



2025 STANDARDS PER CLASSIFICATION

Classification VIII – Beadwork and Quillwork

Judging in this Classification will evaluate the source and quality of materials used, as well as the combination of form, design, and technique.

The *traditional* category is meant to encourage artists working within tribal traditions and with traditional materials.

The *contemporary* category is meant to encourage artists to utilize innovations from conception through fabrication.

In 2023, we implemented the “Boundary” Category within each division. This Category is designed to give jurors and Class Managers more options when looking at pieces that do not necessarily conform to already existing Categories but use the same techniques and materials.

1. Allowed

a. Materials

- i. Both Traditional and Contemporary Categories
 1. Purchased glass beads
 2. Commercially processed hides
 3. Traditionally processed hides

2. Allowed with Disclosure

a. Materials

- i. Nickel and brass beads not made by the artist
- ii. Rhinestones
- iii. Commercially produced objects that are transformed by the hand application of beadwork or quill work. Examples include but are not limited to:
 1. Tennis shoes
 2. Bottles

- iv. Findings
 - 1. Defined as “an ingredient part of the finished product that adapts the product for wearing or use.”
 - 2. Examples include but are not limited to functioning:
 - a. Jump rings
 - b. Earring backs
 - c. Clasps
 - d. Barrette clips
 - e. Money clips
 - f. Hooks and eyes
 - g. Single bead/cone combination to finish ends (for shell and beadmakers)
- v. Stands are allowed but must be:
 - a. Plain
 - b. Functional
 - c. Unembellished

3. Not Allowed

a. Materials

- i. Manufactured or non-Indian made die struck metal charms, buttons or conchos used for ornamental purposes
- ii. Commercially beaded and manufactured items
- iii. Plastic or synthetic materials. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - 1. Beads
 - 2. Buttons
 - 3. Hair
 - 4. Hairpipe
 - 5. Polymer clay (e.g. Sculpey)
- iv. An exception is made if elements are being used with historical/traditional accuracy

Division Descriptions

Division A: Articles of Attire.

Division B: Dolls and Soft Sculptures (Dolls and soft sculpture WITHOUT a predominance of beadwork and/or quillwork go in VII-2803)

Division C: Other Items, Non-attire.

Important Reminders:

1. Special consideration will be given to pieces for which the artist created the materials.
2. All decorative stone, shell or metal elements, including beads, as well as all feathers and animal materials must be properly identified and comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations.
3. All attached materials including buttons, collar tabs, beads, leather, and tin tinklers must be properly identified and comply with the Jewelry Classification standards.

Classification VIII – Beadwork and Quillwork Judging Divisions and Categories

Division	Category
A: Articles of Attire	2901: Beaded Clothing: Nonwoven (except moccasins)
	2902: Moccasins
	2903: Accessories (including coordinated sets) Dance Attire
	2904: Jewelry; Bracelets, Earrings, Headbands etc.

2905: Boundary (“Gray area art”,
Classification transfer possible)

B: Dolls and Soft Sculpture
(Dolls and soft sculpture
without a predominance of
beadwork and/or quillwork go
in VII-2803)

3001: Plains Style Dolls and Soft
Sculptures with a predominance of
beadwork and quillwork

3002: Southwestern Style Dolls
with a predominance of beadwork

3003: Boundary (“Gray area art”,
Classification transfer possible)

C: Other Items, Non-Attire

3101: Contemporary Beadwork
and/or Quillwork, Any Form

3102: Cradleboards

3103: Boundary (“Gray area art”,
Classification transfer possible)