

# IRIS SHOW

## Rules & Regulations

Approved by the AIS Board of Directors, July 27, 2022



The American Iris Society (AIS) provides opportunities for members and the general public to display, view, have judged and receive recognition for iris they have grown, entered, and displayed in an AIS approved show.

## I. THE SHOW SCHEDULE

The show schedule defines the rules and regulations which govern how a show is organized and presented. It controls the activities of the Show Committees, exhibitors and judging panels. It is of utmost importance that the show schedule be written carefully and accurately in easily understood language. It must be in agreement with the official exhibition rules and regulations adopted herein by the American Iris Society. Careful study of these official rules and regulations should be made prior to drafting the schedule.

Official approval of an iris show cannot be granted until the schedules chair of the AIS Exhibitions Committee has been sent a draft of the schedule. After receiving approval, the sponsoring organization may order official AIS show supplies. However, exhibition entry tags may be ordered without official show approval.

The proposed schedule should be submitted, electronically or via U.S. mail, in draft form no later than two months prior to the



show date. Even if the schedule closely follows that of a previous year, an updated and corrected copy of the show schedule must be submitted. The sponsoring organization must keep a copy of the submitted schedule because the material forwarded for approval becomes a part of the AIS Exhibitions Committee's files and will not be returned.

Upon approval of the draft schedule, the AIS exhibitions schedule chair will send to the sponsoring organization an approval package which contains the approval letter, show report forms, show certificates, Exhibition Certificate (E.C.) ballots, and a show supplies order form with current prices. Some of these materials may be sent to the sponsoring organization electronically whenever possible. With the exception of exhibition entry tags, a show supplies order cannot be accepted until the schedule has been approved.

The show schedule should contain the following basic information:

1. Title of the show (optional).
2. Name of the sponsoring organization.
3. Date(s) of the show.
4. State, city and address (location) where the show is to be held.
5. List of committee chairs and phone numbers when advance reservations are required.
6. Statement of who may exhibit.
7. Date and time entries will be received.
8. List of all of the AIS awards offered and any club sponsored awards.
9. A list of general rules and specific rules for the Horticulture Divisions, and specific rules for other divisions included in the show, e.g., Artistic Division, Youth Division, Education and/or Commercial Division, etc.
10. Type of containers and bracing material, and if those materials are furnished by the Show Committee or by the exhibitor.
11. Number of entries allowed per exhibitor.
12. Hours the show will be open for public viewing.
13. Statement that the show is being held and judged under the rules and regulations of the American Iris Society.
14. Statement that official rules and regulations of the American Iris Society cannot be violated.
15. Statement as to whether show judges and/or their immediate family members may enter exhibits, and under what conditions.

16. Rules regarding correct identification and labeling of entries.
17. Statement that horticultural exhibits must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag.
18. Disclaimer of responsibility for loss or damage.
19. Statement of affiliation with AIS if the sponsoring organization is an affiliate, region or section.
20. Statement that admission to AIS approved shows is open to the public at no charge.

*See the Model Show Schedule (Appendix A in Handbook) for more information.*



An invitation to join the AIS should be included in all show schedules, along with appropriate membership information.

At a minimum, the show schedule should provide for an Open Horticultural Division in which correctly registered and named varieties or properly identified species or interspecies crosses are exhibited as single cut specimen stalks. **[Note: by AIS Board action, November 2017, introduction is no longer required for exhibiting a registered named cultivar in the Open Horticultural Division.]** The Open Horticultural Division must provide for all types of iris grown in the area except in specialty shows

that limit the types of iris accepted for competition. It also is advisable to include a miscellaneous group for any unexpected entries not specifically mentioned in the show schedule. Show Committees are also encouraged to include divisions for youth horticultural exhibits, seedlings, educational exhibits, commercial exhibits, and artistic exhibits.

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## OPEN HORTICULTURAL DIVISION

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The Open Horticultural Division should be divided into sections or groups arranged alphabetically by cultivar name. Within each section and group, each variety constitutes a separate class. Color classification shows are no longer recommended.

Show Committees are encouraged to include sections within the Open Horticultural Division for bulbous irises, collections, container-grown irises, and English boxes. The bulbous irises, collections, container-grown irises and English boxes are eligible to receive award ribbons, special section awards and section rosettes. Award ribbons for these sections are included in the overall tally for Silver and Bronze Medals and certificates. However, these entries are not eligible for the Best Specimen of Show Award. Single blossom classes, if the Show Committee includes this section in the show schedule, may not have award ribbons counted for Silver and Bronze Medals/Certificates and are not eligible for the Best Specimen of Show Award.

The show schedule empowers the Show Committee to combine groups with few entries; to subdivide those groups with excessive entries; to create new groups for exhibits which do not fit scheduled groups; and to correct errors in entry, classification and identification of iris whenever possible.

Exhibition privileges must be available to anyone who grows iris. However, the schedule can prohibit judges and members of judges' immediate families from exhibiting. When limitations are necessary to control the number of entries, limit the allowable number of entries per exhibitor, not the number of exhibitors.

All exhibits in the Open Horticultural and Youth Horticultural Divisions must have been grown and entered in person by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag. Under no circumstances may an individual transport and enter for competition specimen stalks for another person, because 25 of a possible

100 points are assigned for grooming and condition. Single family gardens are generally the exhibitor unit. However, local Show Committees have the option of permitting family members to enter as separate exhibitors from the same garden, provided they work in the garden

and/or maintain separate iris collections, in which case, this should be stated in the show schedule. Family members may enter exhibits as a unit or individually, but not both, in the same show.

All entries must be correctly, clearly and completely identified and entered in the proper division, section and group. Each exhibitor is permitted to enter only one stalk of any particular registered variety in any one of the single-stalk sections of an approved show. In addition, it may be entered in any of those sections not eligible for Best Specimen of Show (e.g., Collection, English Boxes, Container-Grown Iris and Single Blossom Entry).

When a cultivar can be exhibited in more than one section or group, the exhibitor chooses in which section to enter the exhibit. For example, a cultivar that is historic, TB and novelty, can be exhibited in any one of those sections. If two or more exhibitors enter such a cultivar in different sections or groups, each is judged in the section or group where it is entered. In this case, it is possible for two or more stalks of the same cultivar to receive first-place ribbons and potentially compete against each other for higher awards.

Unnamed stalks, potted exhibits (except for entries in the container section) or labeled iris grown by another person are not eligible for AIS ribbons and awards, but tables should be provided for these iris and plainly marked "For Display Only".

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## YOUTH HORTICULTURAL DIVISION

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Exhibition privileges in the Youth Horticultural Division are limited to persons under 19 years of age. These exhibitors may enter either the Youth Division or the Open Horticultural Division, but never in both divisions at the same show. Depending on the number of entries, a Youth Horticultural Division may be organized by age of the exhibitor, and/or sections and groups may be sub-divided or combined. All youth horticultural entries (except for bulbous iris, collections, English boxes, container-grown iris, and single blossom entries) are eligible for Best Specimen of Show Award.

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## SEEDLING DIVISION

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Entries in the seedling division consist of any unintroducted iris of any type. An exhibitor may enter a seedling originated or grown by another person, but the entry is made in the name of the originator of the clone, i.e., the hybridizer's name, seedling number or registered name, and type of iris must

appear on the entry card. The Show Committee can choose to cover seedling numbers (but not type of iris) during judging.

The exhibitor of an unIntroduced seedling with a registered name can elect to enter the seedling in the Seedling Division or the Open Horticultural Division but not both. Such a seedling would receive awards appropriate to the division in which it is entered.

This is one instance where the same registered cultivar may be entered in more than one section of a show. For example, an exhibitor may enter ‘Dusky Challenger’ in the Tall Bearded Section (single stalk) and in the Collections Section (5 stalks or whatever quantity is required by the show schedule). This also applies to seedlings. See chart below.

	Eligible for Seedling Division only	Eligible for Seedling OR Open Horticultural Division	Eligible for Seedling AND Open Horticultural Divisions	Eligible for sections that are NOT competing for Best Specimen in Show
A seedling not registered and not introduced (i.e., seedling with number only)	Yes	No	No	Yes
A seedling registered (with a name) but NOT introduced	No	Yes	No	Yes

Since there can be only one Best Seedling of the Show, it is appropriate to award first-place ribbons and only first-place ribbons to other deserving seedlings. These ribbons are not to be counted for the Silver or Bronze Medals tally.

An Exhibition Certificate (EC) is awarded to any deserving seedling that receives a cumulative total of at least five votes cast by accredited judges attending that show or any other AIS approved shows in a calendar year. The Best Seedling of Show automatically receives the EC. The count of EC votes from all approved shows is completed by the AIS Exhibition Reports Committee. An iris can win only one EC in each show but can win multiple ECs when entered in multiple shows.



## ARTISTIC DIVISION

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The show schedule should state a general theme for the Artistic Division and class titles within that division.

Specific rules included in the show schedule for the Artistic Division will vary depending on the requirements of the specific show. Any requirements or limitations regarding backgrounds, niches, pedestals, underlays, table covering, and size or color schemes or designs should be specifically stated. The show schedule should be clear on which specific items will be provided by the Show Committee and which by the exhibitor.

The show schedule should state whether the Artistic Division will be judged by judges from national garden clubs or by AIS judges who have experience working with design or by a combination of qualified judges.

For more information, see Chapter 6 Organizing a Show and Chapter 27 Artistic.

Judges should be encouraged to write comments for each design on a 3 X 5 inches card that is provided by the Show Committee. This will encourage and educate the exhibitor. The judges should write at least one positive comment in addition to any constructive suggestions on the principles of design.

To encourage participation, the Show Committee is encouraged to add classes for novice design exhibitors or for a person never having won a first-place ribbon.

The following are suggested basic design rules. Specific rules will depend on the requirements for the specific show.

1. In order to give AIS ribbons in the Artistic Division, one or more iris bloom(s) must be used in each design and must be the dominant flower(s) in the design. The use of iris foliage in a design is the choice of the designer.
2. The design must be made by the exhibitor, but plant material used in a design does NOT have to have been grown by the designer.
3. Accessories are permitted in all classes unless otherwise stated in the show schedule.
4. Fresh plant material should predominate and may not be treated in any manner. A minimum of dried and/or weathered plant material is permitted. Treatment of dried material is allowed.
5. The use of any part(s) of plants on the appropriate state conservation list is strictly prohibited.
6. The use of the American Flag or any international flag is prohibited. The use of the colors or bunting is permitted and encouraged if it helps interpret the theme.

7. The Show Committee will endeavor to protect all exhibits but cannot be responsible for loss or damage to the exhibitor's property.

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## EDUCATIONAL DIVISION

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The Educational Division provides an opportunity to inform and instruct the public about the American Iris Society and the various aspects of growing and designing with iris. Potential topics could be: AIS organization and regions, with membership applications, and sample issues of Irises, and regional newsletters; culture of individual and/or combined types of iris; landscaping with iris; iris diseases or pests and the recommended treatment; planting instructions with a display of rhizomes and soil; dividing and transplanting iris; the history of design, different types of designs; etc.

The objective of an Educational Exhibit is to convey a message quickly and clearly. Legible printing, descriptive pictures and/or objects and organization of the materials all tell a story. An electronic program is acceptable in this division. The dramatic impact can be attained with color combinations, humor, clever titles, etc., all designed to interest the viewer. The organization and placement of the materials should cause the eye to flow through the exhibit. Handouts are a plus.

For the Educational Division, the show schedule should state:

1. Table space or area dimensions assigned to this exhibit.
2. Whether or not reservations are required and appropriate contact information.
3. The objective of an Educational Exhibit is to convey a message quickly and clearly. Legible printing, descriptive pictures and/or objects and organization of the materials all tell a story. The dramatic impact can be attained with color combinations, humor, clever titles, etc., all designed to interest the viewer. The organization and placement of the materials should cause the eye to flow through the exhibit. Handouts are a plus.
4. Whether or not the Educational Exhibit should tie in with the theme of the show, if there is one, through signs, show color combinations or some other way.
5. Whether or not this division will be judged. If judged, awards given should be listed in the awards section of the show schedule.

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## COMMERCIAL DIVISION

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Although the AIS does not endorse or support any commercial entity, the Commercial Division provides an opportunity for commercial iris growers in the area to display catalogs, price lists, or other educational and/or informative information related to their business.

The Show Committee will determine if an exhibitor is to be given commercial status and will decide whether or not exhibitors may sell plants or other products.

For the Commercial Division, the schedule should state:

1. Table space or dimensions allowed for commercial exhibits. Generally, this is the same as for educational exhibits.
2. Whether or not reservations are required and contact information if they are.
3. Whether or not the sale of plants or other products is allowed.
4. Whether or not these exhibits will be judged. If judged, awards given should be listed in the awards section of the schedule.

## 2. JUDGES FOR THE SHOW

A rule must be included in the show schedule saying whether judges may judge a show in which they or members of their immediate families have entries, and under what circumstances. Judging ethics would indicate that a judge should not serve in such a situation. However, scarcity of judges, emergency situations, or other extenuating circumstances might necessitate allowing a judge to both judge and exhibit.

Before judging begins, the show chair may brief judges on any favorable or adverse environmental conditions affecting the quality of the exhibits. However, judges must not give awards to any exhibit they consider unworthy. Judges also cannot bar single entries in a group from consideration or awards simply because they are the lone entry in that group.

## 3. EXHIBITION AWARDS

Presentation of AIS awards is authorized at approved shows which have complied with AIS rules and regulations as described in this handbook. Award ribbons and rosettes may be purchased from the AIS Exhibition Committee. Certificates are furnished without charge.

Award ribbons and rosettes, including Best Specimen of Show Rosette, may be presented at any show regardless of the number of exhibitors and exhibits. However, awarding the Silver and Bronze Medals and Certificates requires at least twenty cultivars and at least five exhibitors in the Open Horticultural Divisions for a spring show and at least ten cultivars and three exhibitors for a fall show.

The cultivars and exhibitors are counted from entries in the individual stalk sections, collections, English boxes, container-grown iris and bulbous iris sections. Silver and Bronze Medals and Certificates may be awarded in any Youth Horticulture Division if there are at least two exhibitors and at least ten cultivars entered in a spring show and at least two exhibitors and at least five cultivars in a fall show.

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### Requirements for Awarding Exhibition Medals at AIS approved shows\*

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Show – Division	Minimum # of exhibitors required	Minimum # of cultivars required	Included in ribbon count for medals	<u>Not</u> included in ribbon count for medals
Spring – Open Division	5	20	Individual stalks, Collections, English boxes, Bulbous iris, single blossom entries, container-grown iris	Seedlings, Artistic designs, Single blossom exhibits, Commercial and Educational exhibits
Spring – Youth Division	2	10	Same	Same
Fall – Open Division	3	10	Same	Same
Fall – Youth Division	2	5	Same	Same

\* Note that ribbons and rosettes, including the Best Specimen of Show Rosette, may be presented at any show, regardless of the number of exhibitors and exhibits.

Provided minimum requirements for number of exhibitors and cultivars are met, affiliate societies, sections, and regions that sponsor shows are entitled to one adult and one youth Silver Medal and one adult and one youth Bronze Medal per show without charge. Additional medals must be purchased.

No local organization sponsoring an AIS approved show may make special rules for the presentation of official AIS awards, but they may adopt rules for giving local society awards which do not conflict with AIS regulations.

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### Award Ribbons

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Only one first-place award ribbon, one second-place ribbon, and one third-place ribbon may be awarded to each cultivar in any given section (except collections.) As many honorable mention ribbons as quality merits may be awarded. In the Seedling Division, only first-place ribbons are awarded, if merited.

Single entries in a section or group must not be barred from consideration for awards simply because they are the lone entry in that section or group.

If point scoring in an exhibition show, the judges might wish to follow the following guidelines: a cultivar scoring 90 to 100 points merits a first-place ribbon, a cultivar scoring 80 to 89 points merits a second-place ribbon, and a cultivar scoring 70 to 79 points merits a third-place ribbon. The judge should not treat these point-score guidelines as requirements for awarding ribbons because they do not take into consideration the qualitative evaluations that a judge might make.

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### Rosettes

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AIS rosettes may be presented to exhibits of unusual merit in all divisions. The rosette may be imprinted for a specific award as described in the order form for show supplies. However, awarding of the Section Medal Certificate for most first-place ribbons in a section and of the Best Specimen of Section Rosette requires at least three exhibitors and at least five cultivars in the section.

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### Exhibition Certificates

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An Exhibition Certificate (EC) will be awarded to the seedling or collected species selected as Best Seedling of Show provided any are deemed worthy of this award.

Additional ECs may be awarded to any seedling which receives a cumulative total of five or more votes from AIS judges attending the show or any other AIS approved shows in a calendar year. Therefore, all AIS judges present at the show should study the seedlings. If any seedlings exhibit superior qualities that

would merit the EC Award, the judge should complete and submit an EC ballot voting for those seedlings. After the show the completed ballots are sent to the AIS exhibition reports chair along with the show report. This should be done whether or not any seedling receives five votes since votes can be accumulated over multiple shows in a calendar year.

Upon receipt of a properly completed show report, the AIS exhibitions reports chair will issue any AIS Exhibition Certificates supported by the EC ballots and will mail the ECs to the show chair for forwarding to the hybridizer(s) of the seedling(s).

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## Medals

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The AIS Silver Medal is awarded to the exhibitor winning the most first-place ribbons in the Open Horticultural Division of the show, provided minimum requirements are met. A Silver Medal is awarded at a spring show with a minimum of twenty cultivars exhibited by at least five exhibitors. A Silver Medal is awarded at a fall show with a minimum of ten cultivars exhibited by at least three exhibitors.

The AIS Bronze Medal is awarded to the exhibitor winning the second most first-place ribbons in the Open Horticultural Division of the show, provided the show has at least twenty cultivars exhibited by at least five exhibitors for a spring show and at least ten cultivars exhibited, by at least three exhibitors for a fall show.

AIS Silver and Bronze Youth Medals are awarded to the winners of the most and second most first-place ribbons in the Youth Horticultural Division, provided the minimum qualifications have been met (i.e., at least ten cultivars exhibited by at least two exhibitors for a spring show and at least five cultivars exhibited by at least two exhibitors for a fall show.)

The Bronze Medal may be awarded to the exhibitor of a commercial or educational exhibit found to be of outstanding merit by the judges of the show.

In the event of a tie for any medal or certificate award, second-place ribbons will be counted. If a tie still exists, third-place ribbons will be counted, and if a tie still persists, honorable mention ribbons will be counted. If such procedure does not determine a winner, duplicate Silver Medals (and NO Bronze Medal) will be awarded. If the tie involves the Bronze Medal, duplicate Bronze Medals will be awarded.

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## Show Certificates

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AIS provides at no charge printed certificates that match most of the rosettes and medals given at shows. These are AIS awards, and if used should be included in the description of awards in the show schedule (a simple “and certificate” following the matching award is usually sufficient).

## 4. AFTER THE SHOW

The show chair or designee should complete the show report and send it electronically or by mail to the AIS exhibitions report chair. It is not necessary for show judges to sign the report. For the show to be properly reported, a copy, electronic or printed, of the final schedule and any EC ballots must accompany the report. A copy of the show report should also be sent to the RVP and a copy retained for the local files. If an approved show is cancelled, a cancellation notice should be sent in writing or via email to the AIS exhibition reports chair and RVP.

Exhibition Certificates and/or medals will be issued and forwarded to the sponsoring organization by the AIS exhibitions reports chair after the properly completed show report has been received and accepted. The AIS Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the exhibitions reports chair, may reject an application for awards when the proper rules and regulations have not been followed. The AIS Exhibitions Committee may place a sponsoring organization on probation pending correction of violations.

## 5. SUMMARY

1. The preliminary schedule for an approved show must be submitted to the AIS exhibitions schedules chair at least two months prior to the show date.
2. Show ribbons and rosettes may be awarded at any approved AIS show.
3. The Silver and Bronze Medals may be awarded only at an approved show with at least five exhibitors and at least twenty cultivars entered. For a fall show there must be at least three exhibitors and at least ten cultivars entered.
4. The Silver and Bronze Youth Medals may be awarded in the Youth Horticultural Division only if there are at least two exhibitors and at least ten cultivars entered. For a fall show there must be at least two exhibitors and at least five cultivars entered.



# Handbook For Judges and Show Officials



## Edition 8.0

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**Note:** This chapter and others from the *Handbook for Judges* are available online. It is recommended that judges and other readers check out the Introduction and Table of Contents in the full version of the *Handbook* in order to know the full list of available resources, e.g., Glossary, essays, Judge's Activity Record, etc.

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