

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONCHOLOGISTS OF AMERICA AWARD

(ADDENDUM I)

SOUND JUDGING PROCESS

Sound and unbiased judging is central to a good shell show. The following are suggested guidelines aimed at achieving this goal for scientific exhibits.

- A. For each show, there shall preferably be two or more suitably qualified judges working as a panel.
- B. All judges should have a good knowledge of conchology. At least one member of the judging panel, acting as senior judge, should have superior knowledge in judging shell shows
- C. All judges should be thoroughly familiar with the rules of the shows they are judging.
- D. The show sponsor should provide for a suitable environment in which the judging is to take place. There should be adequate lighting; and the process, free from unnecessary interruptions.
- E. The show sponsor should assign one or more clerks to assist in the judging process. The clerks should be thoroughly familiar with the show rules. A copy of the shell show rules should be made available during the judging process for quick reference.
- F. The clerk(s) should not be competing exhibitor(s) at the show.
- G. The judging process should be conducted free from outside influence, including prejudicial comments or suggestions from the clerk(s). The judges should have the right to privacy for free and uninhibited discussions among themselves.
- H. Exhibits to be judged should be identified anonymously; a common accepted practice is to identify each exhibit numerically. Text or graphics depicting the exhibitor should be covered up.
- I. Where there is a conflict of interest, the particular judge involved, should remove himself (herself) from the discussion on that one exhibit.
- J. Judges should withhold awards (including the COA Award) when no exhibit is found to measure up to the standards deserving such honor.
- K. Post-judging critique of any exhibit by a judge, when asked for, is deemed as a healthy process and should be encouraged.
- L. Judges' decisions are final.

COA Executive Board Approval, July 9, 1990.