

How to handle AIS Awards with no vote in 2020

My primary consideration in setting up a ballot for 2021, with no vote having been taken in 2020, is to try to be sure that every iris has the same chance of winning an award that it would have if the vote had been taken this year. Below I will discuss each level of award in detail.

HM - For 2020 Honorable Mention, the (unused) ballot includes Bearded Iris introduced in 2018, 2017, and 2016; and beardless Iris from 2017, 2016, and 2015, except for the iris that previously won their HM of course. Normally in the 2021 ballot bearded iris from 2016 and beardless Iris from 2015 would be dropped. That will not happen. Those iris will stay on the ballot, and bearded iris from 2019 and beardless Iris from 2018 will be added. Since 10% of the eligible Iris win the award, irises will have the same chance of winning that they would have in a normal year.*

Ballot year	Intro years (bearded)	Intro years (beardless)
2018	2016, 2015, 2014	2015, 2014, 2013
2019	2017, 2016, 2015	2016, 2015, 2014
2020	(2018, 2017, 2016)	(2017, 2016, 2015)
2021	2019, 2018, 2017, 2016	2018, 2017, 2016, 2015
2022	2020, 2019, 2018, 2017	2019, 2018, 2017, 2016
2023	2021, 2020, 2019, 2018	2020, 2019, 2018, 2017
2024	2022, 2021, 2020	2021, 2020, 2019 (first "normal" year)

AM - The Award of Merit, just as there is a 1 year gap between introduction and HM eligibility (for a bearded iris), there is a 1 year gap between winning the HM and being eligible for the AM. Therefore the same logic can be applied (with the difference that there will be no 2020 HMs).

Ballot year	HM win year
2018	2016, 2015, 2014
2019	2017, 2016, 2015
2020	(2018, 2017, 2016)
2021	2019, 2018, 2017, 2016
2022	2019, 2018, 2017
2023	2021, 2019, 2018
2024	2022, 2021
2025	2023, 2022, 2021 (first "normal" year)

Special Medals - there is also a 1 year gap between winning the AM and eligibility for the Special Medal in each iris class, so the same logic can be used again.

Ballot year	AM win year
2018	2016, 2015, 2014
2019	2017, 2016, 2015
2020	(2018, 2017, 2016)
2021	2019, 2018, 2017, 2016
2022	2019, 2018, 2017
2023	2021, 2019, 2018
2024	2022, 2021
2025	2023, 2022, 2021 (first "normal" year)

Dykes Medal - there is no gap between winning a Special Medal and becoming eligible for the Dykes Medal. Therefore it is handled differently

Ballot year	Special Medal win
2017	2016, 2015, 2014
2018	2017, 2016, 2015
2019	2018, 2017, 2016
2020	(2019, 2018, 2017)
2021	2019, 2018, 2017
2022	2021, 2019, 2018
2023	2022, 2021, 2019
2024	2023, 2022, 2021 (first "normal" year)

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AIS Awards