

**GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISERS OF
YARN SPINNING COMPETITIONS**

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Supporting Documents (to be made available on the ABPA website)

Entry Form for Yarn Spinning Competition

Assessment Sheet for Yarn Spinning Competition

Performance Summary Score Sheet

Performance Overall Champion Tally Sheet

} Note: these two sheets are the same
for Bush Poetry & Yarn Spinning

GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISERS OF YARN SPINNING COMPETITIONS

Yarn Spinning is the telling of Australian stories as per the idiom of our forebears from the city and the bush. Yarn Spinning is not simply a connected line of jokes, nor is it rhyming verse. Yarn Spinning is well known for its 'Ocker' entertainment value.

Yarn Spinning Competitions can be run in conjunction with Performance Bush Poetry Competitions.

STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITIONS & CHAMPIONSHIPS

- One Compere (or one Compere per each Category)
- Three Judges
- Two Scrutineers
- One Time keeper

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF COMPETITION STAFF

The Compere:

The Compere should have a broad appreciation of Bush Poetry and Australiana, be a competent public speaker and be familiar with the running of the required Competition or Championships.

The Compere's duty is to announce the event's proceedings and to fill in between competitors, where necessary for the Judges benefit, with suitable material or information, without wasting undue time.

The Compere should only introduce Competitors by name along with some geographical information. The Compere should not refer to the Competitor's past successes, or standing in the ABPA, or give details which may unduly prejudice judging.

It is the Compere's responsibility to monitor, and intervene if necessary, any unacceptable behaviour by the Competitor. Such instances would only occur where the competitor has not read or not understood the "Conditions of Entry" relating to this topic.

In Awards presentations, the Compere should announce the placegetters in this order: 3rd, 2nd and 1st, including the name of the poem and the author.

Judges:

Organisers are encouraged to source guest Judges from their local community to raise the profile of Bush Poetry and to provide local support. Alternatively, contact the ABPA for recommendations. (Note: for National and State Championships, all three Judges need to be approved by the ABPA)

Guest Judges selected by organisers should have a broad appreciation of Bush Poetry and Australiana, be competent and be a well-respected member of the community.

All Judges are to use the most recent 'Assessment Sheet', designed by the ABPA, to score Competitors. It is the organisers duty to pre-fill the 'Assessment Sheet' with the Judge's number and Competitor's details prior to the Competition, to save time for the Judges once the Competition commences.

After the judging of each Competitor, and before the next Competitor is introduced by the Compere, the Scrutineers are to collect the Assessment Sheets from the Judges.

Scrutineers:

Organisers should select two competent people who do not have a conflict of interest with the Competitors, and who are proficient in recording and collating scores accurately from the Judge's Assessment Sheets.

The Scrutineers collect the Judge's Assessment Sheet after each Competitor.

The Scrutineers then use the "Summary Score Sheet" to collate the Judges scores. The Competitor with the HIGHEST Total Score receives FIRST PLACE, with subsequent placegetters after that. In the event of a "Tie", it is the Judge's majority decision to determine the Place.

(Note: To ascertain the National or State Champions, a further "Overall Champion Tally Sheet" needs to be completed by the Scrutineers).

Time Keepers:

Organisers should have a responsible Time Keeper with a stop-watch.

Depending on the Class (Open or Junior), Competitors have a 5 or 8 minute time slot in which to perform, which commences after they are introduced by the Compere, and when the Competitor begins to speak to the audience.

If the time limit has been exceeded by a Competitor, the Time Keeper is to advise the Scrutineers.

Two points per every 15 seconds over the limit (or part thereof) should be deducted from the Competitor's Assessment Sheet by the Scrutineers.

CONDITION OF ENTRY FOR COMPETITORS

All Competitors must complete an Entry Form and submit it with their entry fee to the organisers by the required date (recommended three weeks before the Competition date).

Entry Form templates for organisers to prepare specifically to their needs, can be found on the ABPA website www.abpa.org.au

Where large Performance Competitions and Championships require Heats prior to the Finals Day, the organisers should advertise it as such on the Entry Form for the Competitors to prepare their intended yarns.

To enhance audience entertainment value, Competitors are not to perform the same yarn in the 'Finals' which they performed in the 'Heats', in the same Competition. Exception is for the Junior Yarn Spinning Classes.

The ABPA encourages Competitors to change their repertoire regularly, and not to consistently perform the same yarn in consecutive competitions.

Yarns that have won first place in a competition should not be performed by the same yarn spinner in future years, in the same competition.

The ABPA, in the strongest possible terms, discourages the inclusion, in content or in performance, of anything that could be considered offensive to any individual or group. If a competitor is doubtful about their material or performance being unsuitable, they should check with the organizers prior to commencement of the competition.

Only one performer (the competitor) is allowed on stage during the allocated competition time, except in circumstances of disability support.

Judges decisions are final and shall not be disputed.

COMPETITION CLASSES

There is no gender or race criteria within or between Classes.

The reading of a yarn, in the following two allocated Classes, is not permitted, but instead, must be delivered from memory.

- **Open Yarn Spinning Class** – This Class is standard for all Competitions and Championships, and open to all Competitors. Competitors have an 8 minute time-slot in which to perform.
- **Junior Yarn Spinning Class** – This Class is optional for Competitions and Championships, for Yarn Spinners under 18 years of age, and is only made available at the discretion of the organisers (i.e. if a large interest from school-age Yarn Spinners is evident or encouraged). Competitors have a 5 minute time-slot in which to perform.

This Class does not exclude them from competing in the Open Yarn Spinners Class.

TYPES OF COMPETITIONS

There are two types of Yarn Spinning Competitions which are supported by the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc: (i) Standard Yarn Spinning Competitions and (ii) The Australian Yarn Spinning Championships (National or State)

Organisers adopting the guidelines for both types of competitions will have the ABPA Inc. approval to publish the following notation on their competition advertisements and forms “Conducted under the Auspices of the ABPA Inc.” plus, priority will be given for Competition articles and results in the ABPA bi-monthly magazine and on the website.

1. Standard Yarn Spinning Competitions

These Competitions can be organised to accompany a Performance Bush Poetry Competition, or to accompany other Bush Poetry events (e.g. Bush Poet’s Breakfast), or be part of a local community event or Festival.

Choice of Classes - Organisers have the discretions to choose the Classes to use, with Open Yarn Spinners Class being standard.

Judges – Organisers are encouraged to source Judges from their local community, or contact the ABPA for recommendations.

Funding - Organisers are encouraged to seek local funding for running costs and prizes.

Adjudication Sheets - Two adjudication sheets are required to be used for Standard Yarn Spinning Competitions:

- (i) The Judge’s Assessment Sheet
- (ii) The Scrutineers Summary Score Sheet.

Both sheets are available on the ABPA website www.abpa.org.au

2. Australian Yarn Spinning Championships – National or State

Applications to hold the National or State Yarn Spinning Championships should be directed to the Secretary of the ABPA for Committee approval.

All such competitions should carry the title:
ABPA National Yarn Spinning Championship, or
ABPA (name of the State) Yarn Spinning Championship

Choice of Classes - Organisers have the choice to add the Junior Yarn Spinners Class to the Championships, with the Open Yarn Spinners Class being standard.

Judges – All three Judges need to be approved by the ABPA Committee, with at least two of the Judges being ABPA members.

Funding – Organisers of National and State Championships (whether it be Bush Poetry and/or Yarn Spinning) are eligible for ABPA funding (refer to the section on funding for Bush Poetry Championships). Organisers are encouraged to seek additional funding to cover costs, by sourcing sponsors from their local community.

Adjudication Sheets - Two adjudication sheets are required to be used for National and State Championships:

- (i) The Judge's Assessment Sheet
- (ii) The Scrutineer's Summary Score Sheet

Both sheets are available on the ABPA website www.abpa.org.au

For State Championships, Competitor's residential address does not have to coincide with the "State" in question. It is open to all poets from all States.

SAMPLE

.....(Competition name and date).....

ENTRY FORM FOR THE YARN SPINNING COMPETITION

Conducted under the auspices of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc.

.....(Organiser’s contact details).....

.....(Venue address and start time).....

Closing date for entries:.....Entry fee:.....

Entrant’s Name.....

Address.....

Phone Number.....Email.....

.....

Nominate the Class in which you wish to compete

OPEN YARN SPINNERS CLASS– For competitors of all ages.

Limit of 8 minutes performance time.



JUNIOR YARN SPINNERS CLASS – For competitors under 18.

Limit of 5 minutes performance time.



Note: Junior Yarn Spinners are not excluded from the Open Yarn Spinners Class, but can only enter one Class per competition.

Note: Entrants may change their nominated yarn up until the day of the Competition, with approval from the organisers.

Conditions of entry for Yarn Spinners:

Entry fee is to accompany this form, and returned to the organisers, for competitors to be eligible.

The ABPA, in the strongest possible terms, discourages the inclusion, in content or in performance, of anything that could be considered offensive to any individual or group. If a competitor is doubtful about their material or performance being unsuitable, they should check with the organisers prior to commencement of the competition.

If Competitors within each Class exceed their respective time limit, penalties will apply.

Competitors are judged on entertainment value, presentation skills and Ocker value.

Yarns must be free verse, and delivered from memory and not read.

Entrants cannot perform the same yarn in the Heats and the Finals in the same competition.

Entrants cannot perform the same yarn in consecutive years at the same competition.

Yarns which have won a first prize in an Open Yarn Spinning Class should no longer be performed by the same yarn spinner in future years at the same competition.

Judges decisions are final and discussions are not entered into with the entrant.

I declare that I have read the Conditions of Entry and agree to abide by them.

.....
Signed by the Entrant

.....
Date

Publicity conditions:

I hereby give permission / do not give permission (cross out one) to the Organisers to publish photographs of me for publication in the ABPA Magazine and on the ABPA website. (This is not a condition of entry).

.....
Signed by the Entrant

.....
Date