

Model A Ford Club of America

Introductory Information for Apprentice Judges

Welcome to the world of judging, you have chosen a new avenue of Model A'ing. The work may be demanding, but the rewards are many. The Model A Ford Club of America has prepared this information in order to educate a new Judge on the Judge's duties and responsibilities as well as the organization of regional and national meets. Often the internal functioning of Model A meets seems mysterious to the first time judge. The great number of events and activities available to members at these meets can be disorienting enough without having to search for information. This sheet is intended to ease the anxiety and remove the mystery about what to do before, during and after the meet.

Preparation for judging before arriving at a meet

The Chief Judge makes all judging assignments and sends a notification to each Judge indicating the area to be judged and the name of the area Team Captain. It is the responsibility of each Judge to review the Judging Standards in the area(s) he/she will judge. Often a judge will prepare notes or a time line chart of production changes that occurred on the Model A. These preparations can expedite judging at the meet.

Each Judge should also examine the section in the Judging Standards that deals with Judging Philosophy (see page 12 of the standards). The most important philosophical aspect of judging is the requirement to evaluate a vehicle against the standards and not the other vehicles being shown. The Standards are intended to describe the Model A when it was new and being delivered to a customer. Many areas in the Standards ask a Judge to evaluate finishes and materials compared to the "Original". For an apprentice Judge this may be a difficult task. There is nothing more educational than seeing the original materials and finishes in person. Some of the best information comes from studying original unrestored cars. It would be invaluable for a Judge to obtain access to one or more original cars before attending a meet. Reading the Standards while viewing one of these cars clarifies a lot of details.

Prepare for a full day of Judging at the meet. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing.

Preparation for judging at the meet

At most meets, a Judge's meeting is held the day before or the morning of Judging. The location and time will be listed in the materials handed out during registration at the meet. Participation in this meeting is mandatory. BE prepared to ask questions, if something is not clear. If an Apprentice Judge is also entering a vehicle in judging, there may also be a meeting for the participants.

National and Regional Meets attract hundreds of Model A's. They range from totally restored "Show Cars" to partially restored "Drivers" to Original Unrestored vehicles. A great deal of judging experience can be gained by examining these cars in the day or two prior to official judging. Most vehicle owners are willing to show their car and explain some of the outstanding features. This is an opportunity to enhance your knowledge and understand details that are not defined in detail in the standards. For example, in Area 14 under Paint Quality, it states "*Paint finishes should simulate the original color texture and sheen.*" An Apprentice Judge may examine original vehicles to observe the original appearance. Also, talking with other restorers can reveal how the original look is obtained.

Judge's Meeting prior to judging

The Judge's meeting is devoted to explaining the organization of a meet. The Chief Judge chairs this meeting. Typically a mandatory Judge's Meeting is held the day before or the morning of judging. At most conventions, each Judge is advised of the time and place for this meeting in the letter informing the Judge of his or her area of responsibility and his or her assigned Team Captain. If the time and place is not included in the original notification, then check the meet schedule upon registering at the convention. There are two important functions that must be accomplished at the Judge's Meeting:

- The Chief Judge ensures that teams are sufficiently staffed and informs the Judges of the rules of judging as applied to the current meet. This includes details such as the hours during which Judging takes place, location for areas of Judging (Start & Idle, Tools, Original Class, etc.)
- A Team Captain organizes, trains and educates individual Judges on the system and methodology to be followed during the evaluation and scoring of vehicles.

Team Captain's duties and organization

Generally, a Judge is selected as a Team captain by the Chief Judge to supervise judges in two, three or four different areas. Occasionally, a team Captain will handle only one area due to a variety of reasons. This could occur in complex areas if the convention is extremely large or if an area (such as Start & Idle) is judged outside the main arena. Team Captains must define the method of scoring (see Scoring) and educate his/her Team on this method. Often a supplemental judging sheet is devised to further breakdown the Area to be scored. Furthermore, the Team Captain must train team members on how authenticity, condition and workmanship are evaluated. At large meets, a Team Captain may elect to separate an Area into subgroups with two or three team members evaluating just part of an Area. Team Captains often make the scoring sheet entries, but occasionally delegate this function to an experienced Judge.

Scoring

In evaluating vehicles, always give to benefit of the doubt to the car owner and don't hesitate to give maximum points to well restored areas. If the part, assembly or finish has the likeness and appearance as the Model A came off the assembly line, it shall be judged as original. If the part, assembly or finish does not appear as original, it shall receive no more than 75% of the allotted points for that component. Reproduction items shall receive no more than 50% of the allotted points for that component.

It is important to note that Team Captains use different methods of scoring. Often the complexity of scoring an area dictates which method is used. A few of the more common methods are listed here as examples.

- Point values are allocated to each component in an area. These items are then evaluated during judging and the points are added up for items that meet the standards.
- Point values are allocated for each component in an area. The items are evaluated and points are subtracted from a perfect score for each item that does not meet the standards.
- Points are awarded by evaluating the percentage of an area or subarea that is authentically restored. This system is most effective for areas with great variety between the different body styles. A good example is the judging of Area 9: Top. Judges are required to score vehicles with a great number of elements like a Phaeton or very few elements like a Steel Top Pickup Cab.

Conduct during judging

It is important to realize that Model A owners have invested a great deal of time and effort to restore, prepare and transport their vehicles to the meet. Many of the owners are also Judges, so live by the following points of conduct:

- Present yourself in a professional manner.
- Do not sit on the runningboards or in the vehicle. Do not rest your foot on any part of the vehicle. Do not use parts of the vehicle to fill out score sheets.
- Pay attention to your jewelry and clothing. Rings, watches, bracelets and belt buckles scratch paint and other finishes. Remove or pad any items that may cause damage.
- All food, soft drinks or coffee should be consumed outside the judging area.
- Do not discuss the scoring or deliberations outside of your team. If your team is taking a break away from the Judging Area, refrain from discussing the vehicles and scoring.
- If you are involved in the restoration of a vehicle or if you have a close relationship with the owner, notify your Team Captain prior to starting the evaluation process. You will be excused from judging such a vehicle.
- Be consistent from the first to the last vehicle. Evaluate all using the same criteria.
- If you are unsure about the authenticity or workmanship of a part, discuss it with you team. The benefit of the doubt is always given to the owner. If you are unsure, give full credit.
- Do not comment on Areas that you are not judging, unless you requested by your Team Captain or the Chief Judge.
- If you make a mistake, learn from it.

Evaluation of performance

At the end of judging, each Team Captain fills out an evaluation sheet for the Judges on his/her Team. These are used for several reasons: 1) to determine if changes to the judging process are necessary, 2) for advancement to the next level of Judge, 3) for a Chief Judge to allocate Judges to different assignments at a future meet and 4) to improve instructions given to all Judges.

After judging

After a long day of judging Model A's, it is common to review your experiences with friends. Remember the points of conduct above. You never know who will overhear a conversation. Be professional in your conduct.