

UNITED SWALLOW CLUB CERTIFIED JUDGING PROGRAM

COMPILED BY:

Steve Ball
Ron De Clement
Bill Griebel
David Harris
Perry Mueller
Leon Stephens
Mike Swanson

CURRENT USC CERTIFIED JUDGES

Steve Ball
Ron De Clement
Bill Griebel
David Harris
Perry Mueller
Steve Ripper
Gary Romig
Leon Stephens
Mike Swanson
Nate Wayne
Gloria Weisgram
European Judges

PAST USC CERTIFIED JUDGES

Howard Angevine
Cal Breadhoff

USC CERTIFIED JUDGING COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

PURPOSE:

The United Swallow Club's ultimate goal is to promote the advancement and quality of Swallows in addition to promoting the fellowship in raising and showing pigeons. As a means of achieving this goal, the USC feels improving the quality of Swallows coincides with quality judging. Therefore, establishing a certified judging program will provide a resource of judges knowledgeable about Swallows which in turn will improve and enhance the Swallow fancy. As exhibitors we come together each year to assess our attempts to improve our birds. Quality judging provides respect for our hard work, along with providing direction for improving our birds. This ultimately improves the Swallow fancy. Lastly, the certified judging program encompasses a component to train and acknowledge breeders in their growth in the Swallow fancy by encouraging them to become part of the certified judging program, thus the program becomes recursive: assessing, improving then growing.

NOTE: Please check with the USC C&BL's for items Articles V, VII, VIII and IX as they may supersede or work in conjunction with this document.

GUIDELINES:

- 1.** Certified judges shall comprise the judging board. This judging board shall be responsible with the leadership of the certified judging program chairman for formulating suggested judging policy and procedure and for selecting new judges for the program in accordance with the USC Constitution and By-Laws.
- 2.** The certified judging program board consists of the certified judges.
- 3.** The USC shall maintain a certified judges "bank". Maintaining a bank of quality judges is the ultimate goal.
- 4.** The certified judging program chairman, a member of the current judging board, shall oversee the USC Annual Meet judging program.
- 5.** The judging program chairman shall be selected by a majority vote of certified judging board members. This election should coincide with the election of officers. This person shall serve for a two-year period. The election commissioner may receive, count and report these results if he/she is not on the judging board.

6. The judging program chairman shall preside over the board of certified judges who will collectively establish judging rules and policies not covered in the Constitution and By-Laws for annual and district meets and oversee the approval process for certifying new judges.
7. The judging program chairman shall supply to the USC secretary an updated list for inclusion in the first bulletin after the annual meet in order to accept nominations for the next annual meet. Once nominations are received the judging program chairman shall contact nominees to verify their availability prior to voting. Nominations can also be accepted at the USC Annual Meeting.
8. The annual meet judge should be approved by a majority of USC members voting. Once nominated a candidate receiving a majority of votes from those members voting shall be elected to judge the annual meet. He/she shall be selected by a vote of the membership per the guidelines set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws.
9. Foreign judges may be brought in with approval of a majority of those USC members voting.
10. Judges MUST be USC member at the time of voting (Foreign judges excepted).
11. A member of the USC certified judges' pool or the European judges shall not judge an annual meet two consecutive years except in an extreme emergency.
12. Because of their special schooling and training it is not necessary for a European judge to use a second judge.
13. If an elected judge cannot attend the annual meet for any reason the judge receiving the next highest number of votes shall be asked to judge, and then proceed through the entire list in this manner. If this last individual on the list is unable to do so, the executive committee shall appoint a judge from the bank of certified judges.
14. USC members wishing to be included in the certified judges' bank should contact the certified judging program chairman for an application. The application process is as follows:

REQUIREMENTS:

Candidates and participating USC Certified Judges must submit all required documents to the USC Certified Judging Chairman. These documents will include: (1) an application which is on page 5. (2) A resume of no less than 200 words (item A). 3) And, no less than 4 items from categories B, C and D. See pages 6 through 11.

- A.** A Resume. Resume items may include but are not limited to meets judged, birds, raised, breeding experience, recommendations from members of the judging committee, published articles, books etc. recognition, awards received, accomplishments, club offices held, committees served on, judging history, length of USC membership.
- B.** A candidate shall sit in as a silent observer at least once and possibly two meets judged by different certified judges as they explain their choices. The candidate may show birds. The candidate shall submit a summary to the judging chairman with his/her observations of learning/growth while being an observer.
- C.** The candidate shall be a co-judge at least one and possibly two different shows under different certified judges. The co-judge and judging candidate then will complete the co-judging evaluation form jointly. The intent is for the co-judging process to provide feedback for learning/growth in refining the candidate's judging skills. This form is then submitted to the judging program chairman. Copies are then forwarded to all certified judges.
- D.** The candidate shall judge two shows while being observed and evaluated at all times by two different certified judges.
- E.** Certified Judges must be available for at least two days if 90 or more birds are entered in the USC Annual Meet. (Where shows run 1+days)
- F.** The certified judges then submit their evaluations of the candidate's performance to the judging chairman. Copies are then forwarded to all certified judges along with the candidate's resume.
- G.** Candidates must be trained and judge at USC sanctioned meets where the USC rating system is used.
- H.** There must be at least 25 entries by no less than three different exhibitors at each meet.
- I.** A vote is taken to accept or reject the candidate into the program by a simple majority vote by the certified judges. Voting shall be anonymous and the chairman will report only yes or no votes to the pool of current certified judges. The chairman shall keep in the files all transactions with each candidate.
- J.** A candidate is then added to the certified judges' bank.
- K.** If a candidate does not get voted in then there needs to be a reason why they were not voted in. This should be communicated to that person first by phone by the judging chairman. If the person cannot be contacted by phone then a letter or email should be sent. This communication should be kept private.

L. If at all possible a Certified Judge can be assigned to the candidate to help with any questions between shows.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO HELP THE SHOW RUN SMOOTHER

1. Communicate show procedures to all exhibitors prior to judging.
2. Certified judges shall use a discussion/explanatory approach when judging.
3. Prior to judging, turn all coop cards where exhibitor name cannot be seen and have the judge review all birds in holding pens to get a “feel” for the overall quality of the show. At this time he/she may take notes for future reference while judging.
4. When possible, post the order for judging the birds prior to the start of the show.
5. Judge each bird to the USC Standard.
6. Verbalize evaluations of each bird judged and educate where appropriate.
7. Be consistent.
8. When judging a color class select a Best Young, Best Old, Best of Color before moving onto the next color class. (see article VIII in the USC C&BL's)
9. The judging sheets and show pens should be arranged within the color classes to be judged in this sequence YH, YC, OH, OC. The judge should know in advance the special awards to expedite this process.
10. If a judge wants to recommend a bird for an E rating, the following procedure should be followed: 1. Notify the show secretary the bird is being considered for an E rating, then set the bird aside and finish the class with the possibility there may be more than one possible “E” candidate. Then when finished with the class call in the second judge OR 2. Call in the second judge and make the decision immediately.
11. The second judge or judges should be selected prior to the start of the judging and if possible be selected by the judge of the show and show officials. The second judge may participate if there are no conflicts of interest involved i.e. A second judge should not have birds still eligible to be judged or have a bird previously rated E in the show. Because of their special schooling and training it is not necessary for a European judge to use a second judge.

This document originally created on 8/1999 and updated on 8/2015.

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFIED JUDGES PROGRAM (item A)

NAME: _____

Address: _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE: _____

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

CHECKLIST:

____ resume of not less than 200 words **(See requirements item A)**

____ At least one silent observation summary of a Certified Judge. **(See requirements Item B).**

____ One complete evaluation of candidate's judging as a team (co-judging).
(The critique is to be completed by the certified team judge.)
(See requirements item C).

____ Two completed evaluations of candidate's solo judging by two different certified judges. **(See requirements item D).**

CANDIDATE OBSERVATION OF CERTIFIED JUDGES (item B)

(To be completed by candidate to fulfill requirement B)

CERTIFIED JUDGING CANDIDATE: _____

MEET: _____ DATE: _____

JUDGE OBSERVED: _____

JUDGES'S SIGNATURE: _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES: _____

What did you learn? (I.E. CONSISTENCY, DIFFERENCES IN COLOR CLASSES, COLOR CLASS DIFFICULTY, IMPRESSION OF BIRDS SHOWN ETC.) Feel free to attach additional pages.

CO-JUDGING EVALUATION

This form is to be completed jointly by judging candidate and the certified judge. This form will fulfill requirement C. The intent is for this process to provide feedback for learning/growth in refining the candidate's judging skills.

Candidate: _____

Certified Judge: _____

Show: _____ Date: _____

TOTAL ENTRIES: _____

PART ONE: (CERTIFIED JUDGE TO COMPLETE SECTION ONE).

STRENGTH OF CANDIDATE:

AREAS FOR GROWTH:

PART TWO: (To be completed by the judging candidate)

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THIS PROCESS? (i.e. insuring consistency, application of the standard, comparing various markings, observing/judging etc.)

PART THREE: (to be completed by both the candidate and certified judge)

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS/BENEFITS GAINED:

Judge's signature: _____ Date: _____

Candidates signature (The certified team judge has shared his observations with me).

_____ Date: _____

**CANDIDATES JUDGING OF A SHOW
OBSERVATION OF CERTIFIED JUDGING CANDIDATE**

This form is to be completed by an observing certified judge. The certified judge should share the observation with the candidate. The intent of the observation is for a learning/growth experience. This “observing certified judge” should be appointed prior to the candidate judging of the show. (Complete this form to fulfill REQUIREMENT D).

CANDIDATE OBSERVED: _____

CERTIFIED JUDGE: _____

SHOW: _____ DATE: _____

TOTAL ENTRIES: _____

STRENGTHS:

AREAS FOR GROWTH:

Judge's signature: _____

Candidate's signature (The observing judge has shared his observations with me). _____

RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CERTIFIED JUDGING PROGRAM CHAIRMAN.