

Sully 2022 Judging Guidelines for Model A Fords

Modified May 21, 2025

Notify the Chief Judge or Show Chairman if you find any car leaking gasoline, or if you observe any other unsafe situation!

1. **Be at judging tent at 10:00 a.m.** We will release judges for all other classes first. We will review the Model A Judging Guidelines before releasing the Model A judges. **Return all forms by 12:30 p.m.**

2. Award points up to the maximum in the judged area. **NO PARTIAL POINTS – WHOLE NUMBERS ONLY!** A minimum of 55 points needed to place. **NO TIES!**

3. Appearance, safety & authenticity judging. Our objectives: 1) Prepare owners for national club “Touring Class” level of judging; AND 2) Encourage safe Model A Fords with “No Rust, No Dust, and No Bust” (allow for road dust from the drive in; only withhold points for excessive dirt, trash, grease, oil leaks & etc.).

5. A FIRE EXTINGUISHER “IN THE GREEN” IS MANDATORY. DO NOT JUDGE A CAR WITHOUT ONE PRESENT.

Model A Ford Preliminary Judging Requirements

To be judged:

Car *should* have an all-steel body. (if car has fiberglass panels or fenders, see guidance below).

Car must have an original style 4 cylinder motor; bronze spark plug wires; 6 Volt generator or alternator; and two-blade fan (aluminum O.K.). (Car with 12 Volt conversion can be judged; see guidance below)

Car must have original size wheels and appropriate tires (21” metal spoked wheels for ’28 – ’29; 19” metal spoked wheels for ’30 – ’31).

Car should have bias ply tires. (Car with radial tires can be judged: see guidance below).

Car should have original style Houdaille hydraulic shocks and tubular shock links. (Car with tube shocks can be judged; see guidance below).

Car should have original style mechanical brake system. (Car with hydraulic brakes can be judged; see guidance below).

Car should have original type top and upholstery materials. Top may be up or down.

Car should have original type “Ahooga” horn.

Only slotted or square head screws. Car with Phillips style screws may be judged, just deduct 2 point from the final score as they are noted.

HOWEVER

Some cars have deviations from these basic Model A Preliminary judging requirements, which in many cases make the car safer at modern speeds on modern roads. We have adjusted the points system to deal with these deviations, while still encouraging authenticity.

MODEL A FORD JUDGING GUIDELINES

1. INTERIOR – 25 points

a. Upholstery and hardware

Upholstery intact (note if car is unrestored, and upholstery original); hardware should be clean and have a pleasing appearance – check rumble seat if one is present. **Withhold 1 point for non-authentic upholstery materials.** All hardware should be present and have a good appearance.

Seat belts (if present) should be clean and appear to be functional (e.g. not frayed or torn/cut). **Award 1 bonus point for each seat belt set (SAFETY).**

b. Floor coverings, glass, garnish moldings

Carpets or mats must be present and in good condition. **Withhold 5 points for trash.**

Glass should be clean and sound. **Award 1 bonus point for the safety glass etching “bug”.**

Tilt windshield can be tilted or not; roll-down windows can be up or down.

Garnish moldings should be finished and in good condition.

c. Instrument Panel, pedals, steering column, and controls

Withhold 1 point for each non-stock instrument, with the exception of a clock. There will be no deduction for added turn signals or hazard flashers.

The steering wheel should be uncovered – withhold 1 point if covered.

d. Trunk, Tools

Trunk must be open, clean and neat if the car has one. If car trunk is closed, award 0 points. (Does not apply to an accessory trunk). Tools should be shown and present a pleasing appearance, and may be marked “Ford” or not. A full set comprises 13 items. **Award 10 points for a complete set; 7 points for an incomplete set; 0 points if tools are not observed. Award 1 bonus point for the optional Ford Script tire pressure gauge.**

- 1) Original-type tool bag;
- 2) Appropriate instruction manual;
- 3) Jack;
- 4) Jack handle;
- 5) Screwdriver;
- 6) Alemite or Bassick grease gun;
- 7) 9 1/4” adjustable wrench;
- 8) Spark plug and cylinder head wrench;
- 9) Pliers
- 10) 7/16” X 1/2” wrench;
- 11) 9/16” X 5/8” wrench;

12) Tire pump;

13) Tire iron.

2. EXTERIOR – 35 Points

a. Paint, body, plating, rubber/plastic & lighting

Original style paint and stripe; deduct 5 points for non-Model A color or metal flake paint. **NOTE: cars sold after June 4, 1931 could be painted non-Ford colors in accordance with Ford's letter with that date sent to all dealers, subject: "Special Colors on Cars and Trucks".**

Look for chips, cracks and peeling of paint as well as for general cleanliness.

Look for original style lighting – no deduction for halogen or LED lights (SAFETY); withhold **1 point for sealed beam headlights**. Do not withhold points for second rear light.

Withhold 5 points for each fiberglass fender or panel; see mechanical area, under body for deductions for fiberglass fenders.

Stainless steel bumpers acceptable (durability & SAFETY).

Award 1 bonus point for year-of-manufacture license plate(s); do not deduct for "toppers".

Do not deduct for a Quail or other period-correct radiator cap/topper or step plates on running boards.

b. Wheels, tires, hubcaps

Wheels – 21" wheels for '28 & '29 vehicles; 19" wheels for '30 & '31 vehicles. Black or white wall tires acceptable – white wall tires need only be white walled on the outside of the tire. **Award 1 bonus point for each double-white-walled tire on the vehicle.**

Tires – should be original type bias-ply tires. Withhold 1 point for each radial tire. Check condition of tire and tread depth– **if damaged or too worn, deduct 10 points** (SAFETY) and note on form as a safety concern.

Valve stems: should be appropriate metal stems with dust covers (2 13/16" tall for '28 – '29; and 1 1/16" for '30 – '31 cars); deduct 1 point per wheel (including spare) for rubber or incorrect valve stems.

Hub caps: look for stock appearance (raised dome profile for '28 & '29; flatter silhouette for '30 & '31)

c. Top

Top should be of original type material; it may be up or down.

3. MECHANICAL – 40 Points

a. Engine Compartment

Both sides of hood must be fully open to judge engine and engine compartment– **withhold 5 points for a closed side; withhold 20 points if both sides closed. Withhold 2 points for Phillips head screws.**

Car must have an original style 4 cylinder Ford motor; bronze spark plug wires; generator or alternator; and two-blade fan (aluminum O.K.). **Withhold 1 point for non-standard (e.g. 4-blade) fan.**

Withhold 2 points for 12 Volt conversion (not authentic).

Check for bronze spark plug wires. **Award 1 bonus point for set of four 3X plugs.**

Block should be painted Ford Green, be clean and free of rust or evidence of leaks; the engine compartment should be clean and neat.

Engine Splash pans should be present and painted black – **withhold 2 points if they are missing.**

Carb should be original Zenith style (Ford, Holly or Zenith); if different, withhold 1 point (not authentic).

Check for period-correct style radiator; overflow container O.K. (good for touring).

Added gas line filter must be metal or metal and glass; withhold 10 points if rubber gas line is used (SAFETY) and note on form as a safety concern.

b. Front Suspension – check for excess grease, dirt & mud. Look at general condition and note damage or rust.

Original style mechanical brakes – withhold 4 points for front hydraulic brakes (not authentic).

Withhold 2 points for modern tube shocks in front (not authentic).

c. Rear Suspension – check for excess grease, dirt & mud. Look at general condition and note damage or rust.

Original style mechanical brakes – withhold 4 points for rear hydraulic brakes (not authentic).

Withhold 2 points for modern tube shocks in rear (not authentic).

d. Under Body (including fenders) – check for excess grease, dirt & mud. Look at general condition and note damage or rust.

Withhold 5 points for each fiberglass fender.

No deduction for undercoating under fenders (protects fenders from road damage)

Withhold 2 points from “Under Body” area for undercoating areas other than the fenders.

e. Exhaust System – check for excess grease, dirt & mud. Look at general condition and note damage or rust.

System must be sound – check for leaks at muffler clamp to exhaust manifold (**SAFETY**). If leaks are apparent, note on form as a safety concern.

No deduction for stainless muffler (durability).

Check tailpipe clamp (**SAFETY**). If loose, report on form as a safety concern.