



*New in 8.22*

## Appendix F

### Ethics: Rules of Conduct for Judges

Approved by the AIS Board of Directors July 27, 2022

#### Garden Judging

It is an honor to be an American Iris Society judge. Everyone who starts down the path of becoming a judge should know and respect these ethical points.

#### BEFORE YOU START THE TRAIL TO BECOMING A JUDGE

1. Agree to do the job of being a judge when you sign up for the program.
2. Understand that becoming a judge requires an investment of time and money.
3. Expand your knowledge of iris by growing a variety of iris and annually, adding newer cultivars to your garden.
4. Visit multiple gardens to see, compare, and evaluate iris.
5. Write articles for newsletters, bulletins, and Facebook pages.
6. Be willing to speak about your knowledge of iris to clubs and societies.
7. Promote the American Iris Society (AIS) and iris at all levels: local, regional, and national.

#### WHEN YOU BECOME A JUDGE

1. The AIS judge evaluates iris in the garden and on the show bench. However, garden judging is more important because the AIS Official Ballot is based on garden performance.
2. Judges should study the AIS awards in order to understand the requirements of each category and be able to vote intelligently.
3. Judges should vote only in AIS Ballot categories where they are truly familiar with the iris of that category. If a judge has not seen a sufficient number of the irises in a particular Ballot category to know that those listed are truly worthy, then **NO VOTE SHOULD BE CAST** in that category.
4. To become familiar, the judge should have seen the iris growing over a two-year period and in multiple gardens.
5. Judges should never cast a vote for an iris that does not conform to the requirements of the class in which it is listed.

6. It is unethical to vote for an iris that only has been seen in an iris show, a slide show, or a catalog.
7. Judges should never vote for or against an iris based on who the hybridizer is. AIS awards are for the irises.
8. The judge should read the AIS Ballot instructions carefully, so the maximum number of votes is not exceeded. Too many votes cast in a category will cancel all the votes in that particular category.
9. Judges must pay attention to the deadline for submitting the AIS Ballot. Ballots postmarked after the deadline are void and the judge is considered to have not voted.
10. The judge should be truthful when evaluating iris in the garden and follow ethical guidelines when voting the Ballot.
11. Fully accredited judges should be willing to volunteer to help train, be a mentor to and help other judges who are working on their hours to become certified as garden/exhibition and artistic design judges.

#### ETHICS for GARDEN JUDGING

1. Call first to make an appointment before going to visit a hybridizer's or anyone else's garden.
2. Arrive on time.
3. Leave big bags, camera bags, and purses in the car.
4. Wear clothing that is not likely to damage flowers.
5. Do not touch, move, or groom any plant for any reason without permission of the gardener.
6. Stay on the established walkways and do not step into or across flower beds.
7. Do not lift plant labels for better viewing without permission of the gardener.
8. Carry a notebook and pen or pencil. Consider recording your observations with camera, phone, or tape recorder. Your observations of the iris could include:
  - Number of increases
  - Quality of bloom
  - Branching
  - Bud count and bloom sequence
  - Color
  - Substance and durability
  - Distinctiveness
  - Health, vigor, and resistance to disease
9. Never smoke in someone else's garden.
10. Leave young children at home.
11. If you must bring a young, future irisarian to the garden, never let them run around unsupervised.

12. Leave your shovel, clippers and tweezers at home.
13. Carry away your empty water bottles, used papers and other trash. Do not leave any trash behind.
14. Make a restroom stop before you visit the garden. Do not ask to use the gardener's facilities except in case of emergency.
15. Treat the host's garden the way you would want your garden treated.

To be a well-informed judge, it is vital to visit multiple iris gardens. Plan to visit the gardens of your local hybridizers, iris society members, and friends. Organize a group excursion to a commercial iris garden in your area. Visits to gardens shows respect for the people who have worked hard to grow iris. Garden visits to evaluate iris are also your duty as a judge. If you can go halfway across the country to see gardens at national conventions, then you can visit the local gardens, too.

### Show Committee, Exhibitors, Guests, and Judges at an Iris Show

A well organized and smoothly run show is an enjoyable, learning experience for all involved. Ethical standards will ensure that the show will result in a positive outcome for all.

#### SHOW COMMITTEE ETHICS

1. The show schedule must be formatted so that all types of irises, designs, photos, youth, and educational exhibits are equally represented according to the show type.
2. Show rules should be clear and follow American Iris Society (AIS) rules and regulations.
3. All show chairs should study the schedule and understand their duties before the day of the show.
4. The show chair should remind the clerks of their responsibilities and duties. This includes refraining from speaking during judging, being prepared to move horticultural entries when requested, and assisting the judges with anything they need. Clerks also should be instructed not to repeat anything they hear the judges say.
5. The show chair is responsible for informing the judges about garden conditions such as recent weather events.
6. The show chair places the judges in panels and directs them to where they should judge in the show. Preferably, relatives should not be in the same judging panel.

7. The show chair should ensure that the *AIS Check Lists*, *AIS Registrations and Introductions* (R&Is) and access to the online *Iris Encyclopedia* ("The Wiki") are available for the judges and clerks to consult during the judging event.
8. It takes many people to put on a smoothly run show. Everyone must follow the rules and do everything ethically.

#### EXHIBITOR ETHICS

1. Exhibitors have the responsibility to perform ethically, since their behavior affects the show committee as well as other exhibitors.
2. The first thing exhibitors should do is acquire a show schedule and AIS entry tags.
3. Exhibitors should study the schedule to understand the categories and with that information, practice filling out their entry tags.
4. Entries in the historic section must include the date of introduction on the entry tag. For an iris that has not been introduced, the date of registration can be used on the entry tag.
5. All horticultural specimens entered must be grown and entered by the exhibitor. Designs must be arranged by the exhibitor. Photographs must be taken by the exhibitor. Educational displays and demonstrations must be made by the exhibitor. It is unethical to enter the work of someone else as your own.
6. Exhibitors should understand the open hours of the show, allowing plenty of time for the preparation and the placement of exhibits.
7. Exhibitors should be aware and careful of other people's entries so as not to bump or break them.
8. Exhibitors should collect containers and prepare their entries for the show, closely following the schedule.
9. Exhibitors should promptly return borrowed tools and property.
10. Exhibitors should refrain from saying anything negative about anyone else's entries, before, during and after the show.
11. Exhibitors must never touch or move another exhibitor's entry. If more space is needed, the exhibitor should ask for assistance from the clerk, placement chair, or the show chair.
12. It is not ethical to artificially change a horticultural exhibit with the use of pins, glue, tape, toothpicks, or any other similar additive.
13. It is common courtesy to thank people involved with putting the show together and offer to help in future shows.

#### SHOW GUEST ETHICS

1. Guests should refrain from saying anything negative about the exhibits or judging processes.

2. Guests should view the displays without touching anything.
3. Guests are encouraged to talk to a club member, asking for information about entries, future shows, and club membership. The show is presented for the public's pleasure and education. Anyone will be happy to help you!

## SHOW JUDGE ETHICS

The judge's job is to evaluate the exhibits and award the ribbons. Judges should show sincerity, integrity, humility, courtesy, practical wisdom, charity, intelligence, empathy, and autonomy. All of these traits show character and ethical behavior when judging at a show.

A judge should:

1. Promptly reply to invitations to judge a show.
2. Study all areas of the show schedule before judging.
3. Arrive on time and avoid interactions with the exhibitors.
4. Bring a current copy of the *Handbook for Judges & Show Officials* to the show.
5. Before judging begins, walk through the show to assess the overall quality. Listen to the show chair describe garden conditions of the entries.
6. Evaluate the exhibit as it is, and not as it will be or as it was.
7. Judge all exhibits assigned using your current *Handbook for Judges & Show Officials*.
8. In normal circumstances, never judge your own or a relative's entries.
9. Never refuse to judge a category or entry because you don't grow that category of iris. The *Handbook for Judges & Show Officials* provides guidance for all categories.
10. Follow the approved or modified show schedule. The show chair will clarify any changes made to the show schedule before judging commences.
11. Judge at a reasonable speed and try to finish in the allotted time.
12. Never touch an entry. If necessary, ask the clerk to move or adjust the exhibit.
13. Judge with consistency.
14. Confer with all judges for top awards. Be ready to point score if necessary.
15. Be respectful of all entries. When judging the Design Division, be open to creative and new ideas.
16. Disqualify an obviously misnamed variety. For questionable entries, ask a clerk to consult the *Registration and Introductions, Check Lists*, or the online *Iris Encyclopedia* ("The Wiki"). If the entry is still questionable, consult the show chair.
17. Guard against being a dominating judge in a panel. Judges should alternate taking the lead during judging. After the show, the decisions of judges should not be criticized or questioned.

18. Know the rules about what an apprentice judge may or may not do, such as not participating in selection of Best of Show and other high awards. Apprentice judges are there to listen and learn, but not to vote.

19. Judges are expected to tutor but are also expected to be brief. Give the apprentice a chance to speak but stick to the rules. Judges cannot properly evaluate an apprentice who has been unable to participate.

20. Only one apprentice can be tutored by a panel of judges.

21. Before judging begins, make sure the apprentice judge is listed as an apprentice judge. For this information, check AIS *Irises: The Bulletin* or the AIS website.

22. Judges should appreciate the hard work of all committee members, applaud their efforts, and express their thanks for being invited to judge. If asked for suggestions, judges should be willing to tactfully give necessary advice.