

AWO / WJC

2026 Club Judging Announcement

In preparation for the **2026 AWO Provincial Competition**, the Wine Judges of Canada (**WJC**) is again offering to judge your **AWO Club Competitions**. Clubs using WJC judges are eligible to enter more than one wine per class to the Ontario finals, as the WJC judge is authorised to send forward all Gold & Silver medal wines made by different winemakers.

Important Dates

Starting Now:

Talk to your club members about when you want to have your club competition and who you want to judge your wines. Get a rough sense for how many wines you will have at the club level. Each winemaker can only enter one wine per class at the provincial competition, but at the club competition each winemaker can enter as many wines as the club competition can accommodate. Each judge can comfortably judge 40 wines. There are extra fees that may apply and they are outlined further in this notice.

Jan 4 – 31 2026:

This is the window to request judges for your competition. This year we will send a link to your club rep on Jan 3rd, for a Jot Form which is an online way to enter the info. It will be similar to the method used to enter the provincial competition last year. Even though you may have your favourite judge that you know quite well, don't arrange with them directly. In order to be fair, judges will be assigned by the AWO/WJC on a first come first served basis **starting at 12:01am on Jan 4**. When you enter using the Jot Form it will be time stamped and sent in for approval. WJC judges are not permitted to judge their own club under any circumstances.

February 28 – May 3 2026

This is the timeframe allowed to conduct your club judging. Keep in mind that an early competition date may preclude some of the young or new-wine entries that may need until later in that timeframe to be ready. Some dates of note for next spring, are in mid-April with some religious holidays falling on the weekends.

May 6 2026

This is the deadline to submit all your club competition info to the AWO in order to be eligible for the provincial competition.

May 29 – 31 2026

AWO Provincial Competition

Fees:

Entrants must be AWO members in good standing. The 2025 AWO Club judging fee is **\$5.00** per bottle per judge (therefore a double-judged bottle is \$10.00). Try to keep the maximum number of bottles per judge at 40. For every bottle **over** the 40 bottle per judge limit, the judging fee is \$7.00 per bottle per judge. The minimum charge is \$40.00.

A mileage fee of **\$0.40 per kilometer** based on the **round-trip** distance per judge will also be charged. There will not be any mileage charge for distances under 20 km. The judges will provide their mileage to the Judging Host or Club Rep on arrival. Car-pooling will be encouraged to reduce costs wherever possible. Most Judges are limited to travel within a 200 km radius of their home so you should try to use Judges from your area of the Province. If you request a Judge to travel more than 250 km one-way, your club will be responsible to provide overnight accommodation.

AWO / WJC

2026 Club Judging Announcement

Payment:

The fees from club competitions are paid to **Wine Judges of Canada** – not to the AWO. The fees collected are used to fund the expenses associated with the Ontario competition, including accommodations & consumable supplies for judging over 800 entries, the purchase of medals and awards, and ongoing training of Judges.

Forms and fee payment for a Club Competition are to be completed on Competition Day prior to judging starting. A cheque made payable to the “Wine Judges of Canada” covering these fees must be provided directly to the Head Judge of the day or transferred to the WJC Treasurer.

Judges:

Note: This is a preliminary list as some judges have not confirmed their intent to participate or availability but it will give you a good idea of who we expect to be available. The official list will be posted on the Jot Form for registration which goes live Jan 4 2026.

	David Sykes (Milton)
Terry Rayner (London)	Dom Lausic (Georgetown)
Victoria Grech (London)	Dominic Ierullo (Toronto)
Mat Vaughan (Clear Creek)	Christian Frayssignes (Toronto)
Gary Collins (New Hamburg)	Anthony Figliano (Toronto)
Alan Uffelmann (New Hamburg)	Carolyn Zhao (Toronto)
Jeff Dawkins (Waterloo)	Tim White (York)
Patti Polfuss (Waterloo)	Craig Fleming (Scarborough)
Peter Ferguson (Cambridge)	John Peters (Uxbridge)
Stephen Gillespie (Baden)	Joe Dale (Hillier)
Debbie Templeton (Dunnville)	David Kroetsch (Perth)
Dan Stevenson (Vineland)	George Pikor (Nepean)
Jim Casey (Hamilton)	Steve Quast (Nepean)
Werner Lichtenberger (Hamilton)	Jean Farrall (Ottawa)
Nick Petruzzella (Burlington)	Francois Belisle (Chelsea, QC)

There is more detail and other important info such as forms, class descriptions and judging sheets that can be found at makewine.com. If you have any questions, you can contact **Brian Aziz** who is the club judging coordinator for the AWO board. His email address is onward@ody.ca. Cheers & Good Luck!