yarn characteristics. Suitability of fiber to project; fiber preparation, durability, and hand.

Technique; Technique evaluation should include the overall craftsmanship and skill, neat edges and hidden seams, and consistency of stitch/weave. Wet- and Needle-Felted objects would include blended needle poke sites, non-shedding, and strength to the overall structure.

PROCESSED FIBER:

The judge will assign a point value for each category listed below;

How well is the fiber prepared: Cleanliness, fiber grade/quality, preparation before carding. Fiber should be thoroughly sorted so that only the best fiber has been carded, no seconds/short cuts, etc. Fibers should be thoroughly teased apart before carding. Vegetable matter and neps should be minimal with no VM/Nepps as the goal unless texture is specified upon entry. Fiber is to be very clean, no lanolin or dirt residue remaining in the fiber. No staining present. Batts should be neatly rolled so as to open up easily to allow for judging. Edges should be neat with no pulls or loose fibers. Tissue color should showcase the batt and make it stand out from the paper.

How well are the fibers blended: Judge based upon entry. If the entry is a novelty batt or designed to include textures or color effects, consider those points as well.

Note: Ultra fine or exotic fibers such as cashmere and yak do not respond well to many passes on a carder, and long stapled angora may be broken or torn from excessive carding. The goal is to incorporate these fibers as best as possible.

Appropriate End Use: End use should be appropriate for the ratios and types of fiber in the batt.

Angora Presence: The Angora should be well presented in the batt. Regardless of design, it should be easy to recognize the luxurious qualities of the Angora within each breed when studying the fiber batt.

WOOL PRESENTATION GUIDE

The new method described as follows was developed by industry standards for fiber contests held all over the United States (mohair, alpaca, wool). Several other fiber animals and their contests utilize this packaging method.

The tissue paper helps protect the wool sample, reduces moisture and static electricity, and preserves wool samples for several months. A poor quality wool sample will felt and become disrupted for presentation, regardless of the packaging method.

This method was developed with the hopes of reducing shipping costs for remote participants (mail in entries), increase overall participation, improve organization, and to conform to industry standards. The same packaging and sample could then be used in other contests hosted by other vendors and fiber events.

Lay the fibers neatly aligned onto a piece of tissue paper. You only need about a 5" X 5" square sample of fiber.



Wrap the wool gently in the paper by folding over the edges. Clumps of wool should not be shoved carelessly into a bag.



Place the covered wool sample in tissue paper in a clear, gallon size zipped bag. The judging form can be kept with the sample in the bag nicely and organized. The judge will remove the sample from both the bag and tissue paper to examine the entry thoroughly. The sample may not be returned to its original position and packaging after judging.



The exhibitor number, class number, and class description should be written neatly on the outside of the bag or written on a small index card inserted into the bag. This can be determined by contest committees. The exhibitor's name and/or animal identifier should NEVER appear on the entry or it is to be disqualified.

Example of Proper Labeling;

