

Week One

Hello everyone,

The regional season is upon us and we are well prepared and excited. Here are some reminders for your consideration as you go into this first weekend.

Your Process - While some of us have already judged one or two local shows, others of us may be getting ready for our first assignment of the season this week. In the days and hours that precede your contest, think about your preparation process. For each of us, that looks a little bit different. Listening to past files, reading the manual, watching videos, preparing your sheets and/or tablet, and reviewing visual organizers are just some of the ways we each get mentally prepared. Revisit what works for you, and if you are thinking about incorporating something different into your approach this season, consider what that will look and feel like ahead of time. Remember, in the moment, be with the teams and bring the criteria from inside of you during the impression phase. Then analyze and compare.

Authenticity - We had many good conversations surrounding authenticity at our judge summit. Remember that the idea here is to use “your voice” and stay engaged while channeling the scoring system in response to the performances in front of you. Whether it is articulating a genuine reaction to a phrase or a moment or offering specific feedback on early season takeaways on strengths and areas of concern, be yourself. Teams want to hear from you, and you are in your seat for that reason. Be an educated fan and geek out!

Accountability Reminders - Don't forget to consider finding an accountability partner at an early regional. Remember to refer to the document shared in Atlanta (and is also included in the hub). If you have any questions about this, just reach out.

Breathe in, breathe out.

Sam & William