

Alpaca Canada Show System

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CHAPTER 1 - ALPACA SHOWS DEFINED

SECTION 1. For purposes of interpretation, ACSS where used in this Manual, means the ALPACA CANADA SHOW SYSTEM and includes its successors.

SECTION 2. The ACSS Alpaca Show Committee, where used in this Manual, shall mean the administrating body of individuals as assigned by and reporting to the Alpaca Canada Board of Directors. The ACSS Alpaca Show Committee shall be responsible for the drafting and implementation of said Manual, defining Rules and Regulations pertaining to alpaca shows in Canada. The Alpaca Show Committee will also have the responsibility of maintaining the Show Rules by reviewing them on a regular basis, listening to membership input, and making any changes if necessary on an annual basis.

SECTION 3. Alpaca Canada will be responsible for:

- a. overseeing the record keeping as it pertains to alpaca shows
- b. designating a liaison for the ACSS Alpaca Show Committee

SECTION 4. Immediate family shall be defined as: husband, wife, common-in-law husband, common-in-law wife, father, mother, daughter, son, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, step-son or step-daughter as well as any of the foregoing that might be associated through a common-in-law relationship of a husband and wife.

SECTION 5. For purpose of interpretation, the Grievance Committee will be a panel of 5 nominated individuals in good standing with Alpaca Canada and who represent a minimum of three (3) provinces. All shall be approved by the Alpaca Canada Board of Directors and must have a good working knowledge of the ACSS Manual. They will have no conflict of interest with the author of a grievance. As a condition of their presiding on the Grievance Committee, they will be required to sign a statement of disclosure as well as take an oath of confidence to preserve the privacy of all matters of business of the aforementioned Grievance Committee. This committee will not be a permanent committee but one struck when a protest or grievance arises, and disbanded once a solution is reached.

CHAPTER 2 MAKING APPLICATION TO HOLD AN ALPACA SHOW

SECTION 1. Any club or association applying to hold an ACSS sanctioned show must:

- a. submit its application to hold a show along with a fee of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars to the Alpaca Canada Office as well as an additional hundred (\$100.00) dollars for each subsequent show it may wish to apply for in the same calendar year.
- b. provide a list of names and addresses of the judges whom it has selected. No judge's name shall be submitted without that judge's written agreement to do so.
- c. not advertise or publish the name of any of the judges which it has selected until the completed application to hold a show has been approved by the ACSS Alpaca Show Committee.

If the ACSS Alpaca Show Committee disapproves the application, the license fee will be returned to the club or association.

SECTION 2. A club or association must apply to the Alpaca Canada Office on a standard official form for approval to hold a show. The application requires the date, location, and judge information. Application forms are available from the Alpaca Canada Office or online under Show System.

- a. Upon obtaining approval, show entry shall be open to all Alpaca Canada members without bias.
- b. show management may limit entries due to lack of facility space.

SECTION 3. The ACSS will not approve, sanction, be associated with, or be held responsible for any sale held either in conjunction with a show or as a separate event.

SECTION 4. The ACSS Committee and/or Alpaca Canada will not be responsible for any insurance liability claims as may be filed by any individual or individuals that may have cause to make such a claim against said club or association holding an Alpaca Canada approved show.

SECTION 5. All clubs and associations holding alpaca shows under ACSS rules must have available at each event, through their show management committees:

a. a copy of ACSS Manual which includes rules and regulation governing an ACSS sanctioned show

b. a scanner in good working order which is capable of reading the industry accepted standard of microchips which are required to be implanted in the alpacas.

c. "Notification and Replacement of Inactive Transponder" forms, a small supply of microchips, and a microchip inserter.

CHAPTER 3. PARTICIPANT SHOW RULES

The following rules pertain to the responsibilities of the five major groups involved in the preparation and conduct of the show: SHOW MANAGEMENT, JUDGES, STEWARDS, EXHIBITORS, and VETERINARIANS. For a full understanding of the show rules, all persons involved in showing should familiarize themselves with all the material.

The rules & regulations are in effect to ensure show volunteers and participants are aware of the expectations and conduct for various positions.

A. SHOW MANAGEMENT

SECTION 1. A copy of the current ACSS Rules and Regulations shall be available on site. A show should be organized by the show management team according to procedures set down in the show schedule, as per the ACSS Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 2. Show managers, stewards, recorders, gate stewards and any other show assistants whose role involves direct personal contact with the judge are eligible to have entries in the show. However, they should not personally exhibit any alpacas, acting as handler in the ring, at a show in which they are working. Any show management personnel who do not directly contact the judge may exhibit their alpacas. In the case of fleece shows, the fleece steward or fleece show manager may not have entries in the show.

SECTION 3. A member of the show management should be available at all times and be familiar with ACSS and the official functions of the show management.

SECTION 4. The show management shall ensure that alpacas and fleeces are entered and exhibited in the correct classes.

SECTION 5. Show management must post time and location of exhibit inspection at the show.

SECTION 6. The show management shall ensure that a show program is printed which records each class and details of every alpaca and fleece entered as exhibits.

SECTION 7. The show manager shall excuse an alpaca from being shown or excuse it from the premises if so recommended by the veterinarian or judge officiating at the show.

SECTION 8. Show management shall be held responsible for the enforcement of all the Rules and Regulations for alpaca shows as set out by the ACSS.

SECTION 9. It is a requirement by ACSS that the show management, upon closing of the show on the published date, secure all judge's records and immediately forward to Alpaca Canada in the provided format.

SECTION 10. Show management will establish its own cancellation and refund policy.

SECTION 11. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of show management.

B. JUDGES

SECTION 1. Only those persons in good standing with and who are currently certified by at least one of the following shall be approved as judges:

- a. the Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association Show System, otherwise known as the AOBA Show System
- b. the Australian Alpaca Association, otherwise known as the AAA
- c. the British Alpaca Society, otherwise known as the BAS
- d. the New Zealand Alpaca Association, otherwise known as the NZAA

SECTION 2. **It is the responsibility of the exhibitor** to prevent showing an alpaca before a Judge where the Judge was involved with the sale, brokering, promotion, breeding, training, management, or boarding of the alpaca within the last 12 months prior to the date of the scheduled show.

SECTION 3 **It is the responsibility of the exhibitor** to prevent showing an alpaca before a Judge where the Judge has previously owned the alpaca.

SECTION 4. **It is the responsibility of the Judge** to excuse any entry from a class should they recognize said entry as being the offspring of a sire or dam that they own or have owned within 2 years of the scheduled date of the show.

SECTION 5. Immediate family of the Judge may not have entries in the show nor be a handler. However, they may exhibit fleeces at that show. The immediate family of a Judge may not enter fleeces at a show where the related Judge is officiating as a fleece Judge. However, they may exhibit alpacas in halter classes at that show.

SECTION 6. The Judge shall not exhibit alpacas or alpaca fleeces at any show at which he or she is judging both alpacas and fleece. However, a fleece Judge may enter alpacas in halter classes at a show provided that he or she is judging only fleeces at that show. An alpaca Judge may enter fleeces at a show provided that he or she is judging only halter classes at that show.

SECTION 7. A Judge who, after agreeing to judge alpacas or alpaca fleeces at a show, receives an invitation to be the overnight house guest of any alpaca owner just prior to the show, shall make appropriate enquiry to establish whether that person intends to exhibit or handle alpacas or alpaca fleeces at that show, and shall decline the invitation if the person does so intend to enter said show.

SECTION 8. **It is the responsibility of the Judge** to be knowledgeable and familiar with the current ACSS Rules. Judges are responsible for the correct interpretation and implementation of any and all ACSS Rules. A Judge is to be familiar with and knowledgeable about the Canadian Breed Standard as the basis for judgement.

SECTION 9. On arrival at a show the Judge shall meet immediately with show management.

SECTION 10. Judges must not engage in any candid conversations with any person or persons other than those directly associated with show management prior to and during his or her assignment. A Judge shall not consult with the ring steward on their placings.

SECTION 11. A Judge must not view the official show catalogue prior to or during judging and show management must ensure that no opportunity arises for the Judge to see the show catalogue. The Judge shall refuse to examine any catalogue that comes to his or her attention by any means until judging is completed.

SECTION 12. No person other than the Judge, ring steward, and exhibitors in each class shall enter the show ring during judging without the express approval of show management and Judge.

SECTION 13. The Judge may direct the immediate disqualification and removal from the judging ring of any exhibit whose handler addresses or attempts to inappropriately address the Judge while the class is being judged, except in response to a request from the Judge.

SECTION 14. The Judge may, in his or her absolute discretion, direct the chief steward to remove an alpaca or person from the competition on the grounds of inappropriate and unacceptable conduct.

SECTION 15. The Judge may, in his or her absolute discretion, direct the chief steward to remove an exhibit from the judging ring on the grounds of unsoundness or being unfit to compete.

SECTION 16. Judges shall give oral reasons for their placements at the conclusion of each class.

SECTION 17. The Judge's decision shall be final. The Judge has the right to withhold any, or all, awards for want of merit. After a class has been judged in accordance with the ACSS Rules, it shall not be re-judged. A class is considered judged when the Judge has marked his or her class recording card, which must be done before the next class is examined. Any changes to the class recording card must be initialed by the Judge. No protest shall be made in relation to the recording card except on the grounds that a Judge has committed a breach of these rules. Any protest must follow proper procedures as defined in CHAPTER 9.

SECTION 18. A Judge may protest against an exhibitor in the case of an alleged infringement of these rules by lodging a written protest to show management within 24 hours of the event and/or the ACSS Grievance Committee as defined in CHAPTER 9.

SECTION 19. A Judge shall be supplied with recording cards for all classes on which he or she shall mark all awards and all excused or disqualified alpacas. The Judge should be responsible for recording the number of entries in the class. The original Judge's records shall remain in the custody of the show management until completion of judging. If a Judge excuses or disqualifies an alpaca from a class, he or she shall make a note on the back of the class recording card giving his or her reasons for such disqualification or excusing.

SECTION 20. A Judge's decision, as marked on the recording card, cannot be changed by him or her after filing, but an error appearing in the Judge's records may be corrected by the show management after consultation with the Judge.

C. STEWARDS

SECTION 1. CHIEF STEWARDS

a. At a posted time by show management, exhibitors must make their entries available to the chief steward for inspection. All class adjustments shall be determined by the chief steward with final approval of the Judge when necessary. Show management shall be notified of any class adjustments. There may be more than one inspection steward who will report to the chief steward. Chief steward will be the only one having contact with the Judge.

b. Chief Stewards may not personally exhibit alpacas at a show at which they are officiating as a steward. However, they can have entries in the show. Someone else will be appointed to check in their alpaca(s).

c. The steward's checklist for the inspection of alpacas shall include:

1. general health and soundness.
2. microchip matching registration
3. correct colour, gender, age and fleece type for class entered
4. minimum mid side fleece length 2 inches
5. deliberate shaping or clipping
6. displays obvious disqualifying fault(s) as per the Canadian Breed Standard

Failure to meet these criteria may result in disqualification by recommendation of chief steward to show management.

Note If no microchip is found then a chip will be inserted at the show and the "Notification and Replacement of Inactive Transponder" form will be filled out by the steward and sent in to CLAA by show management. If chip is there but does not match, supporting documentation needs to be available. If it is a reversal of numbers or an obvious clerical error the alpaca will be accepted and the exhibitor will be asked to correct this error with CLAA. If none of the above conditions apply the alpaca will be disqualified. Show management may levy a fee for the microchipping service, amount to be determined by show management.

d. During the official inspection, the only persons present for the inspection of an alpaca will be:

1. the exhibitor or his/her nominated representative
2. the chief steward or other inspection steward
3. if assigned, a person recording and validating the inspection information

e. The chief steward has the option to consult with the on call veterinarian if the health of the alpaca is in question. The owner may be present during the veterinary call.

f. If an exhibitor disputes the findings of the Chief Steward regarding colour classification, condition of the alpaca or disqualifying faults present, he/she may request a final decision to be completed by the Judge prior to the commencement of the show. The animal is taken before the Judge by the Chief Steward without the owner present. In such circumstances, the decision of the Judge is final.

SECTION 2. RING STEWARDS

- a. The ring steward is present in the ring with the Judge during the duration of the show. More than one ring steward is acceptable.
- b. Ring stewards may not exhibit alpacas at a show at which they are officiating as a steward. However, they can have entries in the show.
- c. If the ring steward does own alpacas in the show they will not accompany the Judge outside of the ring for meals or any other purpose.
- d. The ring steward will assist the Judge so they can complete the hands on evaluation safely.
- e. At the direction of the Judge - the ring steward will record the number of alpacas in the class and the final class placements on the class recording cards.
- f. The ring steward will follow the code of conduct as defined in Appendix A of this manual.

SECTION 3. FLEECE STEWARDS or FLEECE SHOW MANAGERS

- a. The Fleece Show Manager should not have fleeces entered in the show in which they are managing.
- b. They shall put the fleeces in the correct colour class. If there is a question the Judge shall have the final say.
- c. They shall prepare the Judge's worksheets and make available to the Judge the micron and weight charts.
- d. They shall supervise the judging process and the scribes. A scribe may have a fleece entered in the show but may not scribe for the classes that their fleece is in.
- e. They shall ensure scorecards are filled out and signed and ribbons distributed accordingly.
- f. Fleece managers are responsible for submitting final results to Alpaca Canada.

E. EXHIBITOR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 1. **It is incumbent upon the exhibitor** to read and be familiar with the entire document of the ACSS and the rules and guidelines contained therein.

SECTION 2 All exhibitors will be required to pay an entry fee per alpaca entered. The amount of the said entry fee will be at the discretion of the show management committee.

SECTION 3. All exhibitors must be the registered owner of the alpaca entered. If in transition of ownership, permission to show forms will be provided. This form is available on the Alpaca Canada website.

SECTION 4. **It is the responsibility of the exhibitor** to prevent showing an alpaca before a Judge where the Judge was involved with the sale, brokering, promotion, training, management, or boarding of the alpaca within the last 12 months prior to the date of the scheduled show.

SECTION 5. **It is the responsibility of the exhibitor** to prevent showing an alpaca before a Judge where the Judge has owned the alpaca.

SECTION 6. Immediate family of the Judge may not have entries in the show nor be a handler. Show management may not personally exhibit alpacas but they may have entries.

SECTION 7. It shall be **incumbent upon the exhibitor** to not enter any class where the Judge has/had ownership of the sire or dam of their entry within 2 years of the scheduled date of the show.

SECTION 8. An exhibitor or his appointed alternate who is unavailable to assist with the inspection of his or her alpaca(s) at the designated inspection time may have their entry disqualified.

SECTION 9. Exhibitors shall not engage the Judge in conversation until the Judge has completed his or her judging assignment.

SECTION 10 Exhibitors shall not enter or exit the judging ring after judging of a class begins, until judging of that class has been completed and awards for that class have been presented except with the consent of the Judge, or at the direction of the Judge or chief steward.

SECTION 11. In the case of prize winning exhibitors and their alpacas, all shall remain in the judging ring until the completion of the Judge's comments.

SECTION 12. The handler of an exhibit in the show ring shall remain with the exhibit until judging has been completed unless authorized by the Judge.

SECTION 13. The following dress code shall apply:

- a. appropriate safe footwear (no open-toed shoes or sandals)
 - b. no ranch, farm or personal logo or name shall be on the handler in the show ring
- Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

The following is recommended:

- c. dark pants or skirt and white shirt or blouse
- d. black show halter and lead without any adornments

SECTION 14. Every exhibitor and handler of alpacas at a show shall behave respectfully toward judges, show officials, other persons involved in alpaca classes, and the general public during the show.

SECTION 15. Exhibitors must remain on premises until the show has finished at the published time. Early departure may be authorized at the discretion of show management.

SECTION 16. It is recommended that exhibitors should be 12 years of age to handle mature alpacas in the show ring.

E. VETERINARIANS

SECTION 1. Every ACSS certified show shall have a veterinarian familiar with camelids on call in an official capacity for the duration of the show.

CHAPTER 4. ALPACA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 1. **All alpacas to be entered in the show must be registered with the Canadian Llama and Alpaca Association (CLAA).** A copy of the alpaca's CLAA certificate of registration must be readily available at the show.

- a. Pending registration status is not permitted.
- b. Percentage purebred alpacas with CLAA certificates of registration are eligible to show.

SECTION 2. An alpaca may be entered either into full fleece halter classes **or** the composite class but **not both** at any given show.

SECTION 3. Every alpaca must be entered in the name of the person or persons of legal record who actually owns the animal at the time the entries closed. Permission to Show forms will be provided for those alpacas in midst of ownership change. These forms are available on the Alpaca Canada website.

SECTION 4. If an alpaca can not meet the requirements of the steward's inspection checklist it will be disqualified.

The steward's checklist for the inspection of alpacas shall include:

- a. general health and soundness
- b. microchip matching registration
- c. correct colour, gender and age and fleece type for class entered
- d. minimum mid side fleece length 2 inches
- e. deliberate shaping or clipping
- f. displays obvious disqualifying fault(s) as per the Canadian Breed Standard

Note: *If no chip is found then a chip will be inserted at the show and the “Notification and Replacement of Inactive Transponder” form will be filled out by the steward and sent in to CLRC by show management. If chip is there but does not match, supporting documentation needs to be available. If it is a reversal of numbers or an obvious clerical error the alpaca will be accepted and the exhibitor will be asked to correct this error with CLRC. If none of the above conditions apply the alpaca will be disqualified. Show management may levy a fee for the microchipping service, amount to be determined by show management.*

SECTION 5. An alpaca cannot be surgically altered for cosmetic or conformational correction.

SECTION 6. Grooming shall be limited to removal of surface debris. Enhancements such as the use of sheens, dyes, and oils that compromise the true architecture of the fleece are prohibited. The alpacas fleece should display a natural growth pattern with no shaping or clipping other than top knots, tails, and lower legs below the front knee and rear hock joint.

SECTION 7. No ranch, farm, person’s or alpaca’s logo or name shall be exhibited on the alpaca during the class in which it is entered.

CHAPTER 5. HALTER CLASSES

A. CRITERIA

SECTION 1. The basis for judgment shall be according to the Canadian Breed Standard.

The judge shall not give award to any alpaca exhibiting one or more breed standard disqualifiers (congenital defects).

*please refer to the Canadian Breed Standard document –
www.alpacainfo.ca and click on CLAA Breed Standards*

SECTION 2. There shall be no minimum class size. Single entry classes are permitted. A judge may withhold placement for lack of merit if deemed necessary.

SECTION 3. The Alpacas will be judged with the emphasis of 60% fleece and 40% conformation.

B. HALTER CLASS DIVISIONS

SECTION 1. Classes of 13 entries or less shall be judged as a single class. When a class reaches entries of 14 or more it shall be split equally according to age as defined in Section 2d with each split receiving awards.

SECTION 2. Classes will be divided as follows:

- a. Alpacas will be divided into huacaya and suri classes.
- b. Alpacas will be divided into male and female classes.
- c. Age divisions for halter classes will be as follows and will be determined by the age of the animal on the first day of the show.
 1. JUVENILES - 6 months to under 12 months
 1. YEARLINGS- 12 months to under 24 months
 2. TWO YEAR OLDS - 24 months to under 36 months
 3. MATURE - 36 months and over
- d. The colour classes are as follows:
 1. White
 2. Light (Includes Beige, Light Fawn)
 3. Fawn(Includes Medium Fawn, Dark Fawn,)
 4. Brown (Includes Light Brown, Medium Brown, Dark Brown)
 5. Black (Bay Black and Black)
 6. Grey (Silver Grey, Rose Grey)
 7. Multi - NEW IN 2012 - BEST MULTI PINNACLE AWARD

An alpaca is to be shown in the appropriate colour class, when it is predominantly that colour. The alpaca will be disadvantaged, at the judge's discretion, if it has any other coloured fibres present.

- e. First place alpacas competing in the multi colour classification will compete for the pinnacle award of BEST MULTI and do not compete for Supreme Champion.
If there are over 6 multis they may be divided into a light and dark class dependent on their predominant colour. White, Light and Fawn being Light; Brown, Black being Dark. Minimum overall number to award a Best Multi award shall be 10 huacaya alpacas, 6 suri alpacas.

SECTION 3. Colour Definitions

- a. A current CLAA Colour Chart shall be used for colour differentiation.
- b. **An alpaca with a variation in shade** within a specific colour group will remain within its darkest colour group. Example: A fading fawn that has light fawn on midline and fades to white would remain in the Light class. A fading fawn that has Dark Fawn on the midline and fades to light fawn would remain in the Fawn class.
- c. **An alpaca is to be shown in the multi class** if it exhibits two or more colours that are distinct and immediately visible and are situated on the alpaca below the head and above the knees. Example: As per the colour divisions in Section 2d, a medium fawn alpaca with a dark fawn spot would not be a multi. A white alpaca with a brown spot meeting the size requirement, would be a multi. If an alpaca has a single spot at skin level less than 3 cm in diameter below the head and above the knees, the alpaca will go into its predominant colour class.
- d. **A predominantly grey alpaca** is to be shown in a grey class, whether or not it has any other coloured spots present. Grey alpacas may or may not exhibit a tuxedo front colour pattern. An alpaca that has minimal, not easily recognizable white fibres interspersed in its prime blanket fleece, is not considered a grey and goes into the appropriate solid class. Variations will be assessed at the judge's discretion.
- e. When a colour falls in between 2 colours on the colour chart it will be placed in the darker of the 2 colours.

C. CLASS PROCEDURE Two options are available for ACSS Shows. Suris may use Level 2 criteria at a show where huacayas are using Level 1 criteria. All numbers apply to the number of alpacas that enter the ring on the day of the show.

SECTION 1. LEVEL 1 SHOWS (Shows which **can** achieve at least 3 colour championships without combining sexes, and have at least 30 huacayas of each sex.)

- a. Ribbons will be awarded to fourth place.
- b. Colour Champions
 - 1. Minimum number to award a colour championship shall be **10 huacaya alpacas, 6 suri alpacas** per colour and per sex. All first and second place alpacas in their respective colour and sex class shall return to the ring to compete for colour and reserve colour champion. If no first place is awarded in a class, the second place from that class is not eligible for championship.
(e.g. Juvenile black females, yearling black females, 2 year old black female and senior black female would compete for black female colour and reserve colour champion.)
 - 2. Six colour classification groups as follows:
White, Light, Fawn, Brown, Black, and Grey
 - 3. First place alpacas competing in the multi colour classification will compete for the pinnacle award of BEST MULTI and do not compete for Supreme Champion.
- c. Supreme Champions
 - 1. Minimum number to award supreme is 30 huacaya alpacas or 15 suri alpacas in one sex and fibre type.
 - 2. All colour champions will come back to compete for supreme. If there is no colour champion in any category, first place winners in their class shall compete for supreme. Alpacas within the multi colour designation are not considered for Supreme Champion.
 - 3. Supreme Female Huacaya, Supreme Male Huacaya, Supreme Female Suri, Supreme Male Suri are awarded if numbers merit.

4. At show managers discretion they may award a singular pinnacle award. This would be considered an additional award and not be posted in the show results.

SECTION 2. LEVEL 2 SHOWS (Shows that **cannot** achieve at least three colour champions without combining sexes and/or has less than 30 huacayas of each sex.)

- a. Ribbons will be awarded to fourth place
- b. Colour Champions
 1. Minimum number to award a colour championship shall be 10 Huacaya alpacas, 6 Suri alpacas per colour. Sexes may be combined to attain colour champions where necessary. Sexes can not be combined in any colour group that has at least 10 huacaya or 6 suri entries. Example: The white class could have a male and female championship but the black may require a combined black championship.
 2. First place alpacas competing in the multi colour classification will compete for the pinnacle award of "Best Multi" and do not compete for "Best in Show".
 3. If there are over 6 mults they may be divided into a light and dark class dependent on their predominant colour. White, Light and Fawn being Light; Brown, Black being Dark. Minimum overall number to award a Best Multi award shall be 10 huacaya alpacas, 6 suri alpacas.
- c. Best in Show
 1. All champions move forward to compete for best in show. If there is no colour champion in any category, first place winners in their class shall compete for best in show. Alpacas within the multi colour designation are not eligible for the Best in Show award, competing within their own colour designation for the Best Multi award.
 2. Huacaya Best in Show and Suri Best in Show are awarded if minimum entry numbers are met.

D. COMPOSITE CLASSES

SECTION 1. All halter class criteria, divisions and class procedures above apply to Composite classes.

Colour designations shall be the same as for full fleece halter classes. In a case where a submitted fleece appears slightly darker or lighter than the actual alpaca, the colour designation shall be determined by the shorn fleece.

SECTION 2. Composite judging procedure:

- a. Alpacas will be evaluated in a combined fleece and shorn conformation class.
- b. Fleeces will be submitted to fleece stewards prior to entry into the ring. It is recommended that the show employ TWO fleece stewards for this task.
- c. The fleeces will be presented as a skirted blanket fleece in the same way it would be presented at a fleece show.
- d. The judge evaluates the fleece and the alpaca together in the ring, at the same time.
- e. The fleeces are placed in the ring with the exhibitor number and the number of month's growth visible to the judge and in the same order as the alpacas enter the ring.
- f. The judge assesses the fleece using the same criteria as would be used in a full fleece halter class. The fleeces are judged on a comparative basis within the class.
- g. The judge assesses the alpacas in the ring using the same criteria as for full fleece halter classes (i.e. general conformation, soundness, and balance).
- h. The judge then places the alpacas using a balance of 40% conformation and 60% fleece.
- i. Exhibitors shall pick up their alpaca's fleece upon exiting the ring. Exhibitors are responsible for returning the appropriate fleece for championship classes.
- j. The fleece shown must be from the most recent shearing of the alpaca entered.

E. GROUP HALTER CLASSES

SECTION 1. All entries in group halter classes shall be in full fleece. All entries must be registered as per Chapter 4, Section 1.

Option to offer entry of group classes in the name of CLAA recorded animals (0%) is at the discretion of show management.

Show management is encouraged to work with current association programs and initiatives.

SECTION 2. Get of Sire

- a. Entry shall consist of three progeny by the same sire.
- b. Entry shall be made in the name of the sire.
- c. Sire owner's permission shall be required for entry in this class.
- d. There shall be only one group entered per sire.
- e. All progeny must have been shown in their appropriate halter class.
- f. Offspring must be from a minimum of 2 dams.
- g. The sire is not shown with this group entry.

SECTION 3. Produce of Dam

- a. Entry shall consist of two progeny from the same dam.
- b. Dam owner's permission shall be required for entry in this class
- c. There shall be only one group entered per dam.
- d. All progeny must have been shown in their appropriate halter class.
- e. The offspring must be from 2 different sires.
- f. The dam is not shown with this group entry.

F. YOUTH SHOWMANSHIP (Optional) Alpaca Canada recommends that all shows offer a youth showmanship class

Youth Showmanship classes are viewed as optional and for exhibition. A show may secure an alternate judge for these classes that is not an accredited halter judge. Acceptable options would be an individual with stock handling expertise such as a 4-H leader or someone involved in youth judging and stock showing activities.

SECTION 1. In this class, the young exhibitor's ability to showcase the alpaca is being judged. The alpaca itself is not judged. Judging and awards for youth showmanship will be at the discretion of show management.

SECTION 2. It is recommended that exhibitors should be at least 12 years of age to handle mature alpacas in the show ring.

SECTION 3. Class Divisions:

- a. Junior Youth Showmanship - Exhibitor age: 6 through 12 years on the first date of the show.
- b. Senior Youth Showmanship - Exhibitor age: 13 through 18 years on the first date of the show.

SECTION 4. Alpacas used for youth showmanship classes are not required to be CLAA registered.

CHAPTER 6 FLEECE CLASSES/SHOW

This competition may be held at the same time as the halter classes but in a separate, secure area as designated by show management, or it may be held as a stand-alone show.

A. FLEECE CLASS DIVISIONS

SECTION 1. Fibre Type Division - Huacaya and Suri

SECTION 2. Age Divisions (i.e. age of the alpaca when it is shorn)

- a. 6 months - under 14 months - 1st fleece - A
- b. 14 months - under 24 months - B
- c. 24 months - under 4 years of age - C
- d. 4 years of age - under 6 years of age - D
- e. 6 years of age and over - E

SECTION 3. Colour Divisions: Same options as for halter classes

SECTION 4. Sexes shall be combined for all classes

B. RULES GOVERNING FLEECE COMPETITION

- a. Each fleece entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form as provided by show management giving requested information. A copy of the alpaca's CLAA registration certificate must accompany the entry form.
- b. The fleece shall be presented in clear plastic bags and have the required exhibitor information included in the bag.
- c. Show management will not be held responsible for loss or misplacement of the fleece although every possible effort will be made to ensure the security of the fleece.
- d. The exhibitor shall be solely responsible for claiming their fleeces at the end of the show.
- e. No fleece under 6 months of age is eligible for fleece competition.
- f. Fleece must be from the most recent shearing of the alpaca.
- g. Fleeces with less than 3 inches (76mm) staple length shall be disqualified.
- h. Fleeces older than 14 months since shorn shall be disqualified.
- i. Maximum fleece length:
 1. JUVENILE CLASS (A) - There is no maximum staple length for this age category.
 2. ALL OTHER AGE CATEGORIES - maximum of 6.5 inches (16.51cm). Any fleece that exceeds maximum staple length will be disqualified.
- j. The show management fleece steward shall weigh each fleece and calculate for age conversions if required, check for correct classing, and provide each fleece with a judge's scorecard identifying the fleece by **number only**.

NB. Weight to age conversions are calculated as follows:

Weight divided by number of days of growth, multiplied by 365.

- k. Show management shall provide adequate lighting for the judging of fleeces, a weigh scale, calculators, score cards, and appropriate stationary items required for adequate record keeping.
 - l. No person shall scribe as a score sheet recorder in a class where he or she is exhibiting a fleece.

C. FLEECE PREPARATION - INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXHIBITORS

All fleece exhibits shall be the prime portion only which must conform to the same quality and length of the blanket area and shall be skirted of all short, stained, and other fibre that does not conform to the same quality and length of the blanket area. Once it is determined to be free of parasites, it should be properly skirted and all short, stained, and coarse fibre, as well as heavy organic contamination, should be removed and the fleece shall be presented with cut side displayed out for huacayas and cut side in for suris. The fleece shall not be washed. Poorly prepared fleeces shall be compromised at the discretion of the judge.

D. FLEECE CLASS AWARDS

SECTION 1. General Fleece Classes

In order for a fleece to achieve a first place award in a class, the judge must award a MINIMUM score of 60 points. If no fleece in a class accumulates the minimum of 60 points, the class shall begin with a second place award.

- a. Ribbons will be awarded to fourth place.
- b. Colour champion and reserve colour champion in each colour class for huacaya and suri.
First and second place fleeces will compete for colour and reserve colour champions. If no first place is awarded in a class the second place is not eligible for championship.
- c. Supreme Huacaya, Supreme Suri - colour champions compete for supreme.
Above placings will be directly related to score awarded.

Colour champions use same options as in halter classes: 7 colour classifications (white, light, fawn, brown, black, grey, multi). Unlike halter classes, no minimum number of entries is required in order to award colour champion or supreme champion. Only fleeces which have achieved a minimum score of 60 points are eligible to compete for fleece championships.

Fleece scorecards shall be provided for the judge by the show convener and shall be formatted individually for suri and huacaya fleeces. Each exhibit shall have its own scorecard and the scorecard shall remain with the fleece at all times. Identification shall be the official exhibit number issued by the convener at the time the exhibit is delivered for judging. No other identification shall be allowed on the scorecard or the fleece exhibit. (Note: Scorecards and judge's worksheets available from the Alpaca Canada Office).

SECTION 2. Optional Specialty Awards

Judge's Choice
Spinner's Choice
Best Brightness
Best Lustre
Best Handle

These awards may or may not be awarded at all shows. These awards are not based on final score awarded.

E. FLEECE SCORING CRITERIA FOR HUACAYA

SECTION 1. AIMS

The aims of alpaca fleece judging are to provide a competition which recognizes those characteristics of alpaca which are desired by manufacturers, processors, and producers and enlightens those persons interested in the alpaca industry. The purpose of these explanatory notes is to enable all judges of alpaca to approach the assessment task using the same common information and standards. This should enable uniformity of judging.

SECTION 2. MAXIMUM POINTS AWARDED

Fineness and Handle	25 points
Uniformity of Micron	10 points
Brightness	10 points
Uniformity of Colour	5 points
Character	10 points
Uniformity of Length	5 points
Density	5 points
Impurities/Stain/Tip Damage	5 points
Lack of Guard Hair	10 points
Clean Fleece Weight	15 points
Total:	100 points

In developing this judging schedule, fleece quantity and quality have been given equal status. It is important that fleeces which are either "very pretty and no weight" or "very heavy and no style" do not gain advantage because of their style or weight alone, but have a good combination of both.

SECTION 3. EXPLANATORY NOTES

a. Fineness and Handle - This reflects the degrees of actual fineness of fibre displayed, expressed in microns as well as taking into consideration various levels of softness. When assessing fineness and handle consideration should be given to the age of the animal or class in which the fleece is entered.

1. Fineness - table available to show superintendents

2. Handle

This assessment reflects the relative degree of softness displayed by individual fleeces taking into consideration the age of the animal and micron of the fleece.

Very soft - 5 points

Soft - 4 points

Normal - 3 points

Hard - 2 points

Harsh - 0/1 points

b. Uniformity of Micron - This relates to the evenness of fineness/softness throughout the entire fleece.

Very even / Even - 8/10 points

Some irregularity - 5 / 7 points

- Irregular - 3 / 4 points
- Very Irregular - 0 / 2 points
- c. Brightness - This relates to the light refraction of the alpaca fibre taking into account breed type.
 - High - 9/10 points
 - Good - 7 / 8 points
 - Average - 4 / 6 points
 - Dull / Poor - 0 / 1 points
- d. Uniformity of Colour - This relates to the evenness and regularity of colour throughout the entire fleece.
 - Good Uniformity - 5 / 4 points
 - Some Irregularity - 3 / 2 points
 - Very Irregular - 1 / 0 points
 - Multis will receive 0/5 because they do not have uniformity of colour.
- e. Character and Style - This relates to the wave/crimp and crinkle within the staple relevant to the fibre type.
 - Very well defined Crimp/Crinkle - 9 /10 points
 - Good definition - 7 / 8 points
 - Average definition - 5 / 6 points
 - Poor/Plain definition - 3 / 4 points
 - Straight fibred - 0 / 2 points
- f. Density - This relates to the density of the individual staple formation throughout the entire fleece.
 - Very dense - 5 points
 - Good density – 4 points
 - Average - 2 / 3 points
 - Thin/without substance - 0 / 1 points
- g. Uniformity of Length - Relates to the uniformity of length throughout the entire fleece taking into consideration commercial lengths over 12 months growth period. Note: make deductions for over long or short fleece.
 - Very even - 5 points
 - Some irregularity - 4 / 5 points
 - Irregular - 2 / 3 points
 - Very irregular - 0 / 1 points
- h. Impurities - Penalties should be applied for excessive vegetable matter, staining within the fleece and/or any excessive tip damage. Penalties should also apply for excess sand or dirt.
 - (Range 0 / 5)
 - Healthy Fleece – 5 points
 - Stretchy-3/4points
 - Pt tender - 2/3 points
 - Tender or rotten fleece - 0/1 points
- i. Lack of Guard Hair - The fleece should be as free as possible from narrow/broad continuous medullated fibres, which appear as straight, generally coarser fibres. Age and class should be considered.
 - Free or nearly free - 9 /10 points
 - Light content - 7 / 8 points
 - Medium content - 4 / 6 points
 - Heavy content - 0 / 1points
- f. Clean Fleece Weight (chart available to show superintendents) - This relates to the percentage of properly skirted clean fleece (fibre) after removing all extraneous matter (dirt, grease, burrs, seeds, and dung tags). NB. Fleece weights shall be scored relative to fleece weights presented in the competition. It will be at the discretion of the judge to withhold any score should the judge determine the fleece to be unacceptably light in weight.
 - Note: 1 kg = 2.2046 lbs.
 - Assume 90% clean yield

F. FLEECE SCORING CRITERIA FOR SURI

SECTION 1. AIMS

The aims of alpaca fleece judging are to provide a competition which recognizes those characteristics of alpaca which are desired by manufacturers /processors, producers and enlightens those persons interested in the alpaca industry. The

purpose of these explanatory notes is to enable all judges of alpaca to approach the assessment task using the same common information and standards. This should enable uniformity of judging.

SECTION 2. MAXIMUM POINTS AWARDED

Fineness & Handle	25 points
Uniformity of Micron	10 points
Lustre	15 points
Uniformity of Colour	5 points
Style	10 points
Uniformity of Length	5 points
Density	5 points
Impurities/Stain/Tip Damage	5 points
Lack of Guard Hair	5 points
Clean Fleece Weight	15 points

SECTION 3. EXPLANATORY NOTES

a. Fineness and Handle - This reflects the degrees of actual fineness of fibre displayed, expressed in microns as well as taking into consideration various levels of softness. When assessing fineness and handle consideration should be given to the age of the animal or class in which the fleece is entered.

1. Micron (chart available to show superintendents)

2. Handle (Same as huacaya)

Very soft - 5 points

Soft – 4 points

Normal – 3 points

Hard – 2 points

Harsh - 0/1 points

b. Uniformity of Micron (Same as huacaya)

Very even / Even - 8/10 points

Some irregularity - 5 / 7 points

Irregular - 3 / 4 points

Very Irregular - 0 / 2 points

c. Lustre

High Lustre - 14 / 15 points

Good Lustre - 11 / 13 points

Average Lustre - 6 / 10 points

Dull/Poor Lustre - 0 / 5 points

d. Uniformity of Colour (Same as huacaya) - This relates to the evenness and regularity of colour throughout the entire fleece.

Good Uniformity - 5 / 4 points

Some Irregularity - 3 / 2 points

Very Irregular - 1 / 0 points

Multis will receive 0/5 because they do not have uniformity of colour.

e. Style - This relates to the twist/wave within the staple relevant to the suri breed type. This assessment is based on the most desired lock for breeding. Although the majority of types/styles listed below would be satisfactory for processing, some are more desirable than others.

Ringlet type which starts twisting close to the skin. - 10 Points

Slight wave with twist starting close to the skin. – 9 points

Either of the above, which do not start its style close to the skin. - 7/8 points

Larger wave with slight twist. - 5/6 points

Straight with a slight twist on the end. – 4 points

Bold large crimp like wave. (Huasu) – 3 points

Straight/plain with luster – 2 points

Straight/chalky – 1 points

f. Density (Same as huacaya) - This relates to the density of the individual staple formation throughout the entire fleece.

- Very dense - 5 points
- Good density – 4 points
- Average - 2 / 3 points
- Thin/without substance - 0 / 1 points

g. Uniformity of Length (Same as huacaya) - Relates to the uniformity of length throughout the entire fleece taking into consideration commercial lengths over 12 months growth period.

Note: make deductions for over long or short fleece.

- Very even - 5 points
- Some irregularity - 4 / 5 points
- Irregular - 2 / 3 points
- Very irregular - 0 / 1 points

h. Impurities (same as huacaya) - Penalties should be applied for excessive vegetable matter, staining within the fleece, and/or any excessive tip damage. Penalties should also apply for excess sand or dirt.

- (Range 0 / 5)
- Healthy Fleece – 5 points
- Stretchy-3/4points
- Pt tender - 2/3 points
- Tender or rotten fleece - 0/1 points

i. Lack of Guard Hair- The fleece should be as free as possible from narrow/broad continuous medullated fibres, which appear as straight, generally coarser fibres. Age and class should be considered.

- Free or nearly free - 5 points
- Light Content - 4 / 5 points
- Medium Content - 2 / 3 points
- Heavy Content - 1 / 0 points

j. Clean Fleece Weight (chart available to show superintendents)

CHAPTER 7. AWARDS

A. RIBBONS:

Ribbons shall be awarded to a maximum of fourth place.

Mandatory Ribbon colours are:

- First Place- Red
- Second Place - Blue
- Third Place – White
- Fourth Place – Yellow

B. PRIZE MONEY and TROPHIES:

Prize money may be offered at a show at the discretion of show management. Trophies may be presented in addition to or in lieu of ribbons, provided that they recognize specific awards within the ACSS Show System.

C. CANCELLATION OF AWARDS

During a show, if any award is revoked or cancelled, the alpaca judged next in order of merit shall be moved up one placing. If there is no alpaca to move up, the award shall be cancelled. Once the show is complete, if any award is revoked or cancelled, it shall not be re-awarded, and original class placing will remain unchanged. It is incumbent upon the exhibitor to return revoked awards to show management within ten days of notice.

CHAPTER 8. REGISTRATION AND SHOW PROGRAMS

A. ENTRY PACKAGE

The entry package shall contain the following:

- a. the ACSS sanction number
- b. the names of the judges and their assignments
- c. location of the show
- d. the date or dates on which it is to be held
- e. entry closing date
- f. requirement for late entries if applicable
- g. the times of the opening and closing of the show
- h. number of alpacas allowed per pen and/or pen size
- i. entry form (refer to example and ACSS code key attached)

B. THE SHOW PROGRAM

The show program shall contain the following:

- a. show name
- b. location of the show
- c. the date
- d. the name of the Judge
- e. ACSS sanction number
- f. class list
 1. alpaca class code number
 2. CLAA registration number
 3. date of birth
 4. name of sire and dam
 5. name of owner

CHAPTER 9. PROTESTS AND DEALING WITH MISCONDUCT

SECTION 1. Conduct that may be considered prejudicial to the industry may include but not be limited to:

- a. a demonstration of dissatisfaction with a judge's decision, including refusal to accept an award or public discard of award,
- b. altercations with officials or participants,
- c. abusive or foul language in public and mistreatment of an animal.

SECTION 2. Judges who are the target of abusive language and under whom an exhibitor refuses to follow their instructions, as well as being insulted with any suggestive language, gestures or request should report directly to show management. In addition, they may submit a grievance to an ACSS Grievance Committee member directly if in attendance at the Show or as per the following SECTIONS 3 and 4 as outlined for exhibitors.

SECTION 3. Exhibitors who have a complaint, protest, criticism, comment or suggestion shall direct all or any of the preceding concerns to the Alpaca Canada Show System Grievance Committee as follows:

- a. must be in writing and signed by the exhibitor who has an issue to be dealt with
- b. rational and complete description of events that transpired must be included as well as stating names of those witnessing the transgression, if possible, and who would attest to the fact that such an act of misconduct occurred

SECTION 4. Said signed complaints, protests, criticisms, comments or suggestions must be postmarked within 15 days after the scheduled closing of the approved show and shall be held in the strictest of confidence.

SECTION 5. A fee of \$50.00 must accompany all written protests

SECTION 6. Anonymous letters of any critical intent will not be accepted or read.

SECTION 7. All signed protests will be reviewed by the ACSS Grievance Committee and replied to by the Alpaca Canada Show System Grievance Committee in as efficient a manner as possible.

SECTION 8. All written and signed decisions handed down by the ACSS Grievance Committee will be final and absolute.

SECTION 9. Any Grievance Committee member who is the subject of a complaint, protest, or criticism shall be excluded from any discussion or review by the Grievance Committee and if justified will be disciplined by the Alpaca Canada Board of Directors as per the recommendation of the remaining members of the Grievance Committee.

SECTION 10. Disciplinary action may include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- a. Show Management
 - i. Written warning
 - ii. Denial of future show approvals

- b. Judges
 - i. Written warning
 - ii. Removal from Alpaca Canada Approved Judges' List

- c. Exhibitor
 - i. Written warning
 - ii. Points and or awards revoked
 - iii. Denial of eligibility to participate in any approved show or event.

Alpaca Canada Show Rules – September, 2007

Alpaca Canada Show Rules – Revised December 2008

Alpaca Canada Show Rules – Revised February 2010

APPENDIX A

RING STEWARDS - Guidelines for Conduct

The function of a Ring Steward is an important position at a show. The purpose is to offer assistance in ensuring the show ring operates in an efficient manner by assisting the Judge at their direction. Duties can include directing exhibitors to follow specified ring procedure, assisting the Judge and exhibitors with proper restraint of alpacas during hands on inspection to ensure safety and ensuring the Judge has ready access to class placement cards and ribbons at the appropriate times. Final duties and expectations of a Ring Steward are at the sole discretion of the Judge.

All persons accepting to act as a Ring Steward shall make themselves familiar with the ACSS rules which apply specifically to the position. They are:

The ring steward is present in the ring with the judge during the duration of the show. More than one ring steward is acceptable.

- b. Ring Stewards may not exhibit alpacas at a show at which they are officiating as a steward. However, they can have entries in the show.
- c. If the Ring Steward does own alpacas in the show they will not accompany the judge outside of the ring for meals or any other purpose. .
- d. The Ring Steward will assist the judge so they can complete the hands on evaluation safely.
- f. AT DIRECTION OF THE JUDGE - the Ring Steward will record on the placing cards the number of alpacas in the ring and the placement of the winners.
- g. The Ring Steward will follow the code of conduct

The following points apply to the conduct of a Ring Steward. A Ring Steward should:

- prior to the start of the first class, discuss with the Judge their directions for ring procedure. Inclusive with this is further discussion and clarity on the Judge's expectation of the specific duties of the Ring Steward.
- convey the Judge's directions to the exhibitors.
- remain at a respectful distance from the judge to avoid listening to a Judge's comments to a handler or to another Judge if the show is using two Judges.
- do not attempt to examine an alpaca during the hands on inspection process or inspect pulled fleece samples.
- not follow the Judge when the Judge does their walk around assessment of the alpacas unless directly requested to do so
- maintain a reasonable distance from the Judge while the Judge is contemplating the placings. If the Judge needs assistance, they will ask.
- do not offer comment or personal opinion of any exhibit to the Judge at any time.
- a Ring Steward may deliver a message to the Judge from show management or a chief steward when directed to do so
- a Ring Steward is placed in a unique position where they may see or hear comments from a Judge or an handler which they otherwise, would not be privy to. Therefore, they MUST provide complete confidentiality regarding all exhibits in the show ring.
- not be seen at their farm pens or booth where the Judge can see you.