



Groomania Competition Rules and Classes

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1. Official Categories & Classes

Participants can enter the following four official categories:

- **Handstripping**
- **Spaniels and Setters**
- **Poodles**
 - A: Toy, Miniature, and Medium
 - B: Standard
- **Pure Breeds**

The following classes are available within these categories:

- **Open**
- **Champion**

2. Extra Categories

In addition to the official categories, participants may enter the following extra categories (only one general class available per category):

- **It Takes 2 to Groom**
- **Doodles & Miscellaneous**
- **Beginners & Après Groom**
- **Intermediate**
- **Salon Freestyle Commercial Class**
- **Asian Style**
- **Old Goldies Reunion (for former champions and judges)**
- **Dog Show Breed Standard Challenge**
- **Diamond Jackpot Class**
- **Model Dog Asian Style**
- **Model Dog Creative**

Note: These categories are **not eligible** for *Best in Show* or for accumulating points towards winning *Best Overall Groomer*.

3. Class Definitions

3.1 Beginners

- Open to contestants with a maximum of **2 years of experience**.
- Competitors may stay in this class for up to **12 months**, even if they win.
- After **12 months**, competitors must move to **Intermediate**, regardless of victories.
- Winning any category requires moving to **Intermediate** immediately.

3.2 Intermediate

- Open to contestants with **more than 2 years of experience**.
- Maximum **12 months** in this category.
- After **12 months**, competitors must move to **Open**.
- Winning any category requires moving to **Open** immediately.

3.3 Open

- Open to groomers who have moved up from **Intermediate**.
- To advance to **Champion**, an Open competitor must win **three times in a category with at least five contestants**.

3.4 Champion

- Open to participants who have won in this category or have won **three times in Open** (within the same category with at least five contestants).
- Proof of three Open-class victories is required at registration.

4. General Rules and Information

- Participants must bring their own **dogs and grooming tools**.
- Dogs must be **washed** and in their **natural coat color**.
- **Before and after photos** are mandatory.
- **Minimum coat growth** required:
 - **8 weeks** for all breeds.
 - **5 cm** for Poodles.
- A **10-minute comfort break** is included after one hour.

5. Competition Format and Prizes

5.1 Judging System

- **1st place → 10 points**

- **2nd place → 8 points**
- **3rd place → 6 points**
- **4th place → 4 points**

Points are used to determine the winners of:

- *Best All-Round Groomer*
- *Best Team*

5.2 Awards and Prizes

The following classes are awarded 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places:

- Pure Breeds Open Class & Champion Class
- Handstripping Open Class & Champion Class
- Spaniels & Setters Open Class & Champion Class
- Toy, Miniature, and Medium Poodles Open Class & Champion Class
- Standard Poodle Open Class & Champion Class
- Doodles & Miscellaneous
- Salon Freestyle Commercial Class
- Intermediate
- Modeldog Asian Style Class
- Asian Style
- It Takes 2 to Groom

In the Beginners category, there are four winners—one winner from each official category.

- **Best in Show** → Selected from the **10 first-place winners** across the official categories.
- **Best All-Round Groomer** → Winner receives a **ticket to SuperZoo (Las Vegas)**.
- **Best All-Round Beginner Groomer** → Winner receives a **trip to Mastergroom Canada**.
- **Best Team** The team with the highest total score wins the award.
- **The Best Handstripping by the Sentinel Award** is selected from all winners of the Terrier Class.
- **Richard Barker memorial Trophy** In loving memory of Richard Barker: Best Groomer Award for excellence (perpetual trophy.)



5.3 Special Competition Classes with Prizes

The Dog Show Breed Standard Challenge

The Dog Show Breed Standard Challenge is a special competition class designed for **breeders, handlers, groomers, and dog show enthusiasts** who wish to present their dogs in a **show-standard groom**, demonstrating their expertise in maintaining **breed-specific standards**.




- **Participants compete within the four official classes** (*Handstripping, Spaniels & Setters, Poodles, and Other Pure Breeds Scissoring*).
- **Judging is based only on appearance**—dogs are **not combed or touched** during evaluation.
- **Not eligible for Best in Show** but winners receive separate awards.

Old Goldies Reunion (For Former Champions and Active Judges)

- The **Old Goldies Reunion** is a **special invitation-only competition**, exclusively for **former Champions and active Judges**. This event honors the **most experienced and skilled groomers**, allowing them to **showcase their lifelong expertise and mastery**
- **Awards & Recognition:**
-  **Lifetime Achievement Award for the winner.**
-  **Golden Groomania Groomer Certificate for all participants.**

The Diamond Jackpot Class (€15,000 Grand Prize in 2027)

The Diamond Jackpot Class is a **three-year** competition where groomers earn points at Groomania (Belgium) and Mastergroom Canada, competing for a **€15,000 grand jackpot in 2027**.

- Hosted annually at **Groomania (Belgium) & Mastergroom Canada**.
- The top **three winners each year** receive:
 -  **1st Place** → €2,000 (or CAD \$3,000)
 -  **2nd Place** → €1,400 (or CAD \$2,000)
 -  **3rd Place** → €1,000 (or CAD \$1,500)
- **A portion of prize money goes into the Jackpot Pot**, reaching €15,000 in 2027.

- The **Grand Winner in 2027** is the groomer with the highest total points.

5.4 Finalist Announcements and Prize Ceremony

- **Friday:** Finalists announced during lunch and at the end of the competition.
- **Final and presentation of prizes for the non-official categories**
- **Saturday:** Finalists are announced during lunch and at the end of the competition. Finalists from official categories must attend the *Final Awards*
- **Sunday** Finalists are announced during lunch and at the end of the competition, followed with the Final award ceremony.

6. Time Limits per Category

6.1 Beginners & Intermediate

- **Beginners Class** → 2:30 hours
- **Intermediate Class** → 2:30 hours
- **Beginners Part 2 Workshop** (Educational session, no time limit)

6.2 Handstripping Classes

Handstripping Without Clipper Use

- **Small and Medium Breeds** (e.g., Border Terrier, Miniature Schnauzer, Norfolk Terrier) → **2:30 hours**
- **Large Breeds** (e.g., Airedale Terrier, Giant Schnauzer, Irish Terrier) → **3:00 hours**

Handstripping With Clipper Use

- **Small Breeds** (e.g., Norfolk Terrier, Miniature Schnauzer) → **2:00 hours**
- **Medium Breeds** (e.g., Fox Terrier, Lakeland Terrier) → **2:15 hours**
- **Large Breeds** (e.g., Airedale Terrier, Scottish Terrier, Schnauzer) → **2:30 hours**

6.3 Spaniels & Setters Classes

- **Spaniels & Setters → 2:30 hours**

Eligible Breeds:

- **All Setter Breeds** (*e.g., Irish Setter, English Setter, Gordon Setter*)
- **All Spaniel Breeds** (*e.g., American Cocker Spaniel, English Cocker Spaniel, Springer Spaniel*)

6.4 Poodle Classes

Toy, Miniature, and Medium Poodles

- **Poodles up to 35 cm → 1:45 hours**
- **Poodles 35 cm to 40 cm → 2:00 hours**
- **Poodles 40 cm to 45 cm → 2:15 hours**

◆ **Extra Time:** Poodles with a topknot receive 15 extra minutes for finishing, with an assistant allowed to hold the dog.

Standard Poodles 2:30 hours

(Size: Over 45 cm)

6.5 Pure Breeds Classes

- **Bichon Frisé, Bedlington Terrier → 2:00 hours**
- **Kerry Blue Terrier, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Black Russian Terrier, Bouvier des Flandres → 2:30 hours**

6.6 Salon Freestyle Commercial Class & Miscellaneous

Salon Freestyle Commercial Class

- **Small Breeds** (*e.g., Maltese, Shih Tzu, Yorkshire Terrier, Toy Poodle, Lhasa Apso, small Doodles up to 35 cm*) → 2:00 hours

- **Medium Breeds** (e.g., Cockapoo, Labradoodle, Cocker Spaniel mixes, 35-50 cm) → **2:30 hours**
- **Large Breeds** (e.g., Standard size, breeds over 50 cm) → **3:00 hours**

Doodles & Miscellaneous Class

- **Small Breeds** (*small size up to 35 cm*) → **2:00 hours**
- **Medium Breeds** (*medium size between 35-50 cm*) → **2:30 hours**
- **Large Breeds** (e.g., *Standard size above 50 cm*) → **3:00 hours**

6.7 Specialty & Creative Classes

- **Model Dog Asian Style Class** (*Styling & grooming on artificial dogs*) → **2:30 hours**
- **Asian Style Class** (*Real dogs, focusing on Asian grooming styles*) → **2:30 hours**
- **It Takes 2 to Groom**
 - **Small Breeds** (e.g., Bichon Frisé, Bedlington Terrier, Miniature Poodle, Shih Tzu) → **1:30 hours**
 - **Large Breeds** (e.g., Old English Sheepdog, Afghan Hound, Standard Poodle) → **2:00 hours**
- **Model Dog Creative Class** (*Freestyle grooming on model dogs for creative groomers*) → **2:30 hour**

6.8 Exclusive & Invitational Competitions

6.8.1 Old Goldies Reunion Invitational

Extended Time Limits:

To allow participants to demonstrate their expertise at the highest level, grooming times will be **extended by 25%**:

- **Handstripping (Small & Medium, No Clippers)** → **3 hours 10 minutes**
- **Handstripping (Large, No Clippers)** → **3 hours 45 minutes**
- **Handstripping (Small, With Clippers)** → **2 hours 30 minutes**
- **Handstripping (Medium, With Clippers)** → **2 hours 50 minutes**
- **Handstripping (Large, With Clippers)** → **3 hours 10 minutes**
- **Spaniels & Setters** → **3 hours 10 minutes**

- **Poodles (Up to 45 cm) → 2 hours 30 minutes**
- **Poodles (Over 45 cm) → 3 hours 10 minutes**
- **Pure Breeds (Bichon, Bedlington) → 2 hours 30 minutes**
- **Pure Breeds (Kerry Blue, Wheaten, Black Russian, Bouvier) → 3 hours 10 minutes**

6.8.2 Dog Show Breed Standard Challenge

- **Grooming time limits follow the standard rules** for the entered category.
- **Handstripping, Poodles, Spaniels & Setters, and Pure Breeds Scissoring** all follow their normal competition times.

6.8.3 Diamond Jackpot Class Timing

- **Grooming time limits follow the standard rules** for the entered category.
- **Handstripping, Poodles, Spaniels & Setters, and Pure Breeds Scissoring** all follow their normal competition times.

7. Judging Criteria and Scoring

7.1 General Judging Criteria

The judges will examine each dog during both prejudging and final judging and will consider the following criteria:

- Suitability of the chosen style for the dog
- Degree of difficulty of the clip or trim
- Ability to camouflage defects and enhance the dog's natural beauty
- Up-to-date knowledge of modern grooming styles
- Respect for today's breed standard, taking into account international differences in styling (e.g., USA vs. Scandinavian styles)
- Quality of scissoring, clipping, and/or stripping, ensuring a smooth finish when passing a comb through the coat
- Balance, symmetry, and smoothness in the final groom

- Presentation of the dog to the judge

The judges' decision is final and binding. All participants are expected to show good sportsmanship and respect the final decision of the jury.

7.2 Category-Specific Judging Criteria

Poodles

- Judges will assess the quality and evenness of clipper work, ensuring a smooth finish with no tufts of hair left around the lips, eyes, or pads of the feet.
- The use of the correct blade length for the feet, face, and tail will be evaluated.
- The shape and balance of the final trim must follow the breed standard or a recognized Poodle trim.

Handstripping

- Judges will check for even coat texture and correct technique—no visible pink or bald patches should be present.
- The coat must be removed in the natural growth direction to maintain the dog's coat integrity.
- If two dogs are competing and one displays a more distinct transformation, the dog with the most noticeable change will receive preference in judging.
- The blending of hand-stripped areas with feathering or furnishings will be evaluated.

Spaniels & Setters

- Judges will assess whether the **chosen style enhances** the natural elegance and movement of the dog.
- The transition between shorter and longer areas must be seamless, with no visible scissor marks.
- A natural finish is preferred, especially in breeds that require hand-stripping combined with thinning techniques.

Pure Breeds

- The dog's final groom must respect the breed standard and balance.
- The use of thinning shears and scissoring techniques will be judged based on smoothness and blending quality.

Doodles & Miscellaneous

- Judges will assess the **overall balance and evenness** of the trim.
- The groom should **enhance the dog's natural features** and complement its coat type.
- **Scissoring techniques must be smooth and precise**, with no visible lines or uneven areas.
- **Miscellaneous: Accuracy of transformation** → The final groom must **closely resemble the target breed's characteristics** (e.g., a Poodle groomed as a Bedlington should have correct head shape, ear placement, and body proportions).
- **Note:** Judges will consider both **technical execution** and **the overall transformation** when scoring.

Salon Freestyle Commercial Class

- Judges will **evaluate overall balance, symmetry, and technical execution**.
- The groom must be **practical, pet-friendly, and suitable for daily life**.
- **Scissoring and blending must be smooth**—no visible clipper lines.
- **Over-stylized or exaggerated shapes are not allowed** (e.g., extreme Asian styles).
- The final look should be **natural, short and commercially appealing**, not overly creative.

Diamond Jackpot Judging & Point System

- Scoring follows the **standard judging criteria** for the category entered.
- **Competition Point System:**
 - 🥇 **1st Place → 10 points**
 - 🥈 **2nd Place → 8 points**
 - 🥉 **3rd Place → 6 points**
 - **4th Place → 4 points**
 - **Participation → 1 point**
- **The Grand Winner (2027)** is the groomer with the highest total points.
- **Tie-breaker:** If two competitors have the same score, a **blind vote by previous judges** will decide the winner.

Dog Show Breed Standard Challenge

- **Judges will evaluate the dogs visually, without combing or touching them.**
- **Each dog must be walked briefly in the ring** to assess movement, balance, and adherence to breed-specific conformation.
- The groom must **follow the breed standard** as closely as possible.
- **Transparent scoring:** Judges must score openly and publicly, announcing their points in front of competitors and the audience.

Model Dog Asian Style

- Judges will evaluate technical execution and finishing.
- The chosen style must reflect the key characteristics of the Asian style (e.g., round faces, bell-shaped legs, soft ‘puppy’ expressions).
- Overall profile, symmetry, and creativity within the Asian grooming concept.
- Limited color use (max. 25% of the body) is allowed but must be well-integrated into the design.

Model Dog Creative

- Creativity and originality of the final design.
- Technical skill and precision of scissoring and styling techniques.
- Effective use of colors, accessories, and overall design elements.
- The groom must have a strong visual impact while maintaining harmony and balance.

7.3 Judging Process and Fairness Guidelines

- Groomania judges are permitted to discuss and exchange opinions regarding competitors' performances during the competition.

Purpose:

- Enhances the judging process by allowing for collaborative and well-rounded evaluation.
- Ensures that decisions are based on thorough deliberation and collective expertise.
- Helps maintain fairness and excellence in competition standards.

All judges remain committed to providing a fair, professional, and comprehensive assessment of each competitor.

8. Registration and Participation Conditions

8.1 Payment, Cancellations, and Media Consent

- **Payment is required before the deadline.** After the deadline, prices increase by 20%.
- **Cancellations or no-shows incur a €30 processing fee.**
- **Participants agree to allow the organizer to use their images (photo or video) for promotional purposes.**

8.2 Animal Welfare and Ethical Handling

At Groomania, we uphold the highest standards of **animal welfare**. All competitors are required to handle their dogs with **respect, patience, and kindness** throughout the competition.

- ✓ **Gentle and Professional Handling:** Competitors must treat their dogs **calmly and with care** at all times.
- ✓ **Comfort and Well-being First:** The dog's **physical and emotional welfare** must always be the **top priority**.
- ✓ **Regular Breaks & Hydration:** If a dog appears **stressed or tired**, competitors should allow **short breaks**. Water must always be available.
- ✓ **Positive Reinforcement:** Groomers should use **gentle encouragement and positive techniques** rather than forceful corrections.

Strictly Prohibited:

- ✗ **Harsh handling, excessive force, or intimidation of any kind.**
- ✗ **Forcing the dog into an uncomfortable position for prolonged periods.**
- ✗ **Any form of rough restraint that may cause stress or discomfort.**

◆ **The judges and competition organizers will actively monitor how dogs are handled.** Any action deemed stressful, harmful, or inappropriate may lead to:

- **Point deductions**

- **Disqualification**
- **Removal from the competition**

At its core, grooming is about **enhancing a dog's beauty while ensuring comfort, dignity, and well-being**. A true professional grooms with care, compassion, and expertise.

8.3 Team Registration

- Each team member must **register individually** for the competition on the Groomania website.
- Once all team members are registered, **one team member must send an email to info@groomania.be** with:
 - **The names of the team members.**
 - **The categories they are competing in.**
 - **The team name (e.g., "*The Hairy Groomers*")**
- Teams will receive a **confirmation email** with their **team number**.

8.3.1 How to Find a Team

- **Competitors who need teammates** can join the **Groomania Community page on Facebook** to connect with other participants.
- A **last-minute team** can also be **registered on-site on Saturday morning (before noon)**.

9. Competition Rules per Category and Class

9.1 General Grooming Rules

To ensure fairness and maintain high competition standards, all participants must adhere to the following grooming rules.

9.1.1 Coat Preparation and Hygiene

- All dogs must be washed and dried before the competition.
- Ears and nails must be groomed before the event.

- The underbelly, genitals, and sanitary areas may be trimmed beforehand for hygiene purposes, in accordance with breed standards.

9.1.2 Coat Growth Requirements

- A minimum of 8 weeks of coat growth is required before competing.
- Poodles must have at least 5 cm of coat length.
- Any evident lines or patterns from a previous groom are not allowed. The coat must be long enough to show a clear transformation after grooming.

9.1.3 Allowed Grooming Techniques

- All grooming techniques are permitted as long as they suit the coat type of the dog.
- If a competitor has concerns or questions, they must raise their hand and consult the president of the jury.
- Use of Guide Combs on Scissoring Coat Types at Groomania

At Groomania, **we allow the use of guide combs** (also called snap-on combs or universal combs) on all scissoring coat types and in all competition classes — including Beginners, Intermediate, Open, and Champion.

Why:

At Groomania, we believe grooming is an art form. Groomers sculpt each dog to enhance structure and create balance — sometimes giving the illusion of more angulation or a shorter back.

Guide combs (snap-on combs) are a valid tool to manage length and prepare the coat for scissoring. While they require skill and precision, their use is fully acceptable in all classes when they help achieve a smooth, balanced, and well-finished result.

As always, judges will focus on the quality of the final groom — not the tools used to achieve it.

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9.1.4 Safe Handling and Grooming Table Use

- The grooming arm and table loop are for safety purposes only and must not be overly tightened.
- Facial restraints using the grooming loop (e.g., pulling the muzzle up) are strictly prohibited.
- Soft and comfortable head and belly supports that fit the table are available to ensure dogs can rest comfortably while being groomed. Once in the ring, competitors may request them from the ring official, a judge, or the organizer.

- Any misuse of grooming equipment will be monitored by judges. Violations may result in penalties.

9.2 Category-Specific Rules

9.2.1 Handstripping Category Rules

9.2.1.1 Coat Preparation and Transformation

- A significant and clearly visible transformation must be evident between the dog's appearance before and after grooming.
- The dog's body coat may be maintained in good condition, but during pre-judging, the coat must clearly show distinct layers and proper length.

9.2.1.2 Allowed Grooming Techniques and Tools

- Stripping knives are allowed for handstripping breeds.
- Carding tools may be used to remove the undercoat, but only after handstripping is completed.
- Chalk powder, blocks, spray, and cream are allowed.
- Hair must be removed in the direction of coat growth to ensure no discomfort to the dog.

9.2.1.3 Clipper Use and Restrictions

- Clippers may only be used on specific areas for certain breeds:
 - Scottish Terrier – Chest, head, and ears.
 - West Highland White Terrier – Chest and ears.
 - Cockers and Setters – Chest and ears.
 - Schnauzer – Chest, head, inside of back legs, and ears.
- If clippers are used to shave soft coat areas (head, ears, front of neck, inside of back legs), the clipper work must be smooth and blend naturally with the furnishings or feathering rather than stand out.

9.2.1.4 Eligibility and Competition Requirements

- All dogs must be groomed according to the breed standard.

- Breeds that require handstripping but lack the correct coat texture for this technique are not eligible for the Handstripping Class and should instead be entered in the Commercial Class, where clipping, thinning, or scissoring is allowed.
- The feathering on the legs, head furnishings (e.g., Westie and similar breeds), and the beard of long-legged terriers must not show any pre-shaping or preparation before the competition.
- All styling and shaping must be done during the competition.

9.2.2 Spaniels & Setters Category Rules

- The chosen style must enhance the natural elegance and movement of the dog.
- Seamless blending between short and long areas is required.
- A natural finish is preferred, especially for hand-stripped breeds combined with thinning techniques.

9.2.3 Poodles Category Rules

9.2.3.1 Coat Preparation

- Poodles must be washed and fluff-dried before the competition.
- The muzzle, feet, stomach, and tail may be clipped before the competition.

9.2.3.2 Grooming Style and Techniques

- Poodles must be groomed in a style recognized by the breed standard.
- The quality of clipper work will be evaluated, ensuring a smooth finish with no visible tufts around the lips, eyes, feet, or tail.

9.2.3.3 Time Allowance for Topknots

- Poodles with topknots may request 15 extra minutes for finishing.
- During this time, an assistant may hold the dog, but the competitor must continue working with scissors.

9.2.3.4 Prohibited Practices

- **Coloring is NOT allowed.**

9.2.4 Pure Breeds Category Rules

- The final groom must respect the breed standard and proper balance.
- The use of thinning shears and scissoring techniques will be judged based on blending and smoothness.

9.2.5 Beginners Class

- A two-part competition focused on education and skill-building.
- The morning session includes a competition, and one winner will be selected from each category.
- Only non-finalists proceed to the second part, which is free of charge, the Après Groom Workshop, where they refine their techniques.

◆ Beginners may compete with dogs from any of the four official categories:

- Handstripping
- Spaniels & Setters
- Poodles
- Pure Breeds

9.2.6 Intermediate Class

◆ Intermediate participants may compete with dogs from any of the four official categories:

- Handstripping
- Spaniels & Setters
- Poodles
- Pure Breeds

9.2.7 Doodles & Miscellaneous Class

The **Doodles & Miscellaneous Class** is open to all **Doodle breeds, mixed breeds requiring scissoring techniques, and dogs groomed to resemble another breed (breed transformation).**

Eligible Breeds & Transformations

- **Doodle breeds** (Goldendoodle, Labradoodle, Cockapoo, Bernedoodle, etc.).
- **Other mixed breeds** requiring full-body scissoring.
- **Dogs groomed to resemble a different breed** (e.g., a Poodle styled as a Bichon Frisé or a Bedlington Terrier).

Grooming Style & Techniques

- Full-body scissoring is expected—clippers may only be used for sanitary trims and paw pads.
- The groom must be **balanced, symmetrical, and smooth**, enhancing the dog's structure.
- Transformations should be as **accurate as possible** to the target breed's appearance.

9.2.8 Salon Freestyle Commercial Class

The Salon Freestyle Commercial Class is open to both **purebred and mixed-breed dogs**, focusing on **commercial salon grooming techniques** rather than breed-standard trims.

- **Final groom must look professional and suitable for a pet salon.**
- **Not allowed:** Coloring, Asian styles, accessories, or breed-standard conformation trims.
- **Common breeds include:** Yorkshire Terriers, Maltese, Lhasa Apsos, Shih Tzus, Terriers, Schnauzers, and Cocker Spaniels.

Hand-stripping breeds may be clipped, scissored, or done with blenders to achieve a short commercial style.

9.3 Special Competitions and Team Classes

9.3.1 Team Competition


- Each team must have one member competing in each of the four official categories:
 - Handstripping
 - Pure Breeds

- Spaniels & Setters
- Poodles
- Competitors may be from different experience levels (Open or Champion Class).
- Teams may consist of members from different countries (mixed-country teams are allowed).
- The team that earns the most points across all four categories wins.
- **Tie-breaker:** If two teams have the same score, the judges will make the final decision.

9.3.2 It Takes 2 to Groom

- A freestyle competition where two groomers work on the same dog at the same time.
- Judging is based on:
 - Coordination and teamwork.
 - Technical execution (scissoring techniques and balance).
- Matching outfits and accessories are encouraged but not required.
- The winners receive the **Best Grooming Couple Trophy**.

9.3.3 The Asian Style Class

- Judged based on:
 - Asian grooming aesthetics.
 - Creative expression.
 - Technical execution (scissoring techniques, balance, and finishing).
- Accessories such as bows, ribbons, decorative collars, and clothing are encouraged. However:
 - Accessories must be applied **during the competition time**.
 - Grooming work must remain **visible at all times**.
- All breeds and sizes can enter, but dogs must be styled into a typical **Asian grooming look** (round faces, conical legs, short-bodied proportions).
-  **WARNING:** Coloring and painting are **not permitted in Belgium by law**.

9.3.4 The Diamond Jackpot Class

- Open to competitors in **any official category** (*Handstripping, Poodles, Spaniels & Setters, Pure Breeds Scissoring*).
- **Grooming time limits follow official category rules.**
- Competitors must **participate in at least one Diamond Jackpot event per year** to stay eligible.

Why Compete?

- ✓ **Prestige & Recognition** – Compete against the **world’s best groomers**.
- ✓ **Life-Changing Prizes** – Win **cash rewards and the €15,000 grand prize**.
- ✓ **Skill Mastery** – Improve and refine grooming techniques over three years.
- ✓ **Global Network** – Meet top groomers worldwide and build industry connections.

Timeline:



2025 – Competition debuts at Groomania & Mastergroom Canada.



2026 – Second year, adding more competitors to the leaderboard.



2027 – **Grand Winner crowned at Groomania, winning €15,000.**

9.3.5 Dog Show Breed Standard Challenge

- **Eligible Participants:** Open to breeders, handlers, groomers, and dog show enthusiasts who want to showcase their grooming and presentation skills.
- **One Unified Class:** Participants from Handstripping, Spaniels & Setters, Poodles, and Other Pure Breeds Scissoring compete together in one class.
- **No Additional Time:** Grooming time is the same as in the regular competition, with no extra allowance.
- **Judging Based on Appearance Only:** Judges will evaluate the dogs visually, without combing or touching them, assessing how well the grooming adheres to the breed standard.
- **Movement Assessment:** Each dog must be walked briefly in the ring to assess presentation, movement, balance, and adherence to breed-specific conformation.
- **Minimum Coat Length Requirement:** Unlike other grooming competition classes, dogs must have at least 3 weeks of coat growth before the competition. The coat should be long

enough to allow a distinct breed-standard groom, but 8 weeks of growth is not required for participation.

- **Transparent Scoring:** Judges must score openly and publicly, announcing their points in front of competitors and the audience for full transparency.
- **Three Winners:** The top three participants will be awarded 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place based on final scores.
- **Not Eligible for Best in Show:** This class does not count towards the Best in Show title or progression to other competition classes.

Participants are permitted to use the following products and materials during the competition:

- Hair Spray – Allowed for styling purposes.
- Hair Extensions – Permitted as long as they match the natural texture and color of the dog's coat.
- Chalk & Coloring Products – The use of chalk, temporary color sprays, and other similar products is allowed for enhancing the coat's appearance.

This class is dedicated to those passionate about **presenting their dogs at the highest level of breed standard grooming and showcasing their expertise in a true dog show presentation format.**

9.3.6 Salon Freestyle Commercial Class


Competition Rules:

- **Open to Purebreed and mixed-breed dogs** styled using **salon grooming techniques.**
- **Final look must be a well-groomed, commercial pet trim**—suitable for everyday clients.
- **Not allowed:**
 - ✗ Coloring
 - ✗ Asian styles
 - ✗ Accessories
 - ✗ Breed-standard conformation trims
- **Allowed techniques:**
 - ✓ Clipping, scissoring, blending
 - ✓ Short commercial-style trims

✓ Hand-stripping breeds may be clipped, scissored, or done with blenders

- • **Eligible breeds:** day to day breeds we see in the salon like Yorkshire Terriers, Maltese, Lhasa Apso, Shih Tsu, Terriers, Schnauzers, Cocker Spaniels, poodles and similar dogs.

9.3.7 Old Goldies Reunion Invitational

- This **invitation-only competition** is for **Groomania's former champions and active judges**, celebrating **lifelong excellence in grooming**.
- **Competition Format:**
- ✓ Participants must groom a dog in **one of the four official categories** (*Handstripping, Spaniels & Setters, Poodles, or Pure Breeds Scissoring*).
- ✓ Grooming time follows **standard competition limits** (See **Section 6.8**).
- ✓ **Not eligible for Best in Show** – This event is for **recognition, not competition**.
- **Awards & Recognition:**
-  **Lifetime Achievement Award for the winner.**
-  **Golden Groomania Groomer Certificate for all participants.**
- **Please see point 6.8.1 for the extended time for this class**

9.3.8 Model Dog Asian Style

Objective: This class is designed to create a traditional Asian look on a model dog, focusing on techniques such as Asian Fusion grooming.

Rules:

- The model dog must be unaltered at the start of the competition; any prior trimming or styling is not allowed.
- The groom must reflect key characteristics of the Asian style, such as round or square faces, bell-shaped legs, and an overall 'puppy' appearance.
- Allowed techniques: Use of scissors, clippers, and combs is permitted. Minimal coloring is allowed, provided it covers no more than 25% of the body.

Judging Criteria:

- Technical execution and finishing
- Profile and expression
- Difficulty level of the chosen style
- Professionalism and conduct during the competition

9.3.9 Model Dog Creative

Objective: This class is intended to showcase creativity and artistic talent through innovative styles and techniques on a model dog.

Rules:

- The model dog must be unaltered at the start of the competition; any prior trimming or styling is not allowed.
- There are no restrictions on style; participants are encouraged to unleash their creativity, including the use of colors, accessories, and unique designs.
- Allowed techniques: All grooming techniques are permitted, along with the use of safe dyes and accessories.

Judging Criteria:

- Creativity and originality
- Technical skill and finishing
- Use of color and accessories
- Overall impact and presentation

9.4 Competition End Procedures

9.4.1 Final Presentation and Cleanup

- Contestants must **clean up their grooming stations** after finishing.
- A **comb must be placed on the grooming table** for final judging.
- Dogs must be **stacked properly** for presentation.

9.4.2 Judging Process

- Judges will evaluate based on **transformation, technique, and finishing quality**.
- If two dogs are competing and one displays a more distinct transformation, the dog with the most noticeable change will receive preference in judging.

9.4.3 Problem Resolution During the Competition

- If a competitor **encounters any issues or concerns**, they should **raise their hand for assistance**.
- Any judge may provide guidance, but the **final decision** is made by the **organizer and the president of the jury**.

