

## **Section VII - GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING**

### **I. Team Composition & Protocol**

Each Judging Team will be composed of a group of 19WOC judges as assigned by the Executive Judging Committee. The Judging Team will work as a unit throughout the judging process.

Included in the Judging Team are the Judges, the Clerk/Judge and the Team Captain. All team members are encouraged to participate in discussion, and all may vote (by voice or show of hands) for the awarding of ribbons, trophies and higher-level trophy nominations, with the exception of the Team Captain who will vote only in the case of a tie. Each team member carries one vote and a simple majority will determine the outcome of voting.

For the nomination of 19WOC medals, the Clerk/Judge will not vote.

In all cases, the Clerk/Judge will assist the Judging Team by documenting judging results on the forms provided for that purpose. The Clerk/Judge will also place 19WOC Ribbons as they are awarded by the team.

The Team Captain will oversee all team activities and be ultimately responsible for the documentation of the results and placement of ribbons and trophies.

As judging progresses, all Judges on the team will sign the cover sheet of each judging “packet” assigned to the Team.

Results must be approved and signed by the appropriate Section Chairman prior to dismissal of the Judging Team.

#### **A. Conflict of Interest**

No judge may participate in the evaluation of an entry in which he or she has a commercial or personal interest, e.g. ownership, creation of a hybrid, participated in creating a display, etc. Nor may a judge participate in the evaluation of an entry if, by that participation, other individuals might conclude that the judge might derive personal benefit as a result of the selection.

A Judge should voluntarily remove himself, or herself, temporarily from team participation on entries for which there is a conflict of interest by notifying the Team Captain. They should remain nearby, however, and promptly rejoin the Team when voting for the entry in question has been concluded.

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## II. Finding Your Entries

Each Judging Team will receive one or more judging “packets” including the necessary forms to complete judging for a particular section of the Show Schedule. Included will be a listing of all entries in a particular class which is to be judged.

ALL entries will be judged and NOTHING will be judged that has not been entered.

Each entry will be listed by Entry Number and will be further identified by name (where appropriate) and by Location Number. Each team will be provided with a map of the show layout to assist in locating the entries.

In most cases, displays are located in numerical sequence throughout the hall. The general Location Number scheme used for 19WOC is:

- Floor Displays: Numbers less than 100, e.g. 13, 14, 15 (designated E on the map)
- Tabletop Displays: Numbers in series 100, e.g. 101, 102, 103 (designated T or TT on the map)
- Wardian Cases: Numbers in series 200, e.g. 201, 202 (designated WC on the map)
- Wall Displays: Numbers in the series 400, e.g. 401, 402 (designated F on the map – these are located upstairs)
- Individual Entries and Basket Arrangements: Numbers in the series 900, with individual plant entries using location 900 and basket arrangements using 901, 902, etc.

## III. Procedures

### A. Ribbons

Ribbons will be awarded for the entries deemed to be the most outstanding in each class as follows:

- Blue Ribbon – First Place
- Red Ribbon – Second Place
- White Ribbon – Third Place

Ribbons will be awarded to the entry in each class, as shown on the form provided, that is deemed to be the highest quality as compared to the other entries in that class.

Ribbons should not be withheld unless there are no entries in a class. Ribbons should not be duplicated, i.e. there will be only ONE Blue Ribbon, ONE Red Ribbon and ONE White Ribbon presented in each class.

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Classes may not be sub-divided by the Judging Team. However, if the Judging Team believes that sub-division of a class is warranted, there are at least 5 entries in each resulting sub-class, and there is a logical division (color, type, size, etc) then the Team Captain may request sub-division from the Executive Judging Committee. Such a request must be made by the Team Captain to the Section Chair for approval and then submitted to the Executive Judging Committee.

The Judging Team may immediately disqualify incorrectly labeled entries. The Judging Team will not reclassify any entry. If the team feels that a plant is incorrectly merits further evaluation, the Team Captain should discuss the team's justification with the Judging Committee.

## B. Trophies

Trophies will be presented to the single best entry in a group of classes. There are two types of trophies for 19WOC:

- Best in Class Trophies (smaller)
- Best in Show Trophies (larger)

The criteria for eligibility for a particular trophy is defined in Section VIII, Schedule of Classes, of this document.

When all entries eligible for a particular trophy are assigned to one team, that Judging Team will select the trophy winner. This selection will be ratified by the Section Chairman.

When trophy eligibility spans more than one Judging Team, each Team will propose a nomination for the trophy, in writing, on the form provided and this nomination will be escalated to the next phase of judging.

## C. Medals

Unlike ribbon and trophy selection described above, Medals are presented to entries which are judged to rate well when compared to an ideal or perfect example of type.

There are three types of 19WOC Medals available for presentation:

- Gold Medal, representing 90 - 100 percent
- Silver Medal, representing 80 – 89 percent
- Bronze Medal, representing 70 – 79 percent

Judging Teams will make nominations for 19WOC Medals **from within their assigned entries**. These nominations will be submitted to the

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Section Chairman for ratification and will be then be placed (in the form of a medal ribbon) by the Clerk/Judge and Team Captain.

In determining to make a nomination for a Medal, each Team member (except the student or trainee Clerk/Judge who will not participate) should make an assessment as to which Medal he or she would present. The Team judgment Discussion will be directed by the Team Captain, who will make the final decision if the Team is equally divided in opinion.

D. Recording & Submitting Results

As each Judging Team proceeds with evaluation of it's assigned entries, results will be recorded **clearly, legibly and accurately** by the Clerk/Judge on the form(s) provided. The results should be carefully reviewed by the Team Captain.

All members of the Judging Team must sign the cover sheet of the Team's Judging Packet, which will then be submitted for ratification to the Section Chairman.

The Section Chairman will, in turn, approve the results by signing the cover sheet and submit appropriate results to the Executive Judging Committee for entering into the computer database. The Section Chairman will, at this time, segregate any judging forms which are to be used in the next judging phase.

E. Dispute Resolution

Differences of opinion, or disputes, that may arise during the judging process should be resolved by the Team Captain, with escalation to the Section Chairman if needed. Any dispute which can not be resolved by the Section Chair may be submitted to the Executive Judging Committee.

F. Section Chairman Authority

The Section Chairman will have the final responsibility for all judging that takes place within his or her Section. He (or she) **MUST** validate and approve all award results within the Section, lead the Phase Two Judging Team comprised of former Team Captains, and participate in the Phase Three Judging Team.

The Section Chairman may make suggestions to the Judging Teams within his/her Section but may not reverse any of their decisions without their agreement, or the authorization of the Judging Committee.

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The Section Chairman may present Medal nominations, in addition to those submitted by his or her Team(s) to the Executive Judging Committee for entries within the Section.

The Section Chairman is responsible for the general operation of judging within the Section and may balance work load by reassigning classes within his/her teams, may request dismissal of individuals that may be holding up team activities, and must assure the timely progress of the Teams.

G. Judging Principles

The following general guidelines are presented for use of the 19WOC judges.

1. Displays

Orchid Displays, of all sizes, should be evaluated primarily on the basis of their aesthetic appeal and the display of high quality orchids. There are no restrictions on the use of lighting or props in these displays, other than a prohibition against colored lighting on orchid flowers, but Judges should be careful to recognize the degree that lighting or props have been used.

Designs should be well balanced, with all elements in scale, and presented in a manner to best display the orchid flowers.

Educational Displays should be evaluated on their content and clarity of presentation. There should be a clear message to the public in an Educational display.

2. Orchid Flowers

Orchid flowers should be evaluated based on their type and parentage (for hybrids). Flowers should be well balanced, colors and markings clear, and presentation appealing. The number of flowers and size of blooms are additional factors to be considered.

All orchid flowers must be in good condition for judging; however, judges should disregard nominal damage to flowers that may be attributed to "damage in transit."

Plants or flowers that are obviously diseased or crippled should be disqualified. While "grooming" of flowers to achieve the best presentation is encouraged, over manipulation should be considered a negative factor.

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3. Specimen and Foliage Plants

When evaluating specimen plant and plants grown for decorative foliage, a primary consideration in addition to the visual appeal, will be the condition of the plant. Missing or damaged leaves or bulbs, uneven or poorly presented growth should be deemed negative factors.

Specimen plants should also be well-bloomed. The specific quality of the individual blooms is not of particular consideration.

Made-up plants will not be considered as specimen plants.