

## **RULES FOR THE BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA TOP-20 PLUS**

### **PURPOSE**

The Bulldog Club of America (BCA) Top-20 Plus Competition (“Top-20 Plus Competition”) was developed at the request of the Chair of the 2018 “All-American” National Show to highlight extraordinary bulldogs from across the United States at that very special BCA National Show in the Minneapolis. The Top-20 Plus Competition will showcase top-winning Bulldogs based on AKC statistics compiled for a certain time period detailed below and will be governed exclusively by these Top-20 Plus Competition Rules (the “Rules”) as they shall be interpreted by the “Top-20 Plus Committee” in its sole authority. This event is intended to educate and entertain Bulldog exhibitors, fanciers, and judges while spotlighting a select group of dogs that 1) defeat the highest numbers of Bulldogs during the specified time frame or 2) earn eligibility to participate in another manner as set forth in the Rules. This competition is an added incentive for breeders and owners to strive to breed and show Bulldogs that excel in structure, movement, health, temperament and conformation as described in the Bulldog breed standard.

The Top-20 Plus Competition is a Semi-Formal/Formal attire event for attendees, spectators, judges, and participants. Business suits or Black Tie/Tuxedo and cocktail/evening clothes are considered appropriate attire for the event, although no one will be refused admission for more casual dress.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The qualifiers for Top-20 Plus Competition will include the twenty Bulldogs which have accumulated the highest number of bulldog breed points (the “Breed Point Qualifiers”) from AKC event conformation competition during the period beginning August 1, 2017 and ending July 31, 2018 (the “Qualifying Period”); provided that at least one owner of each such dog is a BCA member as provided herein. The breed point standings will be determined using the sum of breed point totals as published by the AKC for each month of the Qualifying Period.

The Top-20 Plus Competition is a “Plus” because in addition to the Breed Point Qualifiers, each participating BCA Division will be invited to qualify an additional Bulldog as follows. Each Division wishing to make an additional Bulldog eligible for the Top-20 Plus Competition must designate in advance a specialty show which will be held within the Division during the Qualifying Period as that Division’s Qualifying Event (“Qualifying Event”) for the Top-20 Plus Competition and notify the Top-20 Plus Chair of that designation no later than October 31, 2017. The dog selected as the Best of Breed winner of each properly designated Qualifying Event will be invited to participate in the Top 20 Plus Competition. Dogs which properly qualify for the Top-20 Plus Competition as a result of winning a Division Qualifying Event and satisfying all other requirements herein shall be referred to as “Division Qualifiers.” Any Division that fails to properly designate a Qualifying Event or to notify the Top-20 Plus Chair of its Qualifying Event in advance shall not permitted to invite any Division Qualifier.

In extraordinary situations, and in recognition of high profile breed competitions, the Top-20 Plus Committee in its sole discretion may invite additional dogs each year (no more than three per year) to participate in the Top-20 Plus Competition (the “Committee Qualifiers”); provided that no dog which was bred, or owned or co-owned at any time, by a member of the Top-20 Plus Committee shall be eligible to be a Committee Qualifier.

No distinction or identification whatsoever shall be made among Breed Point Qualifiers, Division Qualifiers or Committee Qualifiers prior to or during judging of the Top-20 Plus Competition.

No dog may participate in the Top-20 Plus Competition unless during the entire Qualifying Period and on the deadline for entry, at least one owner or co-owner of the dog was a member of BCA. In addition, in order for an invited dog to enter or participate in the Top-20 Plus Competition, each owner, co-owner,

and handler of the invited Bulldog must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club and the Bulldog Club of America at the time of entry and on the event date.

The Top-20 Plus Competition is a BCA “Special Attraction” rather than an AKC-Sanctioned event and is therefore not governed by AKC Event Rules and Procedures. Dogs owned or co-owned by any member of the Top-20 Plus Committee are permitted to compete in the Top-20 Plus Competition, if qualified. The judging panel for the competition will be selected by the Top-20 Plus Committee; provided that any such committee member who owns or co-owns a qualifying dog at any time during any portion of the Qualifying Period shall recuse himself or herself completely from the process for the selection of judges. In the event there are fewer than two Committee members available for the selection of judges for a Top-20 Plus Competition, the then current BCA National President and then current BCA National Show Chair for the year of such Top-20 Plus Competition (or a designee of either of them) shall serve on Top-20 Plus Committee for the sole purpose of selecting judges for that year’s Top-20 Plus Competition, subject to the rules requiring recusal as provided above.

When the official AKC breed point statistics for the entire Qualifying Period are available, the Top-20 Plus Committee will compile the official invitation list of the Breed Point Qualifiers. The Top-20 Plus Committee will use its best efforts to notify the owners of a Breed Point Qualifier, Division Qualifier or Committee Qualifier in a timely manner after the dog’s qualification becomes known.

The Top-20 Plus Committee will send, as early as reasonably possible, an entry form for the Top-20 Plus Competition to at least one owner of each Bulldog invitee. A completed entry form, together with payment of an entry fee (the amount of which shall have been determined by the Top-20 Plus Committee), must be returned by the entry deadline to the person and address indicated on the entry form in order for any Bulldog invitee to compete in the Top-20 Plus Competition. A biography of the dog of no more than 400 words must accompany each entry, along with a photograph of the dog ONLY, and a three-generation pedigree to be used for the Top-20 Plus Catalog. All of the foregoing must be returned as provided on the entry form no later than thirty (30) days before the date of the Top-20 Plus Competition. Payment of the entry fee entitles the participant to one ticket to the Top-20 Plus event. Tickets for other owners, co-owners, handlers, breeders and interested parties for any entered Bulldog must be purchased separately.

In addition, each entrant will be asked to choose an approximately three (3) minute piece of music to be played while the dog is exhibited. Music must be selected and the selection sent to the Top-20 Plus Chairperson by the date indicated in each dog’s invitation or entry form.

No one listed on the slate of conformation judges for the BCA National Show Week during which the Top-20 Plus Competition will be held may attend the Top-20 Plus Competition prior to completion of his or her judging assignment BUT dogs they own or co-own that qualify may be exhibited in the BCA Top-20 Plus Competition by a handler other than the judge.

#### **THE TOP-20 PLUS COMMITTEE**

The Top-20 Plus Committee will include the Chairperson and at least two committee members chosen by the Chairperson. At least one member of the Top-20 Plus Committee for each year’s Competition will include a person who is also a member of the National Show Committee for that year. For the initial launch of the Top-20 Plus Competition in 2018, the Top-20 Plus Committee was chosen by the 2018 National Show Chair.

## **JUDGING, RING PROCEDURE & SCORING**

The Top-20 Plus Committee will select a judging panel comprised of three judges who are highly experienced Bulldog owners, breeders, judges or handlers. A teller committee consisting of three people who have not bred, owned, or co-owned any dog competing in the Top-20 Plus Competition will be appointed by the Top-20 Plus Committee to tally the votes submitted by the three judges.

The winner will be kept confidential until the scheduled time for announcement (the date, time and location of which shall be publicized), which shall not take place until after the BCA National Specialty Intersex Best in Specialty Show is awarded during the BCA National Show Week.

Judges selected to judge the Top-20 Plus Competition will be kept strictly CONFIDENTIAL until the day of the event. The judges will be expected to sign a confidentiality agreement, and the Top-20 Plus Committee shall have the right in its sole discretion to replace at any time any judge who it determines has failed to adhere to the agreement.

## **RING PROCEDURE**

Dogs will enter the ring in a randomly pre-selected order. After a circuit around the ring each dog will go to the ramp and will be examined by each of the three judges. When the judges have recorded their scores for the ramp examination by completing their score-sheets, the dog will gait while being observed by each of the three judges. The judges will record their final scores, and the dog will leave the ring. Judges will turn in a score-sheet after each dog is exhibited. Upon the completion of all judging, all entered dogs will return to the ring for a final showcase.

Depending on the number of entries, the Top-20 Show Committee may elect to use, as a means of effective time management, an advance judging period, prior to the scheduled time of the Top-20 Plus Competition, for the full examination of the dogs by the entire judging panel, to be followed by an abbreviated judging period, including gaiting, held during the actual Top-20 Plus Competition. This scheduling decision shall be at the sole discretion of the Top-20 Plus Committee.

## **SCORING PROCEDURE**

The score-sheet to be completed by each judge will be derived from the current Bulldog Standard adopted by BCA and shall reflect such wording revisions or other abbreviations as the Top-20 Plus Committee shall deem advisable in its sole discretion so that the score-sheet describes breed characteristics in a simple, direct manner and is easily understood by the judges.

Score-sheets will be pre-printed and provided to the judges for each entry. The scores submitted by all three judges will be tabulated by the teller committee to determine the winner of the Top-20 Plus Competition. The teller committee shall retain all score-sheets and their tabulated score summaries for one year from the date of the Top-20 Plus Competition.

## **PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

Each ticketed spectator attending the Top-20 Plus Competition will receive one People's Choice ballot per ticket that will be collected at the end of judging. Only those attending the event are eligible to vote. The ballots will be tabulated to determine a "People's Choice" winner. The winner selected by People's Choice will be announced immediately after the winner of the Top-20 Plus Competition is announced.