

WOODWORKING ASSOCIATION OF PRETORIA

JUDGING PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR TURNERS

A. AIMS OF THE TURNERS' GROUP

The goal of our turners' group, as for the other groups in the Association, is the making of attractive, well designed items which reflect good craftsmanship and artistic skills.

Our aims are:

- Create a forum where people with all levels of competence – beginners, intermediate and advanced – will feel at home, can encourage and learn from each other;
- Encourage good craftsmanship, by regular demonstrations and discussions of tools, materials and techniques;
- Encourage the making of quality turned items by regular discussions of design principles and form;
- Create an environment where members can compete against themselves and one another by
 - Discussion of turned items at monthly meetings;
 - Exhibition and judging of turned items at formal competitions; and
- Create an environment where members can receive recognition for the improvement of skills by progressing to a higher category.

B JUDGING PROCEDURE

1. Judging will be in three categories: **Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced.**
 - 1.1 The turner must initially decide for which category he wishes to enter.
 - 1.2 All three categories will be adjudicated according to the same standards and criteria.
 - 1.3 Cut-off marks for certificates will be: Bronze 50 – 59%; Silver 60 – 79%; Gold 80 – 100%, but beginners and intermediate will be given handicaps of 10 and 5 marks respectively. A beginner therefore only requires 40%, 50% and 70% respectively for a bronze, silver and gold award. The same principle will apply for the intermediate category.
 - 1.4 When the participant has received a gold certificate in a particular category he **must** progress to next category
2. Two judging sessions per year are envisaged: one at the end of the first quarter and the second at the annual exhibition later in the year.
 - 1.1. Only certificates are awarded in the first session – no trophies
 - 1.2. At the annual exhibition certificates, as well as a trophy for the participant with the highest marks, without taking handicaps into account, will be awarded. The first, second and third prizes are acknowledged with the awarding of gold, silver and bronze rosettes.

3. Three judges plus, if at all possible, one outsider not associated with our Association will do the judging.
4. Judges are to allocate marks independently, then discuss them together and adjust them in order to come to an agreed final mark and thus also to moderate each other before the final mark is allocated.
5. Only the **final** allocation of marks and judges' comments will be made available to the exhibitor.
6. A piece may only be submitted for judging once with the following exception: those items which obtained gold in the first competition of the year may again be entered at the annual exhibition in order to be considered for the Phil Irons and Daan Badenhorst trophies.
7. Mainly aspects related to turning will be evaluated. Carving and sculpturing *per se* will not be taken into consideration. However, such decorative elements which enhance the item will be acknowledged under Artistic Skills.
8. Use will be made of a spreadsheet to record, and calculate all marks.
9. Turners are encouraged to give their pieces a suitable title if they wish to make a statement. This can assist the judges to determine the purpose / meaning of the design. However, a title or the absence thereof will not be taken into consideration during judging.
10. The turner's name and date must appear on the bottom of the piece. Where possible, the name of the wood should also be given, though this is not essential.
11. Functional and more artistic pieces will both be evaluated according to the same criteria although artistic pieces may get higher marks since they could score higher under Artistic Skills, Difficulty, etc. The functionality and purpose of the piece will be taken into account.
12. During judging great emphasis will be placed on CONSTRUCTIVE, HELPFUL, AND ENCOURAGING criticism based on sound design and craftsmanship norms.
13. All turners, from the most advanced to the beginner, are encouraged to submit at least one piece for each competition in order to encourage maximum participation and exposure.
14. The maximum number of pieces a turner will be allowed to submit for judging at a given competition will be determined beforehand depending on the number of pieces the judges will be able to deal with.
15. Where possible certain items exhibited at the monthly meetings will be discussed with reference to one or more of the judging criteria in order to familiarise members with the judging procedure.

| C. DESCRIPTIONS OF THE JUDGING CRITERIA

1. To keep matters simple, only two major categories will be evaluated, namely "**Artistic Skills**" "**Technical Skills**" for 40% and 60% respectively as indicated in the attached score card.

2. Only one criterion will fall under “**Artistic Skills**”, namely *Visual Impact/Design* with a weighting of 40%. Visual impact and design are not separated since they are so closely related.
3. Innovative elements (something different / exceptional) will be considered under **Artistic Skills** and bonus marks may be earned for new / original ideas unless they are detrimental to the outcome, in which case marks may be forfeited.
4. **Technical Skills** involves all aspects of producing the piece and includes: *Craftsmanship* for 25%, *Finishing* for 20% and *Difficulty* for 15%.
5. Finishing is evaluated separately since it is not seen as part of turning craftsmanship: it entails entirely different competencies to those required for turning. It is a skill often neglected by turners and therefore warrants this emphasis. However, a good finish does not necessarily mean a high gloss finish; it may be very different depending on what the turner had in mind.
6. Difficulty is also emphasised separately since it indicates the skill, care and prior planning which was required.

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