

How to Become a Certified MCA Judge

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 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! The 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 as long as they meet the qualifications.
- To start the process to become a Certified Judge, you simply have to pass an on-line test by correctly answering at least 80% of the questions.
- Once you have passed the test, a Head Judge will print out your certificate that you will receive once you attend a National or Grand National show and judge in the class that you are certified. (Note you have 1 year from the time you pass your test in which you must physically attend a MCA National or Grand National. If you have not met this requirement you will need to take the test again to restart the process in the area that has expired.)

- o Once you attend the show and have met the qualifications to become a certified judge the certificate will be signed by the Assistant National Head Judge or Head Judge for the class in which you are certified.
- o The Assistant National Head Judge will submit a request form acknowledging your certification to the Head Judge who will submit a request for you to receive a Certified judges wallet card.
- o MCA members may become Certified Judges in as many classes/areas as they prefer, there is no limit. If you achieve multiple certifications, they will all continue to be valid if you continue to judge at any MCA National or Grand National show. You will be considered active in all areas and should be willing to assist in any category you are certified in.
- o If a Certified Judge has not judged at an MCA National or Grand National event for a period of 3 years, certification is no longer valid.
- o You may earn certification for just one class per national show.
- **Gold Card Judges**
 - o Any MCA Certified Judge can become a Gold Card Judge in the classes that they are certified.
 - o To become a Gold Card Judge, you must be appointed by the National Head Judge who is responsible for that area of Mustangs based on referrals from an MCA Assistant National Head Judge and/or other MCA Gold Card Judges.
 - o To attain Gold Card Judge status, you must first indicate your aspiration to the appropriate MCA Assistant National Head Judge.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.

- o 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 have qualified as a Gold Card. The card will also specify the expiration date.
- o 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**
 - o Assistant National Head Judges are appointed by the National Head Judge.
- **National Head Judges**
 - o The National Head Judges are appointed by the MCA President.
 - o There are 2 MCA National Head Judges. One for 1st – 3rd Generation and one for 4th – the current Generation.

Certification Tests

- Certification Tests are located on the MCA website. [MCA Judge Certification Program](#)
- 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 Rule book online. [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, a Head Judge will print out your certificate that you will receive once you attend a National or Grand National show and judge in the class that you are certified. If you failed, it will inform you, so you can try again with a new test.