

AAA AUSTRALIAN HAIR FASHION AWARDS

2025/2026



CREATIVE
CATEGORY

GLOBAL
HAIRDRESSER
OF THE YEAR

RULES AND CRITERIA

AHFA Global Hairdresser of the Year

This award recognises and celebrates the artistry and skill of hairdressing professionals from around the world. To be crowned the Global Hairdresser of the Year, hairdressers must demonstrate exceptional creativity, technical excellence, and conceptual storytelling through their hairstyle designs. The winner will be identified as a worthy international leader for Hair Fashion on a world stage, as a result of their unrivalled 'newness' in creativity and outstanding execution.

Submission into Global Hairdresser of the Year must include a collection of four (4) photographs showcasing four (4) different looks. You may use a combination of male and/or female models in your collection; however, a minimum of four (4) models must be used. The collection should look to present conceptual consistency, strong technical execution, and versatility with regards to hairdressing skills and techniques.

Each entrant is only permitted to submit one entry in this category. Entrants in this category may also enter other categories, provided all entries meet the relevant Category Rules & Criteria.

ENTRY ELIGIBILITY

Entrants must be fully qualified hairdressers, for a minimum of 10 years, from any country around the world, with the exception of Hairdressers in Australia and New Zealand who are NOT eligible to enter this category - please refer to the other categories open to entry for these two countries.

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

This checklist is EVERYTHING that is required from you in order to successfully submit your completed entry on the online AHFA Awards Platform:

1. **4 x Collection Jpeg Images in High Res** (max file size 20MB per image) - Please upload these in the order of 1-4, naming them like the following example without your name in the file names:

- HighRes_1
- HighRes_2

2. The same **4 x Collection Jpeg Images in Low Res** (max file size 5MB per image) - Please upload these in the order of 1-4, naming them like the following example without your name in the file names:

- LowRes_1
- LowRes_2

3. **Press Kit** as a PDF Document (up to 3 pages - max file size 10MB) which includes:
(Please note, Press Kits are not for judging purposes)

- 1 x Cover/Bio Page detailing the entrant's full name, salon name, category being entered, email address, contact number and social media handles
- Any career highlights, experiences, and accolades, including achievement dates

4. **1 x High Res PR / Headshot of Entrant**

5. **Collection credits** (You will be providing this in the SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS TAB on the AHFA Awards Platform - a text box has been labelled for you to copy and paste your answer directly into your entry). Collection credits should include:

- Your Name
- Collection Name
- Stylist/Colourist (if required)
- Photographer
- Makeup Artist
- Fashion Stylist
- Model (add as necessary)
- Any other credits

6. **Statutory Declaration (Stat Dec)** - this is an online form you will complete on the Awards Platform to confirm (no printing required):

- All work is original, accurate, and meets category criteria
- Permissions from models, photographers, and contributors are secured where relevant

TIP: If you are having trouble compressing your PDF document to fit the max file size upload, below is a great free tool for instantly compressing PDFs:

https://www.ilovepdf.com/compress_pdf

Please ensure you read this entire document which covers ALL the Rules and Criteria specific to this category.

RULES

1) AWARDS PERIOD

The 2025/2026 Australian Hair Fashion Awards (AHFA) Awards Periods are:

Creative and Business Categories: 26th July 2024 to 18th August 2025

Product Categories: 26th July 2024 to 7th July 2025

All images and/or video, and/or content submitted/referenced in your entry **MUST** have been created during the above applicable Awards Period.

2) RESIDENCY AND PRACTICE REQUIREMENT

Entrants in Global Hairdresser of the Year can have lived and worked as a hairdresser **anywhere in the world**, with the exception of Australia and New Zealand. If you reside in Australia or New Zealand, please refer to all the other categories available to you.

****If you are unsure about whether you meet the criteria above - please enquire with the AHFA Awards team.**

3) VISIBILITY

Unlike most other AHFA Creative Categories, collections submitted for the Category of Global Hairdresser of the Year **ARE** able to have been published in any prior format; this includes consumer or trade media, any other awards competition, or via any personal or business platforms, social media, PR, marketing promotion or advertising. Please note however that the Collection must have been created during the AHFA Awards Period.

4) DIGITAL SUBMISSIONS

All Creative Category submissions into the Australian Hair Fashion Awards are digital only. Entrants are not required to print and submit their physical collection/s.

All entries into the 2025/6 Australian Hair Fashion Awards must be submitted through the Awards Platform, available via www.australianhairfashionawards.com

5) DIGITAL IMAGE SPECIFICATIONS

Your collection must be submitted in A4 Portrait Format Only and provided in two digital image formats:

4 x High Res jpeg image (up to 20MB per image)

4 x Low Res jpeg image (up to 5MB per image)

RULES

All images must be named using the following format:

Highres_number e.g. highres_1

Lowres_number e.g. lowres_1

All digital images must be submitted through our Awards Platform, available via www.australianhairfashionawards.com

6) STATUTORY DECLARATION

You will find this section as a simple online form pre-loaded on the Awards Platform **(no printing required)**. As you go through the process of completing your entry, you will be directed to sign and submit it online. You will be confirming that all work, details, and materials submitted as part of your entry are your original work and are true and accurate, and meet the specific criteria for the category/s you are entering. It also includes your confirmation that you have the appropriate permissions from models, photographers and any other suppliers that have contributed to your entry.

**Please note that your entry is not valid until this online form has been completed.*

7) HAIR ENHANCEMENT

Wigs, wefts, hairpieces, and hair extensions are permitted for use, however, please note that the judging criterion is heavily based on realistic presentation including believable formation and movement of the hair.

8) COLOUR WORK

A hairdresser may enter a collection where he/she has completed the cutting and styling, and another hairdresser has completed the colour work, however the colourist's name must be included within the credits. Please note, the entry will be attributed to the hairdresser (who performed the cutting and styling) only.

9) BEFORE SHOT REQUIREMENTS

A before shot of each model featured within the collection must be available (if specifically requested by judges), in JPG or PNG format, to allow judges to observe the creation process. Smartphone shots are an acceptable format.

RULES

10) MODEL SPECIFICATION

You may use a combination of male and/or female models in your collection, however an individual model may only be used once within the collection. Therefore, a minimum of four (4) models must be used in your collection of four (4) images.

11) JUDGING

Global Hairdresser of the Year is judged by a select group of local Australian and New Zealand Hair leaders and icons.

Judges are provided with category descriptions as the key criteria to base their decisions.

12) FINALISTS ANNOUNCEMENT

For details on the Finalist Announcement, please see information coming soon at: www.australianhaifashionawards.com

13) RELEASING YOUR COLLECTION FOR PUBLICATION

Whilst we understand some or all of your collection may have been released prior to entry, we ask that you do not publicise what you are specifically entering as your AHFA Collection until after the Finalist Announcement has been made.

A representation of all finalist collections will be published on www.thejournalmag.com once finalists are announced.

Non-finalists' collections may also be published across M Division digital platforms after the Finalist Announcement.

14) REQUIREMENTS FOR FINALISTS AND WINNERS

Across all internal and external communications, publicity, marketing, and PR, AHFA finalists and winners must include the year of their award alongside their title.

E.g. Richi Grisillo - 2024 AHFA Australian Hairdresser of the Year.

This rule is set to respect all winners and finalists.

RULES

15) COPY OF YOUR WORK

Please note that all collections and information submitted become property of The Australian Hair Fashion Awards / M Division Pty Ltd. Entrants are advised to keep personal copies of their entries.

16) ENTRY FEES

Entry into the Global Hairdresser of the Year Category is \$AUD150 (ex gst) per entry, which is payable upon successfully submitting your entry on the AHFA Awards Platform.

17) ENTRY DEADLINE

Please refer to www.australianhairfashionawards.com for the entry deadlines.

In rare cases, a deadline extension may be considered – please apply by emailing info@mdivision.com.au with your reason for extension clearly stipulated in your email. Please note that extensions can be difficult to grant due to judging timelines already being confirmed with our busy Judging Panel. If an extension is possible, it is unlikely to be more than a few days extra.

*The AHFA have the right to make adjustments to the above Rules and Criteria if they deem it to be in the best interest of entrants and the integrity that these Awards stand for. We will make all reasonable attempts to inform you of these changes.

For any further general information or questions regarding entry into this category, please email christelle@mdivision.com.au