

## **MAJOR/SPECIAL AWARD RULES**

### **General Notes that apply to Awards:**

#### **1). NOVICE AND JUNIOR COMPETITION LEVELS**

A competitor must choose either the Novice or Junior level of competition. A competitor's entries may not be placed in both the Novice and Junior levels.

The Novice level of competition is reserved for taxidermists of any age who have never entered in the Open/Professional level of competition and has never received a first place ribbon in the Novice level of competition. Novice level competitors must be current members of CAT and pay all appropriate registration and entry fees.

The Junior level of competition is reserved for taxidermists 15 years of age or younger. Junior level competitors do not have to pay annual Membership dues if their parents or guardian is a current member of C.A.T.. If the Junior competitor's parent or guardian is not a current member of C.A.T., the Junior competitor will have to pay a C.A.T. Membership fee of \$10.00. All Junior level competitors will have to pay a \$5.00 fee per entry.

If Needed, The current C.A.T. President may appoint attending C.A.T. "Master Taxidermists" to judge Novice and Junior level entries. Novice and Junior level entries are judged using the standard C.A.T. competition score sheets, and multiple placement ribbons are awarded.

#### **2). PLACEMENT CRITERIA ARE AS FOLLOWS**

In the Novice level of competition, First Place is awarded to scores of 85 to 100 points; Second Place is awarded to scores of 70 to 84 points; Third Place is awarded to scores of 55 to 69 points.

In the Junior level of competition, First Place is awarded to scores of 80 to 100 points; Second Place is awarded to scores of 60 to 79 points; Third Place is awarded to scores of 50 to 59 points.

There are no Best of Category Award Ribbons or Honorable Mention Placements in the Novice and Junior levels of competition. Also, competition placements in Novice and Junior levels do not apply towards the achievement of the C.A.T. "Master Taxidermist Award".

In the Open/Professional level of competition, First Place is awarded to scores of 90 to 100 points; Second Place is awarded to scores of 80 to 89 points; Third Place is awarded to scores of 70 to 79 to points; Honorable mention is awarded to scores of 65 to 69 points.

In the Masters level of competition, First Place is awarded to scores of 90 to 100 points; Second Place is awarded to scores of 80 to 89 points; Third Place is awarded to scores of 70 to 79 to points.

First Place Ribbon is Blue; Second Place Ribbon is Red; Third Place Ribbon is White; Honorable mention Ribbon is Green.

In the Open/Professional and Masters levels of competition the Highest Scoring Entries in each of the Standard Categories will receive Best Of Category Ribbons.

### **3). BEST OF CATEGORY - HABITAT**

Only Habitats entered into the five (5) major competition categories: Birds, Game Heads, mammals, Fish and Reptiles will be judged. Habitats may not be entered on their own. They must be an integral part of a Bird; Game Head; Life-Size Mammal; Fish; or Reptile competition entry. All applicable competition fees must be paid.

Habitats will be evaluated by the person selected to judge Habitats at the respective Taxidermy Art Show Competition. Habitats will be scored using the official "Habitats Score Sheet". The highest scoring entry in each Habitat category is the winner. **Only one (1)** ribbon is awarded in each of the Habitat categories.

Habitat awards **do not apply** towards the achievement of the C.A.T. "Master Taxidermist Award".

#### **4). MASTERS AWARD QUALIFICATIONS**

"Masters Awards" are available to CAT members for each of the five (5) Standard Categories Divisions: Birds, Fish, Life-size Mammals, Gameheads and Reptiles.

In order for a CAT member to qualify for a "Masters Award", the member must first accumulate twenty-four (24) CAT Art Show Competition points and three (3) First Place (blue) Ribbons in the Standard Category Division of their choosing.

Art Show Competition points that are earned towards qualifying for a "Masters Award", are as follows: Best of Category = 1 points; First Place = 3 points; Second Place = 2 points; Third Place = 1 point.

Masters level competitors who have achieved masters level in a association outside of California will be permitted to compete in the masters division, and may even earn points towards a CAT Masters Award in either

the Professional or Masters categories. This is a exception to the masters plan and will be done on a case by case basis at the discretion of the current CAT Board. Decisions will be based on competitors ability to provide evidence of awards and skill level achieved elsewhere.

CAT Art Show Competition points, received in the Novice and Junior Classes of competition, do not apply towards qualifying for the “Masters Award”.

Once a member qualifies for a “Masters Award” in a particular Standard Category Division, that member must ALWAYS enter in the Masters Class of competition for that particular Standard Competition Category Division. The Professional Class of competition is still available for that member for the remaining Standard Competition Categories Divisions.

## **5). DISQUALIFICATIONS**

Any entry that is disqualified or removed from competition by the Judges or by the CAT Board, **WILL NOT** be eligible to receive any awards.

Examples; Entries that are not cured, dried or entries that are removed from competition by Judges or the CAT board on grounds of poor taste.

Any entry that is not cured or dry will receive their critique, but **will not receive any score**.

## **6). RESOLVING TIE COMPETITION SCORES**

In case of ties, the pertinent Judges involved will be asked to break ties by consensus opinion. If the tie can not be broken, multiple Awards will be given.

## **7). INTERPRETATIVE ENTRIES**

The Interpretative Category will be judged on a head to head open division challenge. It shall have a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbon and a trophy/plaque shall be awarded to the Best of Category at the annual Awards Banquet.

Competitors entering this category will do so understanding art is subjective and while all taxidermists are artists, we differ in skill sets. Judges who are hired to judge conventional categories will conduct Judging and Critiques. Challenging of scores will not be allowed.

The interpretative category shall include taxidermy done in good taste. A entry must contain a taxiderminal specimen of either a whole specimen or parts thereof that have been preserved thru modern taxidermy methods or casting.

## **8). INTERPRETATIVE AND NOVELTY ENTRIES**

As Interpretative and Novelty entries do not adhere to a strict standard of anatomical accuracy and is prone to vast swings in scores from judge to judge. This variance in consistency will cause animosity and inconsistency and thus negatively impacts the Taxidermy Awards.

Interpretative and Novelty entries will not be allowed to compete in Challenges where anatomical accuracy decides the winner. Examples: Taxidermist of the year, Team Challenge, Horizon Award, Lauren Johnson Memorial Award, Jim Barrango Memorial Award, etc..

## **9). NOVELTY ENTRIES**

The Novelty Competition Category is available in the Professional Class, Novice Class and Junior classes of competition. Each Competition Class will be judged separate from the other Classes. When possible, each Competition Class will be awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons that are appropriate to their class.

Novelty Competition Category entries must not be qualified for entry into any other Taxidermy Art Show Competition Category. Entries into the Novelty Competition Category maybe anything a competitor can imagine, but must include parts of real animals and shall be portrayed in good taste.

If the CAT President determines that a Novelty Competition Category entry is in bad taste, or portrays the Art of Taxidermy in a bad light, that entry will be disqualified from participation in the Taxidermy Art Show Competition.