

# Becoming a Judge and Judging a GCV Flower Show

Qualifications for Judging .....	2
Judging Levels .....	2
Reinstatement of Lapsed Accredited Judge.....	3
Judging a Flower Show.....	3
Artistic Point-Scoring For All Designs .....	4
Point Scoring Form.....	5
Suggested Vocabulary for Judges' Comment Cards .....	6

# Becoming a Judge and Judging a GCV Flower Show

## Qualifications for Judging

Judging is the thoughtful process of assessing the work of others by qualified individuals. A Judge should possess the following qualifications and be competent to employ them in making critical decisions.

- **Knowledge:** acquired by attending Flower Arranging Schools, passing the requirements of the GCV Judging Program, exhibiting in Flower Shows, attending Workshops and lectures, and individual study of current gardening and design styles.
- **Experience:** acquired from judging and exhibiting whenever possible.
- **Courage to uphold standards:** a Judge states her decision after careful consideration and backs it up with knowledge
- **Tact and Kindness:** towards other members of the panel and the clerks; avoid being overly critical of the exhibit and offer constructive comments. Keep an open mind regarding the “intent” of the arranger and appreciate the imagination and skill developed in the exhibit.
- **Integrity:** fairness and impartiality are essential attributes in judging a GCV Flower Show. A Judge should not accept an assignment unless she feels knowledgeable in the area required and should not judge her club’s Inter Club division.

## Judging Levels

There are four levels in the GCV Artistic Judging Program: Prospective Student Judge, Student Judge, Accredited Judge and Senior Judge.

1. **Prospective Student Judge** - Entering the GCV Judging Program
  - a. Contact Flower Shows Committee Chair indicating interest in becoming an artistic judge.
  - b. The prospective judge must be a member of a GCV club.
  - c. It is the responsibility of the prospective judge to serve as a clerk or runner for a GCV show prior to entering the judging program. To do so, she should contact the FSC Judges Chairman.
  - d. The prospective judge must have access to the online GCV Flower Shows Handbook.
2. **Student Judge**
  - a. With approval of the Flower Shows Committee Chair, the prospective judge is entered into the judging program.
  - b. She attends two GCV Artistic Flower Arranging Schools, one Introductory Workshop or one Point Scoring Workshop.
  - c. She passes three GCV exams based on the GCV Flower Shows Handbook and other material supplied by the GCV Judges Chairman prior to the exam date. The exam will include point scoring. The Student Judge must attain a passing grade of 70 points or more. The third exam is open book.
  - d. She serves three times as a Student Judge at a GCV Flower Show (as an observer of the show process).
  - e. She exhibits in two GCV Flower Shows or Flower Arranging School or Workshops.
  - f. Upon completion of the Student Judge requirements, the student judge becomes an Accredited Judge.
3. **Accredited Judge Requirements**- Complete the following requirements after becoming accredited within a five-year period to achieve accreditation for a following five-year period.
  - a. Attend three Flower Arranging Schools, Workshops or other approved lecture sessions within a five-year time period.
  - b. Pass one timed, open book exam on the Flower Shows Handbook and other materials presented by the GCV Judges Chair Prior to the exam. The exam may include point scoring. The exam is

given in September at the Flower Arranging School and in March at the Flower Arranging Workshop or anytime designated by the FSC Chair.

- c. Judge in at least two GCV Shows. A Judge should accept invitations to judge whenever possible.
  - d. Enter at least two GCV Flower Shows in an individual class. Inter Club arrangements are entered in the name of the GCV Club. They do not meet the requirement of maintaining a judge's status even if the judge is the only person to develop the design.
  - e. In case of personal or immediate family illness, an extension may be granted by the GCV Judges Chairman as it relates to the fulfillment of requirements.
  - f. Yearly, send to the Flower Shows Judges Chair [gcvjudges@gmail.com](mailto:gcvjudges@gmail.com) information regarding the requirements above for maintaining accredited judge status.
- 4. Senior Judge**
- a. After at least fifteen years of continuous service as an Accredited Judge, a Judge may acquire Senior Status.
  - b. Senior Judges are encouraged to take the re-accreditation exam every five years.
  - c. Senior Judges must be willing to keep up-to-date with changes in the Flower Shows Handbook and always be alert to current trends in floral design.
  - d. Other Requirements to Maintain Accredited Judge Status apply, with the exception of the exam.

## Reinstatement of Lapsed Accredited Judge

1. A Judge is considered lapsed if she has not maintained her Accredited Judge requirements.
2. She may apply to the GCV Flower Shows Chair for reinstatement.
3. She must attend a Flower Arranging School or Workshop and pass a timed, open-book exam which includes point-scoring and enter an individual class in a GCV Flower show-all within a period of one year.
4. Any Judge lapsed longer than five years loses all Judging status.

## Judging a Flower Show

1. A GCV Judge serves by invitation of the GCV Flower Shows Committee Judges Chairman and the Flower Show host club. She acknowledges invitations promptly and serves if possible.
2. The GCV Judge is responsible for studying the schedule prior to the show. If she has questions concerning the schedule they should be directed to the GCV Judges Chairman.
3. An assignment sheet for judging the show will be sent to the GCV Judges by the GCV Judges Chairman.
4. A Judges Meeting will be held prior to Judging the show in order to clarify any design questions. If unable to attend the meeting, the GCV Judges Chairman must be promptly notified.
5. Do not visit the show floor prior or workrooms prior to Judging. If exhibiting horticulture specimens, arrangements may be made to have them placed for you.
6. Arrive promptly at the appointed time and place so as not to delay the judging process.
7. A Judge does NOT disqualify an exhibit; that is the responsibility of the Passing Committee, whose decision is final.
8. A Judge NEVER touches an exhibit. (If a problem arises, consult the GCV Flower Shows Committee Chairman.)
9. An exhibit is judged as it appears at the time of judging.
10. Exhibits are judged from the front of the arrangement from a distance of approximately 3 feet.
11. All Arrangements receive comment cards, which should be brief, constructive and always start with a positive statement. The comment cards are recorded by the clerks after final approval of the judging team.
12. Each class should receive the following ribbons: one Blue (90-100 points), one Red (80-89 points), one Yellow (70-79 points). The judges may award as many White ribbons as they feel warrant the points (60-69 points).

13. After consultation with the GCV Flower Shows Chairman and the GCV Judges Chairman, ribbons may be withheld where point scoring denies requisite points for a given ribbon. However, every effort should be made to award all ribbons.
14. Artistic Judges MAY NOT exhibit in artistic classes in a show which they are judging. They MAY enter the horticulture classes with the understanding that someone else may need to place the exhibits in order that the artistic judge not appear on the show floor or workrooms prior to judging.
15. After all classes are judged, the Judges vote on the following awards:
  - a. Quad-Blue/Best Inter club (Only Blue ribbons are considered.)
  - b. Tri-Color/ Best In Show by an individual (Only Blue ribbons are considered)
  - c. Novice Award: the entry stub will be marked with an "N for Novice" at the time of registration. The award does not require winning any particular ribbon.
  - d. Most Creative design that follows the rules of its class; it need not be a ribbon winner and the candidates may come from different classes, not including Inter Club.
16. All Judges stay on the floor until they are released by the Flower Shows Chairman.
17. A GCV Artistic Judge may not invite a guest for the evening cocktail/dinner party prior to the show. (This is because of expense to the host club.)

## Artistic Point-Scoring For All Designs

Conformance to schedule	20
Design (elements and principles)	42
Artistic Concept	12
Expression (selection of materials and interpretation of class by exhibitor)	10
Distinction (marked superiority in all respects)	16
Total	100

# Point Scoring Form



## Point Scoring Sheet

	Exhibit #1	Exhibit #2	Exhibit #3	Exhibit #4
<b>20 Conformance</b> (To Schedule) Points divided equally between requirements as stated in Class description.				
<b>42 Design</b> (How did the Exhibitor relate the Elements of Color, Line, Space, Pattern, Texture, Form and Size to the Principles?) 7 – points Balance 7 – points Contrast 7 – points Rhythm 7 – points Proportion 7 – points Scale 7 – points Dominance				
<b>12 Artistic Concept</b> (Conveys the intended message) Divide into two parts 1. Selection of components 6 pts and 2. Organization of components 6 pts.				
<b>10 Expression</b> (Selection of materials and interpretation of class by Exhibitor) Design should reflect the Class title through chosen elements and components.				
<b>16 Distinction</b> (Marked superiority, look of quality, excellence and unity) Consider 1. Condition of plant material, 2. Technique - workmanship and mechanics, 3. Design faults - Take off 1 point here for each 5 points under design.)				
<b>Total</b>				

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## Suggested Vocabulary for Judges' Comment Cards

From Mrs. John Miller, former National Chairman, Flower Show Schools

Instead of EXCELLENT use:

Superior	Reveals clear understanding of design principles
Perfection	Recurrent qualities easily discernible
Remarkable	Undeniable relationships
Superlative	Exceedingly good
Incomparable	A high degree of perfection
Superb	Masterfully handled
Admirable	Free from imperfections
Exceptional	Comprehensive understanding
Elegant	Remarkable degree
Splendid	High order of excellence
Distinguished	Notable effective
Illustrious	Consistent dynamic relationships
Notable	Delightful interweaving of related qualities
Outstanding	Dazzlingly dramatic
Prominent	Compels admiration
Unequivocal	Unerring sense of appropriateness
Merit	Deliberately exciting
Utmost	Correctly simulates natural growth
Magnificent	Consistent style and technique
Extraordinary	Exquisite

Instead of GOOD use:

Agreeable	Proper	Skillful	Sense of fitness
Satisfactory	Accurate	Suitable	Reflects good taste
Pleasant	Definite	Effective	Meaningful relationships
Apparent	Exact	Passable	Gratifying unity
Obvious	Qualifies	Commendable	Sufficient strength
Unmistakable	Ample	Sound	Decided rhythmic flow
Evident	Compete	Lovely	Special consistent quality
Conform	Sufficient	Enchanting	Reasonable relationships
Acceptable	Adequate	Well adjusted	Easily discernible
Correct	Attractive	Well adapted	Unified expression
Comfortable	Agreeable	Well qualified	Well suited to given purpose
Appropriate	Competent	Consistent style	Relationship of likeness
Fair	Favorable	Recurrent qualities	Sense of rightness

Instead of POOR use:

Awkward	Deficient	Artlessness	Unnatural
Ill-contrived	Ungainly	Perplexing	Conflicting qualities
Ill-suited	Disassociated	Meager	Lacks inherent likeness
Improper	Disconnected	Clumsy	Includes irrelevant materials
Inadequate	Disorder	Insufficient	Lacking in certain qualities
Misapplied	Disturb	Insignificant	Deficiency of quality
Ungainly	Confusion	Weak	Serves no constructive purpose
Unsuitable	Displease	Superficial	Feeling of insecurity
Inconsistent	Offending	Unrelated	Loosely knit
Incompatible	Unfavorable	Second rate	Strength dissipated by over-elaboration

Instead of LACKS DESIGN:

Point out Principles of Design at fault. The basic principles used to organize design elements are BALANCE, DOMINANCE, CONTRAST, RHYTHM, PROPORTION AND SCALE.