CHAPTER III

Rules for Judging Exhibited Blooms
Section 1: Judging Teams

- The Chairman of Judges will form three-person Judging Teams for initial judging of all blooms. Each Judging Team shall include at least two accredited Judges and no more than one Novice Judge. Four-person teams should be used sparingly if at all possible, as access to viewing blooms is very difficult and time consuming.
Section 1: Judging Teams

- **Sweep Team/Roving Judges:** Where possible the Chairman of Judges may form one team (one, two or three judges) of senior experienced judges to roam (rove). Their task is to send to the Contention Table any competitive First Place blooms that were not sent for further consideration. Under no circumstances can the sweep team/roving judges change any award which was given to any bloom by the original team.
Prior to the commencement of judging, the Chairman of Judges will assemble and address all judges on the following:

- The instructions will include the general quality of the exhibits.
- The particulars of the Local Show Rules as relating to this show.
- If leniency is to be given on size or condition which may be the result of recent adverse weather.
- The obligation of a judge to step back and not participate in the discussion and any decision as to whether or not to send his/her own bloom to the Contention Table.
- Give instruction as to whether or not the first-place winner of each cultivar class is of such quality that it should be sent to the Contention Table for further evaluation or left in place.
Prior to the commencement of judging, the Chairman of Judges will assemble and address all judges on the following:

- Whether weighted average is to be used for contention table voting, and if so, whether judges may vote when they have blooms in the category being voted upon.
- Which categories (if any) will not be sent to the contention table, but will be decided by the judging team, and which (if any) will be narrowed to a small number to then be voted upon by all the judges.
- Whether, if the cultivar has two or more forms, the judging team should consider splitting the class if there are good flowers of different forms.
- If two members on a team step back while judging, either a sweep team member or a roving judge, or a member from another team, or the Chairman of Judges must assist the remaining team member making the selection. A minimum of two judges MUST make the decision on judging blooms.
- Before beginning a judging assignment, the Judging Team should briefly review each class assignment in order to assess the quantity and quality of the blooms in the class. This review will help to establish the standard of excellence required of blooms which should be sent to the Contention Table.
Judges are expected to judge blooms based on their knowledge and experience of bloom characteristics:

- Form
- Color
- Size
- Condition
a) Form - That which is true or characteristic of a cultivar in all of its expected variations. The form may be better, but it must not fall short of these requirements except as is habitually found in certain growing areas. Form includes bloom formation, height, petal alignment, stacking or layering, as well as texture such as smooth or creped petals, including thickness or thinness and serrated or notched petals as characteristic of the cultivar.
b) Color - That which is characteristic for a variety as stated in the Camellia Nomenclature. Color includes amount, distribution, design and clarity of distinguishing features such as variegations. Sparkle, sheen, or brilliance of the petal surface as it applies to the different cultivars also should be considered. Markings may differ somewhat from those described in the Camellia Nomenclature, sometimes can be changed by the use of gibberellic acid.
c) Size - Size as indicated in the Camellia Nomenclature refers to blooms grown unprotected and not chemically treated. All other criteria being equal, larger size is normally a plus, unless otherwise designated by the Local Show Rules.

d) Condition - Freshness, as indicated by color and appearance of the stamens (Reticulata and Non-reticulata hybrid stamens can be discolored), petals, and leaves.
**Condition**

- Blooms and foliage should be free from insect and disease injury, holes or rips, discoloration or other surface marks of any kind caused by weather or damaging contact of any kind. Growth buds may be removed by the exhibitor without risk of penalty except in shows with classes designated as treated and untreated where an intact growth bud is required for natural blooms, i.e., not chemically treated.
Semi-double ‘San Dimas Var.’ Freshness makes all the difference. The hole in the center distracts from it’s beauty. Fresh stamens make all of the difference.