

MID-AMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS

SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

Revised July 2018

The Mid-America Show Rules and regulations have been developed by members of the Show Schedule Committee of the Mid-America Orchid Congress. It is reviewed annually and revised as needed. These rules should be used at orchid shows hosted by member societies of the Congress, and must be used at shows held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Congress.

The host society may change or edit the Show Rules as is appropriate for their show.

JUDGING PROCEEDURES

1. General information

An American Orchid Society (AOS) sanctioned show must comply with the current rules of the American Orchid Society **Handbook on Judging and Exhibition** and any interim rules issued by the AOS Judging Committee. At the show, there must be three or more judges accredited by the AOS. The decisions of these judges will be final. The AOS system of judging will be used in all events.

All Judges and clerks are expected to familiarize themselves with the show rules.

All plants and flowers will be considered for recognition based on present quality, without regard to previous awards. To maintain highly competitive standards, no trophies or other recognition will be awarded if, in the judges' opinion, the flower, plant or display does not warrant such recognition. Judges may subdivide or add additional classes or awards at their discretion.

2. AOS Awards

This show has been approved for AOS judging. All flowers, whether entered for ribbon judging or not, will be considered for AOS awards unless marked **NOT FOR AOS JUDGING** by the exhibitor. If the flowers have been previously exhibited at an AOS-approved function, they are considered to have been screened and therefore, are not eligible for further consideration. They should also be marked 'Not for AOS Judging'. This will not disqualify the flower from consideration in the proper ribbon or trophy class. Submission of plants or cut flowers for judging shall obligate the exhibitor to accept any award granted and to pay any fees connected with such an award except where he has clearly indicated before the judging that his entry is not to be AOS judged.

3. Ribbon Judging

First, second and third place ribbons may be awarded to the best entries in each class other than a trophy class. Multiple ribbons may be awarded or withheld at the judges' discretion. All plants and cut flowers must be correctly entered in the appropriate class, or reclassified by a judge, to be eligible for ribbon judging. Exhibitors will enter their plants using standard Mid-America show tags or equivalent computer-generated tags. When using paper tags, the copy goes on the plant while the original remains at the entry desk. Entry tags should show plant parentage (if available), clonal name, and previous awards to the clone. An official copy of the correct entry classes to enter your plants is available at the entry desk. Where a plant could conceivably fit

into more than one class, the exhibitor shall enter it into the first applicable class listed. A miniature plant may be entered as a miniature in class 100, **OR** in the appropriate genus class. A mericlone is considered a vegetative division of the original plant and must be treated as such. If a plant is a mericlone, it should be so designated and the clonal name given. Species classes will include natural hybrids. Criteria employed in ribbon class definitions refer to characteristics prevailing for mature plants grown according to normal horticultural practices.

4. Trophy Eligibility

All trophies are open to all exhibitors in this show, if the exhibit is entered properly and show rules are complied with, unless otherwise specified in the schedule.

5. Plant and Flower Trophies

To be eligible for any special trophies, plants and exhibits must be entered for ribbon judging. No separate entry is required.

6. Exhibit Trophies

Each exhibit may be entered in **ONE** class only. All exhibits must be entered on standard Mid-America entry tags or computerized equivalent. The copy goes on the exhibit and the original to the entry registration desk. All exhibits are eligible for the AOS Show Trophy, and will be judged in accordance to the criteria in the current **AOS Handbook on Judging and Exhibition**. Any other exhibit trophies shall be determined by the sponsoring organization.

SHOW CLERKS

Registration clerks have the following responsibilities:

Classification registration: Review entries to ensure proper show schedule classification, check to see that plant name, exhibit and exhibitor information are correct. **NOTE:** The exhibitor is ultimately responsible for the correct classification of an entry.

Entry registration: Receive plant and exhibit entries from exhibitors, add proper entry number when applicable, and add it to other entries in the same class (paper entries).

Ribbon Judging clerks have the following responsibilities:

Head Clerk is responsible for the efficient performance of the judging process. This includes recording the decisions of the judges, making a record of the awards given, and leading the judges to the next class to consider. When personnel are available, this person should be assisted by additional clerks.

Additional clerks may be responsible for maintaining the ribbon supply, adding class, exhibit number, entry name, date to each ribbon awarded; obtaining the signature of the judges; placing the ribbon on the awarded entry; assisting in locating the plants and entries; and any other duties that may be requested.

During the show judging, clerks are not to participate in the process unless asked to do so by the judges. Judges are encouraged to make ribbon judging an educational experience for all involved. Ultimately, the judges' decisions will be used to determine the results in determining results for competitive awards. Further, deliberations, when verbally expressed, must not be repeated or discussed with others.

SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

All exhibitors are expected to familiarize themselves with the show schedule and exhibition guidelines.

1. Each exhibitor agrees upon entry to abide by the rules and regulations of the show. All questions regarding the interpretation of these rules shall be referred to the Show Judging Chairman for a decision.
2. The Show Committee shall determine the limit of number of entries in each class by a single exhibitor, if desired, with the exception of classes 98 and 99, which are not limited.
3. Each plant should be entered in ONE class only, except Classes 101 Seedlings blooming for the first time and 102 Specimen plants, which may be entered in more than one class.
4. Improperly entered plants or exhibits may be either reclassified or disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
5. In order to sell orchid plants and related materials at the show, an exhibitor must place an exhibit of at least 25 square feet in the show. It must conform to the quality of the show in accordance with the Show Committee.
6. Foliage plants, moss, etc., may compliment exhibits, but no artificial or dyed moss or foliage of any kind will be permitted, with the exception of artificial grass used as floor covering. Plants in flower or cut flowers other than orchids will not be permitted in an exhibit. Newly imported and un-established plants are discouraged in exhibits. No dyed flowers will be permitted. (The Show Committee may prohibit water, fountains or streams in the exhibits)
7. Neither the host society nor show sponsors are responsible for loss or damage to any plants, blooms, corsages, containers or other property of the exhibitors; however, every precaution will be exercised for their safety.
8. Any lighting used for effect is the responsibility of the exhibitor. It must be coordinated with the Show Committee.
9. All plants or cut flowers exhibited must be properly labeled. Plant ownership should not be visible prior to judging.
10. No cut flowers will be permitted in flowering plant exhibits, and no flowering plants will be permitted in cut flower exhibits.

ORCHID CLASSIFICATION

1. Entries not in accordance with the schedule may be disqualified.
2.
 - a. In general, plants should be entered in the first applicable class.
 - b. Eligible Miniature plants may be entered in the miniature class, **or** in their appropriate genus class.
 - c. If in doubt, see the Mid-America Classification Schedule.
3. A meristem plant or cut flower may **NOT** be entered as a seedling blooming for the first time.
4. For the purposes of this schedule, the word “hybrid” means a cross made within the genus listed.
5. For the purpose of this show, and amateur is defined as a person who has not sold more than a total of 500 plants and/or flowers in the last year.
6. Color definition:

- a. In general, *blush colors* and *two-toned* flowers should be entered in the “**Other Colors**” classes with the exception of *Phalaenopsis*, which has a dedicated blush class
- b. Color in *Paphiopedilum* hybrids is based on the dominant flower color.

PROCEDURE FOR ENTRY OF PLANTS AND EXHIBITS

1. A separate entry must be made for each plant, cut flower, related object, and exhibit.
2. **Print** legible on the entry tags, or use the computer program forms as instructed by the host society.
3. Obtain a sufficient supply of entry tags from the entry desk, or appropriate on-line forms for computer registration.
4. Also obtain **EXHIBIT** and **OWNER NUMBERS** at the desk. These numbers should appear on each entry tag or with each computer entry line. These assist the clerks and judges in locating plants and exhibits while judging.
5. On each entry tag, indicate the **CLASS NUMBER** for each entry. Check the show schedule for the correct class. **It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to classify their entries correctly. Incorrect entries may be disqualified.**
6. Under **NAME**, indicate the name of the plant, flower, or exhibit followed by the parentage, if a hybrid. If a plant is a species, write ‘species’ in the space for the cross. Do not write in the **AWARD** section.
7. For paper registrations, return both copies of the completed entry tags to the entry desk in numerical order according to class number. Do not separate the entry tags. Each entry may be assigned a tag number, as the show committee decides. The original stays at the entry desk to be used by the judging teams. The copy is to be placed on the plant, flower, or exhibit. For computer generated registration, follow the instructions provided by the host society registrar.