

International Shell Show 2017

Shell Show Full Competition Rules and Notes:

1. There is NO shell sales, purchase or swapping anywhere upstairs at the venue on Friday. If caught your competitive exhibits will not be judged and you will most likely be expelled from the remainder of the show.
2. Competitive entry is open to exhibitors who have registered by submitting a completed registration form and paid the applicable delegate registration fees. This includes as many competitive displays as you want in categories 3-22 and 24
3. The total number of entries in “shell of the show” plus “wow factor” is limited to a number equal or less than the total number of entries you have in categories 3-22 and 24. These entries cannot form part of your competitive entries in other categories. There has been a trend where long term collectors mainly exhibit in categories 1 and 2. Newer collectors then never get to see the wonderful displays of these collectors other shells, and the shells in category 1 & 2 get cluttered within the small secure display case available. Some shows now require shell of the show to be a specimen forming part of the general competitive displays. We prefer them to remain separate. For a family registration that has for example a total of six exhibits in the normal categories 3-24 and 3a, 7a, 9a then the family could have a total of six entries in Shell of show or Wow – but not necessarily presented by the same family members.
4. After the registration closing date competitive entries may not be accepted.
5. Entries must be set up in accordance with the Shell Club’s instructions and all exhibits must remain on display until the end of the show (4pm Sunday).
6. As much as possible judging will be closed box.
7. When you arrive on the Friday afternoon collect your registration pack from our show reception desk in the main auditorium. Inside there will be small number tags to stick in the top right corner of your competitive displays. There is instruction as to which number goes with which category. Don’t mix these up as there are matching numbers already on the judging sheets ready for anonymous judging. Do not write your name on or in your displays.
8. The maximum size for a display box is 60cm x 37cm with no height restrictions. (Some boxes are 1cm larger all around – this is OK)
9. Due to table size limitations box orientation is 60cm along the front by 37cm deep as viewed by judges and spectators. i.e. not ‘Portrait’ orientation. Shells and labels should be set to suit this orientation. If a display box is smaller it must be no more than 37cm deep. Non-complying boxes will not be judged.
10. For Shell of the Show and Wow Factor single specimens we have one glass cabinet for display. If all specimens do not fit, then larger ones may be outside the cabinet
11. If you exhibit large specimens it is possible to have a box with a high lid. Or if indicated on your registration form, a double display space with two boxes next to each other as one display. Boxes next to each other must be side by side with the short sides touching, not one behind the other, so that the maximum depth still remains at 37cm.
12. To compete you must register as a delegate, or be a member of your family delegate registration
13. There is no limit on the number of entries in categories 3-22 and 24 and/or 3a, 7a, 9a. Only children 14 and younger can enter in the children categories 3a, 7a and 9a (Although we will try to accommodate all children even if a little older)

14. In general we try to ensure all children who compete get a trophy. Children can go in any category not just the three listed as “children only” and will be judged separately to the adults. (In category 1 and 2 they will NOT be judged separately). If we know in advance of the show then we can get the additional junior trophies sorted for categories 3-22 and 24. Of course if there are multiple children in a category then only one can win that category and get the trophy. Second and third get certificates as per all other categories.
15. Clarification relating to specimen ID must be directed to, and resolved by the Shell Show Manager prior to the start of judging
16. If only one display is entered in a Category, there may be no judging of that category but rather first place can be awarded automatically.
17. Judges are selected for their specific skills and knowledge in particular categories, or general knowledge. As such they may not use these rules precisely, relying instead on their existing knowledge. To highlight important points after the judges general pre-judging briefing, the actual judging sheets contain additional notes for judges specific to that category. These are tabulated at the end of these rules.
18. Entries may optionally be titled, and should be titled where it is necessary to clarify the specific exhibit content within a particular category.
19. Categories for shells collected in Australia or NZ must include species that have as wide a geographical distribution as possible; as should worldwide (WW) categories. Note (WW) localities do not require the inclusion of Australian specimens
20. Shells from a single locality is defined a strip of coast line + estuaries + ocean with a 50km radius. In the event that the entire exhibit is off shore collected then a larger radius is allowed. Common sense will prevail to define one locality in this instance. E.G. a trawler fishing in “one locality” could not be certain the shells are all from a 50km radius, only the general off shore area.
21. Muricidae, due to the large number of Subfamilies and Genera within this Family there is no requirement to seek diversity of Genus, only species. You should consider if judges could even favour exhibits with a predominance of subfamily Muricinae, specifically the attractive spined or frilled species. (They are not given instructions in this regard)
22. Haliotidae, with several shells up, several down, they are not in pairs of one species, all shells in the display should be different species.
23. Identification labels must accompany shells and other exhibits and must include as a minimum: genus, species, author- date, and basic locality data. Family sub-specific identification may be added where appropriate.
24. For most categories judging points are to be allocated as follows:
 - 50% for quality – points deducted for flaws, holes, immaturity, faded, uncleaned or buffed.
 - 20% for high degree of variety as appropriate to the category, e.g. all different species, range in size, range in locality and range of colours and shape.
 - 20% for presentation, i.e. layout, attractiveness, labels.
 - 10% for number of specimens and labelling, i.e. too many or too few specimens; accuracy and of information, box too large. (hand written labels are acceptable).
25. The 20 points for ‘Quality of display and overall aesthetic appeal is where judges step back and look at the whole display, layout, variety, box and labelling quality etc. The score for this subsection overlaps with elements of the scores in other subsections eg appearance and quality of labels etc.
26. In technical literature, author names often have accents above certain letters. Accents on the labels are not required and no marks will be deducted.

27. For categories with only one specimen judging is primarily on quality, and smaller box is OK.
28. Rarity or dollar value of specimens should not influence scoring. There is no portion of the score sheets that relate to rarity. However in the event of two entrants ending up with identical total scores, judges may adjust final scores to give preference to the entry with the rarer shells.
29. Tied scores are not allowed for first, second and third places. If points add up to a tie, judges need to use their judging skills to choose which is better and fine-tune the total scores accordingly.
30. Shell of the Show is primarily judged for quality of shell and labelling. In the event there are a lot of bivalves then judges may be instructed to select best Bivalve separately to best Gastropod with two first places then awarded
31. Shell with “Wow Factor” is the exhibitor’s favourite spectacular shell. It will primarily be judged for its general appeal to non-shell collectors; not specifically for quality or maturity. Makes people go WOW
32. Locality of a category means the location the displayed specimens were collected. EG “Australia” does not mean the species is only found in Australia, merely that the actual specimen in the entry was collected in Australia. Specimens collected outside the specified locality for the category will be penalised and/or not judged as part of the exhibit.
33. In the event that the number of specimens allowed for that category is exceeded, then significant points will be deducted or the exhibit deemed non-judgeable. On the other hand, if a lesser number of specimens are displayed than allocated, then the matter will be up to the judge’s discretion taking into account all other factors – a family with large species. However exhibitors have been given the option of a free second display box footprint for the one exhibit. (See judges notes for specific categories)
34. Judges are instructed to give higher scores to exhibits that include maximum variety of Genus, Species and/or Family, as appropriate to the category. This means that including multiple of one species in an exhibit would lower your score. (EG including multiple subspecies or forms of *Cymbiola pulchra* would LOWER your score relative to exhibitors where all specimens were different species.)
35. An exhibit including a large variety of Genera would score higher than an exhibit with less Genera. However it is not necessary to strive for equal numbers of each Genus in a family. Variety of Genera might equate to half a point in the judges scoring to differentiate otherwise tied scores
36. For some categories judges and exhibitors could interpret differently what Genera are to be included in a given family or category. For the purpose of this show, the included Genus, Sub-Genus and/or Families are as per Australian Marine Shells Part. 1&2, Barry Wilson, and Bivalves of Australia Vol 1&2 Lamprell/Whitehead, Lamprell/Healy. For worldwide Families not included in these books, then the Compendium of Seashells Abbott & Dance, or Encyclopedia of Marine Gastropods Alain Robin, may provide guidance.
37. Some families are subject to regular revision into sub-families, and some species into sub-species. In these instances judges should accept labels using older well-known synonyms (i.e. used throughout the literature) as valid. EG using a name such as *Cypraea xyz* or *Conidae xyz* rather than the new more detailed specific Genus within these Families. Similarly well known species names accepted throughout the common literature, but now incorrect, should not normally be marked down.
38. Judging worksheets will be made available to exhibitors to read on request, as a means of providing feedback on quality etc. of display, and to provide guidance for future shows. Judges are encouraged to add notes

39. Any post judging disputes must be directed to the Shell Show Manager after completion of judging Friday night and before midday Saturday.
40. Any dispute or difference whatsoever arising in connection with a judgment dispute shall be submitted to the Shell Show Manager who shall act as arbitrator of the dispute. The arbitrator is empowered to decide the dispute and make any orders or directions as to what he shall think fit with respect to matters in difference, irrespective of these rules. In some circumstances the arbitrator may rejudge the category. The decision of the Shell Show Manager, or his delegate, shall be final
41. The Shell Club of Sydney, through its members, agents or guests, will not be responsible for any breakage, loss, theft or any other damage of whatsoever nature to shells or any other materials exhibited for the duration of the Australian International Shell Show.
42. It is a condition of taking a table or entering the competition that all registrants accept and agree to abide by the full set of Shell Show Rules.
43. There is to be an award for the first prize in each category and all other awards are to be provided at the discretion of the Shell Club. Certificates will be provided for first, second and third. Certain categories have first place perpetual trophies associated. We expect most of these will be engraved and presented at these will be presented at the awards dinner. You are encouraged to return them by the end of the show for us to pass on to the next show. If you wish to keep a perpetual trophy between shows it is your responsibility, and cost, to safely forward it to the next show at a time their committee decides. In addition there is paperwork for you to sign.
44. Prior to the show if something is still unclear, please contact members of the committee as soon as possible, or check for updates on our web site www.sydneyshellclub.net in case someone else has asked the question and we have since posted the answer.

Specific notes on judging sheets

No	Category	Location	Qty	Specific notes on judging sheets
1	Shell of the Show	Any Location	1	Any size
2	Shell with WOW Factor	Any Location	1	Any size
3	Cypraeidae Worldwide	World Wide	20 max	Any size, if all large species then less than 20 is OK
4	Australia Cypraeidae	Australia	20 max	Any size (Not to include Zoila)
5	Umbilia	Australia	15 max	Minimum 5 different species or subspecies
6	Zoila	Australia	20	Multiple subspecies allowed
7	Conidae Worldwide	World Wide	20 max	Any size, if all large species then less than 20 is OK
8	Conidae Australia	Australia	20 max	Any size, if all large species then less than 20 is OK
9	Volutidae Worldwide	World Wide	15	Any size
10	Volutidae Australia/NZ	Australia/NZ	15	Does not need both Australian and NZ species
11	Variation of 1 Volutidae	Any Location	15	Variation can be colour, shape and/or subspecies
12	Muricidae Worldwide	Any Location	16 max	Any size, if all large species then less than 16 is OK
13	Olividae Worldwide	World Wide	20	None
14	Austro/Harp/Morums	World Wide	15	Including a minimum of 5 Morums. Austroharp not essential

15	Cassidae	Any Location	15	Up to two display box widths allowed. Judging is closed box.
16	Strombidae/Lambis	Any Location	15 to 20	Up to two display box widths allowed. Judging is closed box.
17	1 Locality Australia/NZ	Australia/NZ	20	Up to 50km radius. Larger single locality radius allowed for ocean trawled
18	Haliotidae. Up/Down	Any Location	14 max	All different i.e. 14 species, approximately half up half down
19	Australian/NZ Endemic	Australia &/or NZ	15	Gastropoda and/or Bivalva - cannot be found outside Aust or NZ
20	Favourite Family - Other	Any Location	20 max	Families and/or genus other than those already a category
21	Other Marine Life	Any Location	10 to 20	Labelling may be simpler than for shells. Qunatity to fill box
22	Educational Exhibit	Any Location	-	Up to three box footprints, Landscape
23	Most exhibits in show	-	-	From an individual
24	Photos of Live Shells	Any Location		One or more shells in situ with animal exposed, Judged individually
3a	Cypraeidae WW- Youth	World Wide	20 max	Any size
7a	Conidae WW - Youth	World Wide	20 max	Any size
9a	Volutidae WW - Youth	World Wide	15	Any size, no loss of mark if all from one country