

Having a quilt show judged can help to encourage a higher standard of workmanship from quilt makers. If it is known that the quilt is going to be judged, more attention to detail and care is often put in during construction of the quilt. The result for the quilt maker is a better made quilt, even if an actual prize is not awarded or gained. In turn, this can raise the overall standard of work of the group of quilt makers, as they inspire and encourage each other.

SA Quilters Judging Team offers a free judging service to groups with SA Quilters membership. While our team of judges enjoys the opportunity to share their expertise and knowledge to judge group exhibitions, Judging Team members are SA Quilters members who serve in a voluntary capacity.

The information provided to the Judging Team on the Application form and these guidelines are intended to help show organisers to run a successfully judged show, and to ensure that judging is a smooth and enjoyable experience for all involved.

Show Organisers responsibilities

1. Setting criteria for entries and categories.
2. Receiving of entries, deciding whether entries meet criteria and are in correct categories.
3. Covering entrants name for judging.
4. Stacking quilts in categories for judging prior to hanging.
5. Hanging quilts in categories if judging prior is not possible.
6. Hanging the quilts.
7. Advising the judges of categories, and number and type of award to be made in each category.
8. Advising the judges whether prizes must be awarded or if they have the option to decline on the basis of low standard, lack of entries or other circumstances.
9. Advising the judges prior to judging whether extra awards need to be made, such as Best in show, Best use of colour, Encouragement awards or judges' choice.
10. Recognising that the judging process is strictly confidential and that the judges' decisions are final.
11. Providing handlers and a scribe if required. Assistants must leave the judging area if their own quilt is being judged.
12. Understanding that critiques are not normally given. This requires extra time and effort and would need to be negotiated or arranged prior to commencement of judging.
13. Indicating clearly for entrants and viewers which entries are being / have been judged.
14. Coordinating the handling of quilts pre and post judging, and the hanging of quilts.
15. Organising sponsorship.
16. Providing and arranging signing of Confidentiality Agreement Forms.
17. Conveying any further special requirements to the Judging Team prior to the event.

Judges Responsibilities

1. To show impartiality and confidentiality and be able to assess the merits of quilts whether or not they appeal to them.
2. To be familiar with current trends in quilt making.
3. To have broad experience and understanding in all areas of patchwork and quilting.
4. To not have entries in the show that they are judging.
5. To be aware that standards of workmanship may vary between shows, and that they must be guided by the show organisers with regard to the granting of awards or not.
6. The judge will not provide sponsorship or quilt prizes.
7. The judge will provide a judging service only.
8. The judge may choose to negotiate with organisers on a personal basis for additional services such as providing a workshop or trunk show