



## Championship Judging at the Sydney Royal Shows

Championship Judging at the Sydney Royal Wine, Dairy, Fine Food, Chocolate and Beer & Cider Shows is conducted using the Borda Count method.

Where a Champion Award is listed for a category of Classes, the top gold medal winners of each class (if any) are retained and put forward for Judging at the end of a category or at the end of Class Judging for the day. If there are no gold medals, a Champion will not be awarded.

The Chair of Judges or the Chief Judge selects the panel of Judges who will participate in the Championship Judging. In most cases, all Judges (not Associate Judges) are invited to participate in the Judging. Each Judge will be given a single ballot card and instructed to complete it according to the traditional Borda Count method. Judges do not confer with each other about the Exhibits as they assess each one but silently work through the products that are judged 'blind'.

The Borda Count method is a consensus-based single-winner election method in which voters rank eligible Exhibits in order of preference. The Borda Count determines the winner by giving each Exhibit a number of points corresponding to the position in which it is ranked by each voting Judge. The number of points given to Exhibits for each ranking is determined by the number of Exhibits including in the Championship Judging round.

Where there are  $n$  exhibits, votes are counted by giving each Exhibit a number of points equal to the number of Exhibits ranked lower than them, so that an exhibit receives  $n - 1$  points for a first preference,  $n - 2$  for a second, and so on, with zero points for being ranked last. For example, if there are five Exhibits being judged, then an exhibit will receive four (4) points each time they are ranked first, three (3) for being ranked second, two (2) points for being ranked third, one (1) point for being ranked fourth and zero (0) points for the exhibit ranked last. The points assigned for the preferences expressed by a voting Judge on a ballot paper would look like this:

| Ranking | Exhibit | Formula   | Points |
|---------|---------|-----------|--------|
| 1st     | 1       | $(n - 1)$ | 4      |
| 5th     | 5       | $(n - 5)$ | 0      |
| 2nd     | 2       | $(n - 2)$ | 3      |
| 4th     | 4       | $(n - 4)$ | 1      |
| 3rd     | 3       | $(n - 3)$ | 2      |

Once all votes have been counted, the Exhibit with the most points is awarded the Champion Exhibit. The result is not revealed to the Judges and is withheld until the agreed release date (this date is available in the Competition Schedule).

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