CHAPTER III

Rules for Judging Exhibited Blooms
Section 3: Discussion

- Before final decisions are made at the Exhibition Table, every judge shall be willing to discuss with the other members of his or her judging team the relative merit of blooms. A judge must refrain entirely from discussing or voting in any decision which involves one of his or her own exhibits or blooms.
Section 4: Handling Flowers

- When judging, judges may move an exhibit if necessary in order to view or better compare an exhibit as long as only the cup or tray is handled and the blooms are not touched. Judges may move or request a clerk to move an exhibit for better viewing.

- Whenever two or more members of a Judging Team decide that a cultivar winning (blue ribbon) bloom is worthy of consideration for an Outstanding Bloom Certificate, the Judging Team shall place a card or note indicating that the bloom and its entry card be moved to the Contention Table provided for such competition.
Section 5: Local Climatic or Soil Conditions

a) Variations in color and/or form often are consistently caused by climatic or soil conditions peculiar to different localities. Unfamiliarity with growing conditions in a particular area should cause a judge to follow the experience and advice of other members of the judging team who are more familiar with local conditions and variations.

b) Every judge should comply with the Chairman of Judge’s or Show Chairman’s request for leniency in judging unprotected blooms due to severe weather conditions occurring just before the show.
Section 6: Misclassification and Unidentified Blooms

- Any team of judges that discovers a bloom misclassified as to cultivar or class should promptly request the Chairman of Judges to move the bloom and entry card to its proper place. If the misclassified bloom cannot be identified, its placement becomes the decision of the local Show Committee (usually the Show Chairman).
Section 7: Trays

a) Trays or plates of a specified number (3, 5, 7, etc.) of blooms of the SAME cultivar should be judged on the basis of uniformity or blending and/or contrast as well as the quality of the blooms.

b) Trays or plates of a specified number (3, 5, 7, etc.) of blooms of DIFFERENT cultivars should be evaluated on the basis of quality and attractive combinations of colors and forms as well as the quality of the blooms.
Section 7: Trays

c) Trays of Collections should be judged on the basis of whatever special features the show rules may require, as well as the quality and number of blooms and overall appearance of each collection.

d) The overall quality of a tray is usually equal to the quality of the poorest bloom on the tray.
Section 8: Withholding Ribbons, Dots, or Stickers

- If no bloom of a particular cultivar is worthy of a first place, the best bloom may deserve only a second or third place, or none at all if the blooms of the cultivar are significantly inferior.
DO’S AND DON’T’S OF JUDGING

DO’S
Do have an obligation to exhibitors - Blooms will judged fairly and uniformly by rules of show and ACS.  
Do have an obligation to general public - They attend shows for guidelines in purchasing camellias.  
Do refuse to be involved in any dispute.  
Do abide by ACS and local rules.  
Do comply with the chairman of judges’ wishes regarding leniency.  
Do judge as to how the flower appears now, not sometime in the future.  
Do be objective when voting for best of class or show.  
Do improve your knowledge of varieties by always viewing the entire show.  
Do attend an ACS authorized judge’s school or judge’s symposium at least once every five years.  
Do thank your clerks  
Do be courteous to other judges, clerks and show viewers.  
Do dress to prevent bloom damage (Watch your coats, purses, jewelry, etc.).  
Do bring and use your Nomenclature Book to each show.  
Do answer your judging invitation promptly.  
Do leave your prejudices at home.  
Do stay with your team.  
Do walk your assigned area before you begin judging.  
Do pay attention to your chairman of judges’ instructions.  
Do use common sense.  
Do discuss flower merits or faults with your team members.  
Do read the ACS rules each show season.  
Do read each local show schedule before judging.

DON’T’S
Don’t vote your own flower.  
Don’t be a nit-picker.  
Don’t complain about your judging assignment.  
Don’t be influenced by the newness or rarity of a bloom.  
Don’t give a blue ribbon unless one is warranted.  
Don’t be a dominate judge, it’s a team effort.  
Don’t be late.  
Don’t wander away from your team.  
Don’t be argumentative.  
Don’t forget the seedlings.  
Don’t leave judging area before all judging and all voting is completed.  
Don’t send petal blight to the head table.  
Don’t be a space hog, change positions and let everyone see.  
Don’t move or touch flowers unless necessary for better observation or to remove from wrong class.  
Don’t be influenced by size alone.  
Don’t wear perfume or cologne if there is going to be a fragrant class at the show.
Section 9: Contention/Head Table Judging

a) Novice judges who qualified after July 1, 2017, do NOT vote at the Contention Table.

b) Bloom merits shall NOT be discussed with other judges until all votes have been cast. Contention/Head Table voting is an individual effort.
c) Ballots shall be marked in accordance with the voting system used by the local society, i.e., one vote under the majority system, and three votes under the weighted-average system. (Majority System Example: Show has 20 judges, winning bloom must have minimum 11 votes; 10 judges have blooms on Contention Table so not voting, winning bloom must have minimum of 6 votes.)

d) If a judge’s bloom is in competition in a class on the Contention Table, that judge may either place an `X’ on the ballot or not place a ballot for that class. If the weighted-average voting system is being used, then it will be left up to the discretion of the Local Society as to whether that judge may or may not vote in that class. All voting instructions will be announced by the Chairman of Judges.
e) After the winners have been determined for all major divisional classes according to the Local Show Schedule, the remaining truly white blooms on the Contention Table (designated white only by the Camellia Nomenclature) should be assembled to select the Best White Bloom. If a white bloom wins one of the major Divisional Awards, it should NOT be considered for the Best White award, since the Division Award is a more senior award.

f) After the Divisional winners in the Show have been chosen, winners for local award categories can be determined.

g) For instructional purposes, the Judging Team should do a post-judging analysis of the Contention Table results with any Novice on the Team.
Section 10: Finality of Decisions

- The decisions of the judges shall be final in all matters within their jurisdiction as stated in these rules.
Section 11: Privileges of Judges

- Each judge has the right to:
  a) Expect to be furnished a copy of the Show Schedule and program sufficiently far in advance for him or her to become familiar with the Divisions and Classes as well as the Local Show Rules.
  b) Excuse themselves from any dispute in the judging process.
DO’S AND DON’T’S OF JUDGING

DO’S
Do have an obligation to exhibitors - Blooms will judged fairly and uniformly by rules of show and ACS.
Do have an obligation to general public - They attend shows for guidelines in purchasing camellias.
Do refuse to be involved in any dispute.
Do abide by ACS and local rules.
Do comply with the chairman of judges’ wishes regarding leniency.
Do judge as to how the flower appears now, not sometime in the future.
Do be objective when voting for best of class or show.
Do improve your knowledge of varieties by always viewing the entire show.
Do attend an ACS authorized judge’s school or judge’s symposium at least once every five years.
Do thank your clerks
Do be courteous to other judges, clerks and show viewers.
Do dress to prevent bloom damage (Watch your coats, purses, jewelry, etc.).
Do bring and use your Nomenclature Book to each show.
Do answer your judging invitation promptly.
Do leave your prejudices at home.
Do stay with your team.
Do walk your assigned area before you begin judging.
Do pay attention to your chairman of judges’ instructions.
Do use common sense.
Do discuss flower merits or faults with your team members.
Do read the ACS rules each show season.
Do read each local show schedule before judging.

DON’T’S
Don’t vote your own flower.
Don’t be a nit-picker.
Don’t complain about your judging assignment.
Don’t be influenced by the newness or rarity of a bloom.
Don’t give a blue ribbon unless one is warranted.
Don’t be a dominate judge, it’s a team effort.
Don’t be late.
Don’t wander away from your team.
Don’t be argumentative.
Don’t forget the seedlings.
Don’t leave judging area before all judging and all voting is completed.
Don’t send petal blight to the head table.
Don’t be a space hog, change positions and let everyone see.
Don’t move or touch flowers unless necessary for better observation or to remove from wrong class.
Don’t be influenced by size alone.
Don’t wear perfume or cologne if there is going to be a fragrant class at the show.