MCA JUDGING PROGRAM –
HOW TO BECOME A CERTIFIED JUDGE AND A GOLD CARD JUDGE

The purpose of this document is to inform MCA members how they can enter into the MCA Judging Program and progress through the ranks. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the judging process. There are many benefits to volunteering your time to judge with most agreeing that judging is just plain fun! Following are bullet items that describe how one becomes a judge and how they can progress further in the MCA Judging Program.

- Types of Judges:
  - Assistant Judges
    - Anyone can be an Assistant Judge.
    - To be an Assistant Judge, determine what area you would like to judge and then locate the MCA Assistant National Head Judge (ANHJ) for that area. Let them know that you would like to help and they will assign you to a team at a National or Grand National show.
    - Being an Assistant Judge is the best way to enter the MCA Judging Program.
    - By being an Assistant Judge, it is almost guaranteed that you will pass the Certification Test (for the year's Mustang that you are interested in). Generally, it's a good idea to be an Assistant Judge 2 times before requesting a test. Although, this is not a requirement to take a Certification test.
  - Certified Judges
    - Any MCA member can become a Certified Judge.
    - To become a Certified Judge, you simply have to pass an on-line test by correctly answering at least 80% of the questions (More about the tests later).
    - Once you are a Certified Judge, you are one for life. Certifications do not expire. You will be able to download a Certification Certificate with your name, MCA number and classes that you are certified for. You also can receive a plastic wallet card, if you inform the assistant head judge which national show you plan to attend and help judge. After judging the ANHJ will hand you your card after successfully judging the cars assigned to you.
    - There are no judging requirements for Certified Judges. If you do not want to judge, you do not have to, but to receive your plastic wallet card you have to judge at a show. MCA strongly encourages your participation!
    - MCA members may become Certified Judges in as many classes/areas as they prefer, there is no limit.

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- Gold Card Judges
  - Any MCA Certified Judge can become a Gold Card Judge in the classes that they are certified.
  - To become a Gold Card Judge, you have to be appointed by the National Head Judge who is responsible for that era of Mustangs based on referrals from an MCA Assistant National Head Judge and/or other MCA Gold Card Judges.
  - To attain Gold Card Judge status, you must first indicate your aspiration to the appropriate MCA Assistant National Head Judge.
  - The MCA ANHJ will then begin an evaluation process that will include pairing you with other Gold Card Judges. These Gold Card Judges will provide feedback to the ANHJ which will be considered in the evaluation process. You may also be personally paired with the MCA ANHJ for evaluation purposes.
  - Do not be intimidated by this process. The goal is to evaluate your knowledge and get you to where you need to be to become a Gold Card Judge. Nearly everyone that follows down the Gold Card Judge path will eventually attain Gold Card status.
  - In the past, recommendation letters from 2 other Gold Card Judges (that are not friends from your home area) were submitted for consideration. This is the written rule, but is not completely necessary. You can still do this if you like. MCA is currently looking into more clearly defining this process.
  - Once you become a Gold Card Judge, your status will last for 5 years. You will receive a special Gold Card Judge card with your name and MCA number on it and the classes you are a Gold Card for. The card will also specify the expiration date.
  - MCA prefers Gold Card Judges to judge at least one MCA National show per year. The club understands that there are personal issues that might prohibit someone from attending, but we highly encourage participation.

- Assistant National Head Judges
  - Assistant National Head Judges are appointed by the National Head Judge.

- National Head Judges
  - The National Head Judges are appointed by the MCA President.
  - There are 2 MCA National Head Judges. One for 1st – 2nd Generation and one for 3rd – 5th Generation.

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- Certification Tests:
  - Certification Tests is located on the MCA website. http://www.mustang.org/content.php/337-MCA-Online-Judging-System-Take-a-test-and-become-an-MCA-Judge!
  - You have up to thirty days to complete the test.
  - If the time passes and you haven't completed the test a new test will be produced, so try to complete before thirty days.
  - If you fail the test, you have a total of three tries before you're locked out for a period of time.
  - You may use any resource to find the answers to the questions. Except for asking other MCA Judges for answers!
  - Typical resources for the Certification Tests would include the MCA Rulebook online http://www.mustang.org/content.php/185-Mustang-Judging-Rules, period Ford documentation or literature, observing low mileage Unrestored or well-restored cars or participating in online Mustang forums where information may be available.
  - Once you have completed the test and passed, you will be able to print a Certification certificate with your name, MCA# and class you're certified in already printed on the certificate. If you failed it will inform you, so you can try again with a new test.
  - To receive the final and most important plastic wallet card, you need to attend a MCA National show. Working with the Assistant Head judge, he or she will pair you up with someone to judge a group of cars. The idea is to give you the experience of judging in a national event, understanding how important you are as an ambassador of MCA.

- Judges Awards:

  - At each National show where you judge, there will be a sign-up sheet which you need to be sure to write your name and MCA number on. This sheet is used to track how many shows you have judged. After judging 8 shows, you will receive a special Judge Award, presented by one of the MCA National Head Judges.

- Final Words:

  - The MCA Judging Program is a great way to learn about and educate others about all years of Mustangs.
  - Becoming a Judge is a selfless commitment that many members enjoy.
  - Without MCA Judges, there would be no MCA shows!
  - Watch for more to come on the MCA website (www.mustang.org) about this and other Judging-related topics!

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