



NATIONAL YOUNG STARS

NSA SHEEP EVENT 2026

Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire. WR13 6PH
Tuesday 28 July



ENTRY GUIDELINES

The untrimmed sheep section is open to a team of two competitors aged between 12 and 18 years in the year of the event (born between the 1 January 2008 and 28 July 2014). Each team will provide and work with two sheep (females or wether lambs, no rams) born on or after 1 January 2025 and appropriate to the chosen breed type. These sheep can be either pedigree or commercial. Competitors' ages will be checked before the event. Confirmation of entry will be sent upon receipt of a fully completed entry form.

OUTLINE OF COMPETITION:

- During the challenge competitors will be expected to demonstrate skills such as teamwork, knowledge of the UK sheep industry, understanding of health and safety when dealing with animals and equipment and preparation techniques which will include washing, drying and final presentation of their animal. Other elements of the challenge will include a stock assessment task, industry knowledge questionnaire, a public interview and the practice of ringcraft.
- The teams are encouraged to gather funds from a sponsor(s) to fund expenses incurred such as accommodation fee (if applicable), presentation/promotion stand materials, branded clothing, etc. The team can have multiple sponsors to cover their costs and are responsible for securing them. A sponsor could come from any area of the livestock industry.
- Each team will provide and work with two sheep (females or wether lambs, no rams) born on or after 1 January 2025 and appropriate to the chosen breed type. These sheep can be either pedigree or commercial and while a similar sized pair would be advisable, the sheep will not be judged on their own attributes. Provisions will be made for MV and non-MV stock.
- Each team has a 3m x 2m space which are the maximum dimensions to be used for the presentation/promotional display. A 3m (w) x 1m (d) x 2.4m (h) white shell scheme will be provided by the event as a backboard. A 3m x 1.5m space (two sheep pens) will also be provided to display the sheep.
- The presentation stands will promote the team, their breed, the broader sheep industry and the sponsors that have helped support the competitors' experience. *Please note there is a theme for stands that is 'Our Journey to Young Stars' which should reflect how you have worked as a team, the work you have done to prepare for the show, working with your sponsors, etc.

ENTRY FEE: There is no entry fee. The closing date will be Friday 26 June 2026.

GUIDE TIMETABLE: From the time competitors and their animals arrive on site the stewards will observe the actions of the teams and their work leading up to the challenge. A full breakdown of the available points will be provided in the exhibitor packs which will follow with confirmation of entry.

Competitors may arrive on Monday 27 July from 12 noon to set up their promotional stands in Avon Hall*. All competitors to be off site by 8pm. There is no overnight camping available.

On Tuesday 28 July the event will start at approximately 9.00am and finish at 5.00pm following the awards ceremony which all competitors are required to attend.

*Please note promotional stands can be set up at any time from when the competitors arrive as long as they are ready to be judged by 08.30am on Tuesday 28 July.

FURTHER CONDITIONS:

- The preparation of the sheep will take place in the allotted time and areas. Judges will be present throughout the proceedings and may ask questions of team members. All competitors must follow the instruction of the section stewards and judges.
- Points may be deducted at the discretion of stewards and the event Officials with regards to outside interference, health & safety issues and general behaviour of team members.
- The sheep must not have been trimmed prior to the event but can, if required, arrive in a cleaned up state (washing is acceptable, but no trimming – no trimming will take place at all throughout the course of the competition in this class).
- The sheep do not have to be the property of the team members or team sponsors but must be under the sole responsibility of the competitors for the duration of the event. The competitors must also have valid paperwork for the animals under their care which should be handed into the Friesian Pavilion upon arrival.
- All feedstuffs and feeding equipment must be provided by the team. An amount of straw will be available.
- All electrical equipment should have been tested by an approved electrical engineer prior to the event.
- Competitors will not be allowed outside assistance throughout the course of the event with the exception of unloading on arrival. Please note that the stock assessment guidelines will be available on the NSA Sheep Event website and will also be included in the exhibitor pack.
- White show coats or branded uniform to be worn for each challenge.
- All competitors under the age of 18 must be supervised by a parent or nominated adult at all times during the event.

ENTRIES – Due to space restrictions, entries will be limited and will be accepted on a first come first served basis. You will be notified to say if your entry has been accepted or not.

DATA STORAGE: Entry forms for the National Young Stars event may be obtained from the NSA Sheep Event's website. No entry will be accepted unless made on the prescribed form, signed by a team manager (an individual over 18 who will enter and coordinate the team).

Information from the entry forms will be stored on computers and the name, address and details of entries will be published in the catalogue, unless otherwise advised; information about results may also be published and/or provided to the press and breed societies for publication. Information about exhibitors may also be passed on to any regulatory authority such as DEFRA or Trading Standards, as well as the NSA's veterinary advisers. The submission of an entry is irrevocable consent for the storage and disclosure of information in this way.

APPROPRIATE GENERAL RULES AND CONDITIONS APPLY. THE DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES AND CHIEF STEWARD WILL BE FINAL.



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COMPETITION GUIDELINES

JUDGING CRITERIA & SCORING BREAKDOWN

To ensure consistency, fairness, and transparency across all competitions, the following scoring framework will be applied. Judges will assess each competitor across multiple disciplines that reflect both practical ability and industry knowledge.

Total Marks: 1000

Each section contributes to the overall score as outlined below:

| Challenge | Marks |
|--|-------------|
| Scrutineer | 125 |
| Preparation and presentation | 200 |
| Display stand – Presentation and promotion | 220 |
| Stock assessment | 130 |
| Ringcraft and etiquette | 125 |
| Team building exercise | 75 |
| Industry knowledge questionnaire | 25 |
| Interview | 100 |
| Total | 1000 |

JUDGING GUIDELINES

- **Scrutineer (125 marks):**
Assessment of competition standards, including receiving no external assistance during the competition and presentation of the team at all times.
- **Preparation and presentation (200 marks):**
Overall preparation and presentation of the animal
- **Display stand, presentation and promotion (220 marks):**
Will be assessed on the following - 25% knowledge of breed, 25% how have you have got to Young Stars, 25% demonstration of industry knowledge, 25% overall look of board.
- **Stock assessment (130 marks)**
Knowledge and evaluation of livestock quality, including justification of decisions.
- **Ringcraft and etiquette (125 marks):**
Handling skills, professionalism, behaviour in the ring, and adherence to competition etiquette.
- **Team building exercise (75 marks):**
Exercise to demonstrate how well the team work together.
- **Industry knowledge questionnaire (25 marks):**
Written responses assessing understanding of the wider UK sheep industry.
- **Interview (100 marks):**
Judges assess confidence, communication skills, and knowledge during a formal interview.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- All judges will use the same scoring criteria to maintain consistency.
- Marks will be awarded based on merit within each category.
- In the event of a tie, judges may refer to key sections (e.g. Preparation & Presentation or display stand) to determine final placings.
- Judges' decisions are final.