



# Golden Shears World Sheep Shearing and Wool Handling Championships 2023

## Competitor Handbook<sup>k</sup>

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**ROYAL  
HIGHLAND &  
AGRICULTURAL  
SOCIETY OF  
SCOTLAND**



**ROYAL  
HIGHLAND  
SHOW 2023**  
22 - 25 JUNE  
PARTNER SINCE 1981  
 **Royal Bank  
of Scotland**

# Programme of Events

## Monday 19th June

Competitor Registration

## Tuesday 20th June

Competitor Training Day, Crookston Farm, Heriot, Midlothian.

Judges Training Day, Gilston, Heriot, Midlothian

Competitors Forum, Venue TBC

## Wednesday 21st June

Golden Shears World Council Meeting

## Thursday 22nd June

7.30am	Junior Heats
8.30am	Young Farmers Heats
9.00am	Juniors Semi Finals
9.30am	Intermediate Heats
10.30am	Junior Final
10.45am	Young Farmers Final
11.00am	Senior Heats
12.00pm	Junior and Young Farmers Presentation
12.30pm	Break
12.45pm	Intermediate Semi Final
1.15pm	Senior Semi Final
1.45pm	Junior Test Match (3 Nations)
2.00pm	Intermediate Final
2.20pm	Senior Final
3.00pm	Intermediate and Senior Presentations
3.30pm	Novice Woolhandling Heats
4.30pm	Blade Novice incl final
5.00pm	Novice Woolhandling Final
5.30pm	Presentation Ceremony

## **Friday 23rd June**

7.30am	Open Wool Handling Heats
10.00am	Blade Heats
11.00am	Open Woolhandling Semi Final
12.00pm	Scottish National and Open Heats
12.30pm	Break
1.00pm	Open Woolhandling Final
1.30pm	Scottish National Semi Finals
2.30pm	Blade Final
2.45pm	Open Semi Finals
3.15pm	Blade and Woolhandling Presentation
4.00pm	Scottish National Final
4.30pm	Development Test Match (3 Nations)
5.00pm	Open Final
5.30pm	Presentation Ceremony
7.00pm	GS World Machine Round 1

## **Saturday 24th June**

7.00am	GS World Blades Round 1
8.30am	GS World Woolhandling Round 1
11.30am	Development Test Match
12.00am	GS World Blade Round 2
2.00pm	GS World Machine Round 2
3.30pm	GS World Woolhandling Round 2
7.00pm	GS World Machine Round 3

## **Sunday 25th June**

7.00am	GS World Blade Semi Final
7.45am	GS World Woolhandling Semi Finals
8.45am	GS World Machine Semi Finals
10.00am	GS World Blade Team Final
11.00am	GS World Woolhandling Team Final
12.00pm	GS World Machine Team Finals
1.00pm	GS World Blade Individual Final
2.00pm	GS World Woolhandling Individual Final
3.00pm	GS World Machine Individual Final
4.00pm	Presentations
6.00pm	Close of Championships

# Accommodation

The Organising Committee will be responsible for arranging accommodation for competitors, Team Managers, World Judges and World Council Members. The Committee is willing to cover the cost of accommodation for 8 nights, 18th - 26th June 2023. It is anticipated that all competitors and officials will stay at the Heriot Watt University Campus or Gogarburn which is approximately 15 minutes from the Showground and shuttle buses will be provided to transport competitors from the accommodation to the Showground. Any teams arriving in Scotland earlier than 18th June will need to arrange their own accommodation, however, we may be able to provide some assistance with this.

## **Accommodation for Partners**

Accommodation can be arranged for partners of officials and competitors, but this will be at their own expense. Please ensure that the details of all partners are included when registering the team and returned as soon as possible in order that the correct accommodation can be booked. All accommodation for partners will need to be paid for in advance.

## **Accommodation for Supporters**

The Organising Committee is unable to arrange accommodation for supporters. Local accommodation options can be accessed via <https://www.visitscotland.com/accommodation/>

Demand for accommodation during the Royal Highland Show is very high. We would therefore recommend that you book your accommodation as soon as possible.

# Team Entry & Individual Registration

Team and Individual Registration can be made via the Royal Highland Show website at the following address  
[www.royalhighlandshow.org/golden-shears-2023/apply-for-golden-shears/](http://www.royalhighlandshow.org/golden-shears-2023/apply-for-golden-shears/).

All team members must be registered including Team Manager, World Council Delegates and Official Judges no later than 6th January 2023. There are also individual biographies for each competitors that must be completed by the above date.

## Team Information

The Organising Committee would like to include information on each team in the publications and the show app. Each team member is requested to complete the personal details form giving background information and attaching an up-to-date photograph of themselves by January 2023.

## Judges

All Countries who are members of the Golden Shears World Council will be allowed to nominate Judges to be used during the Championships. Please submit the names and addresses of any Judges you wish to nominate for consideration by no later than 6th January 2023. Please indicate whether they are qualified to judge blade shearing, machine shearing and/or woolhandling.

## Chief Referee

Andrew Rankin has been appointed as Chief Referee for the 2023 Golden Shears World Championships.

## Chief Judge

Colin MacGregor has been appointed as Chief Judge for the 2023 Golden Shears World Championships

## Training Days

There will be the opportunity to book onto practice days taking place Tuesday 20th of June provided by Birtish Wool. Buses will be provided to transport



# Sheep

## **Machine Shearing**

All the machine shearing competitions will use Scottish Breeds of sheep (strong wool).

Machine shearing competitors will be required to use worm drives for all the competitions

Competitors wishing to use electric clipper type handsets should be aware that the UK voltage is 230V.

## **Woolhandling and Blade Shearing**

Scottish breed of sheep (strong wool) will be used for the woolhandling and blade competitions.

# Gala Dinner

The official welcome dinner will be held on Thursday 22 June.  
Further details regarding the welcome dinner will be circulated at a later date.

# Travel Arrangements

Each country is responsible for organising their own transport and all necessary arrangements, to and from their place of accommodation on arrival and departure days. The Organising Committee will arrange buses to run between the accommodation site and the Showground on all four show days and for the dinner on Thursday night. A bus timetable will be issued to all participants nearer the time. Due to the sheer volume of traffic attending the Show, it will be imperative that you catch the earliest bus available in order to get to the Showground in time for your competitions.

## Airport

The nearest airport to the Showground is Edinburgh International Airport. The airport is walking distance to the Showground and 15 minutes to the accommodation site.

Useful websites:

<https://www.edinburghairport.com/>

<https://www.glasgowairport.com/>

<https://www.glasgowprestwick.com/>

## Trains

Edinburgh Waverly is serviced by trains from across Scotland and London via the East Coast mainline. There are bus services from Waverly that service the accommodation, showground and airport.

Useful Website:

<https://www.scotrail.co.uk/>

<https://www.lner.co.uk/>

<https://www.lothianbuses.com/>

## Travel Documents

On arrival in the United Kingdom, visitors must show a valid national passport or other equivalent official document that satisfactorily establishes your identity and nationality. Entry clearance and Visa requirements for Scotland are the same as for the United Kingdom as a whole. You may require a visa before you travel to Britain if you are not a British

For full details about visa requirements, please visit the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

# Royal Highland Show

**The Royal Highland Show is the flagship event of Scottish charity the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland.**

**The 4 day event first Show held in 1822 is the pinnacle of the agricultural calendar.**

**Each year over 1,000 trade exhibitors, over 2,000 livestock competitors entering into 900+ competitions (with over 6,500 animals) and tens of thousands of visitors come to the Royal Highland Show to experience the best of farming, food and rural life.**

**The Show offers a great day out for all the family, with something for everyone to enjoy. Showcasing the finest displays of Scotland's livestock, machinery and technical innovation, produce, equine displays, countryside pursuits and educational workshops.**

**There is a fantastic programme of music and entertainment to enjoy along with a plethora of Scottish produce to sample in Scotland's Larder.**

**Competitors, Team Managers, Official Judges and World Council Members will be issued with tickets to admit them to the Show free of charge. Partners and supporters will be required to pay to enter the Show; however, you will be able to pre-book tickets at the following discounted rate rather than pay upon arrival each day:**

<b>1 x Four Day Adult</b>	<b>£75.00</b>
<b>1 x One Day Adult</b>	<b>£25.00</b>

**Children 15 and under are go free of charge**



# World Championship Regulations

Competition to be run under BISCA rules

## ENTRIES

- (a) Only one team comprising a maximum of  
TWO machine shearers  
TWO blade shearers  
TWO woolhandlers  
will be eligible to compete from each country.

Each team may also include a Team Manager. Two World Council Members, Countries will be asked to nominate a Shearing Judge and a Woolhandling Judge with proven experience. The Team Manager, who may have knowledge and expertise in a specific discipline ie shearing, woolhandling, blade shearing, may replace either of the above Judges if nominated to do so by their Country. Should a team member be unable to compete due to injury or unavoidable circumstances, a substitute that is already competing in any other event, is able to replace the injured team member. Team Members compete at their own risk. (See 6. (a)).

- (b) There will be individual and team competitions for Machine Shearing, Blade Shearing and Woolhandling at World Championships. Individual and team titles will be awarded.
- (c) The individual competitors should be naturalised citizens of the country they are representing. The country nominating a competitor must be able to satisfy World Council that such nomination complies with the representation rules of that country.

Proof of identity and nationality must be provided if requested by World Council.

- (d) Any competitor nominated to represent a country after having represented another country must have completed a three year 'stand down' period commencing from the date they last represented that other country.
- (e) Competitors must abide by the Rules of Golden Shears World Council.
- (f) Countries competing at a World Championship are to be responsible for the medical and insurance expenses of their officials and team members, not World Council or Host Country.
- (g) Whilst competing, competitors are encouraged to wear clothing with name and colours of their Country
- (h) A World Team can replace a member competitor due to injury, sickness or family bereavement prior to the Championship commencement.

## TIMING

- (a) Machine shearing - 20 seconds per point to be used.  
Application must be made to World Council for approval to change.
- (b) Blade shearing - As for machine shearing.
- (c) Woolhandling - (i) Full wool. If other than 10 seconds per point is to be used, application must be made to World Council for approval to change.  
(ii) Second shear/lambs. If other than 5 seconds per point is to be used, application must be made to World Council for approval to change.

## PROGRAMME

Programme details must be made available to Team Managers prior to commencement of competition.

### Heats

- (a) There will be a minimum of two qualifying rounds for machine shearing, blade shearing and woolhandling.

Sheep numbers in 'qualifying rounds' (heats and semi-finals) will be;

Machine Shearing - Strong Wool

Qualifying Rounds - Heats 5

Semi-finals – 10

Finals - 20

Machine Shearing - Fine Wool

Qualifying Rounds - Heats 3 Semi-finals - 6

Finals - 12

Blade Shearing

Qualifying Rounds - Heats 3

Semi-finals - 4

Finals – 6

- (b) World competitors must be classified (according to speed ability) and then have heats drawn rather than be seeded directly. Host Committee must provide an opportunity for this to be done

Finalists – Individual

- (c) A competitor's combined scores of the qualifying rounds will select the individual quarter or semi-finalists. All semi-finals and second round of blade shearing (if no semi-final) to be held on day of final.

- (d) Individual Machine Shearing - 6 best scores from semi finals.  
Individual Blade Shearing - 6 best scores from heat rounds or semi-finals depending on number of entries.

Individual Woolhandling - The option of 3 or 4 top qualifiers from qualifying rounds where a wool table is to be used, or 6 top qualifiers if a wool table is not used i.e. second shear/lambs.

- (e) **Scores from qualifying rounds will not form part of final score.**Finalists – Teams
- (f) (i) The combined qualifying round scores of team members will select team event finalists.
- (ii) Machine and Blade Shearing Team Final competitors to each shear half the nominated number of sheep on the same stand. (i.e. 6 teams in final).
- (iii) Woolhandling Team Final. Both members to work as a team on same table.

## REFEREES AND JUDGES

- (a) The Host Committee will invite each world council member country to nominate only two qualified judges to attend the championships. These two judges, either one or both, ideally should have the knowledge and expertise two judge either or all three disciplines at a world event. I.e shearing, woolhandling or blade shearing. The Host Committee may invite an additional judge from any country subject to World Council approval. A second judge from a Member country, other than the Host country, can only judge an event if the other judge from that country is referee or not rostered for the event. If a Host Committee invites an additional judge from a Member country, the Host Committee may be responsible for that person's travel expenses.  
(See 1. (a)). Shearing Judges appointed must be conversant with current Golden Shears World Championship, Golden Shears International Shearing Rules and any World Council approved Shearing Rules, (if applicable).  
Woolhandling Judges appointed must be conversant with the current Golden Shears World Championship, World Woolhandling, and any World Council approved Woolhandling Rules, (if applicable).
- (b) In consultation with World Council Liaison Officer, the Host Committee in conjunction with their National Committee, will appoint a Chief Referee and a Chief Judge for shearing and for woolhandling.
- (c) Chief Referee will be responsible for the administration and control of the competition strictly according to these rules and any 'Special Ruling' approved by the World Council.  
The Chief Referee's ruling on any matter not covered by the above will be final.
- (d) Chief Referee will appoint two Referees for each machine or blade shearing event, one to officiate on the board and one in the pen area. Referees for each event will be selected from the panel of Judges by the Chief Referee and Chief Judge. Judges shall not act as Referee and Judge for the same event.
- (e) Chief Judge will draw up Judge's roster from list provided by Host Committee. 66% of Judges rostered should be from Countries other than the Host Country.
- (f) Prior to commencement of World Championships a minimum four hours to be set aside for practise, briefing and assessment of judges. Judges who do not attend will not be included in World Championship rosters. Host Committees are requested to use International Judges in preceding local events for familiarisation. It is recommended that in addition to the compulsory workshop appointed judges from countries not familiar with the judging criteria to be used at the World Championships be encouraged to arrange training within the Host Country prior to the Championships, at the individual or countries' discretion.

## **DISPUTES COMMITTEE**

**Shearing:** Chief Referee will chair Disputes Committee comprising Chief Judge, World Council Liaison Officer, Chairman of Host Committee (or nominee) and one of the Shearing Competitor representatives elected at the Competitor's Forum. The Chief Referee to have a casting vote. In all cases, and in any matters not covered by the rules, the decision of the Disputes Committee will be final and binding on competitors.

**Woolhandling:** Chief Referee will chair Disputes Committee comprising Wool Handling Referee, World Council Liaison Officer, Chairman of Host Committee (or nominee) and the Woolhandling Competitor representative elected at the Competitor's Forum. The Chief Referee to have a casting vote. In all cases, and in any matters not covered by the rules, the decision of the Disputes Committee will be final and binding on competitors.

Any member of an appointed disputes committee shall not judge but may still be appointed as referee, in any World event.

**Shearing:** As per rule 11 Disputes GS World Shearing rules

**Woolhandling:** As per rule 12. World Woolhandling Championship rules.

## **COUNTRY SPECIFICS**

The host country of a World Championship shall abide and adhere to the rules and regulations of the World Shearing and Woolhandling rules. Because there are differences world wide for Woolhandling techniques, sheep breeds, wool types and sheep populations, an adjustment or extension to the world rules can be exercised by the host country.

These extensions are called "Country Specifics" and although a necessity for some countries, any country specifics should be kept to a minimum. This is to avoid unnecessary diversions from the standard rules and regulations of the World Championship.

Notification of country specifics must be posted for observation ( 6 ) months before the start of the World Championship event.

## **DRUGS STATEMENT**

The Golden Shears World Council prohibits the use of drugs, intravenous fluids or oxygen in all competitions. Random drug tests may be taken and if proved positive, the competitor will pay all costs, be stripped of any reward at the competition, and be disqualified from competing at the next Golden Shears World Championships. (See Golden Shears International Sheep Shearing Rule 1. (c)).

## OTHER

- (a) **Golden Shears World Championships Challenge Trophies will only be competed for at recognised events approved by the World Council, but the host Committee may accept or offer additional trophies and/or awards which have been approved by the World Council.**
- (b) **Offers to provide a trophy or award by any interest outside World Council will, before acceptance by the World Council and the Host Committee, be referred to the World Council member representing the country of origin of the trophy or award at least four months prior to the World Championships at which it is intended that the trophy or award is to be presented.**
- (c) **The World Council and the Host Committee will clearly identify in all promotional material (press releases, entry forms, programmes etc.) those events which carry the World Championship title, and those which are associated events.**
- (d) **The World Council will provide an Information Package, including the Golden Shears World Championship Operations Manual, and list of expectations to Host Committee, i.e. list of challenge trophies, guidelines for prize money, contact names and addresses etc. upon granting of application to host a World Championship.**
- (e) **Recommended Host Committees have First Aid person/s available.**
- (f) **Host Committees must provide adequate veterinary support and equipment during the competitions.**
- (g) **All nominated judges for world championships who have an immediate family member/s competing shall not be eligible to judge that family member in that relevant grade/event at World Championships. Immediate Family being:**  
  
**Spouse or partner; parent; child or sibling; grandparent; grandchild, or spouses parent/s.**  
  
**If immediate family members are nominated for a country's team, the competitor should have selection preference over the family member who is a nominated judge.**
- (h) **All scores must be posted within 30 minutes of the completion of heats and semi-finals.**
- (i) **The correct title "Golden Shears World Championships" must be used as the official name used at all World Championships.**
- (j) **All financial costs and other expectations shall be documented or listed so World Teams know what they will be required to pay at a World Championship.**
- (k) **All competitors who receive trophies must complete and sign the Official Trophy Form, and that they will undertake due diligent care and return the trophy in appropriate condition**

## Major Rule Changes

**Any remit to World Council deemed by the Executive to be a major Rule change to World Shearing or Woollhandling Rules shall be appraised by a select panel. This panel, no less than 4 persons shall be selected by the executive and consist of experienced judges and referees from both hemispheres. A written report shall submitted back to the secretary no less than 2 months prior to the World Council Meeting. All member countries shall be notified of the panels recommendation via the agenda for discussion at the World Council Meeting.**

# Contact Details

Further information can be found at  
[www.royalhighlandshow.org/golden-shears-2023](http://www.royalhighlandshow.org/golden-shears-2023)

For all enquiries please contact  
[goldenshears@rhass.org.uk](mailto:goldenshears@rhass.org.uk)



