



THE OSCOV JUDGING HANDBOOK

(16 April 2023)

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1. THE JUDGING PANEL

1.1 GENERAL

The Judging Panel of the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria (**OSCOV**) will be known as the Victorian Orchid Judging Panel. It comprises a group of people voluntarily giving their time and expertise to judge orchids for the benefit of all orchid growers. Judging will be performed according to the Principles defined in the OSCOV Judging Handbook.

Panel members are encouraged to communicate freely with other judges and all orchid growers for the further enhancement of judging. The Panel encourages input in relation to judging matters from any member of a Member Society of the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria.

The Registrar is required to advise all Member Societies of the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria of any changes to the OSCOV Judging rules, and of any other changes relating to judging. The Registrar is empowered to conduct correspondence directly with other judging registrars on judging matters.

1.2 THE PANEL

- (a) The Panel is an autonomous body of OSCOV judges working under the aegis of the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Inc. It will henceforth be referred to as the Judging Panel.
- (b) The Judging Panel will deal with all matters relating to judging.
- (c) The Judging Panel will comprise Emeritus Judges, Judges, Associate Judges and Student Judges. The Emeritus Judges and Judges will elect a Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Secretary, Training Officers, Liaison Officer, Deputy Liaison Officer, Awards Secretary and Web Master of the Judging Panel annually. All members of the Judging Panel will be expected to provide a substantial commitment to the Panel. This would include attendance at Judges meetings, Training sessions, Shows and Monthly meetings.
- (d) An accredited Judge is defined as one who has been trained and passed by the previously accredited Judges of the Panel, and has been deemed to be competent by that Panel. Once fully accredited, Judges will retain that status unless deemed by their peers to have seriously breached ethical standards as expressed in the following rules or after having shown less than an expected level of commitment to the Panel.
- (e) Student Judges may be elected by a ballot of Judges at any Judging Panel meeting. New Associate Judges may be elected by ballot at the April and November Judging Panel meetings and new Judges at the November meeting. The Training Officers' and Awards Secretary's reports must be given due consideration before a ballot is conducted. All voting decisions will be by simple majority, with the Registrar having a deciding vote. The Panel may accept persons with previous judging experience and may position them where the Judges consider appropriate.
- (f) The Judging Panel is responsible for its own conduct and discipline.
- (g) Panel members must declare their interest and move away from the judging area when they are the owners or hybridisers of any plant or plants being considered, or are in any other way personally involved.
- (h) All members of the OSCOV Judging Panel should conduct themselves in a calm and rational manner, and will at all times maintain their own integrity and that of OSCOV. Judges must

express themselves clearly, concisely, and unequivocally. They must avoid both passive acceptance and aggressive rejection of the opinions of other Judges so that differences of opinion can be harmoniously resolved.

- (i) It is the responsibility of all members of the Panel to cooperate at all times with the Chairman of Judges during judging. They must act in an efficient and pleasant manner and remain with the judging team until excused.
- (j) All members of the Panel must refrain from smoking during judging and dress neatly and tidily. Judges may handle an exhibit by its container or mount, but they must not, subject to rule 3.5(c), touch the flowers or the foliage.
- (k) The Judging Panel should meet in conference at least three times annually, once in February (for Victorian Orchid of the Year adjudication) and also in April (for show judge rostering). The Annual General Meeting must be held in November. Other meetings may be called in special circumstances.
- (l) All members of the Panel may engage in full and open discussion on matters of policy, but voting on technical matters will be confined to Judges. The Registrar will rule on which other matters may be decided by the full Panel as they arise.
- (m) Special judging meetings may be held throughout the year, where specialists will talk on particular subjects for the education of Judges.
- (n) All members of the Judging Panel must be financial members of at least one Club or Society that is a Member of the Orchid Societies Council of Victoria Inc.

1.3 JUDGES

- (a) An OSCOV Judge must have a thorough knowledge of the OSCOV Judging Handbook and keep abreast of changes as they occur.
- (b) OSCOV Judges should have a thorough knowledge of the commonly grown species and hybrids, a good general knowledge of the lesser grown species and hybrids, and be competent at display judging. They should be familiar with superior forms of species and hybrids and have normal colour perception.
- (c) An OSCOV Judge should be familiar with the dominant features conferred by species and hybrids when they are used in hybridising.
- (d) An OSCOV Judge should have a good knowledge of general orchid culture, hybridising trends, pests, diseases, scientific tools (such as tissue culture) and relevant orchid literature.
- (e) OSCOV Judges should be able to organise and apply their knowledge quickly, accurately and objectively. They must be of independent mind and yet be able to assess the merits of other opinions. They must aim to be free from personal preference or prejudice and be sufficiently confident in their ability so as not to be swayed by others.

1.4 EMERITUS JUDGES

- (a) Judges who have provided honourable and outstanding service to Victorian orchid judging may have this lifelong title bestowed upon them by a majority vote of fully-accredited Judges. The level of service should be above that normally expected, cover a considerable period of time with a high level of judging competence over a broad range of genera. The candidate will have set and maintained a standard of behaviour that enhances the standing of OSCOV. Interstate and/or overseas participation is desirable.
- (b) Procedure: Nomination in writing by any judge via the Panel Secretary to a panel of prior recipients. If they consider that the criteria have been met, they will convey their recommendation to the Registrar for ratification by all judges. If negative, the Registrar will notify the proposer in confidence of reasons for their rejection. That decision is to be final for twelve months.

1.5 ASSOCIATE JUDGES

- (a) The Judging Panel may contain any number of Associate Judges.
- (b) Except in special circumstances Associate Judges must serve a minimum of three seasons before becoming eligible for elevation to accredited judging status.
- (c) Associate Judges will be expected to:
 - Lodge completed judging cards for plants submitted for awards during the year with the Registrar or his/her delegate.
 - Be available to accompany Judges at monthly meetings and shows and to attend meetings of OSCOV Member societies regularly.
 - Attend Panel meetings and classes designed for the education of Panel members.
 - Seek as much information and practical experience as possible.
 - Consult orchid books and journals regularly.
 - Be available to act as stewards at monthly meetings and shows where required.

1.6 STUDENT JUDGES

- (a) Except in special circumstances, Student Judges must serve a minimum of two seasons before becoming eligible for elevation to Associate Judge status.
- (b) Student Judges will be expected to:
 - Lodge completed judging cards for plants submitted for Awards during the year with the Registrar or his/her delegate.
 - Be available to accompany Judges at monthly meetings and shows, and to attend meetings of OSCOV Member societies regularly.
 - Attend Panel meetings and classes designed for the education of Panel members.
 - Seek as much information and practical experience as possible.
 - Regularly consult orchid books and journals.

2. THE OSCOV PRINCIPLES OF JUDGING

- (a) The aim of judging is to recognise and reward quality in orchids (or their culture, where applicable) in accordance with OSCOV judging philosophy. These principles simplify judging practice and should provide a uniform and credible approach, regardless of the genus or type of orchid.
- (b) The approach to all judging is by **objective appreciation**. Appropriate **values** may be assigned to the various **features** of the flower and plant to aid this assessment. For training and future reference, **values** will be assigned to each of the following **features** for all orchids.
- (c) These **features** are: **Shape and Substance, Colour and Texture, Habit and Arrangement and Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant**.
- (d) In those exhibits in which one or several flowers predominate, **values** should be assigned to the above **features** in the ratio 35:35:10:20. In those exhibits in which the floral display is also important, the ratio 30:30:10:30 should be used. In those exhibits in which the floral display alone predominates, the ratio 25:25:25:25 is appropriate. Before award judging begins, those judges present will decide which is the most appropriate ratio to use.
- (e) The above features are defined as follows:
- **Shape and Substance:** The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes from circular in outline to those exhibiting characteristics of background species are acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic. Excessive hooding, cupping, furling, reflexing and twisting are undesirable unless they are natural features. The flower should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape.
 - **Colour and Texture:** Colour includes white and any other colour or combination of colours. It should be clear, fresh and (where appropriate) glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. Flowers should be without major blemish.
 - **Habit and Arrangement:** The stem should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence with minimal staking and tying; it should not be bent or twisted. The flowers should be evenly displayed with minimal overlapping and should preferably stand clear of the foliage.
 - **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant:** The size and number of flowers should be appropriate to the species or hybrid under consideration. The plant should be well presented, with a balanced floral display proportional to its size.
- (f) The available awards are First Class Certificate (**FCC**), Award of Merit (**AM**), Highly Commended Certificate (**HCC**), Award of Distinction (**AD**), Certificate of Botanical Merit (**CBM**), Cultural Certificate (**CC**) and Award of Quality (**AQ**).
- (g) Benchmark digital photographic records will be used to maintain a library that reflects the standards required for each award. Current awards form the initial basis for this library and additions may be gathered from any appropriate source. These records will not represent the standard specifically, but will demonstrate features that are appropriate to that standard. The name of the specific grex is irrelevant.

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- (h) All orchids will be eligible for award consideration, however it is preferable that any plant judged for an OSCOV award should be a mature plant, and not one still developing toward maturity, although it is noted that some genera mature quickly. Orchids will be judged according to the criteria in the judging philosophy. Artificial divisions such as novelty, miniature, etc., are the domain of the show schedule and will not be considered in award judging. Parentage may be taken into account.
 - (i) Rules for each group will be developed. Reference to expert advisers regarding reasonable expectations for a genus or group, together with updates on recent breeding trends, will be encouraged. Cooperation with interstate and overseas bodies regarding their awarded orchids may be sought.

3. JUDGING RULES

3.1 GENERAL

- (a) Judging will conform to the Principles as defined in the **OSCOV Principles of Judging** and elsewhere in the **OSCOV Judging Handbook**. If it is decided that an OSCOV rule prevents a just decision being made, an adjudicating panel comprising all Judges present will resolve the problem. The issue will then be discussed at the next Panel meeting and appropriate action taken.
- (b) The Judging Panel may recommend to the Show Marshal that any plant that it believes **may** be virused or otherwise diseased should be removed from display. If action is taken, it should be exercised with the greatest discretion.
- (c) In general, only racemes with two-thirds of their flowers fully open are eligible for judging. The only exceptions to this rule are:
 - (1) plants which flower sequentially (see rule 3.3); and
 - (2) those with 3 or less flowers on the stem.
- (d) The number of flowers on an exhibit should be commensurate with the size of the plant.

3.2 SEEDLINGS

- (a) The class 'Seedling Flowering for the First Time' refers to the entire plant grown from seed, and **flowering** for the first time. It does not mean the **owner's** first flowering of the exhibit, nor does it mean the first **showing** of the exhibit. Mericlone is not a seedling. Each entry should include details of parents used to create the seedling. A plant may be shown as a seedling at a society's monthly meeting or at any show on any number of occasions throughout its first flowering season.
- (b) A plant's first flowering season starts on the date the first flower on the first stem opens, and ends on the earlier of the date:
 - (1) on which the last flower on the last stem dies; and
 - (2) which is 12 months from the date on which the first flower on the first stem opened.

Where a seedling is still in flower after the first 12 months, it becomes ineligible for any 'Seedling Flowering for the First Time' class.

[plants flowering more than once per year – only first flowering]

- (c) In relation to sequentially flowering orchids, **each** flower on each eligible stem, throughout the plant's first flowering season, qualifies the plant as a seedling.
- (d) A seedling is to be judged on its full potential. Full potential is not necessarily displayed on the first flowering. A Judge must form a view on what each plant in the class would look like when it **first** reaches maturity and is flowering to its full potential, and make decisions accordingly. Some orchids such as Paphiopedilums and Masdevallias may flower to their full potential on a first flowering, whereas other orchids such as Cymbidiums and Sarcochilus are unlikely flower to their full potential on a first flowering.

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- (e) Because judging is based on potential, the maturity of the exhibit at the time of its consideration is not relevant, except where the immaturity of the exhibit makes the assessment of its potential highly speculative or impossible.

3.3 SEQUENTIALLY FLOWERING ORCHIDS

- (a) Sequentially flowering orchids are those where one or more flowers on the stem naturally die before all flowers on the same stem have opened. These orchids do not need to satisfy the two-thirds open requirement in rule 3.1(c), and they are also an exception to the missing flowers rule (in rule 3.9), as long as the missing flowers are from the natural end of the stem. If doubt Panel discretion considering relevant factors such as buds not yet open, flowers missing (apparently from old age) . . . ~~If the inflorescence has 3 or more flowers open it only qualifies as a sequential orchid if the last flower on the inflorescence is not fully open. If there is any doubt that the plant is a sequential flowering the judges may require that the last flower is not open that the plant has missing flowers on the plant end of the inflorescence.~~
- (b) Examples of sequentially flowering orchids are Paphiopedilums of the Cochlopetalum subgenus, Phragmipediums, Stenoglottis, [others?] certain Coelogynes, certain Sarcophilus and certain Oncosteles.

3.4 THE RELEVANCE OF FOLIAGE

- (a) The foliage of a plant, in terms of:
- (1) physical, fungal or other damage to the foliage;
 - (2) tying back of foliage;
 - (3) trimming leaf tips and/or removal of all or part of the foliage,
- is **never** relevant when assessing the **quality** of an exhibit. All foliage defects, including those mentioned above, are to be disregarded in assessing quality.
- (b) The foliage of a plant is always relevant when assessing the **culture** of an exhibit.

3.5 THE RELEVANCE OF STAKING AND TYING STEMS

- (a) Excessive support of an inflorescence must be penalised.
- (b) Judges are entitled to assume that a stem with an unexpectedly large number of ties or supports is a weak stem.
- (c) Tying the stem to the last (or near to last) flower is also likely to indicate a weak stem. Ties or supports may be removed to ascertain the strength of the stem [provided permission of Club steward/marshal]. [if this is done ties and supports must be replaced as soon as possible]

3.6 JUDGING SPECIMENS AND CULTURE

- (a) The concepts of specimen and culture are different. A specimen is simply an exhibit that has many flowers, and is generally larger in size. A specimen should have its flower stems reasonably even distributed across the plant, or at least facing in a reasonably consistent direction. The quality of the flower on a specimen is of secondary importance in judging the exhibit as a specimen.

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- (b) Rule 3.13(b) explains how culture must be assessed.
 - (c) An exhibit which shows excellent culture might also be a good specimen, but an exhibit which is a good specimen does not necessarily show good culture.

3.7 THE RELEVANCE OF FORMS AND VARIETIES

- (a) Many species orchids have different forms (usually a different colour to the common colour, for example an alba/album form) and/or varieties (generally being a slightly different morphological appearance to the common appearance).
- (b) OSCOV does not differentiate between forms or varieties in judging quality [CBM exception]. A form or variety is not judged by reference to other examples of that particular form or variety. For example, a *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *hillii* and a *Dendrobium speciosum* var. *curvicaule* are both judged against the established standards for a *Dendrobium speciosum*.
- (c) Pure colour (i.e. alba/album) forms of a species often have smaller flowers than non-pure colour forms, and this is to their disadvantage in judging, although a pure colour form may, in an overall sense, be superior to a non-pure colour form because of other factors of quality.
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3.8 DECIDING THE RATIO FOR JUDGING

- (a) Before any exhibit is carded for an award, the Panel Leader must advise the Judges of the applicable ratio by which it will be judged (i.e. 25:25:25:25, 30:30:10:30 or 35:35:10:20).
- (b) When deciding the applicable ratio by which an exhibit will be judged, the local Panel Leader must have regard to the rules for the particular genus in this Handbook, and if there is any doubt, determine the ratio to be used after consulting with the local Panel members present.

3.9 PERMITTED REGULARITY OF CARDING

- (a) A plant may only be considered for an award **once** in a flowering season.
- (b) A plant's flowering season starts on the date the first flower on the first stem for that season opens, and ends on the earlier of the date:
 - (1) on which the last flower on the last stem for that season dies; and
 - (2) which is 12 months from the date on which the first flower on the first stem for that season opened.

Where a plant is still in flower after the first 12 months, a new flowering season starts.

- (c) Even if a carding results in no award being given, the Panel Leader must submit the cards to the Awards Secretary so that a formal record of the unsuccessful carding in that flowering season is made.

3.10 DEALING WITH DEFECTS, DEFORMITIES AND DAMAGE

- (a) When judging, a distinction needs to be drawn between a defect, deformity or damage that:
 - (1) is a fundamental deficiency that undermines the integrity of the exhibit (a **Fundamental Deficiency**). This goes to the exhibit's **eligibility** for judging; and

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- (2) is an element that falls short of a Fundamental Deficiency and simply detracts from the quality or culture of the exhibit (a **Minor Deficiency**). This merely 'takes points' from the eligible plant in judging.
- (b) A Fundamental Deficiency may be:
- (1) a significant deformity in a flower or stem such as a fused column or flower segment, an extra labellum or a flower segment that has not formed;
 - (2) a pollinated flower;
 - (3) missing flowers on a stem (other than naturally aborted flowers at the end of a stem), a missing or blackened pollen cap or a bled labellum;
 - (4) significant colour breaks;
 - (5) significant botrytis or other fungal damage to one or more flowers (such damage on **foliage** is only relevant when considering culture – see rule 3.4); or
 - (6) significant insect or other pest damage.
- (c) A Minor Deficiency may be:
- (1) furling, twisting or reflexing;
 - (2) a bent, stunted or crooked stem;
 - (3) missing flowers on a stem, a missing or blackened pollen cap or a bled labellum, where this does not detract significantly from the overall appearance (particularly in the case of a stem of high flower count);
 - (4) a minor deformity in a flower or stem (such as a crooked staminode on a Paphiopedilum);
 - (5) minor colour breaks;
 - (6) minor botrytis or other fungal damage to one or more flowers (such damage on foliage is only relevant when considering culture – see rule 3.4);
 - (7) minor insect or other pest damage; or
 - (8) natural 'ticking' or other foliage patterning such damage on foliage is only relevant when considering culture – see rule 3.4.
- (d) Where an exhibit has a defect, deformity or damage, any Judge may bring that to the attention of the Panel Leader, and the Panel Leader must decide if the defect, deformity or damage is to be regarded as a Fundamental Deficiency or a Minor Deficiency. The Panel Leader may consult with the other Judges in making any such decision.
- (e) Where damage appears to have occurred 'in transit' to the relevant event, including where missing flowers have been placed in the pot or nearby, a Judge is entitled to give the exhibit the benefit of the doubt, and not penalise it.

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- (f) If an exhibit has a Fundamental Deficiency:
- (1) a stem with the Fundamental Deficiency must not be judged, but other stems may still be judged. This may affect the assessment of the exhibit's floriferousness; and
 - (2) if there are no eligible stems, the exhibit is disqualified and may not be judged or awarded.
- (g) Notwithstanding rule 3.10(f), Judges have discretion to not penalise an exhibit when it appears in a section other than Open at a monthly meeting or in a class at a Show, but never when assessing Judges' Vote at a monthly meeting, a Champion at a Show or considering an award.
- (h) If an exhibit has a Minor Deficiency the exhibit must be penalised by having notional or actual points 'taken off' in whatever category the Judge thinks appropriate (e.g. Shape and Substance, Colour and Texture, Habit and Arrangement and/or Size and Floriferousness):
- (1) ; and/or
- (i) DO NOT JUST GIVE A 2ND OR 3RD Sepal or petal peloric structuring, feathering or similar features that appear **genetically stable**, are not to be considered a defect OR deficiency.

3.11 JUDGING AT SHOWS

- (a) General principles
- (1) Judging should commence at the time shown in the Show Schedule. All persons not involved in the judging should be excluded from the display area under control of the Show Marshal during judging.
 - (2) The Registrar or his/her nominee will allocate the judging duties to the Judges present. The name of the team leader will be printed on results sheets for each class so that any queries by the Registrar or Show Marshal can be speedily resolved with the leader concerned.
 - (3) Judging will conform to the Show Schedule and to the Principles as defined in the **OSCOV Principles of Judging** and elsewhere in the **OSCOV Judging Handbook**. The show schedule will take precedence when a particular schedule item conflicts with OSCOV judging rules in this Handbook.
 - (4) Plants nominated for consideration for champions should be removed from the display and tabled together for closer examination and comparison. **All** orchids are eligible for consideration. The winners will be determined in silence by ballot of the Judges present, using a preferential voting system (not 'first-past-the-post'). The Panel Leader shall abstain from voting unless a casting vote is necessary.
 - (5) Show Champions. Many show schedules do not accurately reflect the wishes of the Show Committee. To avoid ambiguity when judging Champions, Show Schedules should clearly indicate which orchids are eligible when judging any specific Champion. Where specific genera carry Champion status, e.g., Paphiopedilum, the schedule should direct whether this is for hybrids and species or for hybrids only. Where hybrids only are to be considered, the species in that genus will be judged under Champion Species Orchid. The schedule will then read: Champion Paphiopedilum (excluding Species) and Champion Species Orchid. Where species

and hybrids are to be considered together, the schedule will read: Champion Paphiopedilum (Hybrid or Species) and Champion Species Orchid (excluding Paphiopedilum). The same recommendations apply to other genera where special championship classes are defined, e.g., Cymbidium, Laeliinae, Australian Native Orchid, etc.

- (6) [Include similar text to '**discussion** pre-awarding' here?] MJC STREAMLINED VERSION APPLICABLE TO **CERTAIN** PLANTS
 - (7) Plants incorrectly notified or not notified when eligible for a notifiable class may not be judged, depending upon instructions from the Show Marshal.
 - (8) Extra classes may be created at the discretion of the Judges, provided that the Show Marshal agrees.
 - (9) Where the schedule contains a class which specifies a group of orchids, they should be notified to the Show Marshal and have appropriate identification; the plants should be exhibited close to each other.
 - (10) Annexure B contains rules relating to the process for choosing Champions at a Show and considering awards at that same Show. Those rules prevail over the body of this Handbook to the extent of any inconsistency.
- (b) Judging orchid displays
- (1) A display is a floral arrangement of orchid plants which may be supplemented with foliage plants or other non-flowering materials. The growers' ability to display their orchids to best advantage should be rewarded according to the following criteria:
 - **Design, Creativity and Colour** (35). Design refers to the form and artistic arrangement of the display, creativity to the aesthetic expression of this concept and colour to the placement of plants for the most pleasing overall effect.
 - **Quality** (35). Quality is a measure of the overall standard and condition of all orchid plants in the display.
 - **Technique, Finish and Labelling** (20). Technique refers to the mechanics of construction and plant placement and finish to the overall completeness of the display. The labels should accurately identify the plants and be legible from the front of the display without being obtrusive.
 - **Variety** (10). Credit should be given for diversity, either within a single genus or between different genera.
 - (2) A theme display is an arrangement of orchids containing accessories that convey a message. The quality of the orchid display and the effectiveness of the theme in conveying its message should be given equal consideration by the judges.

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- (c) The Pre-eminent Award is appropriate for the most eye-catching exhibit. Attributes of floral quality, superior culture and specimen size are desirable, although they are usually recognized separately in the quality awards. The Pre-eminent Award should reward a combination of qualities that make the successful exhibit stand out visually from the others. Individual orchids, groups of orchids or displays are all eligible for this award, club stands are not.

3.12 JUDGING AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

- (a) The Registrar or his/her nominee will allocate judging duties to the Judges present.
- (b) Before the commencement of judging, Associate Judges should review benched plants and move them into correct classes, if necessary.
- (c) Judging will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Club or Society concerned.
- (d) Judging will conform to the Principles as defined in the OSCOV Principles of Judging and elsewhere in the OSCOV Handbook of Judging.
- (e) Where there are three or more plants (of reasonable quality) of one genus, species, group or grex benched at a monthly meeting, the Judges at their discretion may create a separate class for them.
- (f) The Judges' Vote should be granted to the orchid that would receive the highest number of points if judged for a Quality Award.

3.13 JUDGING FOR AWARDS

- (a) OSCOV grants the following awards to acknowledge quality:
- First Class Certificate (**FCC**),
 - Award of Merit (**AM**) and
 - Highly Commended Certificate (**HCC**).

To receive an FCC (First Class Certificate) an exhibit must receive at least 85%. To receive an AM (Award of Merit) it must receive at least 80% and to receive an HCC (Highly Commended Certificate) it must receive at least 75%. The quality of the individual flowers should be appropriate to the award.

There is no period for which the owner of an exhibit must have owned or grown the exhibit for it to be eligible for a quality award. This is because a quality award relates to the merit of the exhibit, not to its owner or ownership.

- (b) Other awards may also be granted:
- An **Award of Distinction (AD)** is available to recognise an outstanding quality such as colour, size, floriferousness, etc., providing that the orchid conforms to reasonable quality standards for the type of plant under consideration and is distinctly different from the type. No points should be allocated.

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- A **Cultural Certificate (CC)** is available to the grower of an orchid that is plant must be of exceptional standard in every respect, with flowering, foliage, size or robustness and cleanliness of growth floriferousness and general culture being of principal importance, to that which could reasonably be expected for a mature plant of its type. It must have been owned and grown by its owner for at least two years.
 - A **Certificate of Botanical Merit (CBM)** is an award conferred only once for a species or natural hybrid, well-established and flowering, that is rare in cultivation in Victoria.
 - An **Award of Quality (AQ)** is available for a group of at least five superior siblings of one grex raised from a single seed capsule by the same grower and shown together. At least one should be worthy of a quality award.
- (c) Award judging will generally be available at monthly meetings and shows. Five Judges are required to form a quorum. Where insufficient Judges are present to grant an award and the orchid is considered to be of award quality, the Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Liaison Officer, Panel Secretary or Awards Secretary must be notified. He or she will then arrange for a quorum to review the plant. As a matter of courtesy, the Registrar or his deputy should be informed of any plant likely to be submitted for an award.
- (d) An owner may contact any of the above officers directly to initiate award procedures. Where Judges consider any orchid to be of award standard, they should endeavour to assess the plant unless the owner has previously declined OSCOV awards. This applies to orchids viewed privately as well as at monthly meetings or shows.
- (e) Before a plant submitted for an award is judged, the Panel Leader may on request hold a ballot of Judges present to decide whether the plant is worthy of being judged.
- (f) If the Panel Leader thinks fit, he or she may allow preliminary discussion regarding the exhibit to be carded. Such discussion should involve Judges sharing objective observations, and avoid overt favourable or unfavourable comments, although it is recognised that implications from comments are, to an extent, unavoidable. The Panel Leader may control any such discussion as he or she thinks fit.
- (g) Appropriate circumstances in which a preliminary discussion may be allowed by the Panel Leader include circumstances where:
- (1) the genus or species is unfamiliar;
 - (2) a member of the Panel has specialist knowledge of the genus, species or plant;
 - (3) there may be a defect, deformity or damage with one or more flowers or the exhibit itself; and/or
 - (4) discussion will otherwise help inform the local Panel in relation to the plant.
- (h) Where an exhibit has been awarded previously by OSCOV, the local Panel should be made aware of any previous award, and details and photos of the previous award should be provided to the Panel. Each Judge in the Panel is free to give whatever regard he or she thinks to prior awards, no Judge is bound by the precedent of any previous OSCOV award.
- (i) Once any discussion has concluded, each Judge must make his or her own independent decision, and not simply follow the opinions of one or more of the participants in the discussion.

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- (j) Where reasonably possible, the local Panel should have an opportunity to research the exhibit under consideration, using available online sources. Panel members should research where reas possible.
 - (k) Once a carding process has been completed, the Panel Leader should, where time permits, facilitate discussion between all Judges (including Associate Judges and Student Judges) in relation to the exhibit so that all willing participants' opinions and reasoning can be shared.
 - (l) If it is decided that the plant is not to be judged, the owner should be notified privately, preferably with an explanation.
 - (m) If it is decided that the plant is to be judged, the Panel Leader will distribute judging cards to all members of the Panel present and (in the case of a multi-flowered exhibit) will nominate a flower of average quality to be judged. The members should then complete their judging cards, following any discussion undertaken under rules 3.13(f) and 3.13(g), independently and in silence, nominating the Awards (if any) and the percentage that they consider to be appropriate. No points are required for a **CBM, CC, AD** or **AQ**. Points are required for all other awards (including No Award). There is no provision for Judges to alter their assessment once they have submitted their judging cards.
 - (n) Decisions on whether or not a particular award will be granted are determined by a majority vote of the judges present, provided that at least five judges are in favour of the award being granted. Where the average percentage does not conform to the award recommended by a majority of the Judges, the percentage will be adjusted to conform with the majority decision.

Examples: (1) 6 Judges for HCC, 4 for AM: Average, 80.1 %, Adjustment: HCC, 79.9 %.

(2) 6 Judges for AM, 4 for HCC: Average, 79.9 %, Adjustment: AM, 80.0 %.

- (o) If the total point score allocated by any Judge differs by more than 4 from the mean value allocated by all Judges present, his or her vote will be counted as a vote for or against the award being considered, but his or her point score must **not** be included in the re-calculation of the average point score (which determines the formal judging result).
- (p) The Awards Secretary will record all OSCOV Awards in a Register. A summary of the year's awards will accompany the Awards Secretary's annual report.
- (q) Recipients of OSCOV Awards will provide (or meet the costs of providing) digital photographs. They will also be charged a fee for their Award Certificate. An award will not be granted unless satisfactory digital photographs are provided and in the case of a hybrid, its grex name has been registered with the Royal Horticultural Society. If possible, the Award Certificate should be presented at the Society where it was granted.
- (r) If an OSCOV Award is granted, the Registrar or his nominee should notify the Awards Secretary who will collect the appropriate registration fee from the owner of the awarded plant.
- (s) For a grower to be awarded an OSCOV Cultural Certificate, his or her plant must be of exceptional standard in every respect, with foliage, floriferousness and general culture being of principal importance. It must be a single plant, owned and grown by the exhibitor for not less than two years. Back-cutting is permissible. Colonies of terrestrial orchids should be considered ineligible for an OSCOV Cultural Certificate if the basis for the Certificate is solely the size of the colony.

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- (t) Annexure A contains special rules for considering awards utilising technology for Judges who do not see a plant in person. Those rules prevail over the body of this Handbook to the extent of any inconsistency.

3.14 CERTIFICATES OF BOTANICAL MERIT

- (a) A CBM is an award conferred only once for a species or natural hybrid, well-established and flowering, that is rare in cultivation in Victoria. CAN GO TO A FORM OR VARIETY
- (b) A local Panel can only ever **recommend** an exhibit for consideration for a CBM, it cannot itself **grant** a CBM.
- (c) The process for considering a CBM is as follows:
- (1) where a local Panel thinks an exhibit may qualify for a CBM (being well established and potentially rare), the local Registrar advises the owner and, provided the owner agrees, records details of the exhibit in the usual manner and send these to the OSCOV Registrar;
 - (2) the local Registrar also asks the owner to take photos of the exhibit in the usual manner, and gives the owner an 'Application to Determine Eligibility for an OSCOV Certificate of Botanical Merit' form MJC run forms together to complete and send to the OSCOV Registrar;
 - (3) once the OSCOV Registrar has received the information from the local Registrar and the owner, the OSCOV Registrar convenes a CBM Subcommittee to consider the application. A CBM Subcommittee is comprised of at least 5 Judges who have special expertise in species orchids;
 - (4) the CBM Subcommittee considers whether the exhibit is genuinely rare in cultivation in Victoria, using whatever information is sees fit, which may include:
 - (A) the historical records of the Orchid Species Society of Victoria Inc.;
 - (B) OSCOV's own records of orchid species;
 - (C) taxonomic name changes;
 - (D) the availability of the orchid in Australian (not just Victorian) nurseries;
 - (E) information about the orchid from the internet; and
 - (F) input from the owner (where appropriate);
 - (5) in making its decision, the CBM Subcommittee operates under any process guidance from the OSCOV Registrar, and has regard to a number of considerations including:
 - (A) the results of the research undertaken under rule 3.14(c)(4);
 - (B) whether there appear to be multiple plants in Victoria but they are owned by the same person (i.e. this is **consistent** with rarity);

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- (C) whether a few plants have been shown but multiple showings have been by the same person (i.e. this is **consistent** with rarity); SAME POINT
 - (D) whether plants have been known to have been made available in flask (i.e. this may be **inconsistent** with rarity); and
 - (E) whether plants have been known to have been available at nurseries (i.e. this is inconsistent with rarity);
- (6) the members of the CBM Subcommittee need not meet to discuss the application, each member can make his or her personal assessment individually;
 - (7) it is noted that whilst rarity may be difficult to prove, it may be easy to disprove; and
 - (8) the OSCOV Registrar communicates the CBM Subcommittee's decision to the owner and:
 - (A) if the decision is positive:
 - (i) requests that the photographs taken be sent to the Awards Secretary; and
 - (ii) advises the Awards Secretary when the owner has been informed; or
 - (B) if the decision is negative, explains to the owner that the investigations have established that the orchid is not rare in cultivation in Victoria, and consequently that no further action is required.
- (d) It is possible for an exhibit to be awarded both a CBM **and** a quality award (presumably no higher than a low HCC) if exceptional quality is evident from any of the following:
 - (1) a comparative analysis of the exhibit compared to others in other jurisdictions. In this context, consideration of orchids of the same species elsewhere in the world is permitted (and indeed, required);
 - (2) the local Panel's view on the inherent quality of the exhibit from first principles; and
 - (3) an eminent International or Australian expert on the species providing an opinion of its quality.

In this case, the quality award can be granted at the same time the exhibit is referred to the OSCOV Registrar for assessment of the CBM application. Such a quality award is independent from consideration of eligibility for the CBM, and if granted, remains even if a CBM is not later awarded.

4. VICTORIAN ORCHIDS OF THE YEAR

Each February the OSCOV Judging Panel bestows a number of Victorian Orchid of the Year Awards on premier orchids flowered during the previous twelve months. The usual awards are:

- Victorian Orchid of the Year
- Victorian Award of Distinction of the Year
- Victorian Award of Quality of the Year
- Victorian Best Cultured Orchid of the Year (The Memoria Gunter Haar Award)
- Victorian Best Cultured Hybrid Orchid of the Year
- Victorian Best Cultured Species Orchid of the Year
- Victorian Australian Native Hybrid Orchid of the Year (The Memoria Chris Waterman Award)
- Victorian Australian Native Species Orchid of the Year
- Victorian Cymbidium Hybrid of the Year (The Memoria Ern Kettle Award)
- Victorian Laeliinae Hybrid of the Year
- Victorian Masdevallia Hybrid of the Year
- Victorian Oncidiinae Hybrid of the Year
- Victorian Paphiopedilum Species of the Year
- Victorian Paphiopedilum Hybrid of the Year
- Victorian Any Other Hybrid of the Year
- Victorian Any Other Species of the Year (The Gerald McCraith Award)
- Victorian Seedling of the Year (flowering for the first time) (The Memoria Harold and Florence Coker Award).

Extra awards may be created at the discretion of the Judges, who also have the right to withhold an award if they consider that there are no entries of a sufficiently high standard.

The owner of the Victorian Orchid of the Year will receive a gold OSCOV medallion. The other winners will receive either a gold, silver or bronze OSCOV medallion, as determined by the Judging Panel. Each winner will also receive a framed print of their winning orchid.

Conditions of entry:

- (a) Entry is open to any grower. It is free to all members of an OSCOV Member Society but there is a fee for all others. Interstate entries are eligible provided that the orchid has been presented for judging at a meeting or show judged in Victoria by the OSCOV Judging Panel.
- (b) The orchid must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for at least 6 months (2 years in the case of Victorian Best Cultured Orchids of the Year).
- (c) All orchids that have received an OSCOV award during the current year will be entered automatically. Any other orchid that has been shown at an OSCOV club meeting or show during the current year may also be photographed and submitted for consideration. Further details can be found on the entry form.
- (d) Orchids which have won any Victorian Orchid of the Year award previously are ineligible in the same category, unless they receive a higher award in a subsequent flowering.

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- (e) One set of digital photographs is required. OSCOV has the right to use photos for publication, training, promotion or other purposes without cost.
 - (f) Entries must be made on the official entry form, a copy of which is available from the OSCOV website. These entries, together with relevant digital images, must be received by the Awards Secretary (details on the OSCOV website) by 31 January of the following year. All entries will be judged by the OSCOV Judging Panel in February.
 - (g) Judging for Victorian Orchids of the Year shall be determined by a secret ballot voting system.
 - (h) [Mention run-off votes WHEN NO MAJORITY, and 'elimination' votes if a decision is not clear on the first vote?].
 - (i) No cultivar names will be used to identify orchids being considered for Victorian Orchid of the Year during judging. Where more than one species or hybrid of the same grex are in contention, they shall be differentiated by numbers, not by cultivar names.
 - (j) For the duration of the 2021 calendar year only:
 - (1) an orchid may be submitted for consideration without being awarded or shown at an OSCOV club meeting or show; and
 - (2) any such submission must be accompanied by a photograph or video of the grower holding or standing beside the orchid. OSCOV may make additional inquiries of, or request additional information from, the grower, including requesting that the grower arrange a video, Skype or similar visual phone-call so that OSCOV can verify that the exhibit is currently in flower; and
 - (3) the Registrar may implement a 'vetting' process for applications made under (1), in the event the Registrar considers this necessary to ensure the quality of contenders in the Victorian Orchids of the Year or to preserve the integrity of the process as a whole.

5. STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS OF ORCHIDS

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

Values for **Shape and Substance, Colour and Texture, Habit and Arrangement** and **Size of Flower & Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant** should be assigned as follows:

- In those exhibits in which one or several flowers predominate, **values** should be assigned to the above features in the ratio 35:35:10:20.
- In those exhibits in which the overall flower display is also striking, the ratio 30:30:10:30 should be applied.
- In those exhibits in which the overall floral display alone predominates, the ratio 25:25:25:25 is appropriate.

The judges present will decide which ratio should apply before judging begins.

Specific Standards are described for the following groups:

- Australian Native Species and Hybrids
- Cymbidium Hybrids
- Dendrobium Hybrids
- Laeliinae Alliance Hybrids
- Lycaste Alliance Hybrids
- Masdevallia Alliance Hybrids
- Oncidiinae Hybrids
- Gomesa Hybrids
- Paphiopedilum Hybrids
- Phalaenopsis Hybrids
- Vandaceous Hybrids
- Zygopetalum Alliance Hybrids
- Other Hybrids
- Species Orchids

5.1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE AND/OR TERETE STYLE DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS AND AUSTRALIAN NATIVE SPECIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

Australian Native Species include all orchids that occur naturally on the Australian mainland, Tasmania or territories under Australian control.

Australian Native or terete style Dendrobium Hybrids include all hybrids derived from the above species and/or their hybrids, and/or exotic Dendrobium species or hybrids (such as *fuliginosum*), provided that any plant with exotic ancestry appears terete; naturally occurring hybrids should be included.

Any plant involving an exotic species or hybrid in its ancestry, except when despite that exotic ancestry, the plant still appears terete, shall not be judged as an Australian Native hybrid.

In the case of Australian Native terrestrial orchids all plants of the same species or grex grown in the one container should be judged as a single exhibit.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

Floral display is often the dominant consideration when judging these orchids. The most appropriate ratios for these orchids are therefore either 30:30:10:30 or 25:25:25:25. Before award judging on any particular orchid begins, those judges present will decide which is the more appropriate ratio to use.

- **Shape and Substance (30/25).** The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes exhibiting desirable characteristics derived from background species are acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic; excessive hooding, cupping, furling, reflexing and twisting are undesirable unless they are natural features. The flower should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape. The wide range of species used in hybridising results in an equally diverse range of shapes. As judges of these orchids we must accept this diversity of hybrid shapes and assess each shape on an equal basis.
- **Colour and Texture (30/25).** Colour includes white and any other colour or combination of colours. It should be clear, fresh and (where appropriate) glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. Flowers should be without major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement (10/25).** The stem should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence unaided. The flowers should be well displayed with minimal overlapping and should preferably stand clear of the foliage. Racemes may be upright, arching or pendulous. The flowers should be evenly distributed around the plant in such a way as to enhance the overall appearance.
- **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant (30/25).** The floral display must be commensurate with the size of plant. The size of the flowers, the number of flowers on the raceme and the floral display should be assessed with regard to the influence of parentage.

CLASSIFICATION AT SHOWS AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

Extra classes, based on colour or shape (e.g., D. kingianum-shape or D. tetragonum-shape), may be created if there are sufficient exhibits.

5.2 CYMBIDIUM HYBRIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

The standard shall include Cymbidium only. Intergeneric hybrids are to be judged as Other Hybrids. Australian native cymbidium species and their inter-specific hybrids are to be judged as Australian Native Orchids.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

In those exhibits where flower quality predominates, but where the overall display is also important, values will be assigned to the following features in the ratio 30:30:10:30. In those exhibits where the overall display predominates, values will be assigned in the ratio 25:25:25:25.

Large Flower

Shape and Substance (30/25): The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes from circular in outline to those exhibiting characteristics of background species are acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic; excessive hooding, cupping, furling, reflexing and twisting are undesirable unless they are natural features. The flowers should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape.

Colour and Texture (30/25):- Colour includes white and any other colour or combinations of colours and should be clear, fresh and glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. The flowers should be without major blemish.

Habit and Arrangement (10/25):- The stem/s should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence with minimal staking and tying; it/they should not be bent or twisted. The flowers should be evenly displayed with minimal overlapping and should ideally stand clear of the foliage.

Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence & Plant (30/25):- The floral display should be balanced and proportional to the size of the plant. The plant should be well presented. The raceme/s should have a minimum of seven (7) fully open flowers. The number of flowers should be commensurate with the size of the plant

Intermediate and Miniature

Plants should be viewed as the whole plant.

Shape and Substance (25/30): The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes from circular in outline to those exhibiting characteristics of background species are acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic; excessive hooding, cupping, furling, reflexing and twisting are undesirable features. The flowers should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape.

Colour and Texture (25/30):- Colour includes white and any other colour or combinations of colours and should be clear, fresh and glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. The flowers should be without major blemish.

Habit and Arrangement (25/10):- Plants should ideally have multiple racemes. The racemes should be evenly spaced around the pot so as the majority of flowers can be seen from most viewing angles. The flowers should be evenly displayed with minimal overlapping and should ideally stand clear of the foliage. The individual stems should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescences with minimal staking and tying; they should not be bent or twisted.

Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence & Plant (25/30):- The floral display should be balanced and proportional to the size of the plant. The size and number of flowers should be appropriate to the hybrid under consideration. The plant should be well presented.

CLASSIFICATION AT SHOWS AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

At shows and monthly meetings cymbidiums should be subdivided into the following classes:

1. **Large Flower** The majority of the flowers should be over 90 mm (widest point)
2. **Intermediate Flower** The majority of the flowers should be between 65 mm and 90 mm (widest point)
3. **Miniature Flower** The majority of the flowers should be less than 65 mm (widest point)

Further categories, e.g. Small Standard Type, Novelty Cymbidiums, may be created if sufficient plants are exhibited.

5.3 DENDROBIUM HYBRIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

In this context, Dendrobium hybrids encompass all hybrids with an exotic (i.e., overseas) species in their breeding. Hybrids between exotic and Australian native dendrobiums are therefore included under this heading.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

In those exhibits in which one or several flowers predominate, values should be assigned to the following features in the ratio 35:35:10:20. In those exhibits in which the floral display is also important, the ratio 30:30:10:30 should be used.

- **Shape and Substance (35/30).** The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes from circular in outline to those exhibiting characteristics of background species are acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic; excessive hooding, cupping, furling, reflexing and twisting are undesirable unless they are natural features. The flower should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape. Note that the twisting of the floral segments is a natural feature of dendrobiums in the Sections Latouria and Spatulata.
- **Colour and Texture (35/30).** Colour includes white and any other colour or combination of colours. It should be clear, fresh and (where appropriate) glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. Flowers should be without major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement (10/10).** The stem should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence with minimal staking and tying; it should not be bent or twisted. The flowers should be evenly displayed with minimal overlapping and should preferably stand clear of the foliage.
- **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant (20/30).** The size and number of flowers should be appropriate to the hybrid. The plant should be well presented, with a balanced floral display proportional to its size.

RULES

For both award and show judging, soft-cane dendrobiums should have at least one pseudobulb bearing twelve or more flowers. Hard-cane dendrobiums should have at least one inflorescence bearing seven or more flowers. High, average and low flower counts for soft-cane dendrobiums are 30, 21 and 12, respectively, and for hard-cane dendrobiums the corresponding figures are 13, 10 and 7. Credit may be given for additional flowering pseudobulbs/inflorescences, even those of low flower count, provided that they enhance the overall appearance.

The overall width for a large flower is 90 mm, an average flower is 75 mm and a small flower is 60 mm for both soft-cane and hard-cane (Phalaenanthe-type) dendrobiums.

CLASSIFICATION AT SHOWS AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

For show judging, dendrobiums may be divided into at least three classes, for example :

1. **Soft-cane dendrobiums** (Section Dendrobium, formerly Eugenanthe), typified by hybrids of *Dendrobium nobile*.
2. **Hard-cane dendrobiums** (Sections Phalaenanthe and Spatulata), typified by hybrids of *Dendrobium phalaenopsis* and *D. lasianthera*.
3. **Others.**

5.4 LAELIINAE ALLIANCE HYBRIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

Orchids to be judged in this section are all plants in the tribe Laeliinae (Barkeria, Brassavola, Broughtonia, Cattleya, Cattleyopsis, Diacrium (Caularthron), Domingoa, Epidendrum, Guarianthe, Laelia, Laeliopsis, Leptotes, Rhyncholaelia, Schomburgkia, and Tetramicra). For judging and show schedule purposes all of these will be referred to as Laeliinae hybrids and judged by appreciation using the following rules. Where a Show Schedule retains the term Cattleya Alliance, exhibits shall be judged according to the Laeliinae hybrid standard.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

In those exhibits in which one or several flowers predominate, the most appropriate ratio of features is 35:35:10:20. In those exhibits in which the floral display is also important, the ratio 30:30:10:30 should be used.

- **Shape and Substance (35/30).** The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes from circular in outline to those exhibiting characteristics of background species are acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic; excessive hooding, cupping, furling, reflexing and twisting are undesirable. The flower should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape.
- **Colour and Texture (35/30).** Colour includes white and any other colour or combination of colours. It should be clear, fresh and (where appropriate) glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. Flowers should be without major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement (10/10).** The stem should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence with minimal staking and tying. It should not be bent or twisted. The flowers should be evenly displayed with minimal overlapping and should preferably stand clear of the foliage.
- **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant (20/30).** The size and number of flowers should be consistent with the parentage. The plant should be well presented, with a balanced floral display proportional to its size and growth habit.

FURTHER RULES FOR SOME LAELIINAE (Laeliinae hybrids and intergeneric hybrids).

LARGE LAELIINAE (35:35:10:20). Expected flower size greater than 130 mm across.

Large size Laeliinae are defined as a large plant of unifoliate growth carrying large, full-shaped flowers. Red and yellow flowers are usually not as well filled-in as white, pink, mauve or purple flowers. The overall flower count of the plant should be in proportion to its size, the number of forward growths and the number of individual stems. The species from which these plants are bred carry an average of 3-5 flowers per inflorescence. *Brassavola digbyana* carries one flower per inflorescence and the laelias average 2-5 flowers.

INTERMEDIATE LAELIINAE (35:35:10:20). Expected flower size between 70 mm and 130 mm across.

This class covers smaller sized plants with full shaped flowers, typified by C.Hazel Boyd. The overall flower count of the plant should be in proportion to its size, the number of forward growths and the number of individual stems. *Cattleya coccinea* carries one flower per inflorescence and greatly influences hybrid plant size and number of flowers per inflorescence.

MINIATURE LAELIINAE (35:35:10:20). Expected flower size not greater than 70 mm across.

Laeliinae hybrids with *Broughtonia*, *Epidendrum* (*Encyclia*) etc., in their parentage should be judged in this category. Both flower and plant size should be miniature. A long flower stem should not be penalised as long stems typify the species from which these hybrids are bred. Large, tall plants of *Epicattleya* are more appropriately judged in the Intermediate Cluster Laeliinae class. *Broughtonia* hybrids typified by many small flowers are more appropriately judged in the Miniature Cluster Laeliinae class. In the Miniature Laeliinae

class the number of flowers depends upon the species of *Encyclia* used as a parent; in general, six or more flowers would be exceptional, while two flowers would be below average.

CLUSTER LAELIINAE (30:30:10:30). Flower size greater than 70 mm across. These Laeliinaes are mainly tall plants with bifoliate growth and near full-shaped flowers. Cluster Laeliinaes should have long, strong, straight stems that carry the flowers well clear of the foliage. Flowers should be evenly distributed around the stem; some overlapping of the flowers is acceptable. A mature plant would be expected to carry more than ten flowers per inflorescence.

MINIATURE CLUSTER LAELIINAE (30:30:10:30). Flower size not greater than 70 mm across. This class covers Broughtonia-type hybrids, bearing many very small flowers, that are disadvantaged in other classes.

NOVELTY LAELIINAE (35:35:10:20 or 30:30:10:30). Hybrids of *Guarianthe aurantiaca*, which have star-shaped flowers with all tepals of equal size, fit this category as do also hybrids of many Brazilian bifoliate cattleyas with spotted flowers and tepals of equal size. Use the ratio of values which best advantages the exhibit.

CLASSIFICATION AT SHOWS AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

A white flower with a coloured lip should be judged in the White class, whereas a white flower with splashes of colour on its petals or sepals should be judged in the Any Other Colour class. Exhibits should be placed in whichever class gives them greatest advantage.

5.5 LYCASTE ALLIANCE HYBRIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

Lycaste hybrids are considered to be any hybrid orchid that contains Lycaste in its breeding.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

The most appropriate ratio for the following features is 35:35:10:20.

- **Shape and Substance** (35). Flowers should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. They should be circular in outline, slightly concave and zygomorphic. The sepals should be broad and well rounded at the distal ends without excessive reflexing or any longitudinal furling. The angle between the sepals should approximate to 120°. The flower should have sufficient substance to maintain a desirable shape.
- **Colour and Texture** (35). Colour may include white or any other colour or combination of colours. All colours and shadings, including those of the labellum and petals, should be clear, glistening and fresh. The flowers should be without major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement** (10). Flowers should be well spaced around the plant and supported by straight, firm stems.
- **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Plant** (20). The plant should be well presented with a balanced floral display proportional to its size.

RULES

The size of a lycaste flower is customarily assessed by summing the length and width of a lateral sepal. This value may range between 60 mm and 150 mm, any value above 120 mm being desirable. A well-flowered plant should bear at least four blooms per flowering pseudobulb.

5.6 MASDEVALLIA ALLIANCE HYBRIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Masdevallia Alliance includes Masdevallia and Dracula hybrids and intergeneric hybrids such as Dracuvallia and Porrovallia. On the show-bench all hybrids that contain Masdevallia, whether intergeneric or otherwise, should be judged in this class. The number of flowers should be commensurate with the size of plant, bearing in mind that masdevallias are usually highly floriferous plants. Consideration should be given to that as masdevallias with large flowers in most cases are not as floriferous as masdevallias with medium or small flowers.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

The most appropriate ratio for the following features is 30:30:10:30.

- **Shape and Substance** (30). The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes from circular in outline to those exhibiting characteristics of background species are acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic; excessive hooding, cupping, furling, reflexing and twisting are undesirable unless they are natural features. The flower should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape. It should be noted that some species, e.g., *Masdevallia tovarensis*, have rather papery flowers and that this trait may be conferred to their hybrids. Crossing of the tips of the lateral sepals is acceptable, provided that it does not cause the sepals to furl - they should remain fully displayed.
- **Colour and Texture** (30). Colour includes white and any other colour or combination of colours. It should be clear, fresh and (where appropriate) glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. Flowers should be without major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement** (10). The stem should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence with minimal staking and tying; it should not be bent or twisted. The flowers should be evenly displayed and should preferably stand clear of the foliage.
- **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant** (30). The size and number of flowers should be appropriate to the parentage. The plant should be well presented, with a balanced floral display proportional to its size.

Some masdevallia hybrids (e.g., those of *M. infracta*) may flower several times from the same stem (which is often triangular in cross-section). Although bare flower stems of this type may appear unsightly, it is unfair to penalise the plant for their presence.

RULES

Because of the wide diversity of shape and size in masdevallia hybrids, no general rules are appropriate. The majority carry only one flower per inflorescence, although a few may carry two or more. The number of flowers should be commensurate with the size of plant, bearing in mind that masdevallias are usually highly floriferous plants.

CLASSIFICATION AT SHOWS AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

With increasing numbers of masdevallia hybrids appearing at society shows and meetings, it may become necessary to divide them into different classes. While sub-division may be possible on the basis of flower size or colour, it may be simpler to use plant size, e.g., plants with leaves over and under (say) 125 mm tall, measured as they naturally display themselves.

5.7 ONCIDIINAE HYBRIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Oncidiinae Group have had a very large number of name changes and will now be judged by shape and size and not on their name. The group can be broken up into a number of classes based on shape and size and it is suggested that the following classes should be used:

- **Exhibition Shaped Oncidiinae** – These are for plants that show a strong influence in their shape from *Oncidium alexandrae* (formally *Odontoglossum crispum*).
- **Brassia Type Oncidiinae** – These show a strong influence in shape from the Brassia and are typically large and spidery in shape.
- **Gomesa Type Oncidiinae** – These show an influence in shape from Gomesa.
- **Miltoniopsis Hybrids** – These plants show classical Miltoniopsis characteristics.
- **Any Other Large Oncidiinae** – Approximately 80mm and up.
- **Any Other Medium Oncidiinae** – Approximately 45 - 80mm.
- **Any Other Small Oncidiinae** – Under 45mm.

5.7A EXHIBITION SHAPED ONCIDIINAE

GENERAL STATEMENT

The standard is for Oncidiinae plants that show a strong influence in their shape from *Oncidium alexandrae* (formally *Odontoglossum crispum*).

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

The most appropriate ratio for the following features is 30:30:10:30.

- **Shape and Substance** (30). The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes from circular in outline to those exhibiting characteristics of background species are acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic. Minor degrees of picoteeing and waving of the segments, 'wasting' of the labellum and curling of the lateral sepals are acceptable, but hooding, cupping and reflexing are undesirable unless they are natural features. The flower should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape.
- **Colour and Texture** (30). Colour includes white and any other colour or combination of colours. It should be clear, fresh and (where appropriate) glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. The flowers should be without major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement** (10). The stem should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence with minimal staking and tying. It may be arched or upright but should not be bent or twisted. The flowers should be evenly displayed with minimal overlapping and should preferably stand clear of the foliage.
- **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant** (30). The plant should present a balanced floral display in proportion to its size. Consideration should be given to the species having the most significant effect upon flower size and number. Flower size may reduce towards the apex of the inflorescence.

5.7B GOMESA TYPE ONCIDIINAE

GENERAL STATEMENT

The standard shall include all hybrids that show an influence in shape from Gomesa.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

The ratio 30:30:10:30 is generally the most appropriate for *Oncidium* hybrids.

- **Shape and Substance** (30). The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes exhibiting characteristics of the background species are equally acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic. Excessive hooding, furling, cupping, reflexing and twisting are unacceptable unless they are natural features. The flower should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape.
- **Colour and Texture** (30). Colour includes white and any other colour or combination of colours, and should be clear, fresh and (where appropriate) glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. The flowers should be without major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement** (10). Stems should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence with minimal staking and tying; it should not be bent or twisted. The flowers should be evenly displayed with minimal overlapping and should preferably stand clear of the foliage.
- **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant** (30). The plant should present a balanced floral display in proportion to its size. Consideration should be given to the species having the most significant effect on flower size, number and habit.

5.7C MILTONIA HYBRIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

The standard shall only be for *Miltoniopsis* hybrids only.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

The more appropriate ratio of the following features for *Miltoniopsis* hybrids is 35:35:10:20. For *Miltonia* hybrids the more appropriate ratio is 30:30:10:30. *Miltoniopsis* hybrids are sometimes referred to as Colombian *miltonias*.

- **Shape and Substance** (35/30). The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. The flower must be zygomorphic. Minor degrees of reflexing of the petals and dorsal sepal and twisting of the distal end of the labellum are acceptable but hooding, cupping, furling and excessive reflexing and twisting are undesirable. The flower should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape.
- **Colour and Texture** (35/30). Colour includes white and any other colour or combination of colours and should be clear, glistening and fresh. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. The flowers should be without major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement** (10/10). The flowers should be evenly displayed with some overlapping being acceptable. Discreet staking and tying are permissible.
- **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant** (20/30). The plant should present a balanced floral display in proportion to its size.

5.8 PAPHIOPEDILUM HYBRIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

The standard shall include Paphiopedilum only. Intergeneric hybrids involving Paphiopedilum (e.g. Phragmipaphium) should be judged as Other Hybrids.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

The most appropriate ratio for the following features is 35:35:10:20.

- **Shape and Substance** (35). With the great diversity of species and the long history of hybridising, a wide range of shapes is acceptable. It is important to recognise quality over this range, without stereotyping one particular shape. In general the flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes exhibiting characteristics of the background species are equally acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic and have sufficient substance to maintain its shape.

RULES

In the classic **Exhibition-type** a broad dorsal sepal, broad petals and a ventral sepal and labellum that complete a circular outline are desirable. The flower should be slightly concave when viewed from the front. The dorsal sepal should be free from excessive grooving about its midline and from reflexing and twisting at its top. A slight goffering of the upper margin of the petals is acceptable, but excessive incurving of their distal ends is undesirable. The labellum must be free from denting inferiorly and the staminode should not be skewed. The ventral sepal should lock over the dorsal sepal posteriorly without reflexing. **Maudiae-type** paphiopedilums are characterised by a broad and dominant dorsal sepal, down-swept petals, a prominent labellum and a tall stem.

Developmental Hybrids should be judged with reference to the plant's parentage. Narrow segments, twisting of the petals, etc., are acceptable provided that these characteristics reflect the nature of the parents.

- **Multifloral Type:** These include hybrids of species such as *P. rothschildianum*, *P. philippinensis*, *P. lowii*, *P. haynaldianum*, *P. sanderianum* etc. They should exhibit the desirable traits of the species. There is an expectation that there should be at least two flowers on display. The labellum should be free from dents, the staminode should be in alignment and the flowers should glisten.
 - ***P. sukhakulii* influence:** These shall include any Paphiopedilum bred with *P. sukhakulii*. These hybrids typically have wide, spotted horizontal petals and a slightly forward-jutting labellum. The labellum should be free of dents and the staminode should be in alignment.
 - **Parvisepalum influence:** These shall include any Paphiopedilum bred with species from the Parvisepalum group (eg., *P. micranthum*, *P. delenatii*, *P. hangianum*). These commonly have unusual shapes and sizes relative to other members of the genus. It is important to recognise quality without stereotyping one particular shape. The flower should exhibit the superior traits of the parents, without twisting and distorting the shape.
 - **Brachypetalum influence:** These include any Paphiopedilum bred with species from the Brachypetalum group (eg. *P. concolor*, *P. niveum*, *P. bellatulum*, etc.). They commonly have white flowers that exhibit spots on all or part of the flower; the petals should be full and shapely. Typically round, the size of the flower is important compared with the modest size of the plant. Generally the stem is relatively short and should not be penalised.
- **Colour and Texture** (35). Colour includes white and any other colour or combination of colours. It should be clear, fresh and (where appropriate) glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. The flower should be without major blemish.

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- **Habit and Arrangement** (10). The inflorescence should be able to hold itself with minimal support. Flowers should be displayed well clear of the foliage, with single-flowered inflorescences holding the flower at right angles to the stem, and multiple- and sequential-flowering inflorescences displaying the flowers clearly.
 - **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant** (20). The size and number of flowers should be appropriate to the type. The floral display should be **balanced** and proportional to the size of the plant.

It is never necessary for a Judge to look at the back of a Paphiopedilum flower to see whether the sepals overlap or 'lock-in'.

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CLASSIFICATION AT SHOWS AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

At shows and monthly meetings paphiopedilums may be sub-divided into the following classes:

1. Exhibition-type,
2. Maudiae-type,
3. Developmental hybrids, and
4. Species.

Further classes may be created if sufficient plants are exhibited.

5.9 PHALAENOPSIS HYBRIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

In this context Phalaenopsis means a Phalaenopsis hybrid.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

In those exhibits in which the overall display is important, values should be assigned to the following features in the ratio 30:30:10:30. In those exhibits in which the floral display predominates, the ratio 25:25:25:25 is more appropriate.

- **Shape and Substance** (30/25). The flower must exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. It should be zygomorphic and the segments should be broad and rounded for the type. The flower should be reasonably flat when viewed from the side. The segments should not reflex nor have any space between them. The flowers should have sufficient substance to maintain their shape.
- **Colour and Texture** (30/25). The colour, which includes white and any other colour or combination of colours, pastels, blushes, stripes or spots should be clear, fresh and glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. Flowers should be without major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement** (10/25). The stem should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence with minimal staking and tying. The flowers should be evenly distributed along the stem with minimal overlapping and bunching and the pedicels should be sufficiently strong to display the flowers attractively.
- **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant** (30/25). The flowers should be of good size for their type. The number of flowers should be commensurate with the type and maturity of the plant.

BENCHMARKS

The accepted range for floriferousness of mature exhibition-type hybrids is 7 - 13 flowers (two-thirds of the flowers must be open). The accepted range for size (measured across the petals) is 80 - 120 mm, but modern breeding has delivered bigger flowers.

CLASSIFICATION AT SHOWS AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

Phalaenopsis hybrids may be separated into the following classes: **Exhibition-type, Novelty-type and equestris-type**. Flowers which may be classed as **Novelty Phalaenopsis** include hybrids of low flower count with one or more of the following characteristics: star-shaped, bright colours, heavy substance, sequential flowering. These are usually based on species from Peninsular Malaysia, e.g., *P. cornu-cervi* and *P. violacea*, or species from the Philippines, e.g., *P. lueddemanniana* and *P. amboinensis*. Hybrids of the **equestris-type** have multi-branched racemes bearing small flowers. Recently identified species are being used as parents.

Secondary inflorescences (induced after the primary inflorescence has been removed) of exhibition-type hybrids are acceptable. Vandaenopsis hybrids should be judged in the Vanda Alliance. All other intergeneric Phalaenopsis hybrids should be judged as Other Hybrids.

5.10 VANDACEOUS HYBRIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

Vandaceous hybrids include all orchids which have Vanda in their breeding.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

The ratio 30:30:10:30 is appropriate for most vandaceous hybrids.

- **Shape and Substance** (30). The flowers must exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. They should be zygomorphic and the segments should be broad and rounded at the distal ends without any gaps between the segments, unless parentage dictates otherwise. Hooding, furling and reflexing are undesirable. The flowers should have sufficient substance to maintain their shape.
- **Colour and Texture** (30). The colour, which includes white and any other colour or combination of colours, should be fresh and clear, not blurred. Tessellations and shadings should be harmonious, well defined and evenly distributed. The flowers should be free from major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement** (10). The stem should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence with minimal staking and tying and should hold the flowers clear of the foliage. The flowers should be evenly distributed around the stem with minimal overlapping or bunching. The pedicels should be sufficiently strong to display each flower attractively.
- **Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant** (30). The flower should be of good size for its type. The number of flowers should be commensurate with the type, bearing in mind that some lines can be somewhat sequential in nature. The size of the flowers may be reduced towards the apex of the inflorescence.

BENCHMARKS

Flower size, measured across the widest part of an average flower, may range from 25 mm to 125 mm.

Floriferousness is generally reduced as the size of the blooms increase. For example there are usually 6-10 flowers that measure 125 mm across, 10-20 flowers that measure 65 mm across and 14 or more flowers that measure 25 mm across.

5.11 ZYGOPETALUM ALLIANCE HYBRIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

Zygopetalum hybrids include hybrids and intergenerics which have Zygopetalum in their breeding.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

The most appropriate ratio of the following features for the Zygopetalum Alliance is 30:30:10:30.

- **Shape and Substance** (30). The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes from circular in outline to those exhibiting characteristics of background species are acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic; excessive hooding, cupping, furling, reflexing and twisting are undesirable unless they are natural features. The flower should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape.
- **Colour and Texture** (30). Colour includes white and any other colour or combination of colours. It should be clear, fresh and (where appropriate) glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. Flowers should be without major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement** (10). The flowers should stand clear of the foliage and be evenly and attractively arranged on the raceme.
- **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant** (30). The size and number of flowers should be appropriate to the hybrid. The plant should be well presented with a balanced floral display proportional to its size.

CLASSIFICATION AT SHOWS AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

Zygopetalum Alliance hybrids may be divided into Zygopetalum hybrids and Intergeneric hybrids.

5.12 OTHER HYBRIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

Hybrids not covered by any of the above specific standards are to be judged as Other Hybrids. Examples include intrageneric hybrids of *Angraecum*, *Coelogyne* and *Disa* and intergeneric hybrids such as *Christieara*, *Ascofinetia*.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

In those exhibits in which one or several flowers predominate, values should be assigned to the following features in the ratio 35:35:10:20. In those exhibits in which the floral display is also important, the ratio 30:30:10:30 should be used. In those exhibits in which the floral display alone predominates, the ratio 25:25:25:25 is the most appropriate. Before award judging begins, the judges present will decide which is the most appropriate ratio to use.

- **Shape and Substance (35/30/25).** The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes from circular in outline to those exhibiting characteristics of background species are acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic; excessive hooding, cupping, furling, reflexing and twisting are undesirable unless they are natural features. The flower should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape.
- **Colour and Texture (35/30/25).** Colour includes white and any other colour or combination of colours. It should be clear, fresh and (where appropriate) glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. Flowers should be without major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement (10/10/25).** The stem should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence with minimal staking and tying; it should not be bent or twisted. The flowers should be evenly displayed with minimal overlapping and should preferably stand clear of the foliage.
- **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant (20/30/25).** The size and number of flowers should be appropriate to the hybrid. The plant should be well presented, with a balanced floral display proportional to its size.

5.13 SPECIES ORCHIDS

GENERAL STATEMENT

Judges must be familiar with most of the species appearing on the show-benches at the larger societies and at the Orchid Species Society of Victoria. They should be able to recognise superior shape, colour, size and floriferousness. Species orchids should be well-established and carry a floral display commensurate with their size and natural habit.

Special note : Australian native species (that is, those that occur naturally on the Australian mainland, Tasmania and territories under Australian control) are to be judged as Australian Native Species, not as Species Orchids.

FEATURES AND THEIR EVALUATION

In those exhibits in which one or several flowers predominate, values should be assigned to the following features in the ratio 35:35:10:20. In those exhibits in which the total floral display is also important, the ratio 30:30:10:30 is more appropriate. In exhibits where the floral display alone predominates, the ratio 25:25:25:25 should be used. Before award judging begins, the judges will decide which is the most appropriate ratio to use.

- **Shape and Substance (35/30/25).** The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes are acceptable. The flowers should be zygomorphic; excessive hooding, cupping, furling, reflexing and twisting are undesirable unless they are natural features. The flowers should have sufficient substance to maintain their shape.
- **Colour and Texture (35/30/25).** Colour includes white and any other colour or combination of colours. It should be clear, fresh and (where appropriate) glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. Flowers should be without major blemish.
- **Habit and Arrangement (10/10/25).** The stem should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence with minimal staking and tying; it should not be bent or twisted. The flowers should be evenly displayed with minimal overlapping and should preferably stand clear of the foliage. Judges should recognise that it is the nature of some species to conceal their flowers within the foliage.
- **Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence and Plant (20/30/25).** The size and number of flowers should be appropriate to the particular species. The plant should be well presented, with a balanced floral display proportional to its size.

CLASSIFICATION AT SHOWS AND MONTHLY MEETINGS.

For show judging, species orchids may be divided into various classes - for example: cymbidium species, Australian native species, masdevallia species, paphiopedilum species, species from The Americas, species from Asia, species from Africa and the rest of the world, or miniature species (total height of plant and flowers not to exceed 100 mm or 150 mm, for example).

6. OSCOV AWARDS

OSCOV grants the following awards to acknowledge quality:

- **FCC** – First Class Certificate – 85 - 100 %
- **AM** – Award of Merit – 80 - 84.9 %
- **HCC** – Highly Commended Certificate – 75 - 79.9 %

Other awards granted by OSCOV are:

- **AD** – Award of Distinction, for an orchid with an outstandingly distinctive feature for the type, providing that it conforms to reasonable quality standards for the genus.
- **CBM** – Certificate of Botanical Merit, awarded once for a species or natural hybrid that is rare in cultivation in Victoria, in flower and well established.
- **CC** – Cultural Certificate, for a plant superior in flowering, size, robustness and cleanliness of growth to that which could reasonably be expected for a mature plant of its type.
- **AQ** – Award of Quality, for at least five siblings (originating from a single seed capsule, flowering together and exhibited by a single grower) which show superior quality; at least one should be worthy of a quality award.

Annexure A – ‘Phone/email Judging’ rules

1. Phone/email judging may be utilised in accordance with the following guidance:
 - (a) Where the exhibit is first considered at a **City Show** – the exhibit should be considered by sufficient additional Judges **during** the Show, rather than utilising phone/email judging. The registrar of the Show will make the necessary arrangements.
 - (b) Where the exhibit is first considered at a **City meeting** – the exhibit should be considered by sufficient additional Judges:
 - (i) on the following day or days; or
 - (ii) at a later meeting of another Club (provided the exhibit should last in good condition until then),rather than utilising phone/email judging – however, if the logistics of arranging this seem impossible or overly difficult, phone/email judging **may** be utilised during the meeting. The registrar of the Club will make the necessary arrangements.
 - (c) Where the exhibit is first considered at a **Country Show or meeting** – phone/email judging may be utilised unless arrangements for sufficient additional Judges to consider the exhibit in person can be arranged at the time. The registrar of the Show or Club will make the necessary arrangements.
2. Additional judges can be enlisted (in person or by phone/email) when the votes of Judges who have personally considered the exhibit (at the same time or at different times) are in any of the following ratios (but no other ratios):
 - (a) 3 for and 0 against – an award, or between HCC & AM or AM & FCC;
 - (b) 3 for and 1 against – an award, or between HCC & AM or AM & FCC;
 - (c) 4 for and 0 against – an award, or between HCC & AM or AM & FCC;
 - (d) 4 for and 1 against – an award, or between HCC & AM or AM & FCC; or
 - (e) 4 for and 2 against – an award, or between HCC & AM or AM & FCC.
3. Additional judges must be enlisted to take the number of Judges carding up to a total of 7 Judges.
4. For phone/email judging – the number of pictures sent to a Judge carding by phone/email must be sufficient for the phone/email Judge to be able to correctly assess the exhibit. This will ordinarily include:
 - (a) 1 picture of the front, and 1 picture of the side, of a fairly representative flower;
 - (b) 1 picture of the whole raceme including the flower photographed in (a) provided the raceme has **more** than 3 flowers. If it has 3 flowers or less, the picture of the whole plant will suffice;
 - (c) where a Paphiopedilum is under consideration – 1 picture of the back of the flower photographed in (a); and
 - (d) 1 picture of the whole plant.A side view is important to show hooding or cupping which is not always obvious from front-on photos.
5. For phone/email judging – the front view of the flower(s) should include a ruler or other metric calibrated item, or some way of clearly indicating size.
6. For phone/email judging – a video walk around the exhibit could be included.

7. For phone/email judging – brief factual comments, potentially both positive and negative, should be included by the registrar in the phone/email message to assist with assessment. Proposed factual comments must be discussed with the other Judges present. Examples of factual comments are:

- (a) 'Flowers missing on two of the racemes'
- (b) 'Flowers looking fresh and glistening'
- (c) 'Poor texture' **or** 'Good texture'
- (d) 'Numerous ties along raceme' **or** 'Raceme free-standing'
- (e) 'Small deformity/botrytis damage/colour break on one flower/several flowers'
- (f) 'Leaves heavily trimmed'
- (g) 'Actual flower measurements are [include details]'

Factual comments should identify any relevant matter that the phone/email Judge cannot, or might not readily, observe from the photos.

8. For phone/email judging – the registrar must include with the photos sent guidance on the award(s) being considered, such as one or more of the following:

- (a) 'Looking at a quality award';
- (b) 'Looking at CC'; and
- (c) 'Looking at AD',

but no specific level of quality award may be indicated.

9. For phone/email judging – the choice of phone/email Judges to be enlisted from the phone/email Judge panel is a choice for the registrar. The registrar may take into account a phone/email Judge's expertise in choosing who to enlist.

10. For phone/email judging – the registrar should phone/email each enlisted Judge to ensure he or she is ready & willing to receive the photos.

11. For phone/email judging – each phone/email Judge must be given an opportunity to ask questions of the registrar about the exhibit.

12. For phone/email judging – each phone/email Judge must be given sufficient time to consider and undertake his or her own research, but his or her vote must be sent to the registrar no later than 10:00am on the next day.

13. For phone/email judging – a Judge's card must be completed by the registrar for each phone/email vote.

14. Additional judges must not be made aware of specific votes already given.

15. These rules must be reconsidered at least on a yearly basis.

16. For the duration of the 2021 calendar year only (subject to paragraph 16(k) below):

- (a) a person (the **Applicant**) may request that an exhibit be considered for an award by contacting the Registrar, the Deputy Registrar, the Panel Secretary or any acting Panel Secretary;
- (b) if the Deputy Registrar, the Panel Secretary or an acting Panel Secretary receives such a request, they must refer the matter to the Registrar;
- (c) the Registrar must allocate responsibility for co-ordinating the award consideration process for the exhibit to a full Judge (who may also be the Registrar) who has no personal interest in the exhibit (the **Co-ordinator**);
- (d) the Co-ordinator must contact the Applicant and request that digital photographs of the exhibit be sent to the Co-ordinator consistent with the requirements in paragraphs 4 to 8

above, including a photograph or video of the Applicant holding or standing beside the orchid, and including accurate measurements of the width and height of a representative flower in centimetres (to 1 decimal place) or in millimetres. The Co-ordinator may make additional inquiries of, or request additional information from, the Applicant, including requesting that the Applicant arrange a video, Skype or similar visual phone-call so that the Co-ordinator can verify that the exhibit is currently in flower;

- (e) the Co-ordinator must then send the photographs to such number of additional full Judges to ensure that the total number of Judges who see the exhibit in person under paragraph 16(f) below, or receive the photographs under this paragraph 16(e), is at least 7. Subject to paragraph 16(f) below – it is not necessary that a member of the Panel must see the exhibit in person;
- (f) the Applicant must arrange for 3 full Judges, to be nominated by the Registrar, to see the exhibit in person (for the purposes of completing a card for it) provided that social distancing/public gathering/unnecessary travel restrictions, as applicable at the relevant time, permit this to occur;
- (g) each full Judge must complete a card for the exhibit and send it to the Co-ordinator;
- (h) the Co-ordinator must determine if an award has been granted, and advise the Registrar accordingly;
- (i) if an award:
 - (i) **has** been granted – the Co-ordinator must:
 - (A) contact the Applicant and advise him or her of the further steps he or she is required to take (including to submit an award Application Form and additional photographs);
 - (B) fill out an Award Details form as best as he or she can, utilising the size indications in the digital photographs. Alternatively – if the Applicant is a full Judge, the Co-ordinator may ask that the Applicant complete the measuring; or
 - (ii) **has not** been granted – the Registrar must contact the Applicant and advise him or her accordingly;
- (j) the Co-ordinator must advise the Awards Secretary of the result of the award consideration and send copies of the cards and photographs to the Awards Secretary;
- (k) the Registrar may implement additional processes or requirements related to award consideration during 2021; and
- (l) the Registrar may:
 - (i) suspend or reinstate the operation of this paragraph 16 from time to time; and
 - (ii) at any time prior to 31 December 2021 extend the operation of this paragraph 16 beyond 31 December 2021 for any period not exceeding 6 months, that the Registrar thinks fit.

Annexure B – Show & award judging rules

1 Preliminary

The OSCOV judging panel is a group of individuals who have been accepted by their peers to be able to judge with fairness and consistency.

Decisions made by any group of judges is considered as consistent with the OSCOV general rules of judging.

2 General

The Leader/Registrar of each full panel should consider the following when allocating judges:

- (a) An allocated show judging panel should include a range of judging experience.
- (b) Groups of judges are empanelled to judge allocated classes.
- (c) Allocated class judging panels should include a range of Judging experience
- (d) The Leader/Registrar should advise all judges that in the event of judging problem occurring the panel should advise the Leader/Registrar who will determine what action should be taken.
- (e) The Leader/Registrar may decide minor technicalities.
- (f) All decisions by the full show judging panel are by majority vote.
- (g) The Leader/Registrar should decide major issues in consultation with the full panel present.
- (h) Judging decisions made by allocated class judging panels, that are consistent with the OSCOV rules of judging and the show schedule, are considered final.
- (i) Where only one or two judges are judging a class and a decision cannot be made, they should refer the orchids concerned to the Leader/Registrar for a decision.
- (j) If a decision cannot be made by the Leader/Registrar, the orchids concerned should be considered by the judging panel present.
- (k) Re-judging by judges other than those allocated to a class is not acceptable. A variation to this rule would be if the full panel present has been called to adjudicate as per (i) & (j).
- (l) If a schedule indicates class champions only, the winner of the class is the class champion, provided it fulfils the requirements of the schedule.
- (m) All winners of classes are eligible to be considered for Show Champion, if this championship is required by the schedule.
- (n) All winners of classes and the orchid that finished second to the Show Champion are eligible to be considered for Reserve Show Champion, if this championship is required by the schedule.

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- (o) Grand Champions and Reserve Champions are to be chosen by secret ballot.
 - (p) Quality awarding is separate from the show judging and does not change the show champions previously chosen by secret ballot.

3 Award judging

- (a) Award judging may be undertaken for plants nominated, by the owner, to the Leader/registrar prior to the show.
- (b) OSCOV general members may nominate for award consideration prior to the show, by either filling/forwarding a request for award consideration form to the OSCOV registrar or OSCOV judging panel secretary or the club nominated Show Marshall.
- (c) The OSCOV judging panel secretary will advise the show leader/registrar of any 'Request for award consideration' forms received by the Panel Executive.
- (d) The assembled panel should not be advised of any request for award consideration prior to the show judging.
- (e) If a show plant is deemed worthy of award consideration without prior notification, the leader/registrar in consultation with the assembled panel may process the award.
- (f) Any award made does not affect the decisions made in the show judging.
- (g) At any show the prime objective of the awarding process is to consider the quality of the plants in that show.
- (h) Any plants brought forward, that are not show related, may be considered once all of the following judging panel duties are completed:
 - (i) sashes, ribbons placed if required by the show marshal;
 - (ii) paperwork for any awards given is completed;
 - (iii) plants are measured & described; and
 - (iv) owner/s of awarded plants are advised of the need to fill out application forms and provide appropriate photos.