

# amateur winemakers of ontario inc



## Club Competition Procedure

### **Preparation**

*Wines should be at the judging location 24 hours prior to judging to ensure uniform temperature.*

*Sparkling wine and cider should be chilled, all others at room temperature. Sparkling wine and cider should be opened and poured at the judging table to observe mousse quality.*

*Before arrival of the judges, the bottles must be registered and given numbers so as to render them anonymous. Bottles need to be arranged on tables, sorted by classes & entry number.*

***It is highly recommended to use an Excel spreadsheet to organize and track all entries.** This will enable clubs to more easily produce the Entry Certificate with all of the AWO eligible wines.*

*The judging room should be free of distractions from noise or interruptions.*

*Club members may be present, but should not gather in the judging room. Avoid loud or distracting conversations.*

*Judges shall be supplied with the following:*

- Judging sheets for still & sparkling wines (if applicable)
- A table covered with white cloth or paper
- Adequate lighting (table lamp is recommended)
- A corkscrew, wire snips for sparkling wine, bottle opener
- Dry white bread & baby carrots
- Individual small spittoons (beer cups work well)
- A large spittoon or bucket to dump the small ones into
- Paper napkins
- Mineral or plain water
- Glasses should be clear and of the same shape and size (tulip shape is preferred)

### **Conduct of Judging**

*Avoid odours where the judging is carried out (cigarettes, cooking odours).*

*Stewards shall confine his or her duties to pouring wine for the judge.*

*He or she shall not engage the judges in conversation unless invited to do so by a judge.*

*Complete the **Club Competition Invoice**. The judges are required to sign the invoice and pick up payment. Both invoice and **cheque** should be taken by the judge.*

*The club may submit multiple entries in a class to the AWO Provincial Competition if a WJC judge selects more than one entry as "Gold" or "Silver" medal quality. The decision of the judges is final. Please be familiar with the AWO Eligibility and Entry rules.*

*The steward shall list ALL entries going on to Ontario on the "**Entry Certificate**" & the judges are to sign for each one.*

*If your club provides certificates for club winners and wish to have the judge sign them, please have them ready.*

*Competitions are usually followed by some food and discussion period.*

*Judges are happy to share tasting information.*