



2009 **Sound Quality Format** General Rules

A. Vehicle/Owner Requirements

1. No part of the vehicle or the installation will compromise the Judge, passenger, or spectator safety in any way.
2. Vehicle and audio system subject to inspection by Judges at any time.
3. Vehicle and install must pass safety inspection. Safety inspection will consist of checking wires and connections under the hood and solid mounting of amps and amp fuses.
4. Any member vehicle that is determined to be unsafe may compete at the first event and receive points, but must have safety issues rectified at the next event. Failure to resolve safety issues after the first event may prohibit participation at future events.
5. Any safety issues or judging calls made during an event will be recorded on a log sheet. This sheet will be passed to the MECA R&E Committee to give final approval of any issues that arise which may not be clearly identified in the rules.
6. Competitor and Team must accord all Judges proper respect and courtesy. Any unsportsmanlike conduct may result in disqualification and/or suspension.

B. Judging Criteria

1. The Judge will sit in the driver's seat and will be the only person allowed in the vehicle during scoring.
2. Judging will be performed with the engine off, with the exception of noise testing.
3. Noise is to be judged with music at reasonable volume and from normal listening position. Only system related noise will be deducted; for example, alternator whine, on/off pop, etc. Points should not be deducted for fans running, relays turning on/off, CD spinning inside the head unit UNLESS they can be heard coming through the system.
4. Driver's seat may be positioned however the Competitor wishes. Seat rails may only be relocated in Modex, Extreme, and Master classes. All other classes may not modify the factory position of the seats.
5. The Judge's competition CD, the Chesky Ultimate Demonstration Disc, will be used during scoring. Judges may use 2 songs from the popular domain, stipulated at the beginning of the season, in addition to the Chesky CD. **The 2 songs selected for the 2009 season are "Breaking Silence" from the "Breaking Silence" CD by Janis Ian AND "Shine On" from the 2008 Audison "Music Expression Vol. 1" CD by Telarc.** These tracks are optional. Judges are not required to use them, but are encouraged to do so.
6. Judge's listening level will vary (80-110 dB) during judging to assess all system criteria. A listening level of 90-100 dB will be used for tonality and soundstage scoring as well as listening for noise.
7. Score breakdowns are to be used as a guide. In order to place in a certain point category, a system does not have to represent all criteria defined; it is used as a majority ruling. Common sense and objectivity should be used when viewing the score definitions.
8. Sound Quality class assignments are based on the complexity of the system and installation.
9. When a system failure occurs, the competitor will be given 5 minutes to make adjustments and present system to the Judge.
10. The Sound Quality "SQ Best of Show" award will be presented to the Competitor who receives the highest SQ score in the Sound Quality contest.. The "Install Best of Show" award will be presented to the Competitor with the highest Install score. The Sound Quality League "SQL Best of Show" award will be presented to the Competitor who received the highest total score among all SQL formats (SQ, Install, and RTA Freq Out)..
11. Competitors must be MECA members and obtain a minimum of 35 points to qualify for State Champion and World Finals Soundfest. The member must compete in at least 2 events with the vehicle intended for World Finals Soundfest competition.
12. Points will be awarded for the purpose of State Champions and National Points Champions. The points will be as follows: For single (1X) points contests: 1st = 5 points, 2nd = 4 points, 3rd = 3 points, 4th = 2 points, 5th = 1 point. There will be double (2X) points contests and Soundfests will be triple (3X) points.
13. Any disputes or protests are to be respectfully presented to the Head Judge prior to the start of judging so that the Competitor being protested has time to correct any problems and comply with the rules. Protests may only be filed by another Competitor in the same class as the vehicle/system protested.
14. Judges decisions are final. If a Competitor has questions concerning misplacement in class or any other irregularity, the Competitor may contact the MECA R&E Committee for review.