

AACA ANNOUNCES CHANGE **TO OUR UNRESTORED (HPOF) CLASS**

Our members have seen changes to the Historic Preservation Original Features (HPOF) classification in our judging system since its inception in 1987. Years later we added the AACA Original designation. Over time, it has become increasingly evident that the name of the class was confusing to members. The AACA is officially renaming our program for original, unrestored cars.

The 2025 Judging Guidelines have been updated with a comprehensive explanation of the changes, Section 4.II.B excerpt included, but simply, HPOF will now be known as AACA Original and the former AACA Original will be a Senior AACA Original. This aligns with our restored classes' progression from a First Junior to a Senior. Please note that although the AACA Original class will now have a Senior status designation, the Annual Grand Nationals are still only open to Senior National First Prize vehicles.

The change will officially launch at the Southeastern Spring Nationals in Charlotte. Vehicles in the HPOF Class will move to the new AACA Original Class; members who have previously won these awards are not required to do anything as our system will recognize the award they should receive. New badging will be awarded to all previously shown vehicles that are recertified as an AACA Original or Senior AACA Original vehicle engraved with the current year (2025).

We hope that continuing to provide the finest judging system and awards in the hobby will justify your loyalty to AACA and our shows. Thank you for your participation and we look forward to seeing your AACA Original vehicle on the show field.

AACA



Section 4.II.B.

1. AACA Original (formerly HPOF)

The vehicles in this class represent the evolution of automobile history and depict originality over restoration. A cornerstone belief of AACA is based upon originality, and this class allows us to see history as it was and establish a program to encourage the saving and display of collector vehicles in their original, as manufactured, condition.

Definition: Since its founding, AACA has been dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and maintenance of automobiles. In the furtherance of the "preservation" mission, in 1987, the AACA Board of Directors established a program to encourage the saving and display of collector vehicles in their original, as-manufactured condition. This program entitled the "Historical Preservation Original Features (HPOF)" was updated in 2025 to "AACA Original."

The AACA Original program encourages owners of vehicles 25 years old or older, to maintain significant original features in this original condition, and to show them at AACA Nationals. A vehicle may be entirely "original" or it may have certain original features such as paint, chassis, upholstery, engine compartment, etc., that are essentially as delivered. These vehicles will not be point judged. A vehicle being evaluated for the first time, if certified, will receive an AACA Original board, AACA Original chip, and an AACA Original badge. **The badge should be visibly mounted on the vehicle. No vehicle will be re-certified if it does not display the AACA Original badge.** The badge will be engraved with the year awarded. A vehicle having achieved the AACA Original certification award is now eligible for certification at a subsequent Nationals in order to achieve the Senior AACA Original award. If certified as a Senior AACA Original, the owner will receive an AACA Senior tab to be mounted behind the AACA Original badge on the vehicle and a Senior AACA Original preservation chip for mounting on the board. If the vehicle does not certify at the Senior AACA Original level, it will receive a repeat AACA Original chip provided it meets the AACA Original certification standards.

If a vehicle is not certified as a Senior AACA Original, it can be reconsidered for the award if the owner submits a request to the VP Judging. The VP will inform the owner whether the request has been granted or denied. If granted, the

vehicle can be entered in a subsequent Nationals to be evaluated again for the Senior AACA Original award. The vehicle will either be certified at that time as a Senior AACA Original or if it still does not meet the criteria, it may continue to be eligible for repeat AACA Original awards provided it meets the certification standards. If the re-consideration is denied, the vehicle maintains AACA Original status and is eligible to be shown for AACA Original repeat awards at all future AACA Nationals. No previous National First Prize winners are accepted unless they are original and have been maintained to preserve their originality. An AACA Original certified vehicle that is significantly restored will lose its AACA Original certification.

- a. Vehicles that received their First HPOF Certification prior to 2025 will be evaluated for Senior AACA Original Status.
 - i. Vehicles certified as an AACA Original but not a Senior will receive the updated AACA Original Badge engraved for the current year and AACA Original Chip. Vehicles will be eligible for Repeat AACA Original Chips at subsequent showings unless successful at petitioning for a reconsideration from the VP of Judging.
 - ii. Vehicles certified as a Senior AACA Original will receive the updated AACA Original Badge engraved for the current year, Senior Tab, and Senior AACA Original Chip. Vehicles will be eligible for Repeat Senior AACA Original Chips at subsequent showings.
- b. Members who choose to either a) not recertify their HPOF vehicle into the AACA Original program at a national show, or b) who wish to have their original HPOF certification date on their AACA Original Badge can purchase updated badges.
 - i. Purchased AACA Original Badges will be engraved with the year of HPOF Certification at a cost of \$15.00.
 - ii. HPOF and Repeat HPOF vehicles may only purchase the updated AACA Original Badge.
 - iii. AACA Original HPOF Vehicles must have both the updated AACA Original Badge and the Senior Tab, additional charges may apply.
 - iv. For Chip replacement, please contact National Headquarters. The former HPOF and AACA Original HPOF chips are no longer available.