

THE PURPOSES OF THE GUILD

The purposes of the B.C. Guild of Wine Judges are to train judges for wine competitions, to upgrade and maintain standards of judging among judges of wine in B.C., and to standardize as much as possible the judging in the various categories from one competition to another. Guild members participate in ten training sessions and several competitions throughout the year.

EVALUATION OF JUDGES

Judges and trainees are evaluated in two ways. A good judge must be both knowledgeable and consistent. A system of personal consistency and class knowledge has been devised to evaluate each of these qualities.

Personal Consistency

It is important for a judge to be consistent in his judgements. It is bad enough to have two judges give conflicting comments on a wine in a competition, but for two opposing statements to come from one judge is more than discouraging. For a judge to award a wine a medal in one competition and not in another competition is confusing to the competitor and leaves the judge's credibility (and that of the Guild) open to question.

A consistent palate is as important as an educated one. To evaluate this capability, a way of testing a judge's personal consistency (**PC**) has been developed. A **PC** Score is generated whenever a judge faces two identical wines in a flight. The BCGWJ uses a modified version of the University of California–Davis scoring system of 20 points. A difference of zero points between point totals for the two wines yields a **PC** Score of 100, that is, perfectly consistent. A difference of 3 or more points yields a **PC** Score of 0. A difference of 0.6 points yields a **PC** Score of 80.

A score of 80 is determined to be a passing grade.

A cumulative average of **PC** Scores is kept for each judge and trainee. All statistics older than eight years are discarded. It is this average that is shown in the Excel Workbook "Maintenance_18/STAT".

Class Knowledge

A judge must know a class description and be familiar with the acceptable styles and variations within a category before he is qualified to judge it. It is possible to be well qualified in table wine classes, but have no knowledge of Sherries, to be an expert on sparkling wines, but still learning about dessert wines.

Class Knowledge (**CK**) is the measure of how familiar a judge is with the various styles. For the purpose of testing Class Knowledge, some wines are designated as **Standard Wines (SW)**; that is, they are assigned point totals out of 20 against which a judge's point totals for the wines can be compared. A **CK** Score is obtained whenever a judge faces a **SW** in a class of wines. The goal is for the judge's points to be close to the **SW** points. A difference of zero between the judge's points and the **SW** point total yields a **CK** Score of 100. A difference of 4 or more points yields a **CK** Score of 0. A difference of 1.20 yields a **CK** Score of 70.

A score of 70 is determined to be a passing grade.

How Standard Wine Points Are Assigned

A Standard Wine is calculated using qualified judges in the class who have a high **PC** Score (80 or more) and who also have a **CK** greater than 70 in the category being tasted. The "standard setting judge" must be consistent at the time of the tasting as well, having a **CK** in the tasting session of 70 (**) or higher. A geometric mean is calculated of this group of judges. Only when a score falls within plus or minus one point of the average is a score

used to calculate a **CK** score. The average of this select number of judges is what designates a Standard Wine score. Some wines may prove to be too controversial where scores do not fall in a tight cluster and a standard wine is not declared. At least three standard wines are usually declared each maintenance session but it is desirable to have more since a poor decision on one wine will be average out.

Excel Workbook “Maintenance_18”

B.C. Guild of Wine Judges records are kept in an Excel Workbook, with 12 spread sheet named:

Templet	-used to enter data
Macro Transfer Form	-used to transfer data to the Stats sheet
HELP	-explains calculation methods
Mainland	-members
Nanaimo	-members
Victoria	-members
Judges	-list of judges
Attendance	-maintenance session attendance
Session Cost	-wine cost
Tasting History	-wine classes
Standard Wines	-assigned scores
Stats	-8 yrs. of session records)

Each Maintenance workbook will also have ten additional spread sheets one for each tasting session, September to June.

After each maintenance session a PDF report is e-mailed to all members. A guest auditing our tasting sessions is presented with a PDF report if they provide their e-mail address. The "STATS" record is edited annually to remove old tasting data to keep qualification current but a minimum of two tasting sessions are retained.

The STATS spread sheet tracks the standing of all the judges and trainees. This is the sheet that is used by competition stewards to choose judges for the various classes in a competition. The STATS spread sheet is organized in four tables:

Columns	Title
A—DS	All the data (PC , number of PC tests , CK , number of CK tests)
DV—ET	CK Class Knowledge scores of wine classes that a judge is fully qualified
EV—FR	PC Personal Consistency scores for all wine classes
FT—GB	Calculation table to determine Master Judges

A competition steward should refer to the **CK** table and **PC** table to find qualified judges for any given wine class. The **PC** table (EV—FR) lists scores for all classes even those where the judge is not qualified. The PC statistic is important since a low PC score reveals judges that are inconsistent. The Maintenance spread sheet is best viewed on a wide screen using **Microsoft Excel** or the freeware program “**Open Office**”.

The **HELP** sheet explains CK, PC and SW, judge qualification requirements and how to repair corrupted ARRAY equations.