

Buick Club of America Modified Judging

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In 2003 a new division of the Buick Club of America was formed. "Buicks Our Way" is the name under which this division operates. The directors of the division took over the judging of modified Buicks at National BCA meets and created a judging form to be used at these events which are available for use at Regional events by request from Keith Horsfall. This judging form is now in its fourth revision, changes are made as we grow to ensure fair assessment of the Buicks being judged.

In modified judging there are 4 classes.

1. **MILD** class includes Buicks with only minor changes to the body, interior changes, NO ENGINE swaps, but stock engine upgrades are allowed, including intake manifold, carburetor, ignition, and exhaust system. Installation of air conditioning and sound systems are allowed, along with changes to brakes, wheels and tires.
2. **RESTO-ROD** class includes Buicks that appear to be stock on the outside, but have been repowered with later engines, preferably Buick engines. **There is a mandatory 100-point deduction for the use of a non-Buick engine.** The suspension, brakes, interior and some body changes are allowed in this class. The class would fit cars from the 1920's through 1960's.

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3. **RADICAL** class would include any Buick that has had major body changes, chopped, channeled, bumpers removed, and drastic changes to the interior, repowered, (**the non-Buick engine rule applies in this class too**) suspension, brakes and chassis changes are allowed.
4. **DRIVEN** class is for Buicks that are 25 years old and have minor changes that would keep them out of the other Driven Class. We allow 12-volt conversions, alternators, minor sound system upgrades, and minor engine dress up items, dual exhaust, wheels and tire upgrades. There is a separate judging form for this class which must be signed by the owner declaring that the Buick is basically the way it left the factory with only the minor allowable changes made. The qualifying entries in this class are awarded a grille badge on the show field.

ENGINES

In Resto-rod and Radical classes, the subject of engine replacement is always an issue. A lot of Chevrolet engines are installed in Buicks in these classes. In the mid-1970s GM was using engines sourced from various GM Divisions and some of these engines were used in Buick vehicles. The modified judging rules are specific about this. If the Buick being modified is older than a 1977 model, it must have a **Buick produced engine** installed or be subject to a mandatory 100 point deduction. In cars produced by Buick from 1977 on, any engine that was available in a Buick may be used. This would include Pontiac 301 V8, Oldsmobile 307

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V8, 350 V8, 403 V8, Chevrolet 305 V8, 5.7 V8 and LT1 V8. Buick 231 V6, and 3.8 V8. Please note that the big block Chevrolet engine was NEVER available in a Buick, nor was the 389 V8, 421 V8 Pontiac engine, nor the 455 V8 Oldsmobile, no Cadillac produced engines were available either.

The format for judging the first three modified classes is really simple. When the owner of the modified Buick registers for a National meet and modified judging is selected, the owner is mailed a judging form and a letter welcoming him/her to the meet and explaining how to complete the judging form by circling each area on the judging form that applies to the changes on the Buick. This form will be collected at the mandatory pre-qualifying check. There may be a change at future meets.

The modified judging only requires 2 judges per team, as there is only one judging form to complete. The team approaches each Buick and introduces themselves to the owner if present. They then find on the judging sheet each modification as indicated by the owner and then inspects and assesses points from 1 to the maximum allowable in each category based on difficulty, cleanliness, originality, workmanship. When the judging of the Buick is complete a colored dot is added to the windshield card.

Modified judging also requires a separate administration team who totals and checks the points awarded by the judges. None of the modified judging forms are turned into the 400-point administration under the current system. They are kept by the modified division.

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When the judging is completed and the judging team captain has signed all the forms, they are collected by the head modified judge (at present, Keith Horsfall) and taken to the admin desk where the totaling is performed. The modified head judge then allocates the three award recipients in each class by the number of points awarded. A form is completed showing the results and names of the Gold, Silver and Bronze awards in each class and this is turned in to Roy Faries at the meet. A copy of the winners list is sent to the BCA Office and Pete Phillips after the meet.

Currently the modified head judge gives out the awards at the banquet.