GUIDELINES FOR OPERATING
ROSE SHOWS UNDER ARS STANDARDS

PURPOSE
The purpose of this section is to present guidelines and procedures applicable to National and District Shows and suggested for local shows eligible for ARS awards. This information is intended to help achieve consistency in the operation of all shows. These guidelines are designed to be useful to Show Chairmen, Chairmen of Judges, judges, exhibitors and schedule writers. Each Society may establish its own show procedures and local rules. However, such rules must not conflict with established ARS rules.

All rose shows operating under American Rose Society standards will offer ARS Awards. All Chapter and Affiliated Clubs whose dues are current are eligible to offer these awards. Certificates may be awarded at any rose show and at any general flower show when the Show Chairman deems there are sufficient rose entries to warrant the awards and the show is operated in accordance with ARS standards.

Each Society may establish its own show procedures and local rules, however, such rules shall not conflict with established ARS rules. It is strongly recommended the following information be included in all show schedules.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES
1. Judging shall be done by ARS Accredited Judges who may be assisted by ARS Apprentice Judges.
2. Judging teams should preferably consist of three Accredited Judges or two Accredited Judges and one Apprentice Judge.
3. Judging shall be in accordance with the current ARS Guidelines & Rules for Judging Roses. Judges may bestow or withhold an award including ribbons if the exhibit is eligible for but not worthy. Judging for ARS awards and major show awards should be shared by all the judges judging the show. The decision of judges is final.
4. After a winning entry has been selected in a challenge or collection class, a team of judges may review this entry before it is placed on the Court of Honor to determine if any conditions exist which may warrant disqualification. This includes any of the disqualification conditions, but special attention should be given to stem-on-stem, splints, substitution of foliage, insertion of petals, etc. If a condition warranting disqualification is found, the class will be judged again by the original team or teams of judges to determine if another entry is worthy of the first place award. This procedure must be followed in all National and District Shows. It is recommended for local shows.
5. Judges of the show and members of their immediate family should not exhibit except in classes specified for the judges. Under no circumstances shall any winner from a class for judges or members of their immediate family be considered for any show award other than an award the Show Committee may designate for the judges’ class or classes.

6. In a color class show more than one first, second or third place ribbon may be awarded in a class, at the discretion of the judges, provided awards are made to different varieties. In collection classes calling for more than one variety, more than one first, second or third place ribbon may be awarded. Selection of the best in the collection class shall be from the first place winners if there is more than one. More than one Honorable Mention Ribbon may be awarded in any class.

7. In selecting the Certificate winners it is recommended that the judges use a written ballot rather than oral selection.

8. Judges should not enter the exhibitor’s preparation area or the show hall prior to the designated time for judging to commence. A separate preparation area should be made by the Show Committee for the judges to prepare their entries for the judges’ class.

9. The final authority for a rose show is its own schedule. It should be followed as printed. However when ARS Awards are given, the rules governing these awards must be followed or the judges must decline to give the awards.

GUIDELINES FOR EXHIBITORS

All show schedules should contain rules and guidelines for exhibitors. Exhibitors should read these instructions carefully. A disqualification can result from not following the specifications outlined in the schedule. This includes the information required on the entry tag, and the method used for placement of exhibits and the roses eligible in each class.

1. Competition should be open to all rose growers regardless of residence.

1a. All parties from the same garden MUST enter as ONE exhibitor. Only one entry of the same variety will be allowed from the same garden in any one class unless especially stated in the local schedule.

2. All roses must be outdoor grown by the exhibitor unless there are classes available for greenhouse roses.

3. The show schedule should include the time and place for acceptance of entries. It is also helpful to state when entries may be removed and by whom.

4. Containers and official entry cards will be furnished by the show committee (exceptions are noted in the schedule). All entries must be accompanied by an entry card showing: section, class, variety name,

* In case of conflict between the *Combined Rose List* and ARS publications, ARS publications will be the final authority. The latest supplements to these publications is the final authority. An exception is made for special classes for unregistered seedlings and sports.

6. One-bloom-per-stem specimens must be shown with no side buds. An exhibitor may remove unwanted growth subject to possible penalization.

7. Judging will be based on a comparison of the approach to perfection of the individual variety. At the time of judging, an exhibition rose should be at its most perfect phase of possible beauty, which is usually one-half to three-fourths open. Grandifloras and Hybrid Teas shown as sprays should be exhibited in a similar manner as floribunda sprays. Floribundas and Polyanthas shown as inflorescences, or sprays, should display the maximum proportion of blooms at or near the most perfect phase of beauty for that particular variety. Specimens in fully open classes must be fully open and the stamens must be visible.

8. The length of the stem should be in proportion to the size of bloom. Foliage should be clean and free of spray residue.

9. The following scale of points will be used for judging entries:

   - Form ................................................................. 25 points
   - Substance .......................................................... 15 points
   - Color .................................................................. 20 points
   - Stem and Foliage ............................................... 20 points
   - Balance and Proportion ..................................... 10 points
   - Size .................................................................... 10 points
   - TOTAL .................................................................. 100 points

10. Entries will be disqualified for the following reasons:

    a. Misnamed, misclassified, misplaced by the exhibitor, unlabeled or mislabeled.
    b. Stem-on-stem, a specimen exhibited with a portion of the previous stem growth attached. Exception: Species, Old Garden Roses and Shrubs may be shown stem-on-stem.
    c. Presence of foreign substance applied to the foliage, stem or bloom to improve the appearance of the specimen.
    d. Not disbudded. Any class calling for one-bloom-per-stem specimens must be exhibited without side buds. A side bud is defined as...
growth emanating from a leaf axil having sufficient maturity to display the formation of a stem with or without flower buds. The presence of one or two leaflets or leaves at the leaf axil with no evidence of a stem is cause for penalization but not disqualification.

e. An entry in violation of ARS rules or local society rules applying to this show.

f. Any rose that has been entered in a show with a name that has not been recognized by American Rose Society will be disqualified. Roses are to be exhibited by the recognized ARS exhibition name (AEN).

Roses must be listed in one of the ARS recognized publications listed below with an AEN to be eligible for entry in ARS authorized rose shows. Names may be verified in the following officially recognized sources. In official American Rose Society publications the AEN will be printed in bold type.

The following is the list of official ARS publications listing Approved Exhibition Names. In every case of conflict between these sources the latest one published shall take precedence.

A. *Modern Roses*
B. *Official List of Approved Exhibition Names for Exhibitors & Judges*
C. *Handbook for Selecting Roses*
D. *The Rose Registration* column of the *American Rose* magazine
E. Recent Rose Registrations on the ARS website

In cases where a variety is not listed in any of the above ARS official publications, the *Combined Rose List (CRL)* may be used as a reference. In these cases, the primary name shown in the CRL will be considered a “temporary AEN” until the variety is included in one of the ARS publications. In the event there is a conflict regarding name, class, color or other pertinent information between the CRL and ARS publication, the ARS publication will prevail.

The sole exception to the above concerns “found” roses. A “found” rose must be listed in an official ARS publication showing an accepted AEN for it to be exhibited in a class for which ARS ribbons and certificates are awarded. A listing in the CRL is not sufficient for “found” roses. Show schedule writers are encouraged to include a special class for these “found” roses that lack an official AEN.

Judges should be familiar with all these references and should have personal copies of them. It is helpful for show committees to have on hand one copy of each of these references to ease the burden of judges having to carry their own copies. However, unless judges are certain these references will be available, they are obligated to provide their personal copies.
11. All entries will be placed by the Show Placement Committee except Challenge Classes which are placed by the exhibitor under the direction of the Placement Committee. (Some societies may wish exhibitors to place all entries and should so state). Exhibiting should be a friendly endeavor, however an exhibitor has the final responsibility for his/her entries. Exhibitors must graciously accept the decisions of the judges as final.

ARS AWARDS

Generally all rose shows operating under American Rose Society standards will offer ARS Awards.

All Chapter and Affiliated Clubs whose dues are current are eligible to offer these awards. Certificates may be awarded at any rose show and at any general flower show when the Show Chairman deems there are sufficient entries to warrant the awards and the show is operated in accordance with ARS standards.

The number of certificates in each category in competition in a single show shall be limited to one set and may be used only as specified. These certificates, along with other show supplies, are available from ARS Headquarters at nominal cost. These certificates include:

1. ARS Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal Certificates shall be awarded Queen, King and Princess of the Show, respectively.
2. ARS Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal Miniature Certificates shall be awarded Queen, King and Princess of Miniatures, respectively.
3. ARS Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal Miniflora Certificates shall be awarded Queen, King and Princess of Minifloras, respectively.
4. ARS Gold, Silver and Bronze Medal Floribunda Spray Certificates shall be awarded Queen, King and Princess of Floribunda Sprays, respectively.
5. The Dowager Queen Award may be awarded to the best blue-ribbon winning Old Garden Rose variety not classed as species, introduced prior to 1867, including any rose whose exact year of introduction is unknown but which is known to have been in existence prior to 1867.
6. The Victorian Rose Award may be awarded to the best blue-ribbon winning Old Garden Rose not classed as species, introduced in 1867 or later whose date of introduction, though after 1867, is unknown.
7. The Genesis Award may be awarded to the best blue-ribbon winning species rose. If the Genesis Award is not offered in the show schedule, species roses may be entered in the Old Garden Roses sections and will then be eligible for the Dowager Queen or Victorian Awards.
8. In addition to the Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates, the following certificates are available for the best in class in the appropriate classes:

Guidelines & Rules For Judging Roses (9/03)
(rev. 10/04, 6/06; 4/10)
Best in Show
Best English Box
Best Miniature English Box
Best Hi-Lo
Best Judges’ Entry
Best Large Rose Single Bloom
Best Novice
Best Miniflora Rose Bowl
Best Rose Bowl Large Bloom
Best Rose Bowl Miniature Bloom
Most Fragrant Rose
Sweepstakes
Best Hybrid Tea Open Bloom
Best Hybrid Tea Spray
Best Floribunda Spray

Best Grandiflora Spray
Best Polyantha Spray
Best Miniflora Rose Bowl
Best Junior Spray
Best Miniflora Single
Best Miniflora Spray
Best Miniature Open Bloom
Best Miniature Single
Best Miniature Spray
Best Climber
Best Shrub
Best Classic Shrub
Best Modern Shrub
Best Seedling
Best Floribunda One-Bloom-Per-Stem

GUIDELINES FOR ROSE SHOW CLERKS

Rosarians who participate as clerks in our rose shows are very important to the success of our shows, particularly at the time of judging. Clerks for the show should be selected from those rosarians who are willing to carry out the duties of a clerk and are interested in observing the judging process. They are responsible to the Chairman of Clerks for the show and are available to provide for any needs of the judges.

The following are guidelines as to the duties, responsibilities and demeanor of the clerks during the time of judging:

1. Clerks will not participate in the judging process, enter into the judges’ deliberations or question the judges’ decisions.

2. The Chairman of Clerks should refrain from having too many people acting as clerks. Often one clerk per judging team to record awards and one to attach ribbons is sufficient. Two or three clerks should be designated to act as runners.

3. Clerks will follow the judges and affix the ribbon awards to the entry tags after the entire class has been judged.

4. In the one specimen entry classes, the clerks will see that the blue-ribbon winning entries are moved to a designated area for final judging in the selection of ARS Certificate Awards. Entry tags are left closed until the final award winners have been chosen.

5. A clerk must never touch a bloom or any part of an exhibit. The only exception is when one specimen entries are moved to a designated area for selection of the ARS Certificate Awards. In doing so the clerk should carefully grasp the exhibit by the vase. Challenge classes and multiple specimen entries should never be moved or touched until

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after judging is complete.

6. After ARS Certificate Awards are determined, the clerks should return the remaining blue-ribbon winners back to their original classes.

(All those interested in the clerking for the Artistic Division of our rose shows are referred to *Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements*. This publication is available from ARS Headquarters.)