

P is for Passing Perfectly

The Polite Floral Design Passer

P words: Polite, Patient, Prepared and Pleasant

The Passer's Patience

- Novice exhibitors may be intimidated by the passer so let the exhibitor know you are there to help them achieve the best results in a friendly manner. Quickly dispel any concerns and put the nervous exhibitor at ease.
- Passers should be knowledgeable, kind, supportive, tactful and considerate of all exhibits. Always remember the P words: polite, patient, prepared and pleasant are prerequisites for painless passing.

The Preliminaries

- A passer will enforce the rules of the show while a judge will assess the distinction of the design through creativity, interpretation, and the principles and elements of design.
- A passer will make certain each exhibit fulfills the requirements for its class whereas the judge will consider conformance to design style. Passers do not make judgments about design qualities, style or interpretive correctness. The judge will evaluate these aspects of the design.
- Passers may not exhibit in the class they are passing.
- Passers may not serve as class consultant for the class they are passing.
- A novice is an individual exhibitor who has not won a first place ribbon in a previous flower show at that level (Club, GCA, GCA Major) or a higher level.
- Schedule clarifications/modifications by class consultants impact passing; passers must be informed about any decision made by class consultants in answer to exhibitors' questions concerning a class description.
- A passed exhibit is an exhibit that must be judged.

The Process

- Verify the entry card is completely and accurately filled out.
 - Check that entry number, exhibitor's name, club and zone are on entry card.
 - Co-exhibitor name (if applicable) is included.
 - Confirm novice status.
 - Check exhibitor(s) eligibility to win Club Awards.
 - Plant list has been submitted.
- Check that the class requirements, GCA Flower Show Rules, and Floral Design guidelines have been followed:
 - Size (height, width, depth) measured and conforms to space allotted in schedule
 - Accessories, if included, are permitted.

- Plant material is in good show condition: if plant material is wilted, suggest replacing if additional materials are available. If not, the exhibit is passed.
- Free of insects.
- No artificial plant material.
- No cut fruit, if forbidden or if not properly treated.
- Mechanics not visible unless integral to design.
- Container not leaking.
- Passer may not touch the design or any plant material.
- Passer may not give design advice.
- Staging is cleared of dust, particles, petals or any debris
- If there is a rule infraction, the passer should consult with the Passing/Judging Chairman. The exhibitor will be made aware of the rule and encouraged to comply by correcting the problem. If an entry cannot be passed, after consultation with show or division chairman, it is marked “For Exhibit Only” and is accompanied by a brief explanation stating why it is not in competition.
- After confirming all the above, the Passer will add Red P on upper right corner of entry card to indicate that the entry has been passed.
- Make sure exhibitors do not touch their exhibit again and that the exhibitor(s) leave show floor.
- Be certain any issues that arose during passing are shared with the Passing/Judging Chairman, and she will make sure the issues are included in the Judges Briefing.

Acknowledgements:

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