



**Instructions for Completing the
Application / Nomination for the
California Bus Association
Driver of the Year Award 2023**



Sponsored by: Lancer Insurance Company

The driver / nominee may not complete this application. Only the employer, as an owner, manager, or supervisor to the nominee, may complete the application form. The company and driver's name must appear only on the first page of the form. This page will be removed before the judges review the application.

Please complete all requests for information. Incomplete applications will not be accepted for review. Please be sure to attach a copy of the most recent Motor Vehicle Report and redact the driver's name, address, and the name of your company. Leave only the driver's license number showing. Attach copies of all certificates for Safe Driving Awards.

Questions 5 and 6 must be answered in the space provided. Do not attach additional pages to expound on these areas.

Item number 10 should be used to provide any additional information you would like the judges to be aware of at the time they review this information. This should be limited to one page and should not be a review of the information already provided. You may include customer letters.

This year, CBA and our partner, Lancer Insurance Company, will recognize a Driver of the Year for both small and large operator members. Therefore, please note the number of coaches your company operates.

Send in your completed application with all the attachments by the cutoff date. This will allow the administrator to review the information, ensure its completeness, and request any missing information. All missing information must be presented by the deadline for your driver to be considered.

Your driver must be available for the Award Banquet held in conjunction with the Annual CBA convention.

**California Bus Association & Lancer Insurance Company
2023 Driver of the Year Application**

(Submit by October 15, 2023)

Date _____ Applicant's License Number _____

Applicant's Name _____

Applicant's Employer _____

Number of Buses Operated by Employer _____

(This portion of form to be removed before giving information to judges)



**Instructions for Completing the
Application / Nomination for the
California Bus Association
Driver of the Year Award 2023**



Sponsored by: Lancer Insurance Company

Applicant's License Number _____

- (15 Points)** - How long has applicant been employed in the bus transportation industry? (*do not include time working for non-transportation businesses*) ____ Years ____ Months
- (5 Points)** – How many career miles (not including trucking) has the applicant driven? _____
1- 100,000 miles = **1 point**, 100,001 to 500,000 miles = **2 points**, 500,001 to 1,000,000 miles = **3 points**,
1,000,000 to 2,000,000 miles = **4 points**, and 2,000,000 + = **5 points**.
- (5 Points)** How long has applicant been employed by your company? ____ years ____ months
- (5 Points)** List the different types of buses the driver has operated during his years in the transportation business (*include model types, i.e., MC-7, etc., not just the manufacturer*).
- (5 Points)** Has Driver completed ADA Training? ____ yes ____ no
- (10 Points)** List all Safe Driving Awards the applicant has earned from his/her driving in the bus industry. Include the name of the employer that issued the award, **except the current employer, which must be listed only as current employer.** **Attach copies of certificates or Awards.**
- (10 Points)** What courses, classes, training, safety seminars, ADA training, roadeos, Greenroads, GPS, Land Departure equipment, SPAB, airport or TWIC badge or permit training has driver attended in the past year. Include company formal training. I.e., SPAB hours, safety meetings from company, etc.
- (15 Points)** How many preventable accidents (*based on the National Safety Council's guidelines for determining preventability of accidents*) has this driver been involved in during the last 5 years? _____
- (10 Points)** **Attach a copy** of the most recent Motor Vehicle Report and redact the driver's name, address, and the name of your company. Leave the driver's license number showing.
10 points: no accidents or moving violations in over 3 years.
6 points: 1 accident and 1 moving violation within 3 years.
5 points: 2 accidents and 1 moving violation within 3 years.
3 points: 2 accidents and 2 moving violations within 3 years.
1 point: 3 accidents and 3 moving violations within 3 years
- (10 Points)** What has this driver done to promote the bus industry? Why should this driver be recognized as the California Bus Association's Driver of the Year?
In filling out the essay portion of the application, the goal is for the company to sell the idea on why your driver should be selected. This may take a little time, but the goal is to have a greater understanding for management with the employee. Take the time with the employee. They will appreciate the time and interest shown in them. You may get to know them better. A small interview of sorts. Examples: mentoring other drivers, being involved in community, teamwork, dependability, attitude, cooperation with co-workers, flexibility, etc.
- Attach a biography** of the driver, providing any additional information you would like the judges to be aware of. **Use only the driver's license number to identify him / her.**



**Instructions for Completing the
Application / Nomination for the
California Bus Association
Driver of the Year Award 2023**
Sponsored by: Lancer Insurance Company



The grading of the applications will be impartial. For this purpose, the information provided to the judges will not include the name of the driver or his/her employer. Any information that would lead to identifying the driver or employer must be blocked out by the program administrator prior to the applications being distributed.

Any judge who submits an employee shall be recused from judging that application. In place of that judge, the scores given to that driver by the other judges will be averaged and used to determine that judge's score.

Ties will be sent back to the judges to make a final decision.

*Drivers will receive all day passes for the trade show for the driver and a spouse as well as one-night hotel accommodations in addition to prize money of \$500.00 each. His or her name will be engraved on the perpetual trophy. **It is suggested that the company should consider matching the \$500 award to encourage drivers' interest.***

Tips from the Judges

After having reviewed Driver of the Year applications for several years, we have noticed there are a few fundamental items when completing the application that have separated the driver's chosen for this prestigious award, the first of which is thoroughly completing the application.

Item 1 How long has the applicant been employed in the bus industry? Failing to list the years in the industry will forfeit your applicant as many as 15 points. It happens nearly every year that an employer misses this question and pushes their applicant into the bottom of the competition.

Item 6 List Safety Awards. If your driver has worked for other companies which have offered an awards program for which your nominee has been issued awards or certificates, attach them. Often the awards are listed but verification is not provided. For full credit verification by way of the actual certificates must be attached to the application.

~~Understanding that not all companies have a safety awards program. This parameter was put in place to encourage companies to develop driver awards and incentive programs. In 2009 approximately 45% of the companies submitting applications had no awards program for drivers.~~

Item 7 Safety Meetings. In this category we reward on the details of your safety program. "Quarterly meetings" or "SPAB Training" offers little insight into the type of training provided. In order to receive a full score in this category we expect specific training topics.

Item 9 Recent MVR. Each year we receive outdated Pull Notices that show the driver's medical, or in a recent case, their driver's license, is expired. If a Pull Notice is sent that shows the driver is **currently** not qualified, they lose 10 points. If you haven't a current Pull Notice, you should attach a current MVR so the driver can receive full credit.

Item 10 What has the driver done to promote the industry? This is where you summarize why you believe your driver is one of the top drivers in the state. What sets them apart from the hundreds of drivers employed by other CBA member companies? Take your time. It's best to use a separate page to complete the narrative. Quite often winners are chosen from this item alone when there is a close point spread.



**Instructions for Completing the
Application / Nomination for the
California Bus Association
Driver of the Year Award 2023**
Sponsored by: Lancer Insurance Company



Interview your driver; where they were born, Mom, Dad, brothers, sisters, school, subject they liked best, what they wanted to be when they grew up and what changed their plan. Were they in the military, what was their first job, how did they become a bus driver, what do they like/dislike about it, favorite hobby, etc.? Combine what you know about them as a person with what they tell you in the interview and make a short essay out of it.

What does this driver do to promote the industry? All of us are going to say they look and act professional, they drive safely, they are courteous to customers and other motorists, etc. You must dig a little deeper and consider their UNIQUE characteristics. Use examples of how or what that person does that describe those characteristics. How do they promote the industry? Have they ever attended CBA convention, UMA or ABA and listened to seminars? Have they participated in a panel discussion on Best Practices? Have they participated in the company safety committee and came up with an idea that helped their company solve a problem? Do they participate in ASTO, Rotary, Toastmaster's, Career Day at their child's school? Where or how do they promote the industry outside of the scope of driving the bus? Did they write their congressman for any of our state or federal legislative activity? Do they post positive info on social media about great bus groups/trips? Do they take pictures and post them? Despite limited interaction, have they established good rapport with our vendors/affiliates (like when they go pick up a bus or drop off one at an OEM location)?

Why should this driver be recognized? Fully focus on WHY I think the person deserves it. My driver should be recognized because (Fill in the blanks). Again, it must be more than driving the bus safely. Integrity in all actions, mentoring other drivers, extra programs the driver participated in like Smith Defensive Driving Classes, any customer service classes, other training that makes them better (that is not just our own policies & procedures). Have they placed high in a bus roadeo? Did they participate in CBA's 1 Step Exercise with TSA? Did they participate in the simulated crisis events put on by Lancer at their own bus company? Did they do the Idle Free training? Did they do the Eco-Friendly Driver Training? Have they cross trained on dispatch? Cross trained on sales? Have they taken any of the motorcoach training classes offered through UMA? Did they go to any of the driver programs CBA hosted? What has this person done, above and beyond, drive the bus safely and treat customers courteously? In summary be thorough when completing the application.

Nearly every year drivers lose points due to owners or managers not completing the application properly, so please focus on answering the questions as they are listed on the form.