

2024 General NTA Rules and Regulations

It is the responsibility of the competitor to read the competition rules and award criteria requirements. All attendees must be pre-registered via our on-line registration form.

Attendance

To be eligible, all competitors must be NTA members in good standing, registered for the full convention, be present at the convention, attend the convention banquet, and get photographed with awards in order to receive any cash awards. A competitor may only enter a piece at the posted times. No entries will be removed from the competition/display area before the final award/ribbon photography. Any entry not picked up by 11:30pm, Saturday May 4th, 2024, will be left unsecured and unattended with the competitor assuming any and all liability and storage fees charged by host facility.

Entry Times, Display Hours, and Photography:

Photography and Entry Hours:

Thursday 8am* - 12pm, 1pm-9pm May 2, 2024

Friday 7am - 10am May 3, 2024

Winners Photography:

Saturday apps 10 -11:30pm May 4, 2024

*Thursday 8am - 9:30am May 2, 2024

Early Bird Entry Perks:

- ❖ entry into the showroom before judging commences
- ❖ front of the division placement
- ❖ explore lighting advantages with placement
- ❖ booking your entries for open Judge lead seminar-style critiques
- ❖ booking your entries for private one-on-one critiques

Pre-approved competitor agent assignment is accepted with the following non-negotiable parameters.

The check-in absentee competitor must:

1. be a member in good standing;
2. pre register pieces and banquet ticket with full payment;
3. Submit via email a photo of each entry on or before close of on- line registration including assigned designee;
4. be on-site/check-in before the judging of the major awards;
5. registrant acknowledges that any and all awards will be forfeited in the event #4 is not met.

Questions?, Please email: info@nationaltaxidermists.com.

One designated agent: Collective Artists Division permits one member of the team to pay for the entry, be present for entry photograph and admission, be present for the awards banquet, and participate in the winners circle photo. Please see Collective Artists section for additional details.

Liability

During preregistration, competitor will acknowledge the releasing of the NTA staff and agents from any liability for mounts entered into competition. Since accidents are possible, competitors are encouraged to purchase insurance via their local insurance carrier.

Divisions & Categories

Distinguished Taxidermist *No categories; all go head-to-head*

North American 18 categories

National 18 Categories

Collective Artists *No categories; all go head-to-head*

Clay Sculpture 5 categories

Manikin Premade 5 categories

LIVE Warrior, Double Warriors, Triple Warriors *Each category goes head-to-head*

LIVE Manikin 5 categories

Critiques

One-on-One Private Critiques

8:30am-11:30am Saturday May 4, 2024

Judge lead Seminar-style Critiques

1-4pm Saturday May 4, 2024

Viewing

May 5, 2024 Friday 3-5pm Competitor Voting

May 6, 2024 Saturday 7:30am - 8:30am First Round Ribbons

1pm - 4pm Open

After banquet - 11:30pm Last Call

Vendor Hours

Thursday 11am - 1pm, 5pm - 7pm May 2, 2024

Friday 11am - 1pm, 5pm - 7pm May 3, 2024

Saturday 10am - 12pm May 4, 2024

LIVE Divisions

Manikin

Thursday 1:30pm - 5:30pm *setup at 1-1:30pm, clean up 5:30-6pm*

Warrior *all categories*

Friday 8pm - 11pm *setup at 7:15-8pm, clean up 11-11:15pm*

Saturday 8am - 9am *Final Session, clean up 9 - 9:30am*

Mount Mobility and Utilities

NTA competitors have showcased their ingenuity for more than 52 years. As the convention has grown, very few National level and above pieces are being presented on a wall. Convention 2024 will showcase only table top and pedestal pieces.

No floor mounts will be accepted without rollers or its own designated dolly. Mounts with roller casters must be securely attached, mechanically sound so that they do not wobble and cannot tip over, with swivel working in 360°. If your casters are equipped with brakes, please note such to the entry staff.

Questions or requests for special determinations to be excused from caster rule, please email: info@nationaltaxidermists.com

Entries with cases must have removable top and sides for judging. These entries must be photographed and placed in the showroom by the competitor between 8-9:30am, Thursday, May 2, 2024, before the judging session begins.

Electrical outlets/access is not available within the showroom. If you choose to showcase your piece with any special effects, please turn on your device/prior to photographing, being sure that any batteries or bulbs may remain on throughout the entire time, from entry through the winners with ribbons and awards photography. A diagram, which shall remain confidential if the competitor requests, showing the location of the device/s must be left with the Competition Floor Designer.

Judging

Each judge will score each entry separately on a NTA approved score sheet, with score written with blue ink and initialed by the judge. All scores will be recorded and electronic record of scores will remain with the NTA Secretary for a minimum of one year.

Distinguished Taxidermy Division and North American Divisions are judged at the same level. While North American Division has categories, Distinguished Taxidermist Division pieces all go head-to-head against one another, having no categories.

No piece may be entered into more than one division.

Half-life size entries will be assigned and compete in their respective gamehead division. Small gamehead is defined as coyote or smaller; large gameheads are everything larger than a coyote.

Multiple mounts on a single base may be additional entries or may be considered as habitat.

Any entry eligible for Taxidermist of the Year or Best of Show must have a minimum score of 90.

Process Images and Reference: Competitors may wish to bring their own images for examination by the judges. The judges will use the material to help them determine if it was correctly interpreted and executed. Points may be gained or lost. Each judge will acknowledge receipt and review of this material.

North American and National Divisions' Categories

Birds

Waterfowl

Turkey

Coldwater Fish - Skin Mount – Ex: Trout, Salmon & Char

Warmwater Fish - Skin Mount – Ex: Panfish, Bass, Pike & Saltwater

Reptile - Skin Mount

Marine Aquatic Non-Fish, Amphibian, Arachnids, Invertebrates, Etc.

Reproductions - Warm/Cold, Salt/Freshwater Fish, and Reptiles.

Small Mammals - lifesize *10 lbs. and under*

Medium Mammals - lifesize *over 10 lbs. through 60 lbs.*

Large Mammals - lifesize *over 60 lbs.*

Small Gameheads – Coyote or smaller

Large Gameheads – Larger than a coyote

Mule Deer - Open/Closed Mouth Gamehead

Whitetail - short/thin hair, closed mouth Gamehead

Whitetail - long/thick hair, closed mouth Gamehead

Whitetail - short/thin hair, open mouth Gamehead

Whitetail - long/thick hair, open mouth Gamehead

Closed Mouth Criteria:

Exposed lower lip & teeth are allowable – no inner mouth detail visible.

Open Mouth Criteria:

Inner mouth detail visible – upper palate, teeth & tongue.

Clay Sculpture, Manikin Premade, Manikin LIVE Divisions' Categories

Birds, Waterfowl, and Turkey

Fish

Reptiles and Amphibians

Lifesize Mammals

Whitetail and Gamehead

Competitor's Choice Categories

Whitetail

Bird

Lifesize

Fish

Gamehead

Reptile

Entry Restrictions

Protected species need proper permits which will be placed with their entry. In some cases, special permits are also required to cross into the U.S. or to cross state lines. The competitor is responsible for knowing and following all such laws pertaining to protected species.

The National Taxidermists Association reserves the right to refuse any entry that does not comply with the Competition Rules or is deemed to be inappropriate or detrimental to the image of taxidermy. Any infraction of a competition rule will result in disqualification of the entry and forfeiture of any awards won by that entry. Membership, registration, and entry fees will not be refunded.

Anything judged “Fatal Flaw” will be given a scoresheet but no ribbons or awards will be given. Any mounts with offensive odors will be removed from the competition area and not judged.

Any entry may be ineligible if in the opinion of the Competition Chairperson and/or Judge, too many of the judging criteria are hidden from view or are not included in the mount, and it is not in conjunction with another mount that is 'judgeable'.

Example: Single wood duck head coming out of a hole in tree.

There will be no formal Competitor Score Sheet protests or challenges though the NTA encourages any competitor to bring their questions or concerns directly to the Competition Chairperson, who will be responsible for resolving any problems related to the competition and judging.

No mount that has previously been entered in an NTA Competition may not be entered in a NTA Competition again, with the exception to LIVE mounts which may be entered into the Collective Artists division as long as multiple competitors have worked on the piece during the 2023 LIVE championship or since.

There shall be no competitor identification on any entries or printed materials.

Challenge of the Art

Every entry on a single base must pay the COTA entry fee. Piece will be judged in its entirety. *Please email for further clarification: info@nationaltaxidermists.com.*

WTC and NTA National Medallion Winners and Pieces

National division first place medallion recipients automatically advance the competitor to the North American division within that same category.

North American and Distinguished Taxidermist Champions may return and choose to enter in either the Distinguished Taxidermist division or North American division within any category.

WTC Medallion winning *pieces* are limited to the Distinguished Taxidermist Division.

Any competitor who has earned a WTC medallion in a category may only enter into the North American or Distinguished Taxidermist divisions when competing in that same category with a new piece.

As an example, a WTC medallion recipient in Large Lifesize may only enter that medallion piece in the Distinguished Taxidermist Division. They may also enter other same category piece/s in either the Distinguished Taxidermist Division (as the competitor qualifies as a WTC medallion recipient within that category) or they may choose to enter that new or different piece into the North American Division, therefore being able to compete in two Divisions within the same category. Since the Distinguished Taxidermist division does not have categories, a competitor may compete in two different divisions with like 'category' species'.

Distinguished Taxidermist Division is a fierce challenge with all pieces going head-to-head. This medallion division, may be entered into by

- ◆ Any WTC medallion recipient competitor.
- ◆ Any WTC medallion *piece*.
- ◆ By a competitor's piece that has received a state or regional Best of Show.
The piece may only be entered into one division.

Collective Artists

Once a piece has been entered as a Collective Artist entry at any previous show, it must remain in that distinction; components must not be separated and refurbished as a single competitor entry.

Collective Artists Division mixed group pieces will be scored by each respective judge with the final round being awarded by judge panel.

A previous year's LIVE Double or Triple Warrior piece is eligible to enter the Collective Artists Division in future NTA competitions. A previous year's LIVE Lone Warrior entry may be eligible in Collective Artists Division if additional competitors have assisted with the completion of the piece.

One fee of \$40.00 enters pieces into the Collective Artist Division. Each artist's name must be noted at the time of pre-registration.

Request for Additional Awards or Ribbons

Any and all awards (whether cash/prize/gift certificate/trophy/or plaque) shall be considered conveyed to the winners when agent of team accepts. Distribution is the responsibility of the recipient/agent. Additional trophies and ribbons may be duplicated at the cost of the requesting additional competitor. Any taxes and shipping fees would apply.

Competitor Award

Any competitor with four or more pieces in the same division shall be automatically entered for the Competitor's Award, with the four highest scores progressing on.

A competitor who brings four or more pieces in both divisions must tell the Competition Floor Designer which division they choose to compete in or the division with the highest scoring four pieces will progress.

Conduct

During their time of service to the National Taxidermists Association, Board Members, by unanimous consent, as well as their family members, are prohibited from competing but may participate in self pay seminars and bid on live auctions as well as silent auctions providing they have no advantage and/or tallying duties.

We respectfully request the following to preserve the integrity of your convention:

Competitors shall not:

- ❖ travel with an NTA scheduled judge
- ❖ lodge with an NTA scheduled judge

Current Judges may not enter pieces into competition.

Competitor, board of director, or judge may register a note of concern pertaining to their perception of a conflict of interest. NTA secretary shall present any and all comments to the BOD. If a member, their identification will be kept confidential unless expressly permitted by the member. Please email to: info@nationaltaxidermists.com

Touching or moving of any mount without express permission of the competitor by anyone other than the NTA staff is expressly forbidden and grounds for disqualification and removal from the NTA Convention.

Any conduct by the competitor that is deemed unsportsmanlike may result in disqualification and forfeiture of any NTA awards. Unruly or disruptive behavior towards judges or show officials will not be tolerated and the individual will be asked to leave without refund and may be barred from future competitions.

Fairness and integrity are the practiced cornerstones of the NTA.

Thank you for being the best part of the National Taxidermists Association.