



Guidelines for Judges

The aim of the Queensland Showgirl Awards is to broaden the knowledge and representation of youth in the Agricultural Show movement, and in return, for the entrants to learn life-long skills as well as to gain personal and professional development from the experience.

The Showgirl Awards is not only for rural women – it seeks the support from 128 Show Societies in both regional and metropolitan areas. This includes Shows from Cairns to the Gold Coast, outback from Mount Isa to Cunnamulla and all areas in between.

In judging the Showgirl Awards, the aim is to find a person most suited to represent young women of Queensland communities during her term as 'Queensland Country Life Showgirl'. This covers many official and informal situations during the Royal Queensland Show, as well as her travels within Queensland, interstate and internationally.

The winner will meet a wide variety of people and should be able to converse intelligently about Australia in general scene and in particular her own district. She will be interviewed by press, radio and television and will be asked to speak about her experiences before a range of groups.

The Queensland Showgirl Awards is extremely relevant to the advancement of young women and to the enhancement of community spirit throughout the State. The Showgirl Awards provide an opportunity to excel in leadership, community involvement, self-development and confidence.

Judges should be mindful of the qualities required of a Showgirl and should not be influenced by any preconceptions they may have about an entrant. A Showgirl must be approved and nominated by her local Show Society and have a genuine interest and understanding of rural and regional issues. The judging score sheet demonstrates the breadth of knowledge and involvement relevant to the Showgirl Awards.

Judges may decide amongst themselves or the Chairperson may decide the order in which they ask questions. Each Judge must then ask the same question in the same manner to each entrant. The questions should be asked in a conversational manner so that the entrant feels comfortable.

Some of the questions will be of an opinionated nature to allow the Judging panel to get a feel of the entrant's personality. Therefore, the emphasis on marking should be on the manner in which the entrant puts her argument together and for the way she expresses her view. Judges are allowed to award pro rata points for questions attempted or not fully answered.

In addition to the point scoring system Judges are encouraged to discuss the attributes of each entrant against the characteristics required of a Showgirl. The entrant chosen as the winning Showgirl should be someone who the Judges jointly feel embodies the characteristics required of a Showgirl.

The point system is purely a guide for the Judges. Each Judge may have their own method of scoring. Judges at Local and Sub Chamber level are asked to set their own questions within the guidelines.



Special Note: it is not beneficial to tell an entrant that she “just ed out” on the title. It is asked that judges display a high level of discretion and not discuss the placing of entrants with anyone except other members of the Panel.

PLEASE DESTROY ALL JUDGING SHEETS & SCORE SHEETS ON COMPLETION OF THE JUDGING

Questions

Prior to judging, the Showgirl Coordinator will provide to each of the judges a copy of the entrants’ nomination forms which can be used as the basis for discussion. Questions should be prepared by the judges prior to interviews and a standard pattern should be set so that all entrants can be equally evaluated. It is required that all entrants be asked the same set of questions. These may differ slightly to take account of the entrant’s background; however, the overall context is to be the same in each case.

Scoring

It is suggested that a standard points system of judging is used to assess the entrants. The Showgirl Coordinator will supply a set of judging forms to each judge on the day of judging. It is also of assistance to write notes when numerous entrants are being interviewed over a long period of time.

Interview

Entrants are to be interviewed individually. The Showgirl Coordinator or the out-going Showgirl will usher the candidate in and introduce her to the judges by name and the Show Society she represents if at a Sub Chamber Final. Most entrants will be reserved at first and the judging panel should do everything possible to encourage the candidate to do most of the talking. This will provide an opportunity to assess her personality, her ease in handling the interview, her capacity to express herself clearly and logically as well as to evaluate her character. Arrange the interview room to be as comfortable and intimate as possible.

It is crucial that the judging procedure be adhered to so that each candidate feels that she has received full consideration and the nominated amount of time. The interview process is a very important experience in professionally developing all young women.

The Showgirl Coordinator must always appear detached and impartial. Their presence and involvement should not influence the panel’s decision in any way.

Note: Judges must refrain from any criticism of entrants during the interview or evening function as suggestions are often misinterpreted. They are asked not to mention personal political preferences or to make comment comparing entrants to those of previous years.

Judges should advise each entrant not to discuss the questions put to her with other contestants. Entrants should be thanked for their participation.

Presentation Speeches/Interview

Judges are to take the entrant’s speech and/or interview during the on-stage presentation into consideration prior to making a final decision. Judging is not complete until after the speeches conclude at which time the winner and runner up can then be decided upon.

During this on-stage interview, judges are required to assess the entrant’s ability to address an audience. The Showgirl’s composure, confidence and general dialogue should be taken into



consideration. When at local Show level, it is at the discretion of the individual Show Society whether to implement the above judging condition.

The Chairperson of the Judging Panel will be required to have two envelopes, one for the winner and one for the runner up. The runner up is always announced before the announcement of the winner.

JUDGING CRITERIA

It is not a requirement for judges to use the Judging Score Sheet, however it should be offered to all judges of the Queensland Country Life Showgirl Awards at local and sub chamber levels. Even if they choose not to use the score sheets, the Judging Score Sheet is a good reference point when establishing the questions for the interview and when reviewing each entrant after the interview.

The Judging Score Sheet is out of 100 points, with 85 points for the private interview and 15 points for the on-stage interview. Judges are reminded that the Showgirl Awards are not about looks or clothing. The Showgirl Awards are leadership awards recognising, developing and celebrating young female leaders in our communities through the Queensland Agricultural Shows platform.

15 points	Ambitions and Goals	This section of the judging invites the judges to learn more about the entrant, their studies, employment and future career or personal aspirations.
15 points	General Knowledge	Local, state, national and international levels. Questions could include straight forward and opinionated questions. Judges should award pro-rata points where appropriate for partly answered questions or when a question was attempted to be answered. Opinionated questions cannot be categorised as correct or incorrect. In this case, points should be awarded for the manner in which the question is answered and how the entrant develops their argument.
10 points	Agricultural industry knowledge including how challenges affect our communities	Local, state and national levels. Questions in this field could start by being broad in nature, with the judges then delving deeper when an entrant demonstrates a breadth of knowledge and passion. The purpose of these questions is for the entrant to demonstrate a knowledge of the relevant challenges or topical discussion and its relevance to our wider communities.
15 points	Agricultural Show Movement awareness and commitment	Questions could be based around their knowledge of their local show and community with some more challenging questions that encourage an entrant to actively think and analyse agricultural shows.
15 points	Community Participation	This is not a knowledge-based component of the interview but an opportunity to understand how the entrant is involved in their community and their agricultural show and the potential for greater involvement or contribution.
15 points	Personal Presentation and Leadership Qualities	The Showgirl Awards are not about dressing up, and presentation is meant to be professional and relevant. The other components of this section of judging are more broader aspects of being a community leader, noting how entrants interact with others and how comfortable they are in establishing and maintaining conversation which are all vital



		potential leadership qualities.
15 points	Public Interview	Judges will be required to assess the entrant's ability to address an audience. The Showgirl's composure, confidence and general dialogue should be taken into consideration. Depending on the nature of the on-stage interview, the answers to the questions may be relevant, however that depends on the emcee. The on-stage interview can be a way of the judges adding another question to the interview if it seems like a challenge to place entrants.