

THE GREAT MELVILLE SPIN OFF

Competition Rules for the Melville Woodturners Spinning Top Competition



The Object is to Design and Construct a top that which will continue to spin for the longest possible time after it has been set in motion.

Rules

1. The “Judges” decision is final!

2. No spitting, gouging, head butting, complaining, whinging, or crying is allowed!!!
3. The competition is open and free to all members of the Melville Woodturners Group.
4. The object is to spin the top and keep it spinning in the vertical axis.
5. The competition will be based on the longest time for an individual spin.
6. Gyroscopes, commercial tops, and pre-existing structures are not allowed.
7. All tops must be submitted to the Judges for inspection and ‘passed suitable’ before entry to the competition.
8. If a top does not pass inspection, the top may be re-submitted for approval after modification.
9. The Judges reserve the right to penalize or disqualify any entry.
10. Un-sportsman like conduct e.g. interfering with another top by mechanical (touching, pushing), vibration (jumping up and down), wind (blowing it over) or use of light sabre including laser pointer or heat destruction device, etc., will mean instant disqualification from competition
11. A competitor may designate a ‘spinner’ (another member) for his entry.
12. Once the top is in motion, no additional energy may be added to it.
13. All tops must spin on the floor, or designated table (No foreign substances on the top, floor, or table).
14. The top must spin about a point on which it will not balance unsupported when not spinning.
15. No part of the body of the top can touch the ground when spinning, apart from the (wood or metal) tip.
16. Timing begins when the spinner is no longer in contact with the top, directly or indirectly, and ends when any part, other than its point, contacts the floor. In the case of the “tippe top” it must invert and the timer stops when it “falls” from the inverted position.

17. A top, especially tippe tops, that does not fall over on its own, when it stops spinning will have that trial disqualified. Should it fail to “fall over” two times in a row the top will be completely disqualified
18. Tops shall be made of wood, no other materials allowed, apart from the spin pin tip, which may be of metal.
19. The use of another competitors’ pull mechanism and/or starting blocks is not permitted
20. There are three categories of competition:
 - a. Hand Spinning – finger twirl or palm push/pull.
 - b. Mechanical - by pulling a string coiled around the body, or by means of an auger (spiral plunger).
 - c. Tippe top - the top flips over into a stable vertical rotation on the stem.
21. **The string/ rope/ whip is to be no more than 65 cm in length.**
22. All top spins will be timed and ranked accordingly.
23. The competitor with the longest spin time, in the said category, is the winner.
24. A competitor can enter up to two tops in each category.
25. Each top is allowed two spins maximum.
26. The competitors should be ready to throw as soon as their turn comes. Excessive delays can forfeit the throw by decision of the judges.
27. All tops to be donated to the “Christmas Toys for Charities”.
28. **The “Judges” decision is final!**

The Judges shall be:

- **Three Appointed on the day**

Nonparticipants may be called upon to act as “Timers”.