

## National Taxidermists Association Official Competition Rules

(Subject to change)

There are six divisions in the competition: Challenge of the Art of Taxidermy, Masters Choice, Division of Excellence, Open, Children and Youth, Sculpting and Original Art. Each division lists requirements and descriptions. All awards will be announced and presented at the Saturday night banquet so competitors should plan in advance on attending to be recognized.

### MAJOR AWARDS

1. **EPO GRIP-TAXIDERMIST OF THE YEAR**-Limited to NTA members who have earned the NTA Award of Excellence and are present at the convention. The judges collectively from all mounts entered in the Division of Excellence select it. In making the selection judges are not bound by any numerical score an individual mount may have received, but will make the selection based upon the mounts overall merit. Includes \$500.00 gift certificate from Epo Grip. (*Sponsored by Epo Grip*)
2. **JUDGES BEST OF SHOW-BREAKTHROUGH AWARD**- Selected by the judges collectively from all National Champions and North American Champions. In making the selection judges are not bound by any numerical score an individual mount may have received, but will make the selection based upon the mounts overall merit. Includes an award and \$500.00 cash award. (*Sponsored by Breakthrough Magazine*)
3. **PEOPLE'S CHOICE-CHARLEY HAYNES MEMORIAL AWARD**-Selected by the voting of registered convention members. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room. Deadline for casting ballots is 10:00 pm on Friday. Includes an award and \$300.00 cash award (*Sponsored by Haynes Family*)
4. **JUDGE'S BEST OF SHOW YOUTH HORIZON AWARD**-Selected by the judges collectively as the best mount in the Youth Division. In making the selection judges are not bound by the Highest Numerical Score, but will consider the mounts overall merit. (*Sponsored by Mary's Wholesale Rugmaking*)
5. **JUDGE'S BEST OF SHOW CHILDREN'S HORIZON AWARD**-Selected by the judges collectively as the best mount in the Children's Division. In making the selection judges are not bound by the Highest Numerical Score, but will consider the mounts overall merit. (*Sponsored by Mary's Wholesale Rugmaking*)
6. **TOHICKON AWARD OF DISTINCTION-BEST ALL AROUND TAXIDERMIST**-Limited to NTA members present at the convention. Competitors entering this special competition must first enter in four areas of competition: Birds, Fish or Reptiles, Mammals (large or small), and Shoulder Mounts. (deer, game head, pedestals, or half life-size are included in this category.) Entries in the required four areas may not include rugs, novelties and crustaceans, freeze dry or reproductions. Freeze dry and reproduction parts may be used as long as the competitor does all work. Anyone wishing to enter this special competition is required to fill out the special entry form at the time of entry. It is the responsibility of the competitor to insure that this is noted on all tags placed by the mounts. There is a \$40.00 entry fee for this special competition above the normal entry fees. The person with the highest total numerical score with four entries will win this award (see general rule #11.) Entries may be composed of mounts

entered in both the Open Division and the Division of Excellence. Includes award and \$500.00 cash award. (*Sponsored by Tohickon Glass Eyes*)

7. **DERMA GRIP'S DISTINGUISHED TAXIDERMIST AWARD**-Limited to NTA members who win a "Judges Best of Show" at any NTA affiliated state or regional competition and are present at the convention. Affiliated state and regional competitions may authorize only one "Judges Best of Show" award winner per competition and no more than two winners in any given yearly time frame. It will be the responsibility of the affiliated chapter to provide competitors with the proper forms in order for eligibility. Proper documentation must be provided or mounts cannot be accepted. Although entry is limited to the same mount that won in the affiliated chapter competition, corrections are allowed to any areas needing attention. Entrants must be present at the convention and pay all appropriate fees plus a special \$40.00 entry fee for this award. Entries in this competition will also be eligible to win all other awards in their proper division. The judges will select the winner of this award collectively and numerical score does not bind them. Selection will be based on the mounts overall merit. Any mount that has been entered in any previous NTA National Competition is not eligible to enter again. Includes a \$500.00 cash award and plaque. (*Sponsored by Derma Grip*)

8. **TOHICKON AWARD OF DISTINCTION CHALLENGE OF THE ART OF TAXIDERMY**-This is a judges interpretation division open to all species collectively. It will be judged for aesthetics, not mechanics. Any species of a bird, fish, reptile or mammal or combination of them can be mounted in a display and entered to be viewed and interpreted by the judges without the use of a flashlight. Judges will write a brief comment sheet not a detailed scoresheet. There will be a single first, second, third and honorable mention ribbon awarded. This division is considered a very creative division with a challenge that allows all work to be judged equally. It is open to all NTA members. An individual must execute entries or several specified individuals who are all NTA members and registered for the convention. Company entries are allowed as long as these same rules are followed. Entries in this division are \$40.00. Competitors are also eligible to compete in the Open Division and the Division of Excellence provided all rules and entry fees are followed for those divisions. Includes award and \$500.00 cash award. (*Sponsored by Tohickon Glass Eyes*)

9. **JOSEPH BRUCHAC MEMORIAL AWARD**-Selected by the whitetail judge from the National Champion and North American Champion. In making the selection, judges are not bound by score but will consider the mounts overall merit.

10. **NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONS**-Limited to NTA members who have earned the NTA Award of Excellence and are competing in the Division of Excellence in the categories in which they have won a first place in the Open Division at the annual NTA competition. One North American Champion will be named in each of the fourteen categories in the Division of Excellence based on the Higher Numerical Score, provided there is at least one entry that scores a first place. If no mount scores a first place, no award will be given in that category. In the case of a tie the judges will make the determination based upon the mounts overall merit.

11. **NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**-Limited to NTA members entered in the Open Division. One National Champion will be named each of the fourteen major categories in the open division based on the Highest Numerical Score, provided there is at least one entry that scores a first place. If no mount scores a first place, no award will be given in

that category. In the case of a tie the judges will make the determination based upon the mounts overall merit. No award will be given in the "Other" category.

12. **PEOPLE'S CHOICE YOUTH AWARD**-Selected by the voting of registered convention members. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room. Deadline for casting ballots is 10:00 pm Friday. Includes a plaque and cash prize of \$100.00. (*Sponsored by Anonymous Donor*)

13. **PEOPLE'S CHOICE CHILDREN'S AWARD**-Selected by the voting of registered convention members. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room. Deadline for casting ballots is 10:00 pm Friday. Includes a plaque and cash prize of \$100.00. (*Sponsored by Anonymous Donors*)

14. **WASCO AWARD**-Limited to entries in the Division of Excellence, Open Division and Children's Division. To be selected by the judges as the most artistic entry. Includes \$500.00 merchandise gift certificate. (*Sponsored by WASCO*)

15. **VAN DYKE'S AWARD**-Selected by the judges as the mount that displays the most originality and creativity in the mammal, gamehead or whitetail category in the Open Division or the Division of Excellence. In making the selection judges are not bound by the highest numerical score but will consider the overall merits of each entry with judges focusing on the impact of presentation. Includes a \$500.00 gift certificate. (*Sponsored by Van Dyke's Supply Co.*)

17. **RESEARCH MANNIKINS-DELIA AKELEY AWARD**-Limited to registered, female members. Entries in this division are \$40.00. Selected by the voting of registered convention members. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room. Deadline for casting ballots is 10:00 pm on Friday. Includes \$200.00 gift certificate and award. (*Sponsored by Research Mannikins*)

18. **SINCLAIR CLARK MEMORIAL AWARD**-Presented to the highest scoring mount in the Division of Excellence or the Open Division using professionally tanned capes and skins. Includes plaque and \$250.00 cash award with \$250.00 gift certificate. (*Sponsored by Wilderness Fur Dressers*)

19. **S. HARMISTED CHUBB MEMORIAL AWARD**- Presented to the entry considered to be the most artistic composition and design in the preparation of osteological specimens within the Open Division and Division of Excellence. Includes plaque and \$250.00 cash award. This award to be chosen by Jay Villamerette of Skulls Unlimited International or his designee. (*Sponsored by Skulls Unlimited International, Inc.*)

20. **NEW WAVE AWARD**-Selected by the fish judge as the Best Reproduction Fish in the Open Division of the Division of Excellence. In making the selection the Judge is not bound by the highest numerical score but will consider the overall difficulty, originality and creativity in presentation. Includes a \$100.00 cash award and plaque. (*Sponsored by New Wave Reproduction*)

21. **AL & EVELYN HOLMES BEST HABITAT AWARD**-Selected by the judges and highest numerical score do not bind them. Judges will be looking for a habitat that combines difficulty with a realistic presentation that enhances a mount. The habitat should compliment and not overpower as it helps to add to the overall artistic expression of the mount. Limited to entries in the Open Division, Division of Excellence, Children and Youth Division, and Challenge of the Art of Taxidermy. Includes \$100.00 merchandise gift certificate and award. (*Sponsored by Al & Evelyn Holmes*).

22. **STAR\*FISH AWARD**-Selected by judges as the best replica fish in the Open Division or the Division of Excellence. Replica may be displayed as a single fish, group or with other mammals or birds. In making the selection judges are not bound by the highest numerical score but will consider overall color, detail, artistic composition and craftsmanship. Includes plaque and \$100.00 merchandise gift certificate. (*Sponsored by Frank & Joy Roman and Star\*Fish Replicas*)

23. **SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL AWARD**-Selected by designee of Safari Club International as the mount that most displays the importance of habitat conservation. Limited to entries in the Open Division or the Division of Excellence. In making the selection, designee are not bound by the highest numerical score but will consider the mounts overall merit. Includes award. (*Sponsored by Safari Club International*)

24. **SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S AWARD**-Selected by designee of Safari Club International as the mount that most displays the importance of habitat conservation. Limited to entries in the Children's Division. In making the selection, designee are not bound by the highest numerical score but will consider the mounts overall merit. Includes award. (*Sponsored by Safari Club International*)

25. **SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AWARD**-Selected by designee of Safari Club International as the mount that most displays the importance of habitat conservation. Limited to entries in the Youth Division. In making the selection, designee are not bound by the highest numerical score but will consider the mounts overall merit. Includes award. (*Sponsored by Safari Club International*)

26. **FRANK NEWMYER AWARD**-Presented to the highest scoring bird or waterfowl mount in the Division of Excellence or the Open Division. Includes award. (*Sponsored by Frank Newmyer*)

27. **HENRY WICHERS INCHUMUK AWARD**-Limited to entries in the Open Division, Division of Excellence and Children and Youth Division, the size of a squirrel or smaller that are not involved in the freeze-dry process. Mr. Inchumuk selects this award or his designee based upon the Highest Numerical Score.

28. **IVAN HARVEY MEMORIAL AWARD**- Limited to entries in the Division of Excellence and the Open Division which are a medium life-size mammal i.e. bobcat. In making the selection, judges are not bound by the highest numerical score but will consider the mounts overall merit including originality, creativity and captures the essence of the animal. Includes a \$100.00 cash award and plaque. (*Sponsored by Arkansas Taxidermists Association and Ozark Woods*)

29. **SECOND 2 NATURE MASTERS CHOICE AWARD**-Limited to the judges chosen for the current NTA annual competition, the competition judging chairman, operation chairman and their assistant chairmen. Entries in this division are \$40.00. Selected by the voting of the registered convention members. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room. Deadline for casting ballots is 10:00 pm on Friday. Includes a \$250.00 cash award and plaque. (*Sponsored by Jeff Martin and Second 2 Nature Taxidermy Supply Co.*)

**30. SECOND 2 NATURE COLLECTIVE ARTIST AWARD:** For entries where more than one taxidermist worked on the entry. May be entered in the name of a studio or each artist can be listed as the creators. Entrants must all be NTA members and registered and present at the convention and pay all appropriate fees plus a special

\$40.00 entry fee for this award. **NO points earned will be credited to any competitor.** Includes a \$250.00 cash award and plaque. *(Sponsored by Jeff Martin and Second 2 Nature Taxidermy Supply Co.)*

31. **TAXIDERMIST CHOICE BEST WHITETAIL AWARD-** Selected by the voting of registered convention members. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room. Deadline for casting ballots is 10:00 pm Friday. Includes a 3 dimensional award. *(Sponsored by McKenzie Taxidermy Supply Co.)*

32. **TAXIDERMIST CHOICE BEST LIFE-SIZE MAMMAL AWARD-** Selected by the voting of registered convention members. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room. Deadline for casting ballots is 10:00 pm Friday. Includes a 3 dimensional award. *(Sponsored by McKenzie Taxidermy Supply Co.)*

33. **TAXIDERMIST CHOICE BEST FISH AWARD-** Selected by the voting of registered convention members. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room. Deadline for casting ballots is 10:00 pm Friday. Includes a 3 dimensional award. *(Sponsored by McKenzie Taxidermy Supply Co.)*

34. **TAXIDERMIST CHOICE BEST BIRD AWARD-** Selected by the voting of registered convention members. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room. Deadline for casting ballots is 10:00 pm Friday. Includes a 3 dimensional award. *(Sponsored by McKenzie Taxidermy Supply Co.)*

35. **MAYOR'S AWARD-** Selected by the local Mayor or their designee. Whenever possible this selection is made from all mounts entered.

36. **JUDGES BEST OF SHOW SCULPTING AND ORIGINAL ART-Taxidermy Sculptures-** Selected by judges collectively from all first place winners in the six categories of the taxidermy sculpting. Since there are no scoresheets, judges will consider overall merit.

37. **PEOPLE'S CHOICE SCULPTING AND ORIGINAL ART--Taxidermy Sculpture-** Selected by the voting of the registered convention members from the six categories of the taxidermy sculpting. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room. Deadline for casting ballots is 10:00 pm on Friday.

38. **JUDGES BEST OF SHOW SCULPTING AND ORIGINAL ART-Bronzes and Castings, Carvings, Paintings and Reproductions-** Selected by the judges collectively from all first place winners in the four categories listed. Since there are no scoresheets, judges will consider overall merit.

39. **PEOPLE'S CHOICE SCULPTING AND ORIGINAL ART- Bronzes and Castings, Carvings, Paintings and Reproductions-** Selected by the voting of the registered convention members from the four categories of the taxidermy sculpting. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room. Deadline for casting ballots is 10:00 pm on Friday.

## **MASTERS CHOICE AWARDS**

**I. ELIGIBILITY:** Limited to the judges chosen for the current NTA annual competition, the competition judging chairman, operation chairman and their assistant chairmen. These individuals are unable to enter any other division of competition.

**II. CATEGORIES:** There are no category assignments. Competitors are limited to one entry of their choice.

**III. JUDGING:** Selected by the voting of the registered convention members. Ballots are included in registration packets and ballot box is located in the competition room. Deadline for casting ballots is 10:00 pm on Friday.

**IV. AWARDS:** A maximum of one first place, one-second place, one third place and one honorable mention ribbon will be awarded.

## **COLLECTIVE ARTISTS DIVISION**

**I. ELIGIBILITY-**Limited to NTA members registered and in attendance at the convention.

**II. CATEGORIES-**Selected by which specimen constitutes the major portion of the entry. The Competition Committee will resolve any question concerning the category assignment. Their decision will be final.

### **III. JUDGING**

1. Judges decision is final. They alone decide upon the score an entry receives. All judges have the option of changing their scores if they find themselves in error.

2. This division will be judged by the highest standards on NTA scoresheets. Scoresheets will be duplicates with the copy going to the participant and the original remaining with the NTA for thirty days.

3. Competitors must specify at the time of entry that they wish for their habitat to be judged.

### **IV. AWARDS:**

1. A maximum of one first place, one-second place, one third place and one honorable mention ribbon will be awarded.

2. Collective Artists Division does not offer the following titles “National Champion,” “North American Champion.”

3. No points awarded for Certification and Award of Excellence.

## **DIVISION OF EXCELLENCE**

**I. ELIGIBILITY-**Limited to NTA members registered for the convention that has earned the NTA Award of Excellence. Award winners must compete in the Division of Excellence in any categories in which they have won a first place in the Open Division in a previous NTA national competition. Award winners may not compete in the Division of Excellence in any category where they have not earned a first place in the Open

Division at a previous NTA national competition. Individuals winning first place in the Open Division at a previous NTA national competition but that have not received notice of earning their Award of Excellence must continue to compete in the Open Division.

A. Any use of reproductions or freeze-dry in whole or part is forbidden unless done completely by the competitor.

**II. CATEGORIES**-Selected by which specimen constitutes the major portion of the entry:

1. Birds
2. Waterfowl
3. Coldwater Fish-Skin Mount
4. Coldwater Fish-Reproduction
5. Warmwater Fish-Skin Mount
6. Warmwater Fish-Reproduction
7. Reptile-Skin Mount
8. Reptile-Reproduction
9. Small Mammals-Coyote or smaller
10. Large Mammals-Larger than a coyote
11. Gamehead
12. Whitetail-Closed Mouth
13. Whitetail –Open Mouth
14. Turkey
15. Re-Creation

The Competition Committee will resolve any question concerning the category assignment. Their decision will be final.

### **III. JUDGING**

1. In the NTA Division of Excellence there will be one judge for each category. The judges' decisions are final and may not be challenged. All judges have the option of changing their scores if they find themselves in error.
2. Mounts will be judged and identified exactly the same as those in the Open Division except it will take 95% of a perfect score for a first place, 90% for a second place, 85% for a third place and 80% for an honorable mention.
3. The NTA Division of Excellence division judges entries on individual merit against a hypothetical "perfect score" rather than against other entries. Any entry receiving at least 95% of a perfect score is awarded first place, 90% for a second place, 85% for third place and 80% for an honorable mention.
4. Habitat entries must be identified as such by the participant at the time of registration. Judges that score the accompanying specimen will also judge the habitat.

**IV. AWARDS-**In each of the fourteen major awards categories, the highest score with a first place ribbon shall earn the title “North American Champion.” All entrants in this division will compete for the title “Taxidermist of the Year.” Competitors in this division are also eligible to win all other taxidermy awards except for “National Champion, Horizon Award and Master’s Choice.”

**V. FREEZE-DRY-**This division has been set aside for all mounts employing freeze dry technology. If a freeze dryer is used to preserve the flesh of any part of the entry (without skinning) it must be entered in this division. Exception: Freeze dried velvet antlers on a conventionally mounted head may be entered in the open competition. Also freeze dried turkey heads or other galliformes that have been skinned, mounted and freeze dried to prevent shrinkage. Any use of reproduction or freeze dry in whole or part is forbidden unless done completely by the competitor. (Freeze dry clarification, the competitor must do all preparation, set-up and finish work on freeze dried parts. The person performing the actual freeze-drying process is allowed to make minor adjustments).

#### **VI. FREEZE-DRY CATEGORIES**

1. Lifesize Mammals
2. Birds
3. Fish
4. Reptiles-Amphibians

The Competition Committee will resolve any question concerning the category assignment. Their decision will be final.

**VII. AWARDS-** Multiple firsts, second and third place ribbons will be awarded in accordance with the division rules.

**VIII. RE-CREATIONS-**Re-creations, for the purpose of this category, are defined as renderings, which include NO natural parts of the animal, portrayed. A re-creation can use natural parts, provided the parts are not from the species portrayed. For instance, a re-creation eagle could be constructed using turkey feathers, or a cowhide could be used to simulate African game. Reproductions, such as antlers, are not allowed in this division. They should be entered in Sculpting and Original Art.

#### **VIV. RE-CREATION CATEGORIES (Three subcategories)**

1. Mammal Re-Creation
2. Bird Re-Creation
3. Re-Creation Group

**IX. AWARDS-** Multiple firsts, second and third place ribbons will be awarded in accordance with the division rules.

### **OPEN DIVISION**

- I. **ELIGIBILITY**-Open to all NTA members except those eligible for the Division of Excellence. An individual must execute entries or several specified individuals who are all NTA members and registered for the convention. Company entries are not allowed.

II. **CATEGORIES**-Selected by which specimen constitutes the major portion of the entry:

1. Birds
2. Waterfowl
3. Coldwater Fish-Skin Mount
4. Coldwater Fish-Reproduction
5. Warmwater Fish-Skin Mount
6. Warmwater Fish-Reproduction
7. Reptile-Skin Mount
8. Reptile-Reproduction
9. Small Mammals-Coyote or smaller
10. Large Mammals-Larger than a coyote
11. Gamehead
12. Whitetail-Closed Mouth
13. Whitetail -Open Mouth
14. Turkey
15. Re-creation

**16. Habitat (Judged and paid separately from the mount. No points awarded for habitat. No National or No. American Champion. Awards: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons).**

The Competition Committee will resolve any question concerning the category assignment. Their decision will be final.

2. Novelties and Crustaceans will be judged on a comment sheet not a detailed scoresheet. No points will be assigned towards the Award of Excellence or to the Certification program for any awards won with these mounts.

3. Habitat entries must be identified as such by the participant at the time of registration. Judges that score the accompanying specimen will also judge the habitat.

### III. JUDGING

1. In the Open Division there will be one judge for each category. Their decision is final they alone decide upon the score an entry receives. All judges have the option of changing their scores if they find themselves in error.

2. Each judge will score each entry separately on an approved NTA scoresheet. Scoresheets will be duplicates with the copy going to the participant and the original remaining with the NTA for thirty days.

3. Habitat entries are divided into areas of judging criteria. Total possible score will be 50 points. Competitors must specify at the time of entry that they wish for their habitat to be judged.

#### **IV. AWARDS**

1. The NTA Open Division judges entries on individual merit against a hypothetical “perfect score” rather than against other entries. Any entry receiving 90% of a perfect score is awarded a first place, 80% of a perfect score is second place and 70% of a perfect score is a third place. There is no honorable mention.

2. In each of the fifteen major categories, the Highest Numerical Score with a first place ribbon shall earn the title “National Champion.” Competitors in the Open Division are eligible to win all other taxidermy awards except for “Taxidermist of the Year, North American Champion, Horizon Award and Master’s Choice.”

**V. FREEZE-DRY**-This division has been set aside for all mounts employing freeze dry technology. If a freeze dryer is used to preserve the flesh of any part of the entry (without skinning) it must be entered in this division. Exception: Freeze dried velvet antlers on a conventionally mounted head may be entered in the open competition. Also freeze dried turkey heads or other galliformes that have been skinned, mounted and freeze dried to prevent shrinkage. Any use of reproduction or freeze dry in whole or part is forbidden unless done completely by the competitor. (Freeze dry clarification, the competitor must do all preparation, set-up and finish work on freeze dried parts. The person performing the actual freeze-drying process is allowed to make minor adjustments).

#### **VI. FREEZE-DRY CATEGORIES**

1. Lifesize Mammals
2. Birds
3. Fish
4. Reptiles-Amphibians

The Competition Committee will resolve any question concerning the category assignment. Their decision will be final.

**VII. AWARDS**- Multiple firsts, second and third place ribbons will be awarded in accordance with the division rules.

**VIII. RE-CREATIONS**-Re-creations, for the purpose of this category, are defined as renderings, which include NO natural parts of the animal, portrayed. A re-creation can use natural parts, provided the parts are not from the species portrayed. For instance, a re-creation eagle could be constructed using turkey feathers, or a cowhide could be used to simulate African game. Reproductions, such as antlers, are not allowed in this division. They should be entered in Sculpting and Original Art.

#### **VIV. RE-CREATION CATEGORIES (Three subcategories)**

1. Mammal Re-Creation
2. Bird Re-Creation
3. Re-Creation Group

**IX. CHALLENGES AND ALTERNATE JUDGING**-After reviewing their scoresheet **and** after having their mount critiqued by the judge that judged it at the show, any competitor may request alternate judging by paying a \$100.00 challenge fee per entry and be rejudged by the NTA alternate judges selected for that competition. The competition committee prior to the completion of regular judging will appoint alternate judges. Identity of the alternates will be given to the challenger after receipt of the \$100.00 fee and after the Saturday 12:00 Noon Deadline for requesting alternate judging. The results of the alternate judges, whether higher or lower, will be final.

**IX. AWARDS**- Multiple firsts, second and third place ribbons will be awarded in accordance with the division rules.

### **COMMERCIAL DIVISION**

**I. ELIGIBILITY**-Open to all NTA members. An individual must execute entries or several specified individuals who are all NTA members and registered for the convention.

**II. CATEGORIES**-Selected by which specimen constitutes the major portion of the entry:

1. Birds, Waterfowl and Turkeys
2. Fish
3. Reptile
4. Lifesize Mammals
5. Deer and Gameheads

The Competition Committee will resolve any question concerning the category assignment. Their decision will be final.

#### **III. JUDGING**

1. This is a judge's interpretation division open to all species. It will be judged for aesthetics, not mechanics. Competitors should strive to present life-like entries. Any species of a bird, fish, reptile or mammal or combination can be mounted in a display and entered to be viewed and interpreted by the judges without the use of a flashlight. Judges will write a brief comment and overall score, not a detailed scoresheet. Their decision is final they alone decide upon the score an entry receives. This division is considered a commercial division with a challenge that allows all work to be judged equally. It is open

to all NTA members. An individual must execute entries or several specified individuals who are all NTA members and registered for the convention. Company entries are allowed as long as these same rules are followed. All judges have the option of changing their scores if they find themselves in error.

2. Habitats and bases should be a minimum.

#### **IV. AWARDS**

1 Multiple firsts, second and third place ribbons will be awarded in accordance with the division rules.

2. Commercial Division does not offer the following titles “National Champion,” “North American Champion.”

3. No points awarded for Certification and Award of Excellence.

4. Entries in this division are not eligible for any other awards.

### **CHILDREN & YOUTH DIVISION**

**I. ELIGIBILITY-Children-**Limited to NTA family member’s **children** 14 years of age and under. The parents must be registered members of the convention. There is no entry fee.

**II. CATEGORIES-**All categories that exist in the Open Division are available for the Children’s Division.

**III. ELIGIBILITY-Youth-**Limited to **youth**, 15-17 years of age. For **youth** whose parents are not involved in taxidermy, a special youth registration is available. However, guardian, if not an NTA member, registered for the convention, is not allowed in seminars or supplier exhibit hall. Entry fees are applicable.

**IV. CATEGORIES-** All categories that exist in the Open Division are available for the Youth Division

**V. JUDGING-** Judging will be done on an approved NTA scoresheet and consideration will be taken into account for the experience of those entering. The judge’s decisions are final and may not be challenged.

**VI. AWARDS-**Multiple ribbons are awarded and based upon the judge’s decision. The entry selected by the judges collectively as the best mount in the Children’s Division will earn the title “Children’s Horizon Award” winner. The entry selected by the judges collectively as the best mount in the Youth Division will earn the title “Youth Horizon Award” winner. All entries in these two divisions are eligible for People’s Choice Awards. Since scoring is more lenient entries in this category are not eligible for other

major awards. Also, no points will be assigned toward the Award of Excellence or to the Certification program.

## **SCULPTING AND ORIGINAL ART DIVISION**

**I. ELIGIBILITY**-Open to all NTA members that are registered for the convention.

### **II. CATEGORIES**

1. Taxidermy Sculptures-Limited to mannikins or sculptures made specifically for use in the taxidermy trade. Entries in this category may be made under an individual or a company name. These items are designed to be used in conjunction with a skin, which is placed over the mannikin to create a finished piece of wildlife art. The mannikin may be presented in the form of clay, paper, foam or some other medium.

A. Whitetail B. Gamehead C. Mammal D. Bird E. Fish F. Reptile  
G. Other

2. Bronzes or Castings-Limited to sculptures which have been cast in bronze or some other medium to create a finished piece of art. These items could be bust, miniatures or lifesize.

3. Carvings-Limited to birds, fish, mammals and reptiles, which have been wholly carved from wood or some other medium and finished to represent a specific piece of art. These items could be busts, miniatures or lifesize.

4. Paintings, pencils, pastels, charcoal, etc.-Limited to flat art only.

5. Reproductions-Limited to unfinished parts of mammals, fish, birds and reptiles, which have been molded directly from the actual species and reproduced in some type casting material. The above reproductions can be either designed to be incorporated as part of a mount or finished as a completed piece representing a specific species.

### **III. JUDGING**

1. Two judges will examine each category. This division is a single ribbon competition for each category.

2. Each entry will be photographed and will receive an entrant certificate, signed and dated by the competition chairman. Both will be officially notarized. On the entry form, each competitor must certify that the entry is his or her own work of art.

### **IV. AWARDS**

1. Judges may award a maximum of one first place, one-second place, one third place and one honorable mention in each category.

2. Winners of first place in the six taxidermy sculpture categories will compete for a “Judges Best of Show.” All entries in the category will be eligible for a “Peoples Choice” award.

3. Winners of first place in Bronzes or Castings, Carvings, Paintings and Reproductions categories will compete for a “Judges Best of Show.” All entries in these four categories will be eligible for a “Peoples Choice” award.

## **GENERAL RULES FOR ALL COMPETITIONS**

1. The NTA Competition Committee will resolve any questions arising from the NTA competition and their decision will be final.

2. The NTA Competition Committee reserves the right to restrict from open viewing any entry deemed inappropriate or detrimental to the image of taxidermy, hunting, fishing, trapping or any other outdoor related activity. All such entries will be judged privately.

3. Any infraction of an NTA competition rule will result in disqualification of the entry and forfeiture of any awards won by that entry. Registration and entry fees will not be refunded.

4. All competitors must sign a form releasing the NTA from any liability for mounts entered in competition. While the NTA will provide security and be as careful as possible with all mounts, everyone is advised that accidents are possible and that competitors should purchase insurance on their competition entries through their local insurance agent. The NTA, its officials, Board Members or Competition Committee shall not be responsible for any mounts entered in competition under any circumstances.

5. To be eligible to enter, competitors must be NTA members in good standing and be registered for the convention. Members need not be present to compete (except for Taxidermist of the Year, Distinguished Taxidermist and Best All Around Taxidermist competitions.) However, they must be registered for the convention and pay appropriate fees. Entries may not be shipped c/o of the NTA, but must be presented and picked up by the participant’s agent.

6. Several people are allowed to work on large lifesize mounts provided three conditions are met:

- A. Everyone must be identified
- B. Everyone must be an NTA member
- C. Everyone must be a registered member of the convention

NO points earned will be credited to any competitor. Entries in the name of a company are not allowed except in the Challenge of the Art of Taxidermy and Sculpting and Original Art Divisions.

7. Entries may be made only at the posted times and NO entries will be removed from the competition area before Saturday afternoon at the posted times. Any entry not picked up by the posted deadline will be left unsecured and unattended.

8. The number of entries per category is unlimited except in the Masters Choice Division.

9. No mount may be entered more than once in the NTA competition. Mounts may not be entered in the Division of Excellence after winning in the Open Division.

10. Any entry may be ineligible if in the opinion of the Competition Committee, 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.

11. To arrive at a final score when requesting that the habitat be judged, the habitat maximum of 50 points is added to the specimen maximum of 100 points for a total of 150 points. If the combined habitat and specimen score a total within the top 10% (135 - 150) it is a first place. A score in the top 20% (120 - 134) would be a second place. A score in the top 30% (105 - 119) would be a third place. However, it must be noted that in all cases, the specimen mounted must score at least a third place to be eligible for any award. The habitat alone cannot give a mount a ribbon. The mount must place on its own. For purposes of choosing major award winners where habitat and non-habitat entries are both competing, the combined score of the habitat and specimen will be multiplied by 66.67%. This will allow for an equal comparison.

12. Half lifesize entries will be assigned and compete in the Gamehead category. Half lifesize mounts will be judged on the lifesize scoresheets using only those criteria that apply. Criteria that do not apply will be deducted from the maximum score and a new maximum score will be arrived at. Entries must score in the top 10% of the new maximum for a first place, the top 20% for a second place and the top 30% for a third place.

13. Any young or partially grown species, coyote size or smaller entries, will be judged in the small mammals category.

14. If any entry contains more than one specimen (Example: a pair of wood ducks), an entry fee must be paid for each mount that will be judged. When judging a piece with multiple entries each individual mount may win its own award. If only one entry fee is paid the competitor must designate which of the individual mounts they wish to have judged.

15. At the time of entry each competitor must identify the species of their mount and state whether it is a commercial mannikin, an altered commercial mannikin or an original sculpture. The competitor must also specify whether re-creations (deemed a piece which has been fabricated, modeled or sculpted to represent a specific species), reproductions,

artificial parts or freeze dry (heads, bills, feet, mouths and noses) are commercially purchased, made by the competitor or both.

16. Protected species need proper permits to place 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.

17. Entries in cases must have removable top and sides for judging and must be removed by competitor before judging begins.

18. Competitors are allowed to bring their own reference material for the judges to examine in correctly determining their scores. Photographs may be placed in an envelope next to the mount and marked "For Judges Reference." The mount number should also be written on the envelope.

19. Any names or logos that may reveal the identity of the competitor must be omitted or covered securely. 20. Any conduct by the competitor that is deemed unsportsmanlike could result in disqualification and forfeiture of any and all 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 will be barred from future competitions.

21. The competition area will be closed during judging to everyone except the competition committee and show officials.

22. If an instance arises where a judging problem occurs during the convention, it will be the judging committee's prerogative to bring in judging assistance.