



IPDGA Grooming Competition Rules

(updated June 2024)

- 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 prior to bringing in your dog. Please note dogs may only enter the hall via the “dog only entrance” if applicable, you will be shown this on check-in
- 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, Model Dogs are 2 hours for dogs up to and including 18 inches. Dogs over 18 inches and any handstrip are allowed 2 and ½ hours. There will be a 10min toilet break one hour into each class.
 - a) 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.
- 4) Styling 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
- 5) For all classes excluding Creative, Model Dog and Asian there is to be no colours, 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. The use chemical lightening (bleaching) products is not permitted
- 6) Competitors must supply and are responsible for all their own equipment - including tables, clippers, blades etc. When your class is finished check whether you need to remove everything from the ring or relocate for next class.
- 7) Limited power may 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.
- 8) Any tutoring, coaching or direction to any competitor from an audience attendee, will result in immediate expulsion of the groomer and associated dog
- 9) Novice & “New to Grooming” classes - eligibility must be submitted with entry and will be checked and verified
- 10) 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. All cages/crates must have your name & phone number clearly marked in case of emergency. Any dogs showing signs of stress will be considered emergency.
- 11) Dogs presented for all classes should be freshly washed & dried and totally tangle free {Note: handstrip class only if required}
- 12) Pre competition trimming allowed extends only to groin/hygiene area and under pads (for poodles see each class rule)
- 13) Ears, nails and anal glands and dematting should be attended to as part of the pre competition preparation before you reach the venue
- 14) The dog needs to have a suggested guideline of 8 weeks coat growth. Any evident line or pattern should not be visible.



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- 15) 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 than 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
- 16) The results of Saturdays Classes will be announced at the end of the day. Class winners on Saturday may be involved in further judging on Sunday. Please ask your steward for advice.
- 17) The results of Sundays Classes plus “Individual Dog” Trophy, “Best Novice”, “Best Handling” and Overall Irish Groomer of the Year , Best International and Best in Show will be announced on Sunday after all judging has been completed.
- 18) 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.
- 19) Class Definitions
 - 1) **Scissored Class** - Dogs trimmed and/or styled with a predominantly scissored technique.

Scissored Class is split into three sub-classes to allow for different coat types

 - a) Scissor Poodle Class
 - b) Scissor ‘Anything but Poodle’ ABP Class

If your dog is a full bred poodle regardless of trim then it is in either the Poodle or Asian Class.

Poodle prep for scissor classes. If part of your trim, feet & muzzle **should** be shaved as part of your preparation.
 - 2) **Clipped Class** - Dogs trimmed and/or styled using clipped and scissored techniques – clipping the dog with comb attachment or long blade followed by scissoring “the clipped area” is not considered a clipped style Poodle prep for clipped class. As this is a clipped technique class, feet and muzzle shaving is part of your competition class skills. Except for under pads, feet and muzzle **should not** be shaved as part of your preparation.
 - a) Clipped Asian Class -Dogs trimmed and/or styled using clipped and scissored techniques in an Asian style. Poodle prep for clipped class. As this is a clipped technique class, feet and muzzle shaving is part of your competition class skills. Except for under pads, feet and muzzle **should not** be shaved as part of your preparation.
 - 3) **Handstrip Class** - Dogs trimmed and/or styled with a predominantly handstripped technique. Pre competition clipping must to confined to groin and underpads.
 - 4) **Novice Class** - Novice Class is open to competitors who have not won in other competitions (see rule 31) {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



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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.

- 5) **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.
- 6) **Creative Styling Classes** are open to all groomers. They are not part of the Irish Groomer of the Year adjudication.
 - a. Any breed or mixed breed of dog is eligible
 - b. Dogs should be prepared ready for pre judging as per regular competition classes
 - c. Each entry may be combed through upon pre judging. Skin and coat may be checked after the entry is completed but every effort will be made not to interfere with the integrity of the design.
 - d. Presentation is defined as the coherence and balance of the dog, and background and props (if used)
 - e. If an electric point is required this must be pre booked in advance
 - f. Competitors are entered into either Section A: Creative Extreme or Section B: Salon Creative. Definitions of such are below:
 - g. Section A – Creative Extreme The only limitation is your imagination and creative talents. Colouring, shaping, carving, props etc. are all allowed as long as the safety and welfare of the dog is not affected or compromised. Colouring and basic shaping can be done prior to the class but finishing colour and styling should be done during the class. There must be a discernible difference in the dog from the start to the finish of the class. The dog must be able to move freely whilst wearing their style. All products used must be non-toxic and skin safe. The use chemical lightening (bleaching) products is not permitted. Back drops or props are part of this class. Full transformation should enter this class rather than the “Salon Creative Class”
 - h. 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. Stencils or freehand techniques can be used to add tattoos, or touches of colour and other creative embellishments can be added to the groom. Carving a design onto a pre-prepared, clear coat with no previous design carved into it is also allowed. You may use clippers, scissors or trimmers to create the design. All products used must be non-toxic and skin safe and the safety and welfare of the dog must not be affected or compromised. The use of chemical lightening (bleaching) products is not permitted. If your entry involves major transformation or is enhanced by a backdrop or props please enter Creative Extreme.
- 7) **Model Dog Classes** are open to all groomers. They are not part of the Irish Groomer of the Year adjudication. Pre competition preparation of the dog can be some or all of the following subject to manufacturers guidelines and/or personal preference - thorough brushing out, blasting, washing and drying. No pre clipping, pre colouring or pre shaving is allowed.



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1. Section A – Breed Standard Style
 2. Section B – Model Dog Creative
- 20) Novice, Open and Champion - In the Scissor, Clipped, Asian Clipped and Handstrip Classes there are these 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
 - 21) 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 and Handstrip classes. A “Best International” will then be decided.
 - 22) “Best in Show” is decided between “Best International” and “Irish Groomer of the Year”
 - 23) Irish Groomer Of The Year- To be eligible for this award you must compete with 2 dogs in classes detailed above {19.1,19.2,19.3} and be working as a groomer on the Island of Ireland.
 - 24) The “Individual Dog Trophy” is open to competitors who just compete in one of classes detailed above {19.1,19.2,19.3} 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
 - 25) Our Novice competitors are to be awarded separate 1st - 3rd placings within the Clipped, Clipped Asian, Scissored and Handstrip classes. See rule 19.4 for details of Overall Novice Trophy
 - 26) “Handling and Technique” Trophy is awarded to the competitor deemed to have the best approach, technique and handling. All competitors in classes detailed above {19.1 - 19.6}
 - 27) Awarded Perpetual Trophies are not allowed leave the venue with you unless you are a paid up member of IPDGA.
 - 28) 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.
 - 29) By entering the IPDGA grooming Championships you hereby give permission to the organisation to freely publish any photos taken at the event.
 - 30) On winning an Open Class you progress the Champion level of that technique.
 - 31) Other competitions, if you have won a class in another competition and there was three or more in your class then you will progress a level. If there was two or less then you stay at the same level providing you are not at the time limit of New to Grooming or Novice (see 19.4,19.5)
 - 32) No changing of class classification will be permitted once the class has commenced
 - 33) Organisers and judges reserve the right to disqualify any dog or competitor in the wrong class
 - 34) If you decide not to compete in a class you have registered for , kindly notify the steward asap so as not to hold up the class start time
 - 35) Competitors are responsible for their own Health & Safety, along with that of any dogs they bring to the event
 - 36) Any possible complaint should be made in writing. It should be presented to the steward before the end of the event with an administration fee of €25