

“THE MCA JUDGING COMMUNITY IS DEVOTED TO BEING FAIR AND CONSISTENT IN ASSESSING THE MUSTANGS AT NATIONAL SHOWS.”



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NOT EVERYONE CAN BE A WINNER...

Traditionally we Americans want to be winners, and that's a good quality. We have our favorite sports team we avidly follow and cheer it on as we watch players vie to win on TV. We root for our esteemed NASCAR driver. We seek preeminence for our kids in school academic and sports events . . . we just love winners. However, as a practical matter, no individual or team is always going to be at the top of the heap.

The same phenomenon holds true for Mustangers who enter their cars in competitive shows. Not everyone can be a winner. Nor should they be. The MCA judging community is devoted to being fair and consistent in assessing the Mustangs at national shows. It is our desire, indeed our responsibility, to assist car owners in the iterative process of making their Mustangs as good and authentic as can be. That's why owners are urged to request a copy of their car's judging sheets after each show so they can see what needs to be done to make their car more competitive at the next show. The game plan here is not to be super critical but rather to be consistently helpful in meaningful ways to improve individual's cars.

Of the many questions I am asked before shows is, "What class should my car be entered in?" The most common query after a show is, "Why didn't my Mustang get an award?" Let's take a look at each of these questions. Most often classification questions are easily answered by looking at the rules for the various show classes listed in the MCA website (www.mustang.org). Some homework will normally, but not always, provide the answer to the first question. And if not, an email or telephone call to one of the National or Assistant National Head Judges should help. Lastly, as one enters the show field, the registration and classification personnel will provide a final answer to the first question.

Many owners believe that their car will do well in the Daily or Occasional Driven class. Any Mustang can be entered in either of these classes from 1964½ through 2008. As we evaluate these 43-model-year Mustangs the focus is on quality, condition, and cleanliness not on authenticity. Therefore, to do well, the car must be well-prepared to compete on the show field with the basic criteria in mind. Division V, Occasional Driven, and Division VI, Daily Driver classes make up a large percentage of participants at each show. A look at the pre-registered car listing for the Grand National at Bellevue, Washington, as an example, reveals that one-third of the total are in these two divisions. I was asked by a participant of the Mustang, Oklahoma show, "Why didn't my Mustang get an award?" This was his first MCA National Show and his disappointment in not placing was apparent. He received his judging sheets and found that he lost only a small fistful of points based on flaws in quality, condition, and cleanliness. After looking at the scores for his class there were a total of 19 entrants. Judging rules provide that the lowest deductive score (points lost) receives a 1st. These rules also allow those cars who are within three points of the lowest score also receive a 1st place award. The next two lowest scores receive a 2nd and 3rd respectively. So in his class, there could be as few as only three of a fairly large number of cars which get awards. Which means that in this case there are more losers than winners. Fortunately, the owner, while still disappointed in not getting an award, is willing to try again at another National Show.

In other classes, the opportunity to win an award is generally greater . . . providing the car is well prepared. In classes where gold, silver, and bronze awards are given, the winners are based on point spreads which allow for all within an arithmetical range to get a corresponding award.

Having said all that, National and Grand National MCA shows offer a unique opportunity for Mustang owners to compete with a family of friends who, by and large, are also looking for an award for their efforts, to display their vehicle, and to educate themselves on ways to improve their chances of getting a trophy . . . and most importantly to have a good time while doing so.

I look forward to seeing you and your Mustang at an MCA National event.

Good Luck.

Allen Stewart



Allen Stewart
National Head Judge
3rd-5th Generations