

LTA
COMPETITION
GUIDELINES

LTA DIVISION GUIDELINES

MASTERS DIVISION

1. Only members who have won 2 blue ribbons and 15 points in a specific category in the LTA Professional Division, or anyone who has earned their Award of Excellence at the NTA level, must compete in Masters Division.
2. Judging in this division will be on a more intense system. Craftsmanship and artistic detail are required in this division.
3. All taxidermy procedures must be done by the individual entrant and certified as such by his or her signature at the time of registration.
4. Multiple ribbons will be awarded for First, Second, Third Place and Honorable Mention.
5. There will be a Best of Masters award given in this division.
6. There is no limit to the number of entries a member may enter in this division. The entry fee for the Masters Division is \$15.00 per mount.

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

1. All members of the LTA may compete in this division. Members who have won 2 blue ribbons and 15 points in a specific category cannot compete in that category in the Professional Division.
2. Mounts in this division must be technically correct, artistically oriented, as well as creative. Points earned in this division will go towards NTA Award of Excellence and the LTA Award of Excellence Division.
3. All taxidermy procedures must be done by the individual entrant and certified as such by his or her signature at the time of registration.
4. Multiple ribbons will be awarded for First, Second, Third Place and Honorable Mention. There will be Best of Category awards given in each of the nine categories.
5. There is no limit to the number of entries a member may enter in this division. The entry fee for the Professional Division is \$15.00 per mount.

NOVICE DIVISION

1. There is no age limit in this division. However, this division is open only to taxidermists with two years or under of taxidermy experience (not competition experience). You may enter this division only in your first or second year of taxidermy experience. All taxidermists with more than two years of experience must enter the Professional Division.
2. Entries are on a per category basis. That means if you receive a first place in a category in your first year of taxidermy experience, you must move to the Professional Division in that particular category for the next year. However, you may still enter other categories of the Novice Division in the second year of taxidermy experience if you have not yet received a first place in those categories.

3. Mounts in this division will be judged separately and independently on a “commercial grade” basis. Judging will be more lenient than the Professional and Masters Divisions. There will be no points awarded in this division.
4. All taxidermy procedures must be done by the individual entrant and certified as such by his or her signature at the time of registration.
5. Commercial blanks are allowed if all the preparation of the blank and painting is done by the entrant.
6. A critique sheet will be given.
7. Multiple ribbons will be awarded for First, Second, Third Place and Honorable Mention. No Best of Category in this division. (Entries in this division are not eligible for any major awards).
8. There is no limit to the number of entries a member may enter in this division. The entry fee for the Novice Division is \$15.00 per mount.

YOUTH DIVISION

1. This division is open to all children of members sixteen years old and under.
2. Multiple ribbons will be awarded for First, Second, Third Place and Honorable Mention. No points will be given.
3. There is no limit to the number of entries a youth may enter in this division. No points will be given.
4. Entry fee will be proof of current child’s LTA membership. There is no fee per mount in this division. (Youth members can also choose to enter either Professional or Novice Division if they wish, but will be required to pay a \$15.00 per mount fee. Points will be given in Professional Division only).

HABITAT

1. Habitat can be judged separately from the mount, but must be accompanied by a mount.
2. A habitat score sheet will be used.
3. Habitat has a separate scoring system:
 - a. 1st place is 46-50
 - b. 2nd place is 40-45
 - c. 3rd place is 35-39
 - d. Honorable Mention is 32-34
4. The entry fee for the Habitat Division is \$15.00 per mount.

PHOTO CATEGORY

1. This category is open to all LTA members and their families that are registered participants of the LTA Convention.
2. All photos must be 3”x5” or larger and framed.
3. They can be in color or black and white, and each photo should include some wildlife species.
4. There will be three groups: Still Life, Action and Reference
5. Photos will be judged by the competition judges.

6. There will be one first, second and third place overall. No points will be awarded in this category.
7. There is no limit to the number of photos you may enter. There will be an entry fee of \$5.00 per photo entered.

LOUISIANA CUP AWARD

1. To be eligible for this award you must be a Louisiana resident and current member, or a non-resident LTA member in good standing for the past three consecutive years.
2. The mount has to be native to LA, but does not have to have been killed in LA. It will be judged by the judges on the best representation of an LA species and/or habitat.
3. The competitor keeps his/her mount.
4. The LA Cup winner will be picked before scoring any mounts in that category. It does not have to be the highest scoring piece, but has to be at least equivalent to a second place and best depict an LA mount. The judge for that category will determine if the mount is a second place or better.
5. Categories are chosen in advance by the LTA Officers and Board. Categories that have been chosen are: 2018 Whitetail; 2019 Birds; 2020 Fish; 2021 Reptiles; 2022 Waterfowl; 2023 Gameheads; 2024 Mammals. The mount is not limited to a specific species, but any type within the category for the year.
6. The LA Cup Division has a special entry fee of \$25.00 per mount which covers only the LA Cup Division. There will be no score sheet or critique given.
7. If you would like to have your mount scored and critiqued by the judge, then you will also have to pay an additional \$15.00 per mount fee to enter that mount separately into the Professional or Masters Division.
8. The winner will receive a silver cup and \$100.00. There will be no second or third place awards.

BEST ALL AROUND TAXIDERMIST AWARD

1. To be eligible for this award you must be a Louisiana resident and current member, or a non-resident LTA member in good standing for the past three consecutive years.
2. You must enter at least one mount in each of the four major categories: Whitetail or Gamehead (horned, hooped or antlered), Waterfowl or Upland Gamebird, Fish or Reptile, and Mammals.
3. The taxidermist with the highest accumulated score of at least 335 points will be awarded the Best All Around Taxidermist of the year.
4. The Best All Around Taxidermist Division has a special entry fee of \$75.00 (that includes four mounts at \$15.00 each plus an additional \$15.00 division fee).
5. The winner will receive a trophy, ribbon and \$100.00.

LTA COMPETITION CATEGORIES

1. Whitetail, Gamehead, Lifesize Mammals, Birds, Waterfowl, Fish, and Reptile/Amphibian. These categories will accrue points toward the LTA Award of Excellence.

2. Reproduction, Recreation, Shellfish, and Habitat Categories, along with the Novice and Youth Divisions, do not receive points toward the LTA Award of Excellence.

LTA RIBBONS

1. The following ribbon values count toward your LTA Award of Excellence:
 - a. 1st place (100-90) receives 4 points
 - b. 2nd place (89-80) receives 3 points
 - c. 3rd place (79-70) receives 1 point
 - d. Honorable Mention (69-67) receives ½ point
2. “Best of Category” goes to the first place mount with the highest score in each of the nine categories: Whitetail, Gamehead, Waterfowl, Birds, Mammals, Fish, Reptile/Amphibians, Reproduction and Recreation.
3. “Judges Choice Award” will be chosen by a consensus of the judges from all first place mounts in competition. It does not have to be the highest scoring mount. The winner will receive a trophy and a ribbon. (No cash award).
4. “People’s Choice Award” will be picked by the members in attendance. The winner will receive a trophy and a ribbon.
5. “Best of Masters” will be awarded to the highest scoring mount in all categories of the Masters Division. The winner will receive a trophy, ribbon and \$100.00.
6. “Best of Professional” will be awarded to the highest scoring mount in all categories of the Professional Division. The winner will receive a trophy, ribbon and \$100.00.

LTA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

1. To receive the LTA Award of Excellence, you must be a current member of the LTA and have a total of 15 points and at least 2 first place in a qualified category in LTA competition since 1994.
2. An LTA Award of Excellence may be received in each of the following categories for points accrued in that category: Whitetail, Gamehead, Waterfowl, Birds, Mammals, Fish (skin mount only), and Reptile/Amphibians.
3. The Reproduction, Recreation, Shellfish, Habitat and Photo Categories, along with the Novice and Youth Divisions do not receive points toward the LTA Award of Excellence.
4. LTA points are recorded after competition each year. They will not be lost if you fail to maintain consecutive membership at any time. Any points accrued will be picked up upon renewal in the LTA.

NTA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

1. State membership alone does not qualify you for the NTA Award of Excellence.
2. To receive the NTA Award of Excellence, you must be a member of the NTA and have:
 - a. 5 points from NTA competition including 1 first place in a qualified category since the 1982 competition.
 - b. 16 additional points at the National, Regional or State level in NTA sanctioned competitions using NTA score sheets, criteria and judges.

3. Points received in state competition are turned in to the NTA by the LTA Secretary after competition each year.
4. NTA ribbon values:
 - a. 1st place – 3 points
 - b. 2nd place – 2 points
 - c. 3rd place – 1 point
5. NTA qualified categories: Bird, Fish, Gamehead, Whitetail, Large Mammal, Small Mammal and Reptiles.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The LTA, its Officers or Board of Directors shall not be responsible or liable for any mounts entered in competition, under any circumstances.
2. All members entering mounts in competition must sign this form stating that they will, and have, obeyed all competition rules.
3. Membership in the LTA, or reciprocal state associations, must be valid before entering. Any competitor entering the Best All Around Taxidermist must be a Louisiana resident and current member, or non-resident LTA member in good standing for the past three consecutive years.
4. Competitors may enter as many entries as they wish in all categories.
5. Protected species will need written proof and proper permits to be entered.
6. Any mount deemed by the Competition Committee to be in poor taste may be prohibited and removed.
7. The judges will make the final decisions as to how mounts place in competition.
8. Only the Competition Committee can be in the competition area while judging is in progress.
9. Mounts entered must be mounted entirely by the person entering with no assistance from anyone, in any way (only exception is rule #11). 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 for a committee.
10. Entries may be entered by individuals or shop employees, but if assistance by shop employees is given, entry must be entered under the studio name. Entries under a studio name cannot be considered for Best All Around Taxidermist or Louisiana Cup Awards, nor the LTA or NTA points credit.
11. The use of commercially reproduced parts, such as jaw sets, tongues, turkey heads, duck bills and feet, etc. must be reported at the time the mount is entered so that the judges can be notified. Forms and glass eyes are excluded.
12. The Reproduction category will include fish, reptiles and amphibians. This category is not eligible for any major awards.
13. No freeze dried specimens, in whole or part, may be included in any entry. This does not include plants, grasses, insects, minnows or crustaceans used as part of the habitat only. This rule does not apply to freeze dried velvet antlers or turkey heads; however, the head must be painted by the competitor.

14. No mount or part of any mount can be entered into competition that has been in a previous LTA competition where judges were used.
15. Entries in cases must have removable top and sides for judging to be acceptable. Glass cases must be removed by the competitor before judging begins.
16. Any members found violating a competition rule will be subject to lose any and all awards. Entry fees, registration fees, or membership dues will not be refunded.
17. Novelties (i.e. unnatural depiction or representation of specimens in human or bizarre settings) will only be allowed in the Commercial Division and will not receive a scoresheet.
18. An entry in the Recreation category will be accepted provided it is totally prepared by the entrant. Photographic proof may be required. No points will be awarded for this category.
19. Any members, or their families, heard to make comments that are considered inappropriate or degrading in regard to the mounts of other members should be reported to the Officers, Board or Competition Chairman. The person(s) making the comment(s) will be asked to cease, and if necessary to apologize to the offended party. Any conduct by any competitor that is deemed unsportsmanlike could result in disqualification and forfeiture of any and all LTA awards. Any verbal or physical displays towards judges or show officials will not be tolerated (whether justified or not). If the individual does not cease upon request, they will be asked to leave the convention immediately and without a refund of the fees paid. If circumstances deem necessary, they will be barred from future competitions.
20. The LTA, its Officers or Board of Directors shall not be responsible or liable for any mounts entered in competition, under any circumstances.
21. All members entering mounts in competition must sign this form stating that they will, and have, obeyed all competition rules.
22. Membership in the LTA, or reciprocal state associations, must be valid before entering. Any competitor entering the Best All Around Taxidermist must be a Louisiana resident and current member, or non-resident LTA member in good standing for the past three consecutive years.
23. Competitors entering the Louisiana Cup must be a Louisiana resident and current member.
24. Competitors may enter as many entries as they wish in all categories.
25. Protected species will need written proof and proper permits to be entered.
26. Any mount deemed by the Competition Committee to be in poor taste may be prohibited and removed.
27. The judges will make the final decisions as to how mounts place in competition.
28. Only the Competition Committee can be in the competition area while judging is in progress.
29. Mounts entered must be mounted entirely by the person entering with no assistance from anyone, in any way (only exception is rule #11). 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 for a committee.

30. Entries may be entered by individuals or shop employees, but if assistance by shop employees is given, entry must be entered under the studio name. Entries under a studio name cannot be considered for Best All Around Taxidermist or Louisiana Cup Awards, nor the LTA or NTA points credit.
31. The use of commercially reproduced parts, such as jaw sets, tongues, turkey heads, duck bills and feet, etc. must be reported at the time the mount is entered so that the judges can be notified. Forms and glass eyes are excluded.
32. The Reproduction category will include fish, reptiles and amphibians. This category is not eligible for any major awards.
33. No freeze dried specimens, in whole or part, may be included in any entry. This does not include plants, grasses, insects, minnows or crustaceans used as part of the habitat only. This rule does not apply to freeze dried velvet antlers or turkey heads; however, the head must be painted by the competitor.
34. No mount or part of any mount can be entered into competition that has been in a previous LTA competition where judges were used.
35. Entries in cases must have removable top and sides for judging to be acceptable. Glass cases must be removed by the competitor before judging begins.
36. Any members found violating a competition rule will be subject to lose any and all awards. Entry fees, registration fees, or membership dues will not be refunded.
37. No novelties (i.e. unnatural depiction or representation of specimens in human or bizarre settings).
38. An entry in the Recreation category will be accepted provided it is totally prepared by the entrant. Photographic proof may be required. No points will be awarded for this category.
39. If the habitat is to be judged, it must be a separate entry. The habitat will be judged separately from the mounted specimen, but must be in conjunction with an entered specimen, (i.e. a habitat by itself cannot be entered).
40. To receive a ribbon in a competition category you must score 90-100 for 1st place, 80-89 for 2nd place, 70-79 for 3rd place, and 67-69 for Honorable Mention.
41. Any members, or their families, heard to make comments that are considered inappropriate or degrading in regard to the mounts of other members should be reported to the Officers, Board or Competition Chairman. The person(s) making the comment(s) will be asked to cease, and if necessary to apologize to the offended party. Any conduct by any competitor that is deemed unsportsmanlike could result in disqualification and forfeiture of any and all LTA awards. Any verbal or physical displays towards judges or show officials will not be tolerated (whether justified or not). If the individual does not cease upon request, they will be asked to leave the convention immediately and without a refund of the fees paid. If circumstances deem necessary, they will be barred from future competitions.

**I HAVE READ THE COMPETITION RULES AND DO AGREE
THAT THE MOUNT OR MOUNTS THAT I HAVE ENTERED
HAVE BEEN DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LTA
COMPETITION RULES.**

DATE: _____

TAXIDERMIST: _____