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## JUDGING AT THE FAIR

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Judging at the Tanana Valley State Fair is accomplished through a network of volunteers. Judges are recruited & chosen for their expertise in a particular area, and it is through their generous donation of time & knowledge that we are able to showcase your achievements. Judges are trained by the superintendent & through the Exhibit Office to follow the guidelines set down by the Fair Association. They are expected to:

- be fair & consistent in their judging;
- provide positive comments & constructive criticism to the exhibitor;
- follow the Fair Association's mission to educate participants through their evaluation.

Each exhibit must have a completed score sheet. These score sheets are for the education of the exhibitor only & are not for public view. An exhibitor may request to see a score sheet for any of their entries by asking the exhibit attendant on duty, asking the superintendent, or requesting assistance through the Fair Office.

Although our judges work hard to provide a positive experience for the exhibitor, sometimes there can be discrepancies or inconsistencies. If so, the exhibitor is encouraged to contact the superintendent who can investigate the problem. If necessary, the exhibitor may file a protest through the Fair Office. A \$25.00 fee must accompany any protest filed. Please refer to the Exhibit Guide for more information regarding this procedure.

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## SECURITY

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You are encouraged to enter your best work. The Competitive Exhibits team (staff, superintendents, judges & volunteers) all recognize the value these hold & all effort is made to provide for their security. Each building has a team of volunteers to watch over the exhibits & to make sure they are not handled or stolen, but because of the volume of entries we get each year, we cannot guarantee the safety of each exhibit.

*The Tanana Valley State Fair seeks to highlight and enhance appreciation for Interior Alaska by showcasing competitive & commercial exhibits. The Fair educates and entertains all participants by providing opportunities to share a rich variety of individual and community endeavors. The Fair encourages and welcomes involvement by all.*

**Tanana Valley State Fair Association**  
1800 College Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709-4173  
452-3750 [www.tvsfa.org](http://www.tvsfa.org)



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## DEPARTMENT 19 EXHIBITOR'S HANDBOOK

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*Welcome to the world of Competitive Exhibits! As an exhibitor at the fair, you are entering into a long standing tradition of education & competition that began in the Tanana Valley in 1924.*

*Your primary source of information about entering an exhibit is through the Exhibit Guide, available online or at the Fair Office. This handbook will provide you with some additional information as well as judging criteria and sample judging sheets.*

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## ENTRY RULES

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Sign up for ONLINE ENTRIES for the Tanana Valley State Fair at <https://www.tvsfa.org/>

- **Fill out the easy-to-follow entry forms** for all your entries, review the information, and follow the check-out instructions (no online payment needed). Print your receipt, and bring it with you on entry day -- or download the ShoWorks Passport app from the Apple Store or on Google Play and check in from your mobile device, just like you can check in at the airport!
- **If you need assistance** with the entry process, or if you don't have a computer/printer, you can stop by the Events Office on the fairgrounds during open hours to receive help. We are looking forward to seeing your exhibits, and want to offer you every opportunity to enter them! .
- **Pick your Best:** You may enter only one exhibit per class. Note any other entry restrictions listed in the Exhibitors Guide.
- **Know your** entry days & pick-up days.
- **Prepare your entry:** Read the paragraph on preparation & presentation and present your exhibit in the best way possible.
- **Tell us about your entry:** If a division has special instructions, be sure to include this information on a 3" x 5" card attached to your entry.

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## PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

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Exhibits must be clean with new appearance (not obviously worn). Be sure there are no loose or pulled threads, caught seams or stitches. All stitches should be even and all seams sewn the same way.

**Blocking:** If indicated on care instructions that the material should not be pressed, pin item out carefully with rustproof pins on a Turkish towel. Place a thoroughly damp cloth over the article. Cover with another towel and allow to stand completely dry (“damp blocking”). If care instructions advise “Do not block”, include this information on your exhibit.

**Thread crocheted doilies** must be mounted with pins or tacks on a fabric covered board (sturdy cardboard, foamcore, or other).

**Tatting** exhibits should be clean & dry. All items must be mounted on a fabric-covered board with pins or tacks.

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## JUDGING CRITERIA

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### DIVISIONS A-C, KNITTING;

### DIVISIONS D-I, CROCHETING :

Judging is based on the following:

#### Overall appearance - 20 pts

- Item clean, free of pilling, pressed if applicable;
- Both front & back of garment should be the same length;
- Uniform dye lots (Check your dye lot when purchasing yarn. Purchase an extra

ball to be safe. If you must use a different dye lot, blend it into the design, such as by alternating rows of the two yarns);

- Tension & gauge (Carry threads loosely enough not to pull the surface stitches, especially when working with more than one color. In making articles, be sure to check your gauge and adjust your needle size);
- Color (choice of color and combination should not be a factor in the judges' decisions or scoring).

#### Uniformity of stitch - 25 pts

#### Reverse-side Appearance - 30 pts

- Knots & splicing - leave a good length of yarn end to weave in after casting off or ending a color. Use a blunt needle to weave the thread carefully. When you come to a knot, if it is 3 or 4 ply, separate the ply and splice in with a blunt needle. This will hold and not be visible. In the soft-spun yarn, twist the ends together to knit in without showing. If you are unable to do either, end your threads at the seam edge and weave in the loose ends when finished.
- Seams - when joining two sections, pin & match the sections to prevent stretching. When able to avoid a seam, make items in as few sections as possible.

#### Appropriate choice of yarn & pattern - 15 pts

#### Difficulty of project - 10 pts

## DIVISION J - TATTING

Judging is based on the following criteria:

#### Appearance - 10 pts

Item clean, free of dirt & dust.

#### Uniformity - 25 pts

Knots and spacing of threads uniform.

#### Reverse-side appearance - 25 pts

Splices and ends worked in; attached neatly to cloth, tight joins.

#### Use of multiple techniques - 20 pts

Techniques such as node stitch, pearl or padded tatting, bead, etc.

#### Difficulty of project - 20 pts

One-shuttle, two-shuttle, three-dimensional, etc..

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## SAMPLE JUDGING SHEET

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### Department 19 Knitting & Crocheting

WEN# \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_  
Judge's Initials \_\_\_\_\_

	POINTS POSSIBLE	SCORE
Appearance	20	_____
Uniformity of stitch	25	_____
Reverse-side appearance	30	_____
Appropriate choice of yarn & pattern	15	_____
Difficulty of project	10	_____

TOTAL (100 = perfect score) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

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