



## QCWA DRESSMAKING COMMITTEE

### GUIDELINES FOR DRESSMAKING COMPETITION

#### 1. DESCRIPTION/DEFINITIONS

**Garment** – this is described as an article of clothing eg dress

**Outfit** – this is described as ALL items necessary to complete any undertaking or purpose eg. Dress, dress and coat, skirt and blouse, skirt blouse and jacket, slacks and blouse, slacks blouse and jacket.

**Day wear** – any garment or outfit that you would wear to a meeting, outdoor wedding or the races

**Smart casual wear** – any garment or outfit that you would wear on holiday, a lunch date, shopping, this class may include shorts and tops.

**Beginner** – a person just starting to learn to sew NOT a person returning to sewing after an absence.

**Children's sections** – this is now three sections – birth to 2 years, 3 to 6 years and 7 to 10 years. These are the only sections wherein outfits suitable for either boys or girls wear can be entered.

#### 2. WHO CAN ENTER THE COMPETITION

The competition is open to QCWA members only excluding those whose main source of income is from dressmaking.

#### 3. WHAT ARE THE LEVELS OF JUDGING

The first place getters from Division level go onto Region level with the Region winner going onto State Level.

#### 4. ENTRY FEE

This is \$1.00 per entry to be forwarded to State Dressmaking Committee Treasurer or directly into bank account as per forms.

#### 5. DRESSMAKING SKILLS

- a. Suitability and use of fabric for the chosen style.
- b. Cutting of fabric – straight grain , bias etc as per the style chosen.
- c. Machine stitching – is the tension correct and the size of the stitch use appropriate.
- d. Suitability of cotton colour to fabric.
- e. Finishing techniques on-

**Seams** – it is preferable that seams be ironed open than overlocked together, however, if an entrant chooses to overlock the seams together and it does not alter the line and fall of the seam - NO PENALTY for doing this will be made.

**Hems** – it is preferable these be put up by hand, however, hems can be machine sewn using a blind hemming foot or turned up and stitched by machine. The method of hemming will be determined by the fabric and style of the garment. If the entrant is doing a rolled hem on fine fabrics it is allowable. If using stretch fabric, the hems can be machine sewn.

**Notions** – buttons, zips, studs, cottons etc are classed as notions. Beware you don't need to buy large reels of cotton, you probably will not use it all on this garment/outfit.

**Tacking, gathering stitches and marker pens** – remember to remove all tacking and gathering stitching and remove any markers prior to finishing off.

## **6. USE OF IRON**

Quality use of the iron should be evident throughout the sewing process.

## **7. STRETCH KNIT FABRIC**

A fine zig-zag stitch may be used to allow the seam to give with the fabric. Use a ball point needle with this fabric. On some machines there is a special stitch for stretch fabrics, it is allowable to use this also.

## **8. JUDGES & STEWARDS**

Please ensure your judge or judges have a copy of these guidelines, judging sheet and schedule. It is also important that the person or persons appointed to be Stewards, clearly understand the requirement of the contest so that should any problems arise they can be quickly resolved.

To avoid any conflict of interest, perceived or otherwise, it would be best if the steward was not an entrant in the competition.

Please also ensure you have a gift of appreciation to give to your guests at the end of judging.

The decision of the Judge is final – see QCWA State Contest / Competition State By-laws.

Please remember that the Judging guidelines are only to be used as a guide. It is up to the Judge of Judges how they wish to interpret these.