



The SAQG bestows the honour of Master Quilter status to quilters who comply with the criteria as laid down in the SA National Quilt Competitions and the guidelines for SA National Quilt Festivals.

A Master Quilter is defined as a quilter who, at the SA National Quilt Competition, has won a Best of Show Award or a First Prize in one of the core categories: Standard Bed Quilt, Standard Wall Quilt: Traditional, Standard Wall Quilt: Art Pictorial, Standard Wall Quilt: Art/Fibre Art, and until 2015: Contemporary, Traditional, Innovative and Freestyle.

In the SA National Quilt Competitions, quilters who are Master Quilters are restricted to enter work into the Master categories where there is a distinction between Standard and Master.

In the past months, time was spent on reviewing and analyzing the Master Quilter criteria and the discussion and subsequent conclusion is that the definition and criteria would be refined in order to:

- Clarify the criteria and any restrictions concerning entries submitted in the NQF Master categories;
- To maintain the high standard and quality of work entered in Master categories;
- To bestow the honour of Master Quilter to those who comply and achieve Master Quilter status.

The SAQG is committed to fine-tuning the Master Quilter criteria and making necessary adjustments. In future Master Quilter status will be differentiated between Traditional Master Quilter and Art Master Quilter, relating to the category in which it was awarded.

SAQG determined that it could not be maintained that quilters who had been awarded Master Quilter status in a Traditional category could (must) logically enter quilts in a Master Art category and visa-versa, so the following provisions will be implemented for SA National Quilt Festival 2026:

1. A quilter who has won a Best of Show Award, and or won First Prize in BOTH Traditional and Art categories, must enter the Master categories for both Traditional and Art, when there is a Master distinction.
2. A quilter who obtained Master Quilter status in a Traditional/Innovative/Contemporary category must enter quilts in Traditional categories when there is a Master distinction. Traditional Master Quilters cannot enter Art Master categories; they must enter Art Standard categories.
3. A quilter who obtained Master Quilter status in an Art/Free Style category must enter quilts in an Art category when there is a Master distinction. Art Master Quilters cannot enter Traditional Master categories; they must enter Traditional Standard categories.

Should there be any queries or comments regarding Master Quilters status from those quilters who compete in our National Competitions - Master Quilters as well as Standard entrants, please address these in writing to Paul Schutte (SAQG representative for Judging and Competitions) – paul.schutte@nwu.ac.za on or before **27 October 2023**.

Thereafter SAQG will finalize the definition of, and Rules and Criteria pertaining to Master Quilter status.