

Georgia Barbecue Association Master Judge Criteria Updated effective June 30, 2013

The Georgia Barbecue Association (GBA) chooses to recognize those Judges who have demonstrated their sustained commitment to the growth and fellowship of competitive barbecue, consistency and quality in judging, and been a positive force within the Georgia Barbecue Association. This recognition will be publically conveyed when the GBA Board of Directors extends Master Judge Status to qualifying judges.

Beginning September 9, 2012 all Judges who wish to be recognized as Master Judges by the Georgia Barbecue Association (GBA) will have heightened expectations and must meet the following criteria and procedures in order to submit a request to the GBA Board of Directors.

Expectations

- The GBA expects all Master Judges to be good ambassadors of the GBA
- Master Judges will enter contest sites on competition day with a servant mind set putting the success of the contest experience for others ahead of themselves
- Master Judges will be consistent and appropriate when scoring samples
- Master Judges will mentor less experienced judges relative to scoring at competitions as well as behavior at competitions and between competitions
- Master judges will demonstrate appropriate ways to raise issues of concern so that they can be resolved productively
- Master Judges go the extra mile working with contest officials to be sure that everyone has the most positive experience possible during competitions
- When necessary, Master Judges will volunteer to step up (fill in at necessary spot) or step aside (give up a judging seat) to make things run smoothly at a contest

Criteria

- Be a member in good standing of the GBA
- Continually sustain your status as a GBA certified judge while pursuing the Master Judge designation
- Always abide by the GBA Code of Conduct
- Judge at least one sanctioned meat category at 25 GBA sanctioned contest
- Cook an entire weekend (from meat check in through awards) with a cook team that cooks all GBA Sanctioned categories at a GBA sanctioned contest, not only observing but working alongside the team as requested and directed for the duration of the weekend.

Procedure

- As a judge, you are responsible for keeping a list of the dates and locations of the GBA sanctioned contests where they judge. You must download the GBA Master Judge Contest Record that is available on the GBA web site.

- As a judge, you are responsible for securing a cook team that will welcome you to cook with the team at a GBA sanctioned contest where the team will be cooking all of the GBA Sanctioned categories.
 - At the contest where you are cooking with the team, formally notify the Lead Rep. at the cook team meeting that you are cooking with the team.
 - Give the Pit Master a copy of the Master Judge Cook Team Attestation that the Pit Master is to fill out, sign and return to you
- To make application to be a Master Judge, after you have judges 25 GBA sanctioned contests and cooked with a team you must send a letter of application to be a Master Judge to the GBA Board of Directors along with:
 - Master Judge Contest Record and,
 - Master Judge Cook Team Attestation .

The GBA Board will review applications and vote to extend the GBA Master Judge designation to those Judges who have demonstrated their sustained commitment to the growth and fellowship of competitive barbecue, consistency and quality in judging, and have been a positive force within the Georgia Barbecue Association.

GBA Master Judge Frequently Asked Questions:

Why has the GBA changed the criteria?

The GBA has matured as an organization. The Board of Directors has changed the criteria to become a GBA Master Judge **AND** changed the expectations that the Organization has of its Master Judges. Previously, to become a master judge the expectation was that you judge 10 times and send in your application. As the GBA has matured, it is reasonable to expect more of Master Judges both in terms of what is required to become a Master Judge and the role of Master Judges as the GBA continues to grow as a competitive organization.

What does the GBA expect of its Master Judges after they become Master Judges?

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Why did the requirement change from 10 to 25 contests?

The previous criteria to be a Master Judge simply required judging at 10 contests. As the GBA has matured, it has become possible for Judges to meet that standard in less than a competition year. In order for a Master Judge to become the kind of leader that the GBA needs, they need more time to develop their own internal commitment to competitive barbecue and the GBA. Also the GBA Board of Directors needs more time to evaluate the commitment of potential Master Judges ensuring that as the GBA moves into the future; our Master Judges have the experience, commitment and passion to be great barbecue ambassadors.