



# Youth Judging Program

**Alpaca & Llama Show Association**

**[www.alsashow.net](http://www.alsashow.net)**

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# **ALSA Youth Judging Program**

**The Youth Judging Program is available to Junior, Intermediate, and Senior ALSA members. The purpose of the Youth Judging program is to increase the awareness of youth members as to the correct conformation of llamas and alpacas, correct showmanship techniques, and correct performance in obstacle classes.**

**The Youth Judging program is designed to give youth, ages eight to eighteen, opportunities to learn to evaluate llama conformation, showmanship, and performance. Intermediate and Senior Youth Judges will be required to give a set of oral reasons after judging a class of four llamas. This presentation will encourage Youth Judges to organize thoughts and practice their speaking skills. Junior Youth Judges will be given a test on general show and llama knowledge.**

**The Youth Judging Program is divided into four components: Halter, Showmanship, Obstacle, and Oral Reasons/Testing. The four components will be scored 50 points each for a possible total of 200 points. The Junior Youth Judges program will have Halter, Showmanship, and Obstacle judging and a written knowledge quiz. Intermediate and Senior Youth Judges will have Halter, Showmanship, and Obstacle, and give a presentation of oral reasons to defend halter placements.**

**All participants must be ALSA Youth members. The Youth Judging Manual can be downloaded from the ALSA website.**

**The three age categories for Youth Judges are: Junior, from 8 years through 11 years, Intermediate, from 12 years through 14 years, and Senior, from 15 years through 18 years.**

## **PROCEDURES**

**Youth Judges classes are designed to give the youth experience in evaluating llama conformation, showmanship, and obstacle performance. The Oral Reasons presentation for Intermediate and Senior encourages the youth to organize their thoughts and practice speaking skills while defending their halter class placements. The quiz question portion for the Junior Youth will test their knowledge of shows and llamas.**

## **GENERAL RULES:**

- 1. Age categories are the same as other ALSA youth events: Junior 8-11 years, Intermediate 12-14 years, Senior 15-18 years. All ages will judge the Halter, Showmanship, and Performance classes at the same time. The Junior Youth Judges will then answer written quiz questions. The Intermediate and Senior Youth Judges will present oral reasons on their Halter class placements.**

## **HALTER CLASS:**

- 1. Halter Classes will take place in the show ring.**
- 2. At least one, but not more than two Halter classes will be judges.**
- 3. Llamas should be unknown to Youth Judges and of the same sex, age, and wool class.**
- 4. The official Judge will determine the pattern for the Halter classes.**
- 5. The official Judge and Youth Judges will judge the halter class/classes based on observation only.**
- 6. No communication, talking, hand signals, or comparing will be allowed and any contestant observed communicating will be disqualified.**
- 7. No “hands on” evaluation will be permitted by the official Judge or the Youth Judges.**
- 8. The Youth Judges should be free to move around the ring to observe the animals as long as they do not interfere with the class itself.**
- 9. The scores of the official Judge will determine the class placements and note degree of difference for “cuts” for the Hormel scale.**
- 10. The Oral Reasons and test questions activities should be conducted in an isolated area where the contestants will have privacy.**
- 11. The Official Judge will listen or oral reasons. A volunteer may supervise and score the written quiz.**
- 12. The point value for Oral reasons and written test will be a possible 50 points.**

### **Oral Reasons**

- 1. Each Intermediate and Senior Youth Judge will give a set of Oral Reasons on one halter class.**
- 2. The official Judge should listen to the oral reasons given by each Intermediate and Senior Youth Judge.**

3. **Reasons should be given in an isolated area for privacy.**
4. **Notes may be taken during the Halter class and studied prior to reasons presentation.**
5. **No notes will be used during the actual oral reason presentation.**
6. **The oral reasons presentation will be scored 1-50 points based on delivery and accuracy.**

#### **Written Quiz**

1. **All tests for the Junior Youth Judges will be provided by the ALSA office.**
2. **Each Junior Youth Judge will answer a pre-selected set of questions about llama facts.**
3. **Written tests can be administered at the same time as oral reasons are presented by Intermediate and Senior Youth Judges.**
4. **Youth taking quiz should space themselves accordingly for individual privacy.**
5. **A volunteer may supervise and score the written test.**
6. **The point value of the questions will total a possible 50 points.**

#### **SHOWMANSHIP CLASS:**

1. **The class will consist of four llamas and four handlers.**
2. **The Showmanship pattern will be determined by the official Judge.**
3. **Time will be allowed for all Youth Judges to observe all handlers as they go through the showmanship pattern.**
4. **If the official Judge asks the exhibitor a question of llama facts, the question must be asked and answered loudly enough for all youth Judges to hear.**
5. **The official Judge and the Youth Judges will all place the class.**
6. **The scores of the official Judge will determine the class placement and note degree of difference, for “cuts” on the Hormel scale.**
7. **A maximum total of 50 points are awarded.**

### **OBSTACLE CLASS:**

The four entries will be scored on each of the obstacles (1-10 points per obstacle). Score cards should be turned into the Judge. The score sheets are for the Youth Judge only to determine the final placings.

1. Four handlers will lead four llamas through 8-10 obstacles.
2. The official Judge and all Youth Judges will score each contestant from 1-10 points on each obstacle.
3. The total score on the performance scoring sheets will determine how the Youth Judges placed the animals from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> place on the Score Card.
4. The scores of the official Judge will determine the class placements, with degree of difference noted, to designate “cuts” for the Hormel scale.
5. The point value for the obstacle class will total a possible 50 points.

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## **SHOW MANAGEMENT**

### **TIME:**

The addition of Youth Judging to the show will add length to show planning with the increase of 3 or 4 more judged classes. Extra classes will be Halter, Showmanship, and performance, and include extra time for oral reasons and written test component, which will also require volunteers. Intermediate and Senior Youth Judges will present oral reasons on one Halter class. Junior Youth Judges will be given a written quiz on llama and show knowledge. Request Junior Youth quiz from the ALSA Office.

### **SPACE:**

An arena or show ring will be needed for the Halter, Showmanship, and Obstacle classes. Additional space will also be required for the oral reasons and the written quiz. Privacy is a must. For the oral reasons and quiz, there will be no spectators allowed.

### **PERSONNEL:**

Show management team will need to set up the classes to be judged. They will select four animals unknown to Youth Judges, of the same sex, age, and wool classification for halter. They will choose four handlers (adults or youths not involved in the judging). Different animals should be chosen for the showmanship and obstacle classes. Handlers do not have to show their own llamas. A total of twelve llamas and twelve handlers could be used for the judging competition. However, the same animals and handlers can be used for more than one class if necessary.

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## **JUDGES**

The official Judge at an ALSA Show may be asked to be the official Judge for the Youth Judging program. The Youth Judging Classes consist of Halter (one or two classes), Showmanship, and Obstacle. There will be four entries in each class.

The official Judge should not take part in selecting animals or exhibitors for the classes to be judges. The Judge should see the class at the same time as the Youth Judges with no prior knowledge of make-up. The official Judge should place each class without consultation with anyone else.

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## **EXPLANATION OF SCORING**

The judge places each class (halter, showmanship, and obstacle) 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> place. The Judge will use the Hormel system to establish, by number, the margin of difference (cuts) between each of the three pairs. These numbers represent the penalties (splits) for switching the top, middle, and bottom pair and, as such, form the basis of grading.

For instance, if the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place animals are very close, then the penalty is 2-4 points. If there is much difference between them, then the penalties can be 4-7 points. The penalties for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place animals are then calculated. The total of all three penalties cannot exceed 15. If they total 15, the middle number cannot be larger than 5. If they total 14, the middle number cannot be larger than 8.

Once the total of the penalties is determined, the Computing Slide (Hormel Scale) is used to calculate the final score. The bookkeepers will determine the scores based on the official placing and penalties.

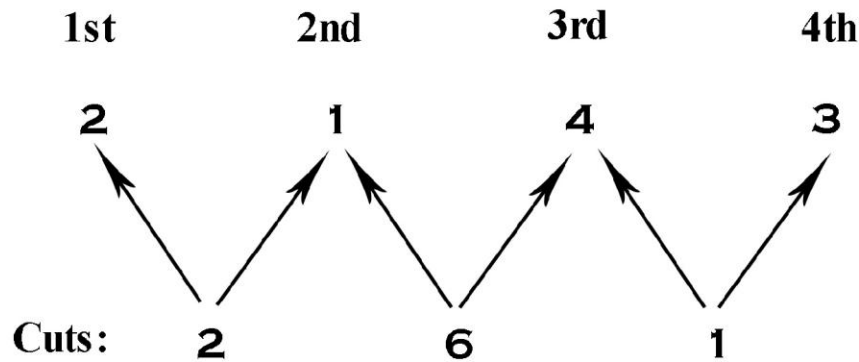
The Hormel Scale will be sent from the ALSA Office and should be returned immediately after the show. Additional Hormel Scales are available from the ALSA Office and can be purchased for \$15.00.

## Scoring Using Hormel Scale

- Determine official placing.
- Establish by number the margin of difference between each of the three pairs
  - These numbers represent penalties (“cuts”) for switching the top (T), middle (M), and bottom (B) pairs.
  - Form the Basis of Grading
  - Sum of “cuts” cannot exceed 15
    - If they total 15, middle number cannot be larger than 5
    - If they total 14, middle number cannot be larger than 8

### An Example

**Official Placing:**



**Sum of Cuts = 9**