



# IPDGA Grooming Competition Rules

(updated July 2017)

1. On arrival at the competition venue you must check in at the competition stewards desk to complete your registration and receive your allotted floor space and competitor pack
2. You are required to provide and prepare a suitable dog for grooming within the time frame laid out for the class entered
3. Time limits for all classes including creative styling are 2 hours for dogs up to and including 18 inches. Dogs over 18 inches and any handstrip are allowed 2 and ½ hours.
4. Poodles can be trimmed in any style or fashion providing that it is within the rules for the particular class entered
  - 4.1. Poodles in all classes may have their feet and faces preclipped prior to start of class but you will finish half an hour earlier than the rest of the class. You will be required to stay quietly at your grooming station once finished.
  - 4.2. Poodle topknot – for those that have a sprayed up topknot there will be an extra 15 minutes after the class time is over for spraying up.
5. Products may be used in a dogs coat to aid the grooming process but judges would generally expect to be able to pull a comb through the final result
6. For all classes excluding Creative and Asian there is to be no dyes or colour sprays/chalks to be used on the dog to detract from the natural colour of the dog as well as glitter, bows or decorative items.
7. Competitors must supply and are responsible for all their own equipment - including tables, clippers, blades etc.
8. Limited power will be available for drying, fluffing prior to competition but you are to bring cordless clippers fully charged ( including spare batteries ) to compete with. Electric tables can avail of this limited power to raise tables but will not be able to use it during competition class to adjust table heights.
9. Any tutoring, coaching or direction to any competitor from an audience attendee, will result in immediate expulsion of the groomer and associated dog
10. Novice & “New to Grooming” classes - eligibility must be submitted with entry and will be checked and verified
11. You are responsible for any dog you bring along this includes a cage where required and cleaning up any mess made by your dog in or in the surrounds of the competition building. A separate cage area is provided for your dogs comfort please use it.
12. Dogs presented for all classes should be freshly washed {Note: handstrip class only if required} & dried and totally tangle free
13. Pre competition trimming allowed extends only to groin/hygiene area and under pads (except poodles as per rule 4.1)
14. Ears, nails and anal glands and dematting should be attended to as part of the pre competition preparation before you reach the venue
15. The dog needs to have a suggested guideline of 8 weeks coat growth. Any evident line or pattern should not be visible.
16. Remember the amount of coat growth is suggested as a guideline prior to competition, this can differ with the individual dog - some dogs may need more time then the guidelines and some less. You want to have enough coat to be able to work with to show your skills and make a visible difference?



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17. The results of Saturdays Classes will be announced at the end of the day
18. The results of Sundays Classes ,“Individual Dog” Trophy, “Best Novice” and Overall Irish Groomer of the Year , Best International and Best in Show will be announced on Sunday after all judging has been completed.
19. Judges decision will be final - marks are given for preparation, taking note of whether the dog is clean and well presented with nails and ears done prior to entering the competition. Suitable/ appropriate handling skills by the groomer will also be noted. The dogs welfare is paramount, rough handling or grooming observed may result in the groomer being excused from the competition. Neat & tidy clipping lines will carry good marks as will good technique and finish with scissoring and hand stripping. The suitability of the dog for the trim , and temperament for the whole experience will be taken into account. Balance and shape are also very important.
20. Class Definitions
  - 20.1. Scissored Classes - Dogs trimmed and/or styled with a predominantly scissored technique
  - 20.2. The scissored class is subdivided into ‘Poodles only’ & ‘ Anything But Poodle’
  - 20.3. Overall scissor class award is presented to the overall winner, whom is picked from the winner of the ‘Poodles only’ & ‘ Anything But Poodle’
  - 20.4. Clipped Class - Dogs trimmed and/or styled using clipped and scissored techniques
  - 20.5. Asian Clipped Class - A subsection of the clipped class. Dogs trimmed and/or styled using clipped and scissored techniques in an Asian style.
  - 20.6. Clipped class award is presented to the overall winner, whom is picked from the winner of the ‘Clipped’ & ‘Asian- clipped’
  - 20.7. Handstrip Class - Dogs trimmed and/or styled with a predominantly handstripped technique
  - 20.8. Novice Class - Novice Class is open to competitors who have not been placed in other competitions {with the exception of Career Start/ New to Grooming}. It is a class aimed at novices in the grooming profession. It is intended for those grooming less than 3 years. {eligibility must be submitted for verification with entry } On winning a Novice class you graduate to the Open classification, even if less than three years grooming. Competitors can choose a single or multiple classes . Overall Best Novice and Reserve will be announced on Sunday, this is chosen from all of the Novice First placings. For consideration for Best Novice you only need to compete with one dog, for multiple entries the best placed dog will be adjudicated on.
  - 20.9. New to Grooming Class - Entrants must be grooming no more than 1 year and have not competed before. {eligibility must be submitted for verification with entry } Competitors in this class can choose a single or combination of scissoring, clipping and handstripping techniques. Only a single applicant per establishment permitted. Breed specialists are not eligible for this class.
  - 20.10. Creative styling class is open to all groomers. Sections are allocated on the day.
    - a. Section A – Anything goes {eg- colours / shaping/ props/ backdrops etc } as long as the dogs welfare is not affected or compromised. Groomers hoping to perform full transformations to their dog will compete in this section rather than the “Salon Creative Class”



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Section B - Salon Creative Class - This class is for those who want to start off in the creative field. Stencils, bows etc can be used. If your entry involves major transformation you will compete in section A of the creative.

21. Novice, Open and Champion - In the Scissor – both ‘Poodle only’ & ‘ Anything but poodle’, Clipped, Asian Clipped and Handstrip Classes there are three sections – On winning a class you then graduate to the next section of that class for subsequent years. See rule 19.5 for Novice progression.
22. To be eligible for the International Trophy will must live & work outside “ The Island of Ireland” Our International competitors are to be awarded separate 1st - 3rd placings within the Clipped, Clipped Asian, Scissored ‘Poodle’ & ‘ Anything but poodle’ and Handstrip classes. A “Best International” will then be decided.
23. “Best in Show” is decided between “Best International” and “Irish Groomer of the Year”
24. Irish Groomer Of The Year- To be eligible for this award you must compete with 2 dogs in classes detailed above {20.1,20.2,20.3,20.4,20.5,20.6,20.7} and be working as a groomer on the Island of Ireland.
25. The “Individual Dog Trophy” is open to competitors who just compete in one of classes detailed above {20.1,20.2,20.3,20.4,20.5,20.6,20.7} either Open or Champion sections. Competing with one dog means they are not eligible to go forward for the Groomer of the Year but they are eligible for this Trophy
26. Our Novice competitors are to be awarded separate 1st - 3rd placings within the Clipped, Clipped Asian, Scissored and Handstrip classes. See rule 20.8 for details of Overall Novice Trophy
27. “Handling and Technique” Trophy is awarded to the competitor deemed to have the best approach, technique and handling. All competitors in classes detailed above {20.1 - 20.8} Open and Champion sections are considered for this award.
28. Awarded Perpetual Trophies are not allowed leave the venue with you unless you are a paid up member of IPDGA.
29. Every competitor should have a photo taken of their dog before entering the ring with our official IPDGA photographer in the booth. Also after you have been judged, under guidance from the steward on the day so that we, the organisation, have a before and after photo should there be any kind of discussion between the judges.
30. By entering the IPDGA grooming Championships you hereby give permission to the organisation to freely publish any phots taken at the event.