

SCHEDULE

Writing

OHA JUDGING COMMITTEE

Judges UPDATE Part 2

January 30, 2024



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SCHEDULE *Writing*

- Judges can play an important role in helping Societies write a good show Schedule.
- Judges have been trained using OJES, which provides a good guideline for writing a well-structured and stimulating schedule.
- Judges are knowledgeable and experienced individuals who can provide valuable input to societies in the writing of schedules.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

- At Judging School – we learned that the schedule needs to be clear, concise, and consistent.
- The **Schedule** is the “**Law of the Show**” and overrides OJES.
- Once the date, time, location and theme for the show have been set, preparing the schedule is the next and most important organizational task.
- Schedules should be available well in advance so participants can plan their gardens

SCHEDULE *Writing*

- Every effort should be made to have the show conform to Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Floral Design and Horticulture (OJES 2019 edition). Encourage your Committee to use OJES.
- The World Association of Floral Artists (WAFA) Flower Show Rules may apply if specified in the schedule.
- Since the Schedule is the Law of the Show, it may call for some specific rules from another source to be followed for a specific class.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

- Schedules should reflect the interest, skill, design knowledge and experience of exhibitors.
- Keep in mind the availability of plant material for the local area, and what might be grown that is seasonally appropriate. Not all societies have access to wholesalers and large floral outlets.
- Societies should be encouraged to change up the schedule – often, there is a tendency to keep it the same, and a stale schedule may not attract new exhibitors or observers or keep the attention of members.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

- Writing Schedules as Standard Shows with 5 classes in Design and 5 classes in Horticultural divisions.
- Having a show with at least 5 classes in the Design and Horticultural divisions gives your exhibitors a wider selection of things to choose from to bring to the show.
- Standard shows can be a big help to Judges who need to enter shows as part of their recertification. They need to exhibit in Shows that are at a minimum **written as Standard**.
- If a show does not have enough entries to fulfill the Standard show definition, Judges can still count the entry.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

- When a Special Exhibits Division is included, it should have a minimum of two (2) classes with at least four (4) exhibits in each class. Special Exhibits must be judged by a judge in good standing qualified in both design and horticulture or by a team of judges who are so qualified.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

General rules that apply to a show – see OJES pg. 12-14

- Exhibitors - Who may exhibit?

Outline who may exhibit and under what conditions, e.g., anyone who is a member in good standing. To stimulate outside interest, the entire schedule may be open to non-members, or a section can be established for non-members, e.g., open class(es).

SCHEDULE *Writing*

- Number of Entries Permitted

State how many entries may be exhibited in a given class by an individual exhibitor. If more than one entry is allowed in a horticultural class, they must be different cultivars.

- Timetable for Placement and Removal of Entries

Clearly define the deadlines for receiving entries. Be specific and strictly enforce this rule. Clearly state removal times and any policy regarding early removal and disposal of entries.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Awards

- All awards should be listed in the schedule, with credit to donors where applicable.
- Best in Show must be selected from 1st place entries. Judge's Choice need not be a 1st place winner in a class. Judge's Choice is based on the judge's recognition of an eligible entry that is notable in some aspect.
- For highest point aggregate awards:
1st - 5 points 2nd - 3 points 3rd - 2 points Honourable Mention - 1 point
- Additional points may be given for Best in Show and Judge's Choice.
- Monetary awards are at the discretion of the organization hosting the show.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Entry Tags

- The schedule should state if entry tags will be supplied.
- It is suggested that all tags be opened when judging is completed, and all special awards determined.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Policy Regarding Judging Decisions

- The decision of the judge(s) shall be final. Any protest must be in writing and submitted to the Show Chair in the timeframe specified in the schedule.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Placement of Exhibits

- State that the exhibitor is responsible for ensuring that their entries are properly named and, where permitted, placed in the proper classes. The show committee should help when necessary. Some shows assign this responsibility to a subcommittee.
- Design and Special Exhibit entries should not be moved after placement except by the exhibitor and only in exceptional circumstances by the Show Chair or their designate.
- Horticultural entries may be moved by the show committee.
- You might want to allow Exhibitors to have someone else bring their completed entries and have them place the entries on the show table. If you do this it needs to be in the rules and should describe what type of entries it covers.
- Some shows include a rule that Designs must be the “sole work” of the exhibitor. Note that OJES is silent on this point.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Terminology

- A glossary of design, horticultural, and special exhibit terms is included in OJES. Consult OJES and include the correct terminology. It should be used in the show schedule.
- Any terminology not found in OJES and used in a schedule should be clearly defined in the schedule. Exhibitors should make themselves familiar with the terminology.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

DESIGN DIVISION KEY ASPECTS

The theme for the show and/or the Design Division and Special Exhibits Division should provide inspiration for class titles and stimulate the imagination of exhibitors and the interest of the viewing public.

- Classes in the Design Division of a show are given titles that relate to the theme of the show or to a theme specifically chosen for the Design and Special Exhibits Divisions.
- If not otherwise specified, a design can be any style.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

- To create a properly structured and stimulating schedule requires knowledgeable and experienced individuals who are:
 - Imaginative and innovative.
 - Experienced in flower shows, especially in both exhibiting and staging designs.
 - Familiar with show terminology and its meanings.
 - Knowledgeable about the design capabilities of members of the organization.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

- A stimulating and challenging schedule should be:
 - Imaginative
 - Well balanced
 - Clear, concise and consistent
 - Easily understood.
- Staging information should be included where possible, as free from restrictions as possible.
- The name of the class and the staging requirements are usually sufficient restrictions.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

A schedule should state that:

- When a schedule calls for “A design,” any style may be entered.
- Plant material must predominate unless the schedule states otherwise.
- Accessories are permitted unless the schedule states otherwise.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Producing a good schedule requires that all class titles:

- Relate to the theme.
- Are broadly interpretable (to encourage variety and originality).
- Are worded so that they are easily remembered and understood.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Use of Definitions of terminology

- It is often important to include in the Schedule definitions of terms and terminology.
- By including definitions, it helps exhibitors who, unlike Judges, may not have an in-depth knowledge of OJES or exhibiting.
- We want to encourage people to enter. Anything that helps exhibitors by making it an easier and more pleasant experience is a good add-on.
- Check the OJES Glossary for useful definitions and add a brief glossary as part of the schedule. Give definitions of the Design styles.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Examples of helpful definitions in Design

- **Plant Material** - A term used in floral design to refer to all parts of the plant, e.g., flowers, foliage, fruit, seeds, bark, stems, roots, etc.
- **Named** - Labelling for plants in a Horticultural or Special Exhibits entry should be neat and legible with the correct common/botanical name and cultivar (if possible). Labels should be unobtrusive.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

- **Novice** – A person new to entering competitions, or who has won fewer than a specified number of 1st place ribbons in shows. This may be modified to suit local show requirements. The sponsoring organization, e.g., Society or Club, to determine the requirements.
- **Native Plants** – Plant species indigenous to Canada prior to the arrival of the first European settlers.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. I recently participated in an OHA flower show in a design class with fresh coniferous foliage. In order to provide moisture to the arrangement, I filled the container (which, in this case, was a blue pumpkin that I grew) with vermiculite as a water-retaining material. At the very top of the design around a candle, I used a small amount of clean Bx mixed with vermiculite. The judge thought that I had used soil and left a note that it was not permitted (which is quite clear in the OHA judging standards). Of course, we all know that vermiculite is a mineral and that Bx is primarily peat (and relatively easy to discern from soil)

As I like to use this type of media in some types of designs as it is a water-retaining material and would hope to be able to use it in the future, I would appreciate clarification on whether vermiculite and/or soilless potting mixtures are permitted. It certainly seems far more environmentally friendly than Oasis.

A. Soil is defined in OJES: “The upper layer of earth in which plants grow. No soil is permitted in floral design. Sand, pebbles, wood chips, etc. are permissible. Since BX is primarily peat moss and peat moss is a growing media, it could be considered soil. Peat moss is a layer of earth in which plants can grow so peat moss would be considered soil. If you use pure vermiculite (which is a mineral), you may need to add a tag stating what it is so the judge and passing committee are aware.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. Transparency Design: How much material should be in front or behind the screening?

A. There is no set amount that has been defined as being in front of or behind the screening material.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. Do you have to have a Novice Division to have novice classes in your Schedule?

A. No. You could add a novice class to any of the Divisions (Horticultural, Design or Special Exhibits Divisions).

Novice classes are a good way to encourage people who haven't exhibited and are hesitant to enter because they don't feel comfortable competing against seasoned exhibitors.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. **Can dyed or painted plant material be used in designs?**

A. Yes, unless the show schedule prohibits it.

Painted and/or artificially coloured plant material may be used unless otherwise stated in the regulations. It nowhere states that fresh plant material may not be painted or artificially colored. (This is in the Design Division only!).

OJES 2019 on Page 138, Dyed Plant Material, states: Dried or fresh plant material whose appearance is altered by dyeing is not permitted in the Horticultural Division. (Note, it does not say in the Design Division, where it is permitted!).

OJES 2019 on Page 146, Painted Plant Material, states: Dried or fresh plant material whose appearance has been altered by the application of paint. Schedule to govern. This is not permitted in the Horticultural Division. (Note, it does not say in the Design Division, where it is permitted!)

SCHEDULE *Writing*

- Q. Why should you have five classes in both the Horticulture and Design Divisions and meet the Standard show requirement?**
- A.** Having a Standard Show (at least written as Standard) allows local judges to enter and get credit for showing which they need to recertify. Having extra classes gives exhibitors more choices.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. Can the five (5) design classes include Novice or Youth?

A. Yes, if the Schedule does not have a separate Division for Novice or Youth. If there is a separate Youth Division, then Youth classes would be shown in the Youth Division; the same goes for Novice.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. Is it appropriate to have a novelty Design or Special Exhibit?

A. Yes, by all means, why not. Shows need to appeal to all members, and a Novelty class just might spur some interest in exhibiting.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. What if OJES does not mention something is prohibited?

A. Always keep in mind that if OJES does not specifically prohibit something, then it is permitted.

But the Schedule is the Law of the Show, and special rules can be created by the schedule writers that will overrule OJES.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. Can I use oiled leaves in my design?

A. Yes, unless the show schedule prohibits it.

OJES 2019, on Page 22, Tips In Preparation of Entries, states: Wiring, oiling, spraying with leaf shine, and artificial colouring is prohibited in the Horticultural Division. (Note: it does not say in the Design Division where it is permitted.)

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. The 'Rule of Thumb' about the 1/3 (container) to 2/3(plant material) rule, is that still relevant?

A. Yes, generally in most cases, but not all.

Although not specifically addressed in OJES 2019, Proportion on Page 149 and Scale on Page 150 are guides in getting the proper proportion and scale.

For example, in the Design Division, a design that does not have the proper height or width looks compacted and tight, and the container would look out of proportion and too large for the design.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. If a Show Schedule differs from OJES, which takes precedence?

A. Always remember, “The Schedule is the Law of the Show.” Read it very carefully to fully understand the rules and what is prohibited. The Schedule overrules OJES if something is specifically described in the Show Schedule.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. Can I use soil in my design for effect?

A. No.

OJES 2019, on Page 151, Soil, states: Soil is the upper layer of earth in which plants grow. No soil is permitted in floral design. Sand, pebbles, wood chips, etc. are permissible. (Soil contains bacteria, fungus, spores, etc., that cause rapid deterioration of cut plant materials.) Note: Pot-et-Fleur, Plants, and Flowers, etc., should be listed under the Special Exhibits Division in a show schedule. See a listing of suggested classes in OJES 2019 on Page 118.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. How do you write a schedule that will get inactive members to participate?

A. A few ideas might be :

- Add Novice classes – give new exhibitors a chance without the pressure of competing against seasoned pros.
- Add fun Novelty classes – like a design in a garden boot titled “Kick Start.”
- Have a speaker talk on designs and demonstrate how to make designs or special exhibits and show some of the tips and tricks.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. How do you deal with designers moving other exhibitors' designs?

A. Remind the Exhibitors of the rules and make sure your rules use the wording on Page 13 of OJES stressing placements and the moving of entries in Design and Special Exhibits. You should perhaps have someone from the Show Committee monitor the design area to help exhibitors understand the rules. Add a rule that states failure to abide by the rules of the show or being aggressive or verbally abusive may result in a person being disqualified and removed from the show.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. How do you keep track of who is no longer a Novice?

A. Check the flower show stats after a show or at the end of the season and let exhibitors know when they have moved out of the novice category or otherwise rely on the honour system.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. What is BX?

A. BX is a brand name for one of the soilless growing mixtures made by the Pro Mix company. Soilless mixtures contain peat. Different companies use different names. Any mixture with peat included is a growth medium and therefore not permitted in Design.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. How can Societies get help with their Shows?

A. Ask a Judge. Check out local judges or district judges. All OHA Judges are listed on the OHA website. Helping to educate Societies and Show committees is part of our job. Judges feel free to offer to give support for reviewing not just schedules but also show organization. Societies and Show committees often are not as aware of OJES as are trained Judges.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. Clear glass containers in shows. Are they necessary?

A. No not really. It is up to the Show committee to decide on what type of container is acceptable. But keep in mind the more restrictive you are you may lose competitors. In Horticulture it's not the container that counts. The Judge is only looking at the specimen. If you want all clear containers, then either provide them or make your rule less restrictive like "Clear glass is preferred but others are acceptable. Please ensure all containers are clean and stable."

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. What about offering extra comments to the Show Committee after the show?

A. Yes, by all means if asked because people want to learn how to improve. People learn from comments just Keep them positive and helpful. Take advantage of the opportunity if asked because it's a chance to educate about OJES Schedule writing, how to exhibit etc.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

- Q. People want to know why you as the judge picked a certain item as a first. What should you do?**
- A.** If you have time and feel comfortable take the opportunity to help them understand what you as a judge were looking for. Offer to give a talk on How to Exhibit or demo a design for them. See the OHA website for notes on How to Exhibit and give them a copy.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. Has anyone dealt with a class of growing sprouts?

A. Yes, Growing sprouts is a new trend. Make it a fun class or an educational class. Judge it as a veggie.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. How do you go about setting up a District Judges Update Session?

- **A.** Contact Jim Mabee- the OHA Updates Coordinator at mabeejim@yahoo.com. He can give you advice. We are going to be posting guidelines and suggestions on the various types of Updates such as In-person at the Convention, virtual, in-person ½ day, etc. We will have sample templates to help you.

SCHEDULE *Writing*

Q. How do you deal with Bonsai in a Show?

A. The Schedule is the “Law of the Show”. If there is a class you should Judge it. But be sure to mention to the Show Committee that as an OHA Judge, we are not trained to Judge Bonsai. Give them the pages 120 and 132 references in OJES and suggest they use an educational class for Bonsai rather than a judged class.

THANK YOU

- Thank you to all the members of the OHA Judging Committee for their assistance in producing and presenting this educational opportunity.
- Thank you to the GCO/Judges Council for their collaboration.
- Thank you to the OHA Board for their ongoing support of Virtual training opportunities.