



## COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. Levels of Competitions

**AMATEUR:** (18 years old and under) - This division is for the young novice taxidermist and hobbyist.

**NOVICE:** General idea of anatomy and coloration of species. Multiple ribbons awarded.

**PROFESSIONAL:** Mounts should be mechanically sound, technically correct and exhibit the craftsmanship of a professional taxidermist. This division is for the taxidermist engaged in the taxidermy industry for profit. Multiple ribbons awarded.

**MASTERS:** Mounts must be original and technically correct, as well as artistically oriented and creative. This division is for the taxidermist who has won 2 "Best of Category" awards at any time in the South Dakota Convention in a particular category or anyone who chooses to compete at the highest level. Multiple ribbons awarded.

### 2. Special Divisions

**COMBINED ARTIST:** This division can be up to 3 taxidermists that have composed a piece together. They must compete at the level of the highest taxidermist. There is no limit to the number of species in entry, but each entry to be judged has to pay entry fee. Entries are not eligible for Best of Category, Best of Show, Competitor's Award or WASCO awards. The winner will be determined by the panel of judges for best overall presentation. *The purpose of this category is to bring together taxidermist that have met and become friends through the conventions and competitions.*

**COMMERCIAL:** This division is for **ALL** categories as of 2012. Mounts will be reviewed from 10 foot away, will not be touched, and no flashlights will be used. One ribbon will be awarded to the highest score in each category and then an award will be awarded to the highest score over-all. Mounts entered in this division are not eligible for any other awards.

**SPECIES CHALLENGE:** This year's challenge, 2019, will be a **lifesize badger**. All mounts will be given the same consideration by the judges regardless of division. The highest scoring mount out of all of the entries from this category will be the award winner. This year's award winner will choose the next years challenge species. Mounts entered in this challenge are also eligible for all other ribbons and awards.

**BEST-ALL-AROUND TAXIDERMIST:** Must have mounts in four different categories and earned a combined total score of at least 350 points.

### 3. Categories

**UPLAND BIRD:** any upland bird; permits must accompany protected species.

**WATERFOWL:** any waterfowl; permits must accompany protected species.

**FISH:** any fish with actual skin; cast head and artificial fins allowed. Masters Division fish are scored on a 360° position, Professional Division fish can be wall mounts or 360° position.

**DEERHEADS:** whitetail deer only.

**GAMEHEADS:** all game heads including mule deer; excluding whitetail deer; including half-life sizes; no rugs.

**LARGE LIFESIZE MAMMALS:** any mammal larger than a mountain lion.

**SMALL LIFESIZE MAMMALS:** any mammal coyote size and smaller.

**REPTILES:** any reptile.

**REPRODUCTION:** any medium other than skin mounted taxidermy; commercial and self-made reproductions will be accepted.

**ORIGINAL ART:** including acrylic, fiberglass, bronze and woodcarving, this category will be judged on people's choice.

4. SDTA Point System - All ribbons (except the commercial division) will be awarded based on the following point system:
- FIRST PLACE:** 90-100
- SECOND PLACE:** 80-89
- THIRD PLACE:** 70-79
- HONORABLE MENTION:** 65-69
5. All persons attending seminars must be current SDTA members and also pay the convention registration fee. For those wanting to use just vendor privileges you must be a current member. This includes husbands, wives and children over 18. Children 18 and under only pay the mount entry fee if applicable. You CANNOT go to the seminars, etc. without paying the Convention registration.
6. Anyone 18 and under who is competing and does not have a Parent/Sponsor competing in the show will be assigned a Sponsor who is competing in the show. These 18 and under Competitors will only pay the fees associated with each mount entered.
7. "Family Membership" consists of a husband/wife and any children 18 and younger.
8. Antlers in velvet and turkey heads may be freeze dried and used, but must be painted by competitor. Freeze drying may not be used as an aid to control shrinkage on competition entries, other than the exceptions listed above.
9. Protected species must be accompanied by the proper permits throughout the show.
10. Distasteful entries will not be allowed. If questionable the competition committee will decide and their decision will be final. No mounts depicting cruelty by man.
11. The decision of the judges on each entry is final. Discourteous behavior toward judges, competition committee, or show officials will not be tolerated.
12. Entries in showcases must have removable tops and sides to allow for judging. Tops and sides must be removed by competitor prior to judging and replaced by competitor after judging is complete.
13. Reference material may be submitted with any entry at the registration table to substantiate pose, color, etc.
14. After judging is complete, business cards may be placed next to entry.
15. No competitor will be allowed in the competition area while judging is being done, except competition committee members. Doors shall remain locked until judges are done judging.
16. An entry must receive a numerical score of 90 or better, in order to receive a Best of Category ribbon.
17. The young of a species will be judged in the same category as the mature adult of the same species is judged.
18. Novelties may be entered, but will not be considered for any of the competitive categories.
19. Half life-size entries will be judged as a game head, however extra points may be given for good work on legs.
20. If you have more than one specimen on an entry and you would like them all judged, you must pay an entry fee for each specimen.
21. A competitor winning two "Best of Category" must enter the next level of competition the following year until the Master level is achieved.
22. Every precaution will be taken to secure your entries but, under no circumstances will the SDTA officers or board members be held responsible for loss or damage. Everyone is advised that accidents are possible and that the competitors should purchase insurance on their mounts through their local insurance agent.
23. Photographs of the competition pieces may be taken. The Officers and Board Members of the SDTA can in no way control the posting of these photographs on the internet.
24. Previous entries at the SDTA show are not allowed, including base work.
25. All competitors must be present and in attendance at the banquet to receive any major award. A major award is defined as any award or ribbon other than a simple 1st, 2nd, 3rd or Honorable Mention ribbon.
26. I WILL NOT bring any outside food or beverages outside of designated areas, hospitality suite or my personal hotel room.

**Anyone in violation of rules will be subject to lose any and all awards with no refund of entry fees or registration.**