



Rules and Regulations © 2014 ETC® Committee

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 skills.

The true meaning of this competition is not winning or losing but to learn from colleagues.

Of course there are prizes to be won. **Everybody would like to win but** of course, not everybody can win **and** one should be prepared not to gain a best in Europe title or, indeed, any other prize. If you cannot cope with that it is better not to compete at all.

Remember, this is a taxidermy competition, not the Grammy awards. You may, or should be concerned about your work, but if you get low points, don't be angry, learn from **the completed score sheet and the judge's comments.**

The ETC® will be judged by internationally known 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.

A taxidermy company is only allowed to compete in the “Collective Artists Division” by naming the taxidermists (at least two) who mounted and worked out the entry.

A one man taxidermy company has to register and enter also under the name of the taxidermist who made the entry and not only under the name of the company!

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 provide time-consuming extra work for the competition staff.

Liability:

With accepting the ETC[®] Rules and Regulations by signing the registration form by one’s own hand or by a legitimated person, the participant releases the organizer and the ETF, 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[®] Rules and Regulations by signing the registration form by one’s own hand or by a legitimated person, the participant agrees with publishing images of her/his person and entries and publishing her/his name in printed and online form (e. g. ETF-Homepage, Taxidermy Magazines).

Judging:

The Competition Committee that will regulate the competition and the judging consists of the ETC[®] Competition Chairman, the Host and the ETC[®] Committee Chairman.

Each entry will be judged by one judge in the “Professional Division” and “Novice Division” and two judges (team) in the “Masters Division”. Each entry receives a full and completed score sheet with judges’ comments on areas that need improvement as well as on work that was especially well done.

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[®] brochure and on the ETF homepage.

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 Model 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, a copy remains with the organisation.

Main Categories:

The ETC[®] is based on three 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.

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 and every Category (Novice and Professional Division) and also Subcategory (Master Division) is limited to five 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 to corresponding species.

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 Masters Division at the same time.

9 Categories Novice Division

7 Categories for Natural Mounts (NM):

Category **NB** Birds

Category **NM** Mammals

Category NG	Game Heads (only mammals allowed!)
Category NF	Fishes
Category NRA	Reptiles/Amphibians
Category NSK	Skeletons
Category NAG	Animal Groups (including mixed groups)

2 other Categories:

Category NRP	Reproductions
Category NRSM	Reconstructions/Scientific Models

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”. In addition, special diplomas and prize money will be awarded (the amounts will be announced in the respective ETC[®] brochure and on the ETF homepage).

At least 90 points are required to reach the “Best of Novice Division” prize (medium sized blue ribbon which is imprinted with “Best of Novice Division”). If there is no entry scored more than 89 points in the category, there is only awarded a “Second Best of Novice Division” prize (medium sized red ribbon which is imprinted with “Second Best of Novice Division”). If there is no entry scored more than 79 points in the category, there is only awarded a “Third Best of Novice Division” prize (medium sized yellow ribbon which is imprinted with “Third Best of Novice Division”).

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®/ Competition 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.

20 Categories in Professional Division

18 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

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

2 other Categories:

Reproductions (RP)

Category **PRP** Reproductions

Reconstructions/Scientific Models (RSM)

Category **PRSM** Reconstructions/Scientific Models

ETC®
EUROPEAN TAXIDERMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

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 is imprinted with “Best/Second/Third of Professional Category” and special diplomas). At least 90 points are needed to reach a “Best/Second/Third of Professional Category”. Only one prize per participant is possible.

Master Division (M):

European Title Division with 8 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 there is the possibility to earn the Best of Europe Titles.

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

This point refers to the entered object (taxidermy mount, reproduction, reconstruction/scientific model, 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 some significant photos. It's not necessary to reveal your top secrets. We know that it's not always possible to take pictures and work at the same time. Photos of a similar mounting process will be accepted.

If no documentation is presented together with the entry, it will lead to disqualification!

Categories in Master Division:

Category Birds (B)

Best of Europe Title

Subcategories (NM):

- MB1 Small Birds
- MB2 Medium Birds
- MB3 Large Birds
- MB4 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

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

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 which 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 taxidermist 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 taxidermists (at least two) who have mounted and worked out the entry. It's not allowed to compete under the company's name only!

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

Awards: colored small ribbons depending on the scored points in each category 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 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”).

Division of Excellence:

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

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

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.

EUROPEAN TAXIDERMY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Special Awards:

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

Ribbons, Diplomas, Places and Titles:

The small ribbons are no longer synonyms for places!

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.

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 “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.

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.

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 will be judged from all sides. 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).

Protected species:

For all protected species valid and applicable permits must be delivered together with the registration form. Permits stay with the organisation during the show and will be handed back to the competitors together with their mount after the show ends.

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!**

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

To avoid any discomfort do not bring a mount that is not legal.

Protected species that do not have a permit (Cites if necessary) with the entry will not be allowed to compete by the ETC® Competition Chairmen.

Mounts not allowed to compete:

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 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.

Panels, habitat scenes and settings:

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 Masters 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 compliment 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.

Name plates:

Name plates as well as signs that could reveal the taxidermists identity fixed to the base or mount must be removed or securely covered when entering the competition, otherwise they are not allowed to compete.

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”, mandatory in the “Reconstruction/Scientific Models Category”**) and mounting processes (**mandatory in “Master Division”**) are very welcome. Videotapes, CD's and DVD's will not be accepted.

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 near the entries / pieces. 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.

Protest and interpretation (only possible in Professional Division):

Interpretation of the ETC[®] Rules and Regulations will be decided by the Competition Committee which consists of the ETC[®] Competition Chairman, the Host and the ETC[®] Committee Chairman.

Competitors desiring another opinion after the judging may pay a protest fee of 100.00 €. 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 is announced in the respectively ETC[®] brochure and on the ETF homepage (possible changes are published in the registration office).

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, the competitor accepts the ETC[®] Rules and Regulations.

Amended Version :

23.06.2014 The ETC[®] Committee, B. Koch / M. Fahrni / A. Puolakoski

The logo for the European Taxidermy Championships (ETC) is centered on the page. It features the letters 'ETC' in a large, light blue, sans-serif font. Below the letters, the words 'EUROPEAN TAXIDERMY CHAMPIONSHIPS' are written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font. The logo is surrounded by several grey paw prints and leaf-like shapes, which are part of the overall design of the document.

EUROPEAN TAXIDERMY CHAMPIONSHIPS