

Chapter 4B

A VIRTUAL IRIS SHOW: Rules & Regulations

Approved by the AIS Board of Directors, February 28, 2024

The American Iris Society (AIS) provides opportunities for members and the general public to display virtually irises they have grown and have those irises judged in an AIS sanctioned show.

I. THE VIRTUAL SHOW SCHEDULE

The 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. For a sanctioned show, the show schedule must be in agreement with the official exhibition rules and regulations adopted by The American Iris Society.

For the virtual show to be sanctioned by The American Iris Society, the show schedule must be approved by the AIS exhibition schedule chair. The proposed schedule should be submitted, electronically, in draft form no later than four weeks prior to the show date. Even if the schedule closely follows that of a previous year, an updated and corrected copy of that schedule still must be submitted. A copy of the submitted draft show schedule should be kept by the show chair because the material submitted for approval will be retained by the AIS exhibition schedule chair and will not be returned.

The AIS exhibition schedules chair will review the draft show schedule and prepare an Evaluation/Approval form detailing any required modifications. Once the draft schedule has been approved, the AIS exhibitions schedule chair will email to the sponsoring organization an approval package which contains the approval letter, show report forms, Exhibition Certificate (E.C.) ballots, and a show supplies order form with the current prices. Also supplied are templates for virtual certificates, show ribbons, and rosettes.

The show schedule should contain the following basic information:

1. The title of the show (optional).
2. The name of the sponsoring organization (e.g., affiliate, region, section).
3. Date(s) of the show. A virtual iris show may run for several days, weeks or months. Deadlines of date and time must be clearly stated. For example, March 1, 2023 (noon) until July 1, 2023 (11:59 p.m.)
4. The name of the show chair with a contact email address. It is recommended to use the sponsoring organization's email address and avoid using personal email addresses.
5. A statement that the show is sanctioned by The American Iris Society.
6. A statement of who may enter the virtual show.
7. A list of all awards offered including the AIS awards plus any club or organization awards.
8. A list of general and specific rules for each Horticultural Division. A list of the rules for any other division in the virtual show such as Artistic Design, Youth, Seedling, etc.
9. Rules regarding the correct identification of irises.
10. A detailed description of the photograph standards for each entry that includes but is not limited to:
 - 10a- quantity of photos,
 - 10b- precise description of each required photo in an entry, and
 - 10c- photo type and size limits of photo.

An example of photograph standards might be:

“Four photos are required for each entry in the Horticultural Division:

A- One front view of stalk and flower,

B- One top-down view of the flower,

C- One closeup side view of the flower that allows the best view of the inside of the flower,

D- And one best view of the entire clump with bloom stalk(s).

Each photo must be a jpeg, smaller than 6000 MB and should be larger than 500 MB.”

11. Photographs that contain an identifiable image of a person will be disqualified.
12. A detailed description of how to name photographs.
13. The number of entries allowed from each exhibitor in each section, class, group, or category.
 - 13a- An exhibitor may have multiple entries in the Horticultural Division, but they must be of different cultivars.

- 13b- An exhibitor may have multiple entries in the Artistic Design Division, but only one entry in each class.
14. A description of the format and content of the email that contains the entry or entries including what goes into the subject line of the email.
 15. An email address for registering and submitting entries to the virtual show. It is recommended to use the sponsoring organization's email address and avoid using a personal email address.
 16. A statement that all photographs must be taken by the exhibitor, of irises grown by the exhibitor, during this current year.
 17. Entries in the Artistic Design Division must be designed and photographed by the exhibitor.
 18. Photographs become the property of the sponsoring organization (affiliate, region, section, etc.).
 19. Credit for each photograph will be given to the photographer when a picture is used for publicity or in any article or video.
 20. A statement that the virtual iris show is being held and judged under the rules and regulations of The American Iris Society and that judging is being done by AIS Judges.
 21. A statement that official rules and regulations of The American Iris Society cannot be violated.
 22. A statement as to whether show judges and/or their immediate family members may enter the show.
 23. A statement of affiliation with AIS, if the sponsoring organization is an affiliate, AIS region, or section.
 24. An invitation to join The AIS should be included in the show schedule along with membership information.
 25. Local membership information should be included along with contact information for club officers and virtual show chairs.

See Appendix: Virtual Show Schedule Template for more information.

A. Open Horticultural Division

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 species crosses are entered. **[Note: by AIS Board action, November 2017, introduction is no longer required for entering a registered cultivar in the Open Horticultural Division.]** The Open Horticultural Division must plan to accept all types and classes of irises except in specialty shows that limit the types of irises. For example, a beardless iris show would be limited to the classes of beardless irises.

All entries in the Open Horticultural and Youth Horticultural Divisions must have been grown and photographed by the exhibitor whose name appears on the entry tag. Exhibition privilege is available to anyone who grows irises.

The Open Horticultural Division should be divided into sections (e.g., tall bearded, Louisiana, spuria, novelty, etc.). Within each section and group, each cultivar constitutes a separate class and should be arranged alphabetically by cultivar name. The Open Horticultural Division of the virtual show may include bulbous iris, container-grown irises, collections, English boxes, and single blossom entries.

The show schedule must allow the show chair to combine groups with few entries, to subdivide those groups with excessive entries, and to create new groups for entries which do not fit scheduled groups. Some sections might be better judged if they are subdivided into groups or when smaller groups are combined. For example, when there are few entries in all the median classes, the show chair might combine into one median section the entries of standard dwarf bearded, miniature tall bearded entries and other median irises. When limitations are necessary to control the size of the show, limits can be placed on the number of entries, but should not be placed on the number of exhibitors.

The show schedule should clarify how family members may participate in the virtual iris show. Entries from the same family can be made of iris grown in the same garden.

To qualify for awards, entries must be correctly, clearly, and completely identified. Entries must be entered in the proper division, section and group. **Each exhibitor is permitted to have only one entry of any registered cultivar in any section, class, or group of an AIS sanctioned show. However, the exhibitor may enter the same cultivar in other sections NOT eligible for Best Specimen of Show (e.g., collections, English boxes, and single blossom entry.)**

When an entry of 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, tall bearded, 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 entries of the same cultivar to receive first-place ribbons and potentially compete against each other for higher awards.

The show schedule should include a section “For Display Only” where entries can be viewed but are not judged or eligible for awards.

B. Youth Horticultural Division

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 the age of the exhibitor, and/or sections and groups. The virtual show chair may subdivide or combine groups as needed.

All youth horticultural entries, except for bulbous irises, collections, English Boxes, and single blossom entries, are eligible for Best Entry of Show Award.

C. Seedling Division

Entries in the Seedling Division consist of any unIntroduced iris, named or unnamed, of any type. An exhibitor may enter a seedling originated by another person, but the entry is made in the name of the originator of the clone, i.e., the hybridizer’s name must appear on the entry form in addition to the photographer’s. At least one photograph in the entry must show the seedling’s entire bloom stalk. 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 cultivar may be entered in more than one section of a show. For example, a seedling could be entered in the Seedling Division AND in any section of the Open Horticultural Division that is not competing for Best Entry of Show. See chart below.

Eligibility of a Seedling Entered by One Exhibitor

	The seedling is eligible for Seedling Division only	The seedling is eligible for Seedling OR Open Horticultural Division	The seedling is eligible for Seedling AND Open Horticultural Divisions	The seedling is eligible for sections that are NOT competing for Best Entry in Show (e.g. collections iris)
An unnamed seedling not registered and not introduced (i.e., seedling with number only)	yes	no	no	yes
A named seedling , registered but NOT introduced	no	yes	no	yes

Since there can be only one Best Seedling of Show, it is appropriate to award first-place ribbons and only first-place ribbons to deserving seedlings. At least one photograph in the entry must show the entire bloom stalk of the seedling. **Seedling ribbons are NOT counted in the Silver and Bronze Medals tally.**

The Best Seedling of Show automatically receives an Exhibition Certificate (E.C.). At the end of judging the virtual show, the judges will deliver their E.C. ballots to the virtual show chair.

- (1) An E.C. is awarded to any seedling that receives a total of five or more votes cast by the judges of this show.
- (2) An E.C. will be awarded to any seedling that receives a cumulative total of at least five votes from all other AIS sanctioned shows in this current calendar year.
- (3) The count of E.C. votes from all sanctioned shows will be completed by the AIS exhibition reports chair.
- (4) An iris can win only one E.C. in each show but can win multiple E.C.s when entered in multiple shows.

D. Artistic Design Division

The virtual show schedule should state a general theme for the Artistic Design 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 show. Any requirements or limitations regarding backgrounds, niches, pedestals, underlays, table covering, and size or color schemes or designs should be specifically stated.

All Artistic Design entries must have been designed and photographed 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 the chapter on Artistic Design.

Judges should be encouraged to post comments for each design. 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 schedule might add classes for novice design exhibitors or for a person who has never won a first-place ribbon.

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

1. In order to give AIS ribbons in the Artistic Design 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 and photographed 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.
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5. The use of plants or plant parts that are on your state's conservation list or are illegal is 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.

II. JUDGES FOR THE VIRTUAL SHOW & JUDGING

A rule in the show schedule must be included to say if and under what circumstances judges may judge a show in which they or members of their immediate families have entries. Judging ethics would indicate that a judge should not serve in such a situation. However, the scarcity of judges, emergency situations, or other extenuating circumstances might necessitate allowing a judge to judge while having entries in the virtual show. This decision is left to the virtual show chair.

Before judging begins, the show chair will describe the format of the entries and any special conditions or circumstances that could affect the quality of the exhibits. Regardless of special circumstances, judges must not give awards to entries they consider unworthy. Judges also cannot bar single entries in a group from consideration for awards simply because they are the lone entry in that group.

The virtual iris show could be described as an exhibition show as viewed through photographs. For in-person exhibition judging, 75% of the points are given to cultural perfection or how well the iris has been grown and 25% given to condition and grooming by the exhibitor. In the virtual iris show, the distribution of points must take into consideration the quality of the photograph. Photographs taken in dim light, with distracting shadows and awkward framing, or out-of-focus greatly diminish the ability to see cultural perfection in any iris. Professional quality photographs are not expected, but clear, in-focus, well-lit, pleasantly framed photos of the iris are expected. **In order to have a complete image of the entry, all the required photos need to be included in each entry.** In the virtual iris show, on a scale of 100 points, 50% of the points are for cultural perfection, 25% for condition and grooming, and 25% for the quality of the photograph. The required photographs in an entry should clearly document how well the iris has grown compared to the maximum typical performance of the variety being judged. In addition, consideration is given for the appearance of the iris (i.e., condition and grooming).

Entries are disqualified when they are entered in the wrong section or are misnamed. Entries that contain identifiable images of people or photographs of one cultivar from multiple clumps will not be judged. If an entry is missing one of its required photographs or contains a photograph that is blurred or otherwise unusable, the highest ribbon it can receive is 3rd place. An entry missing more than one of the required

photographs or has more than one blurred or otherwise unusable photograph, will not be judged. Cropping and enhanced contrast will be allowed because this makes judging easier.

III. AWARDS FOR VIRTUAL SHOW

The AIS awards offered at AIS sanctioned virtual shows, which have complied with AIS rules and regulations as described in this Handbook, include ribbons, rosettes, certificates, and medals. The Silver and Bronze Medals will be actual, standard AIS Horticultural Sweepstakes Medals while the award ribbons, rosettes and certificates will be virtual. Provided minimum requirements for the number of exhibitors and entries are met, organizations that sponsor sanctioned shows are entitled to one Open and one Youth Horticultural Silver Medal and one Open and one Youth Horticultural Bronze Medal per show without charge for each sanctioned virtual and in-person show. Additional medals must be purchased.

After the show schedule has been approved, the AIS exhibition schedules chair will send an approval packet that will contain among other things, templates for the virtual certificates, ribbons, and rosettes. The certificate template can be used to craft multiple virtual certificates by filling in appropriate details of winning entries.

Virtual AIS award ribbons, rosettes, including Best Entry of Show Rosette, and certificates in the Open and Youth Horticultural Divisions may be presented at any show regardless of the number of exhibitors and exhibits. Awarding the Silver and Bronze Medals requires at least five exhibitors and twenty entries representing twenty different cultivars in the Open Horticultural Divisions. The Youth Silver and Bronze Medals and certificates may be awarded in any Youth Horticultural Division if there are at least two exhibitors and at least ten entries representing ten different cultivars. The exhibitors and entries are counted from the individual cultivar sections, collections, English boxes, container-grown irises, and bulbous iris sections. See chart below.

Requirements for Awarding Exhibition Medals
(the Horticultural Sweepstakes Awards), Silver and Bronze, at AIS sanctioned shows*

Show – Division	Minimum # of exhibitors required	Minimum # of entries/ cultivars required	Included in ribbon count for Silver & Bronze Medals	<u>Not</u> included in ribbon count for medals
Open Division	5	20	individual cultivars, collections, English boxes, bulbous iris, container-grown iris	seedlings, artist designs, single blossom
Youth Division	2	10	Same	same

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

Local organizations that sponsor an AIS sanctioned show may NOT make special rules for the presentation of official AIS awards. However, they may adopt rules for giving local society awards as long as they do not conflict with AIS regulations.

A. Virtual AIS Award Ribbons

Only one virtual first-place award ribbon, one virtual second-place ribbon, and one virtual third-place ribbon may be awarded to a cultivar in any given section. As many virtual 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.

B. Exhibition Certificates

The Best Seedling of Show automatically receives an Exhibition Certificate (E.C.). At the end of judging the virtual show, the judges will deliver their E.C. ballots to the virtual show chair.

- (1) An E.C. is awarded to any seedling that receives a total of five or more votes cast by the judges of this show.
- (2) An E.C. will be awarded to any seedling that receives a cumulative total of at least five votes from all other AIS sanctioned shows in this current calendar year.
- (3) The count of E.C. votes from all sanctioned shows will be completed by the AIS exhibition reports chair.
- (4) An iris can win only one E.C. in each show but can win multiple E.C.s when entered in multiple shows.

Upon receipt of a properly completed show report, the AIS exhibition reports chair will email any AIS Exhibition Certificates supported by the E.C. ballots to the show chair who will forward them to the hybridizer(s) of the seedling(s).

C. Horticultural Sweepstakes (Silver and Bronze Medals)

The AIS Silver Medal is awarded to the exhibitor winning the most first-place ribbons in the Open Horticultural Division of the show, provided the show has at least twenty entries represented by twenty cultivars, exhibited by at least five 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 entries represented by twenty cultivars, exhibited by at least five exhibitors.

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: two exhibitors and ten entries represented by ten cultivars.

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.

D. Virtual AIS Rosettes

The virtual Best Entry of Show Rosette and certificate may be presented at any show, regardless of the number of exhibitors and exhibits. Virtual rosettes also may be presented to entries of unusual merit in any division.

The virtual Best Entry of Section Rosette and certificate also may be awarded provided there was a minimum of three exhibitors and five entries, represented by five cultivars in that section.

E. Virtual Show Certificates

AIS provides a template for virtual show certificates. The show chair or designee is responsible for filling out the template for each winner of a virtual show certificate. These might include but are not limited to Best Entry of Show, Silver and Bronze Medals, and any Best in Section awards. These are AIS awards and if offered in the virtual show, should be included in the description of awards in the show schedule (a simple “and certificate” following the matching award is usually sufficient).

IV. AFTER THE SHOW

The virtual show chair or designee should complete the show report and send it electronically to the AIS exhibition reports chair. It is not necessary for show judges to sign the report. For the show to be properly reported, a digital copy of the final show schedule and the E.C. ballots must accompany the report. A copy of the show report should also be sent to the regional vice president (RVP) and a copy retained for the local files. If a sanctioned show is canceled, a cancellation notice should be sent to the AIS exhibition reports chair and RVP.

After the properly completed show report has been received and accepted by the AIS exhibition reports chair, Exhibition Certificates (E.C.s) will be emailed to the show chair. Medals will be mailed.

The AIS Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the exhibition 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 (affiliate, region, section, etc.) on probation pending correction of violations.

V. SUMMARY

1. The preliminary schedule for a sanctioned show must be submitted to the AIS exhibition schedules chair at least four weeks prior to the show date.
2. The Best Entry in Show Rosette and show ribbons may be awarded at any sanctioned AIS show, regardless of the number of exhibitors and entries.
3. The Silver and Bronze Medals may be awarded only at a sanctioned show with at least five exhibitors and at least twenty entries representing twenty cultivars.
4. The Silver and Bronze Youth Medals may be awarded in the Youth Horticultural Division provided there are at least two exhibitors and at least ten entries representing ten cultivars.
5. The Best Entry of Section Rosette may be awarded provided there are at least three exhibitors and at least five entries representing five cultivars in the section.