



Competition Rules[©] 2024 ETC[®]

Sportsmanship:

The ETC[®] is a taxidermy competition. Taxidermy competitions are intended to encourage taxidermists, to have their work examined and criticised by expert colleagues, to learn from them and to improve their own skills.

The true meaning of this competition is not winning or losing but to learn and to improve.

As a participant you may, or should be concerned about your work, but if you get a lower than expected score, don't be angry. Learn from **the completed score sheet and the judge's comments.**

The ETC[®] will be judged by internationally acknowledged and experienced judges.

Accept the judge's decision as final (even if you don't agree with it) otherwise do not enter the competition.

Any kind of unsportsmanlike or unruly behaviour will not be tolerated and may lead to disqualification.

Also be honest with yourself and others. Proven cheating will not only lead to disqualification but may cause some considerable damage to your reputation as well.

It is also a precondition that the entered taxidermy work of a named and registered competitor is self-produced, meaning made by his own hands.

Taxidermy companies must register their entries generally under the names of the person(s) who have mounted and worked out the piece(s). In "Collective Artists Division" at least two names are required.

Registration:

The species must be registered with the scientific name, e.g. a Wild Boar as "*Sus scrofa*" or a Magpie as "*Pica pica*".

The participant must bring in all registered entries together at the same time to avoid time-consuming extra work for the competition staff.

All entries must be pre-registered!

The early registration time will end **seven weeks** before the date of submission and the late registration time will end **14 days** before the entry submission day at the ETC® venue. Details are described in the ETC® website / ETC® Magazine and in the registration form (paper or online). **Registrations later than 14 days before the ETC® will not be accepted, neither late application on place on the local check in day.**

Liability:

With accepting the ETC® Competition Rules by signing the registration form by one's own hand or by the signature of a legitimated person, or clicking the confirmation button in online registration, the participant releases the organizer and the ETC®-Organization, as well as designees (authorised persons) from any liability for damage or loss of the entered pieces at the ETC®.

Competition pieces entered in the ETC® are done so at the owner's risk.

Competitors are always recommended to insure her/his competition pieces.

Media:

With accepting the ETC® Competition Rules by signing the registration form by one's own hand or by the signature of a legitimated person, or clicking the confirmation button in online registration, the participant agrees with publishing images of her / his person and entries, as well as publishing her / his name in printed and online form (e. g. ETC® website, ETC® Magazine etc.).

Judging:

The Competition Committee that will regulate the competition and the judging consists of the ETC® Competition Chairman, the Host of the Venue and the ETC® Management Team. The Competition Committee is responsible for any questions that are not specified in the competition rules and/or any precise defined questions and will decide on spot. The decision is binding.

Each entry will be judged by two judges (team).

Each division will be judged from the same set of criteria and judged equally, which means that the points given by the judging team are comparable through the different Divisions.

Entries that have provided photographic documentation of the working process and are deemed as exceptional work can be promoted to a higher Division than the original entered at the judges' discretion.

In addition, the judges will be on the competition area to discuss the critiques personally and free of charge. The "critique time" will be announced in the respective ETC® Magazine and at the ETC® Office on place.

The Categories RSM and RP in all Divisions will be judged by the judges whose categories are closest to the related entries, e. g. a Bird Reconstruction will be judged by Bird Judges, a Dinosaur Reconstruction will be judged by Reptile Judges, a Fish Reproduction will be judged by Fish Judges, or a Scientific Mod-

el of an Arthropod will be judged by judges who are at least experienced in that field.

Score sheets:

The official ETC[®] score sheets will be in use to judge all categories.

The completed score sheet will be given out to the competitor or a legitimated person. Unclaimed score sheets will remain by the ETC[®] organization. It is possible, by paying an administration fee of 50 €, to order them at home afterwards. **The ETC[®] organization does not take any responsibility nor liability for missing score sheet, after the time it's given out to the competitor,** which will be published in the ETC Magazine and at the ETC[®] Office on place.

Main Categories:

The ETC[®] is based on four main categories:

1. Natural Mounts (NM):

Independent of the used method or technique, the surface/covering (skin, hair, feathers, scales, and bones) must be original.

All techniques are allowed that produce as much as possible lifelike mounts (e.g. conventional taxidermy, PEG-mounts, freeze drying, mixed techniques and others, cast birds' feet and beaks or an artificial fish head).

2. Reproductions (RP):

Reproductions must be casts of original/natural complete animals, irrespective of the used material (epoxy resin / plaster and others).

To present only parts of an animal like e. g. a "Head Mount" is not allowed.

3. (Scientific) Models and Reconstructions (RSM):

All artificial and / or natural materials are allowed.

It has to be a portrayal of a complete animal. To present only parts of an animal

like e. g. a “Head Mount” is not allowed.

The “skinless mount” technique belongs to this main category.

When entering reconstructions of extinct species, an enclosed detailed scientific documentation is mandatory.

4. Habitats (see more below)

Groups and Single Entries:

It is not possible to enter a group and one or more single entries on the same basement.

Entering different divisions (not valid for Division of Excellence):

It's not possible for a competitor to enter categories of the same animal class (birds, mammals, fishes, reptiles / amphibians) in different divisions at the same time. For example, you cannot enter a bird (regardless of small, medium, large or group) in the “Professional Division” and in the “Master Division” at the same time and competition. If you enter birds in the “Master Division”, the “Professional Division” is open for you to enter mammals, fishes and/or reptiles. The same applies to “Game Heads”, Skeletons, Reproductions and Reconstructions/Scientific Models.

Multiple Entries:

The maximum of possible entries for every competitor in each Category is limited to eight pieces. Needless to say, that it's not allowed to enter more pieces under a pseudonym.

ETC[®] Species List:

In the ETC[®] Professional and Masters Division the Bird-, Mammal- and Game Head categories are separated into sizes (e.g. Birds into “Small Birds”, “Medium Birds” or “Large Birds”). In the ETC[®] Species List you will find the mandatory

definitions for the size classification of your entry/entries.

Note: The ETC[®] Species List might not be complete! Missing species will be classified according to corresponding species. Pets and other domestic animals will be classified according to their next relatives in the wilderness.

Juvenile animals will compete in a subcategory of comparable size.

The ETC[®] Competition Chairman will make all final decisions in which subcategory a not listed or juvenile animal will be entered.

Regular Divisions and Awards:

Novice Division (N):

This division is open to all of those who have been practicing taxidermy for less than 5 years (including apprenticeship). If a competitor decides to compete in the Novice Division, it is not possible to compete in the Professional or Master Division at the same time.

18 Categories Novice Division

15 Categories for Natural Mounts (NM):

Birds

Category **NB1** Small Birds

Category **NB2** Medium Birds

Category **NB3** Large Birds

Mammals (M)

Category **NM1** Small Mammals

Category **NM2** Medium Mammals

Category **NM3** Large Mammals

Category **NM4** Mammal Groups

Game Heads (G) (Only mammals allowed!)

Category **NG1** Small Game Heads

Category **NG2** Medium Game Heads

Category **NG3** Large Game Heads

Category **NRH** Roe deer Head

Category **NF** Fishes

Category **NRA** Reptiles/Amphibians

Category **NSK** Skeletons

Category **NAG** Animal Groups (including mixed groups)

3 other Categories:

Category **NRP** Reproductions

Category **NRSM** Reconstructions/Scientific Models

Category **NOHAB** Habitats (entries in this category will be judged together with Habitat entries in the Professional Division as an Open Division)

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Awards: Colored small ribbons depending on the scored points in each category with a diploma of participation.

Only the top 3 scorers out of all categories will be separated and voted by all Novice Division- judges for the “**Best of Novice Division**” prizes and will get medium sized colored ribbons which are imprinted with “Best, Second or Third of Novice Division”. Additionally, special diplomas and prize money will be awarded (amounts to be announced in ETC[®] Magazine and the ETC[®] website).

Professional Division (P):

This division is open to all those who didn't win a blue ribbon in the “Master Division” on a European Taxidermy Championships[®] and / or on a World Taxidermy Championships[®] level in the intended categories. It's

also closed to former European Champions (1st / 2nd / 3rd of category) before 2006 in the intended categories.

23 Categories in Professional Division

20 Categories for Natural Mounts (NM):

Birds (B)

Category **PB1** Small Birds

Category **PB2** Medium Birds

Category **PB3** Large Birds

Category **PB4** Bird Groups

Mammals (M)

Category **PM1** Small Mammals

Category **PM2** Medium Mammals

Category **PM3** Large Mammals

Category **PM4** Mammal Groups

Game Heads (G) (Only mammals allowed!)

Category **PG1** Small Game Heads

Category **PG2** Medium Game Heads

Category **PG3** Large Game Heads

Category **PRH** Roe deer Head

Fishes (F)

Category **PF1** Small Fishes (below 20 cm)

Category **PF2** Large Fishes (20 cm and more)

Category **PF3** Fish Groups

Reptiles/Amphibians (RA)

Category **PRA1** Reptiles/Amphibians

Category **PRA2** Reptiles/Amphibians Groups

Mixed Groups (MX)

Category **PMX** Mixed Groups

Skeletons (SK)

Category **PSK1** Skeletons

Category **PSK2** Skeleton Groups

3 other Categories:

Reproductions (RP)

Category **PRP** Reproductions

Reconstructions/Scientific Models (RSM)

Category **PRSM** Reconstructions/Scientific Models

Note: Juvenile animals will compete in a category of comparable size. The ETC[®] Competition Chairman will make all final decisions in which category a juvenile animal will be entered.

Awards: Colored small ribbons depending on the scored points in each category with a diploma of participation.

Only the top three scorers in each category will be awarded the “**Best / Second / Third of Professional Category**” prize (medium sized blue / red / yellow ribbon which are imprinted with “Best / Second / Third of Professional Category”) and special diplomas. At least 80 points are needed to reach a “Best / Second / Third of Professional Category”. Only one prize per participant is possible in every category.

Master Division (M):

European Title Division with 11 possible “Best of Europe” titles

This division is open for any taxidermist and represents the highest level in the ETC®. The competitor should decide for himself if the learning process is over and she / he is ready for competing in the Master Division.

Only in the Master Division and the European Title Level in Habitat there is the possibility to earn the Best of Europe Titles.

Except of the tanning process (mammal skins) or degreasing process (skeletons) and the used artificial eyes, everything has to be “self-made”. If used, commercial manikins (forms) must not be recognizable and must be fundamentally altered (documentation!). Other commercially traded parts aren't allowed in this division!

This point refers to the entered object (taxidermy mount, reproduction, reconstruction / scientific models, skeleton) and not to the base / pedestal.

Documentation of the working/mounting process will be mandatory in the Master Division and will be part of the judging.

With "documentation" is meant a solid short description of the mounting process supported by several significant photos. It's not necessary to reveal your top secrets. **It is expressly required that the working steps of the entered mount are documented.**

If no documentation is presented together with the entry, it will lead to disqualification of the respective entry without any refunding of the entry fee!

Categories in Master Division:

Category Game Birds (GB)

Best of Europe Title

Subcategories	MGB1	Small Birds
	MGB2	Medium Birds
	MGB3	Large Birds
	MGB4	Bird Groups

Category Non-Game Birds (NGB)

Best of Europe Title

Subcategories	MNGB1	Small Birds
	MNGB2	Medium Birds
	MNGB3	Large Birds
	MBGB4	Bird Groups

Category Mammals (M)

Best of Europe Title

Subcategories (NM):	MM1	Small Mammals
	MM2	Medium Mammals
	MM3	Large Mammals
	MM4	Mammal Groups

Game Heads (G) (Only mammals allowed!)

Best of Europe Title

Subcategories (NM):	MG1	Small Game Heads
	MG2	Medium Game Heads
	MG3	Large Game Heads

Category Roe deer Head:

Best of Europe Title

MRH	Roe deer Head
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Fishes (F)

Best of Europe Title

Subcategories (NM):	MF1	Fishes - below 20 cm
	MF2	Fishes - from 20 cm
	MF3	Fish Groups

Reptiles / Amphibians (RA)

Best of Europe Title

Subcategories (NM):	MRA1	Reptiles/Amphibians
	MRA2	Reptiles/Amphibians Groups

Skeletons (SK)

Best of Europe Title

Subcategories (NM)	MSK1	Skeletons (NM)
	MSK2	Skeleton Groups (NM)

Reproductions (RP)

Best of Europe Title

Subcategories:	MRP1	Reproductions Fishes
	MRP2	Reproductions Reptiles/Amphibians

Reconstructions / Scientific Models (RSM)

Best of Europe Title

MRSM1	Reconstructions/Scientific Models
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Habitat (HAB)

Best of Europe Title

ETLHAB	Habitat
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The title is chosen as described in detail below

Note: Juvenile animals will compete in a subcategory of comparable size. The ETC[®] Competition Chairman will make all final decisions in which subcategory a

juvenile animal will be entered.

Awards: Colored small ribbons depending on the scored points in each subcategory (e. g. Small / Medium / Large Birds, Small / Medium / Large Mammals etc.) with a diploma of participation.

The prestigious “**Best of Europe**” titles are selected from the best entries of the subcategories (if existing) in every category. This will be done by a vote of all judges of the concerned categories in the Masters Division together also under the aspects of e. g. design, composition, exceptional new method / technique or exceptional craftsmanship. No entry that hasn't at least reached 90 points will come into the range to be selected for all the three “Best of Europe” titles.

Therefore, it's possible that in some categories no titles will be given out at all.

The three “Best of Europe” Awards:

Best of Europe = European Champion: Large sized blue ribbon imprinted with “Best of Europe” + special diploma + plaque or medal.

Second of Europe: Large sized red ribbon imprinted with “Second Best of Europe” + special diploma + plaque or medal.

Third of Europe: Large sized yellow ribbon imprinted with “Third Best of Europe” + special diploma + plaque or medal.

If a competitor has reached the top score in more than one subcategory of a category, all of these entries will get the small “blue ribbon” for these subcategories and will enter the selection process for the three “Best of Europe” titles. If one of these entries has been selected by the judges for one of those titles, her/his other entries will be taken out by the ETC[®] Competition Chairman of the continuing selection process for the other titles. It is not possible for a competitor to sweep a category and win more than one title out of the same category.

Collective Artists Division:

Competition pieces which more than one person has worked on will be put into this division. This for example is a great opportunity for taxidermy companies to enter with a project by naming the artists (at least two) who have mounted and worked out the entry. It's not allowed to compete under the company's name !

In the "Collective Artists" Division the animals (NM, RP, RSM) are judged with a special score sheet provided for that purpose which is also available online on the ETC® website. Purchased forms/parts are allowed but good and also documented self-made manikins are naturally rated higher. Not only high taxidermy skills are in demand but also creativity. The "Creative Elements" (see score sheets) will make the difference.

Habitat entries in the "Collective Artists" Division (COLHAB) will be judged together with Habitat entries in the Master Division – see below)

A team of two judges out of according to categories will judge the Collective Artists Division.

Awards: Colored small ribbons depending on the scored points with a diploma of participation.

The top 3 scorers will be awarded for the three "**Best of Collective Artists Division**" places and will get medium sized colored ribbons which are imprinted with "Best, Second or Third of Collective Artists Division" + special diplomas. At least 90 points are required to reach the "Best of Collective Artists Division" prize (medium sized blue ribbon which is imprinted with "Best of Collective Artists Division"). If there is no entry scored more than 89 points in the category, there is only awarded a "Second Best of Collective Artists Division" prize (medium sized red ribbon which is imprinted with "Second Best of Collective Artists Division"). If there is no entry scored more than 79 points in the category, there is only awarded a "Third Best of Collective Artists Division" prize (medium

sized yellow ribbon which is imprinted with “Third Best of Collective Artists Division”).

Habitat Division

The following rules and regulations for the Habitat Division are the same ones used in the ‘World Taxidermy Championships, WTC®

1. Eligibility:

Any ETC® registrant with a full registration can compete in the Habitat Division, provided the entry meets the requirements and criteria detailed in Rules 6 and 7.

2. Entry Process:

Entrants can choose between two competition levels in the Habitat Division: the Open Level or the European Title Level, as outlined in Rule 8.

The Open Level is open for Master, Professional, Novice and Collective Artists Divisions.

The European Title Level for habitat is not restricted to only Master Division entries. Habitat entries can come from taxidermy entries in the Master, Professional, Novice or Collective Artists Divisions.

3. Entry Fees:

See the entry fees in the on-line registration form and the ETC® Magazine

4. Judging:

All habitat's will be judged by one judge (not two)

5. European Title Determination:

Titles include Best of Europe, Second of Europe, and Third of Europe. The Best of Europe winner is chosen from the first-place entries across the three categories in the European Title Level, each requiring a score of 90 or above.

Only entries scoring 90 or higher are eligible for Best of Europe, Second of Europe, or Third of Europe. After the Best of Europe is selected, the next highest-scoring entry (if it scores 90 or above) competes for Second of Europe. The same process applies for Third of Europe.

The final decision for these titles is made by a second judge, with a third judge brought in only if there is a tie.

Winners will be announced at the Award Gala Dinner Show.

Note: To qualify for a Best of Europe, Second of Europe, or Third of Europe title, an entry must first win a first-place ribbon in its category. Entrants may compete in multiple categories to increase their chances but can only win one European Title. No individual can sweep the division.

6. Requirements:

A habitat entry must include an animal as part of the habitat composition and must originate from the Master, Professional, Novice, or Collective Artists Divisions. A habitat alone cannot be entered.

7. Criteria:

Composition: The habitat should consist of multiple materials (not just dirt, sand, or rock) to enhance the score's complexity if completed accurately and realistically.

Material Sourcing: Habitat materials can be natural, machine-made, or man-made. Entrants must design, compose, and complete the habitat themselves, except for the Collective Artists Division, where the habitat portion must be made by one person.

Documentation: If custom-made elements (e.g., trees, rocks, leaves) are included, provide photos as proof. For purchased habitat materials that are enhanced, painted, or preserved, documentation is advised to inform judges.

Natural Elements: Natural habitat elements (e.g., driftwood, rocks) can be used and enhanced, with documentation required for judging.

Entry Limits: An individual may enter multiple habitats but must compete in either the Open Level or the European Title Level—not both.

8. Levels of Competition:

Open Level (**OLHAB**): Open to entries from the Master, Professional, Novice, and Collective Artists Divisions.

European Title Level (**ETLHAB**): Also open to entries from the Master, Professional, Novice, and Collective Artists Divisions.

Categories for both levels:

- A. Land and Vegetation: at least 75% of the composition.
- B. Water and/or Ice: at least 75% of the composition.
- C. Combination of Both: a 50:50 split or less than 75% of either element.

These percentages are determined by the competition chairman or the entry committee, with judges having the option to adjust the category if needed.

9. Awards:

Open Level:

Best Open Level Habitat - Ribbon.

Best of Category winners - Ribbons.

The Best Open Level Habitat will be selected by the division judge from the Best of Category winners.

European Title Level:

Best in Europe Habitat

Second in Europe Habitat

Third in Europe Habitat

Multiple first, second, and third-place ribbons will be awarded in both the Open and European Title Level categories, based on the following scoring:

First Place: 90 -100 points.

Second Place: 80 -89 points.

Third Place: 70 -79 points.

Division of Excellence:

May only be entered by former WTC[®] / ETC[®] champions, WTC[®] / ETC[®] Master Division subcategory winners and current and former judges. Entries are free of charge.

Allowed are entries out of all possible ETC[®] Categories. All work must be done by the individual competitor or a team of competitors (as in Collective Artists Division). Apart from the tanning process (mammal skins) or degreasing process (skeletons) and the used artificial eyes **no commercial parts are permitted on the mount. Manikins (forms) must be self-made, here no altered commercial manikins (forms) are allowed!** Regardless if an entry is made by an individual competitor or a team of competitors, all entries are competing against each other in the same division.

The winners of the „**Award of Excellence**“ 1st, 2nd and 3rd will be chosen by all competitors in a secret voting. Every competitor has three votes. She/he writes the numbers of her/his three favorite entries out of the Division of Excellence (1st, 2nd and 3rd) on the ballot paper, which she / he will get by the check in.

Awards: Large sized colored ribbons imprinted with “First Place Award of Excellence” (blue ribbon), “Second Place Award of Excellence” (red ribbon) and “Third Place Award of Excellence” (yellow ribbon) + special diplomas and plaques or medals.

Special Awards:

Special awards (e. g. Best of Show, Best All-round Taxidermist, Best Professional Entry etc.) as well as eventual prize moneys will be announced in the respective ETC[®] Magazine and on the ETC[®] website.

Ribbons, Diplomas, Places and Titles:

The small ribbons are **NOT** synonyms for 'places', but are **ONLY** given for the 'placement' in the point systems three levels:

70-79 points = 3rd placement, 80-89 points = 2nd placement and 90-

100 points or more = 1st placement

The colour of the ribbon stands for the scored points. At least 70 points must be reached in order to get a yellow ribbon.

Together with the ribbon, the competitor will receive a diploma of participation.

Yellow ribbon: 70 – 79 points

Red ribbon: 80 – 89 points

Blue ribbon: 90 – 100/and more points

Basically, only the standard of performance is defined in colors and points with the small ribbons, regardless of the Division. Only in the Excellence Division no small ribbons are given.

Places are only given for the “Best, Second and Third of Professional Category” in the “Professional Division” and the “Best, Second and Third” in the “Novice Division” and the “Collective Artists Division”. The places are given together with medium sized ribbons in blue colour and imprinted for a first place, in red colour for a second place and in yellow colour for a third place and all of them are receiving special diplomas. To be able to get a place at least 90 points (small blue ribbon) have to be achieved, except of the “Collective Artists Division”.

Places will also be awarded in the “Division of Excellence”:

The “1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Award of Excellence” is given together with large sized colored ribbons imprinted with “First Place Award of Excellence” (blue ribbon), “Second Place Award of Excellence” (red ribbon) and “Third Place Award of Excellence” (yellow ribbon) + special diplomas and plaques or medals.

The Best, Second or Third of **Europe Title** is only given out in the “Masters Division” together with large sized ribbons in blue colour imprinted with “Best of Europe”, in red colour and imprinted with “Second of Europe” and in yellow colour and imprinted with “Third of Europe”, special diplomas and plaques or medals. In order to come into the selection process for a title at least 90 points (small blue ribbon) have to be achieved.

Dead animals and dead prey animals:

Dead animals and dead prey animals will not be judged and scored as single entries but should also be well done because they belong to the base and could be scored relating to the artistic merits (design and composition).

“Alive” prey animals:

Obviously alive looking prey animals (especially in movement) could be judged and scored like **true to life mounts**, if desired e. g. as a part of an animal group, but not as a main part in a single animal category or subcategory.

Visible parts of an animal:

A competition entry should be able to be judged from all sides (exception: lying animal) and cannot be depicted in a hidden or covered pose. So for example a sole embedded in the sea ground, which is only presenting the eyes and maybe a bit of the contour, cannot be judged. Except of Game Heads, the Competition Entries should represent a whole animal and not only parts e. g. a head and neck looking out of a cave. Not every pose that may be seen in nature is reasonable to be shown in the competition. All sides visible for the judge must be finished in the same high quality (for example the backside of a fish).

Protection of species and animals, code of ethics:

Every competitor is generally bound to consider and respect all national and international legal regulations concerning the relevant provisions for taxidermy and particularly those for species protection.

For all protected species valid and applicable permits must be delivered together with the registration form. Copies of the permits stay with the organisation during the show. The original will be handed back to the competitors, who should hold them ready for eventual wildlife conservation controls.

Some important words about necessary Cites-Documents:

Annex A species of the Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 (Cites Annex I, e. g. *Loxodonta africana*, *Panthera pardus* and Cites Annex II, e. g. *Ursus arctos*, *Canis lupus*), especially hunting trophies but museum specimens as well, need a Cites Document that certifies the “exempting Annex A specimens from the prohibitions relating to commercial activities listed in Article 8(1) of Regulation (EC) No 338/97”. **Otherwise it's not allowed to exhibit these species on commercial events like taxidermy competitions on game fairs. Some informal permit of an authority or a museum is not enough! Protected species that do not have a necessary Cites permit with the entry will not be allowed to compete.**

In general competition pieces entered in the ETC[®] are done so at the owner's responsibility and risk.

Attention should be paid to national laws for wildlife conservation in the host country.

To avoid any discomfort do not bring any mounts that do not correspond with the legal requirements.

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Mounts not allowed to compete:

All entered pieces and parts of them (e.g. pedestals) have to be finished and completely dry. Neither unpleasant odour (e.g. putrid odour) nor any inappropriate chemical odours (synthetics / insecticides) may come from the mounts.

Novelty mounts / Wolpertingers , fantasy mounts, animals in traps or mounts that in general public view are of bad taste will not be accepted to compete.

Mounted animals that do not respect the animal's dignity and are not meant as a **true-to-life** portrayal of the animal (e.g. hunted animals still alive) have no place in a competition and will not be accepted.

Natural arthropods like insects or spiders, molluscs as well as plants can only be part of the decoration of the base.

Portrayals of humans won't be accepted to compete in any category because the ETC[®] is a taxidermy competition with the focus on animals including great apes, but not humans!

Mounts entered in previous ETC[®] competitions independent of category and division are ineligible for this or any future ETC[®] show.

Mounts entered on a WTC[®], independent of category and division, are ineligible for this or any future ETC[®] show.

Presentation:

The ETC[®] is a taxidermy competition. No matter how elaborate a habitat scene is done it is mainly the mounted animal that will be judged. However, the base, panel or habitat scene is part of the mount and will be judged accordingly, especially in the Master Division. When two entries are equal in score, the entry with an exceptionally good presentation will win against an average or poor setting.

Keep the balance between mount and base, panel or habitat scene in mind. A habitat scene should display a mount and complement it, not dwarf it!

Mounts should be mechanically sound and securely attached to the base.

Insecure attachment or wobbling will reduce the points scored.

Except of Game Heads (wall mounts), a mount (including Game Heads pedestal mounts) which is competing on the European Taxidermy Championships ETC[®] should be exposed on a base, otherwise it is not complete and is automatically disadvantaged.

A base, panel or habitat scene must be easily movable for the competition staff. If necessary, roles must be installed.

Anonymity:

Name plates as well as signs that could reveal the taxidermist's identity fixed to the base or mount must be removed or securely covered when entering the competition, otherwise they are not allowed to compete. Correspondingly, this also applies for the documentations (especially for photos on which individuals are identifiable).

Posting of pictures beforehand the competition: It is also not allowed to post pictures of competition mounts beforehand of the respective ETC[®], **with titles, hints or other remarks, which identify the piece(s) as planned to be entered.** This includes the whole internet (websites, Facebook and all other Social Media channels) as well as print media. Disregards will lead to disqualification of the respective mount(s) and in case of recurrence also to denial of attendance in future ETC's[®].

Glass cases:

Glass cases must be removed for judging. If you personally wish to remove the glass case, do so prior to the judging. Otherwise the judges or helpers will remove the glass case. All entries with glass cases will have the glass cases back on before the show is opened for the public.

Non-removable glass cases will lead to disqualification.

Original sculpture:

In all categories extra credit may be earned for mounts composed of originally sculptured manikins, wrapped or carved bodies, provided they are properly crafted.

When two entries are equal in score, the one containing originally sculpted, carved or wrapped manikins will win against the one containing a commercially traded manikin.

Altered commercial forms will not be qualified as originally sculpted but will be considered for originality.

Needless to say, that we rely on the sportsmanship of the competitor. Honesty may be rewarded in a better score.

Reference:

Competitors are encouraged to add their own reference material in all divisions to their entry.

If you do enter an unusual species or if you possess printed photographs showing intricate details of parts of the living animal this may help the judge in determining the correct interpretation. Also printed photographs showing sculpting, moulding (**especially in the “Reproduction Category”**) as well as mounting processes (**mandatory in “Master Division”**) are very welcome.

When entering reconstructions of extinct species in the “Reconstruction/Scientific Models Category”, an enclosed detailed scientific documentation is mandatory.

Videotapes, CD's, DVD's, USB will not be accepted – neither within the sense of reference / documentation nor as an additional element in the exhibition / show.

Animation:

For mounts that come with animated parts, voice boxes and the like, the same rules apply as for all the other entries. Poorly done or unnatural looking moving parts will lead to a lower score.

Trading at the competition area:

During the open exhibition, it is not allowed to place "for sale" hints or any business components in the exhibition area close to the entries that are in the competition. This is also a part of security for the entries during the exhibition. Visitors who are able to reach e. g. business cards are also able and invited to grab the entries. **Placed material will be consequently removed without any claim to retrieve and the respective persons will be warned!**

Right to protest (only possible in Professional Division):

Interpretation of the ETC® Competition Rules will be decided by the Competition Committee which consists of the ETC® Competition Chairman, the Host and the ETC® Management Team

Competitors desiring another opinion after the judging may pay a protest fee of 100 €. One different judge out of the ETC® judging team will evaluate the entry and the new score may raise or lower the ribbon status. All decisions of the re-judging are final as well as decisions of the Competition Committee.

All protests and complaints must be handed over in written form to the Competition Committee within six hours after the delivery of the score sheets has started. This particular time will be announced in the respectively ETC® Magazine and at the ETC®- office on place.

Cheating:

Proven cheating will lead to disqualification and denial of attendance in future ETC's®.

Eligibility

With signing the ETC® registration sheet by her- / himself or through a legitimated person, or clicking the confirmation button in online registration, the competitor accepts the current ETC® Competition Rules.

*September 2020, European Taxidermy Championships®
B. Koch, M. Fahrni & C. Meier*

*Updated September 2022 & 2024, European Taxidermy Championships®
C. Skakkebaek, J. Hassing, J. Fishwick, J.W. Kevenaar, B. Wessman,
R. Hutchinson, S. Weigl*