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## PARTICIPANT PROTOCOL

**R**ecently my counterpart, Charles Turner, and I developed MCA's Show Season's Protocol for Assistant National Head Judges. Among many other items, it stated that "First and foremost, everyone in MCA's judging community is an ambassador for the Mustang Club of America, the Ford Motor Company and its other sponsors, and the Mustang automobile. For many Mustang enthusiasts MCA shows are their initial, of often only, interface with Mustang owners and their families. It is vitally important that this first and continuing impression be a good one. You play a key role in this relationship."

As Mustang enthusiasts, show participants also play an important role in promoting the hobby and developing lasting relationships with other MCA members and non members. Seeing that all of us share in the support of the smooth running of shows throughout the season, it is appropriate for those entering their cars to conform to the basic rules, regulations, and courtesies which can be considered protocol for participants. While many of you have participated in one or more shows, it is important for newcomers to an MCA national show to know what is expected of them. Perhaps one way of articulating this protocol is to provide a list some do's and don'ts.

### DO'S

- Do participate in the classification of your Mustang—for some there may be more than one class in which your car could compete
- Do have an acceptable fire extinguisher available at all times
- Do remove all personal items from interiors and trunks
- Do remove floor mats unless install with factory attachments
- Do prepare car for judging, i.e. judged classes: trunk/hatchback open, top up, windows closed, hoods open *except daily driven class where hoods must be closed*
- Do participate in "popular vote" balloting
- Do interact with other participants
- Do become involved with judging activities; attend the Judges Meeting to see how judging is accomplished

### DON'TS

- Don't try to change your car's class once it has been classified
- Don't leave the doors locked during the judging period
- Don't hover around judging team; let them do their job
- Don't start engines during show hours, or leave show field early without permission of a National Head Judge
- Don't use stanchions, signs, displays, etc., except in the Conservator and Thoroughbred classes, which are encouraged owners to provide displays, or trailered modified Mustangs
- Don't hesitate to ask the judges anything which may clarify a situation or answer technical questions . . . we are there to assist in any way we can
- Don't leave any trash behind—we are all responsible for maintaining a clean show site

Although not exhaustive, as you can see much of the above list is no more than mere common sense and common courtesy. A successful show is one where car owners and judges, working together, can create a harmonious and educational experience which is intended to aid the Mustang enthusiast improve his or her car.

And of course, perhaps the most important rule is DO have a good time and a safe trip to and from the show.

See you there!

*Allen Stewart*



Allen Stewart  
National Head Judge  
3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Generations