



# Judging Jottings

At the recent Board meeting in Franklin, Tennessee, the American Rose Society Board of Directors adopted two items that make major changes in the way roses are judged. **Judges need to be aware of these changes because they take effect immediately and will affect the judging of all future rose shows.**

- (1) The Board adopted a policy of assigning “American Exhibition Names” (“AENs”) to rose cultivars for use in rose shows sponsored by the American Rose Society and its affiliated societies.
- (2) The Board adopted a series of guidelines that eliminate most grounds for disqualification. These Guidelines take effect immediately and supersede anything to the contrary in the *Guidelines and Rules for Judging Roses*. Show rules establishing additional rules for disqualification are forbidden.

## AMERICAN EXHIBITION NAMES

“AEN” now means “American Exhibition Name.” In general, the AEN will be, to the extent possible, the name under which the rose is available or otherwise generally known in the United States, not the name assigned based on the first use in international commerce as was previously the case.

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

Most disqualifications are now a thing of the past because the Board action eliminated most grounds for disqualification. **This means that the rules of every local and district show in the country must be rewritten to reflect these rule changes.** Even if the rules are not rewritten the judges must apply the new rules when they judge the show and ignore anything to the contrary in the show rules.

Below is a list of disqualifications that existed before the Board action.

1. Stem-on-Stem (where not allowed)
2. Not Disbudded (when required)
3. Foreign Substance
4. Misplaced (when placed by exhibitor)
5. Misclassified
6. Misnamed
7. Improperly Named
8. Unlabeled or Mislabeled
9. Violation of Show Rules
10. Exhibitor's Name Visible
11. Roses not grown outdoors and/or not grown by the exhibitor.

Here is the effect that the Board action had on each of these previous grounds for disqualification.

**(1) The stem-on-stem disqualification is now a potential penalization.**

Stem on stem above the lip of the vase is not to be a disqualification in any class but may be considered a fault in stem and foliage to be penalized only to the degree of its distraction, if any. Stem-on-stem below the lip of the vase is irrelevant. What goes on beneath the lip of the vase is of no consequence in judging. Judges are not to be permitted to remove a specimen from the vase to examine it for any purpose.

**(2) The side bud disqualification is now a potential penalization in those classes in which side buds were formerly not permitted.** One or more side buds in classes where side buds were formerly not permitted (one bloom per stem and open bloom hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas, minifloras, and miniatures), whether showing a bud or leaf, are not disqualification. They are a fault in stem and foliage in these classes and are penalized only to the degree of its distraction, if any. [Remember: Stem and foliage is only 20 points.] The rules concerning side buds in those classes in which side buds were permitted are unchanged.

**(3) Foreign substance.** An entry may be disqualified for a foreign substance only if it is evident that a foreign substance has been applied to enhance the bloom, such as green paint, or leaf oil.

Spray residue from horticultural oil or other conditions should be considered a fault in stem & foliage to be penalized only to the degree of its distraction, if any.

Grooming materials accidentally left on the specimens such as cotton balls, Q-Tips®, paper labels with the name of the rose, shall be carefully removed before judging by the judge or clerk at the direction of the judge.

Aphids, mites, thrips, and other natural things may be blown off by a judge or otherwise ignored unless patently distracting, in which case the entry may be penalized according to the degree of distraction.

**(4) Misplaced (when placed by exhibitor).** Misplaced entries containing the correct class on the entry tag shall be moved to the proper place and judged. Under the former rule only entries misplaced by the placement committee were moved to the proper class. Under the new rules all misplaced entries are to be moved to the proper class.

**(5) Misclassified.** Entries that contain an erroneous class on the entry tag shall if practicable be moved to the proper place and judged.

[Full disclosure. I was a beneficiary of this rule. Without checking the classification, I entered 'Easy to Please' in the modern shrub class at the New York District Convention Rose Show. It won Best Modern Shrub, but it was discovered it was a floribunda. Instead of disqualifying it, the judges moved it to the floribunda class and re-judged. It won Best Floribunda Spray.]

**(6) Misnamed** Misnamed refers to a entry that is not the variety named on the entry tag. The Board action did not affect this ground for disqualification. Entries still need to be correctly named, although accepted synonyms are permissible. (see below)

**(7) Improperly Named is no longer a disqualification.** Improperly named refers to a rose entered under a synonym of its AEN. Roses bearing accepted synonyms, *e.g.*, trade names, are not considered to be misnamed. The judge should mark the correct AEN and have the entry moved to its proper place. Misspellings, including abbreviations, are not a cause for disqualification. As a courtesy the judge may note the correct spelling on the entry tag.

**(8) Unlabeled or Mislabeled.** Unlabeled refers to an entry with no entry tag. Mislabeled refers to omission of the variety name, the exhibitor's name and/or the class number on the entry tag. The Board action did not address these grounds for disqualification. An entry tag bearing the exhibitors name, the variety

name (or an accepted synonym), and the class number is still required. However, no additional information is, or may be, required. (see below)

**(9) Violation of Show Rules. Show rules establishing additional reasons for disqualification are prohibited unless the rules address the specifications for a challenge class, e.g. requiring all HTs or AARS winners.** Except for challenge class requirements, judges must ignore show rules that establish additional reasons for disqualification. Please note the following.

**Wedging Materials.** No disqualification or penalization for use of prohibited wedging materials. Wedging materials may be penalized only to the extent they extend above the lip of the vase and only to the degree of distraction. What goes on beneath the lip of the vase shall be of no consequence in judging.

**Entry tags.** Entries shall not be disqualified for failure to include details on entry tag such as exhibitor numbers, filling out both parts of the tag, using the wrong colored ink, or failure to list informative details on OGRs such as type and date of introduction.

**(10) Exhibitor's Name Visible.** The Board action did not specifically address this ground for disqualification. But, because the Board action was intended to eliminate, to the extent possible, disqualifications, clerks are permitted to remove or cover up the exhibitor's name if it is discovered before the entry is judged.

**(11) Roses still must be grown outdoors by the exhibitor.** The Board action did not address these grounds for disqualification. Any entry that was not grown outdoors and/or not grown by the exhibitor must be disqualified.

## SUMMARY

After the Board action, the following grounds (and only these grounds) for disqualification remain:

1. A foreign substance that has been applied to enhance the beauty of the bloom.
2. Misnamed. Rose is not the variety given on the entry tag.
3. Unlabeled or Mislabeled. Entry lacks an entry tag or the exhibitor's name, the class number, and/or the name of the variety is not given on the entry tag.
4. Exhibitor's name visible if not corrected before the entry is judged.

5. A challenge class entry that does not satisfy the requirements of the class in which it is entered.
6. Any entry that was not grown outdoors and/or not grown by the exhibitor.

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### **GUIDELINES PASSED BY THE BOARD**

Here are the Guidelines passed by the Board. A proposed revision of the *Guidelines and Rules for Judging Roses* that incorporates these Guidelines will be submitted to the Horticulture Judging Committee for comment and then presented to the Board at the Board meeting in Colorado Springs.

1. Stem on stem shall not be a disqualification in any class but may be considered a fault in stem & foliage to be penalized only to the degree of its distraction, if any.
2. Side buds in classes where side buds are not permitted, whether showing a bud or leaf shall not be a disqualification but shall be considered a fault in stem & foliage to be penalized only to the degree of its distraction, if any.
3. What goes on beneath the lip of the vase shall be of no consequence in judging and judges shall not be permitted to remove a specimen from the vase to examine it for any purpose.
4. Roses bearing accepted synonyms, *e.g.*, trade names, should not be considered misnamed but the judge should mark the correct AEN and have the entry moved to its proper place.
5. Misspelling of names, including abbreviations shall not be cause for disqualification and the judge as a courtesy may note the correct spelling on the entry tag.
6. Misplaced entries containing the correct class on the entry tag shall be moved to the proper place and judged.
7. Mislabeled entries that contain the erroneous class on the entry tag shall if practicable be moved to the proper place and judged.

8. Grooming materials accidentally left on the specimens such as cotton balls, Q-Tips®, paper labels with the name of the rose, shall be carefully removed before judging by the judge or clerk at the direction of the judge.
9. Aphids, mites, thrips and other natural things may be blown off by a judge or otherwise ignored unless patently distracting, in which case the entry may be penalized according to the degree of distraction.
10. An entry may be disqualified for a foreign substance only if it is evident that a foreign substance has been applied to enhance the bloom, such as green paint, or leaf oil. Spray residue from horticultural oil or other conditions should be considered a fault in stem & foliage to be penalized only to the degree of its distraction, if any.
11. Show rules establishing additional reasons for disqualification shall be forbidden unless the rules address the specifications for a challenge class, *e.g.* requiring all HTs or AARS winners. Entries shall not be disqualified for failure to include details on entry tag such as exhibitor numbers, filling out both parts of the tag, using the wrong colored ink, or failure to list informative details on OGRs such as type and date of introduction. So too with wedging materials which may be penalized only to the extent they extend above the lip of the vase and only to the degree of distraction.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that amendments to the American Rose Society Guidelines and Rules for Judging Roses as contemplated by these Resolutions shall be submitted by American Rose Society Horticulture Judges Committee for adoption by the Board of Directors at its Spring 2020 meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado, for immediate application thereafter.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the rules on disqualification set forth in the American Rose Society Guidelines and Rules for Judging Roses that are in conflict with the above principles shall be suspended until the foregoing amendments are made and adopted.

## **American Rose Society**

**President - Robert B. Martin Jr.**

**Vice President – Diane Sommers**

**Executive Director – Jon Corkern**

**National Hort. Judging Chair – Bruce M. Monroe**

### **District Horticultural Judging Chairs**

Buckeye	Jim Hering
Carolina	Rita Van Lenten
Central	Gary Osborn
Colonial	Marion Brown and John Donelson
Deep South	Joanne Maxheimer
Great Lakes	Roman Kwarsinski
Gulf	Frank & Flo Hover
Illinois/Ind.	Mark Nolen
New York	Dave Rink
N. Central	Robert Heiberg
NCNH	Martine LaBelle
PNW	Bruce Lind/Jim Linman/Gretchen Humphrey
PSW	Chris Greenwood
Penn-Jersey	Diane Wilkerson
Rocky Mt.	Walt and Diana Kilmer
S. Central	Tommy Hebert
Tenarky	Richard Anthony
Yankee	Ed Cunningham