

## **The Ursa Major Awards**

These awards have long felt to me like they defeat the purpose of their invention rather than promoting quality and are not based on merit, with nomination and voting open to the public.

A person can win an Ursa while being on staff for the awards, which I feel is a direct conflict of interest and such a person should not be eligible or be required to stand down for consideration of their work for an award.

Self-published work is allowable with no peer review and no quality control. Given the nature of self publishing, there is nothing at all preventing anyone from publishing anything, regardless of content, subject, quality, etc. While I acknowledge self publishing can be good, there is no measureable criteria such as minimum sales or required to be published by at least one outside party not directly responsible for the work itself.

Nomination and voting are open to the public, meaning that anyone can do either without even having read the work or having any experience of their own with the field in question.

If a nominee one has enough fan appreciation, can hold the award ad infinitum, a factor that stimulated Kyell Gold to remove himself from consideration of his own volition, an act of remarkable class.

Additionally, while the Hugo, Coyotl, and Nebula awards have their own, the Ursa Majors does not have any obvious rules for the group's operation or eligibility of works beyond the length requirements.

## **The Coyotl Awards**

These awards were stimulated by the members of the Furry Writers Guild, a group of proven writers that have had their work published in both paying and non paying venues relying on external review and feedback.

Self published work is allowable as long as it at one point has been published through a FWG approved venue.

Nomination and voting are open to the members, people with both the experience and likely having read or discussed the work with the author at some point.

The much debated and discussed rules reached by group consensus are listed here.  
<http://coyotlawards.org/rules/>