

TOP 20 RULES

Alaskan Malamute Club of America

As modified per annual meeting vote November 2014, Effective for 2015 Event

This event offers all that attend a chance to view the “cream of the crop.” Each entrant is evaluated individually in his/her relationship to the breed standard, using a scale of points. This procedure is not available at any AKC point show and allows each person in the audience to judge the entrants, using a score sheet at the same time the judges are scoring them.

The entrants are observed from a positive approach; they are not fault judged. The event promotes discussion of the standard, where ideas and views are exchanged. This event will be held prior to the Best of Breed judging of the National Specialty, as knowledge of the results of the National Specialty competition could influence the outcome of the Top 20 judging.

Statistics and Eligibility

The 20 Alaskan Malamutes eligible for the Top 20 Event are based on the following:

1. Top 20 Points are earned at any AKC All Breed Show, Limited Breed Show, or any Independent Specialty Show where AKC points are awarded. The term “dog” herein shall refer to either dogs or bitches with no preference given. One point is awarded for each Alaskan Malamute defeated by going Best of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex to the Best of Breed. Tabulation of points will be compiled from the results published by AKC for the period commencing May 1 and continuing thru April 30th of each year. Corrections published by AKC after April 30th will not be considered.
2. Standings will be compiled monthly and each primary owner of record, who has a dog in the Top 20, will receive e-mail notification showing the standings through that month. A list of the Top 20 dogs will be announced in the AMCA Newsletter. Any discrepancies in the final standings must be reported to the Top 20 Statistician before May 31st. All past winners who qualify for the current Top 20 are eligible to compete.
3. A dog is ineligible to compete in the Top 20 Event if ANY owner(s) of record is judging any portion of the National Specialty or Regional Specialty preceding the National Show. A dog is ineligible to compete in the Top 20 Event if any owner(s) of record is suspended from AMCA or AKC (1) as of April 30th, the end of the qualifying year and/or (2) as of the date of the Top 20 Event. Refunds of entry fees will not be made if ANY owner of record is suspended after the entry fee has been paid.

Trophies and Rosettes

Each dog entered in the Top 20 Event will receive a rosette, being a minimum of two (2) feet in length. Each rosette shall have the entrant’s name, the date and place of the event and the name “AMCA Top 20 Event” imprinted. The AMCA Logo will be imprinted on the rosette button. The rosette may be any color other than that of Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex or Winners Dog/Bitch. A trophy will be presented to the winner. Any qualifying Top 20 owner of record shall have the right to order additional rosettes at a cost to be determined annually by the Top 20 committee. The primary owner of any dog who qualifies, but for any reason chooses not to enter the competition, shall be allowed to order a rosette(s), at a cost to be determined annually by the Top 20 committee.

Invitation to Participate and Entry Fees

1. A formal invitation to participate in the Top 20 event will be mailed to the primary owner of each Top 20 dog, based on the final standings. Included with the invitation will be instructions for entering and deadlines to adhere to.
2. The entry fee for dogs whose primary owners are AMCA members is \$125.00 per dog. The entry fee for dogs whose primary owners are not AMCA members is \$175.00 per dog. To be eligible for the member-discounted rate, the primary owner must be an AMCA member as of April 30, the last date of the qualifying period.

Judges and Judge Selection

Upon receipt of entry fee, the primary owner will be asked to provide the names of one (1) AKC judge, one (1) Breeder judge, and one (1) Handler judge. To assist, the event chairperson will provide entrants with a list of AKC judges who reside within a 200-300 mile radius of the event and the names of any breeder judges who have indicated, to the committee, an interest in judging. A primary owner's nomination is NOT restricted to the list provided. All names submitted by the primary owner MUST conform to the criteria listed in Section A, Section B, and Section C below. The Event Chairperson will contact each name submitted to verify their qualification, confirm with them that they meet all required criteria, and, are available and willing to judge if chosen. All qualified judges names will then be given to a disinterested person, designated by the Event Chairperson, who has absolutely no connection to the event. Random draws for each category will then take place until one (1) AKC judge, one (1) breeder judge, and one (1) handler judge have been selected. The person drawing will sign a statement to the effect that he/she has no connection with the event and that the selection was completely at random. The event chairperson will then contact each of the three (3) judges chosen to verify their availability. If any judge selected is not available, or does not meet the criteria in Section A, Section B, and Section C below, another selection will be made and another statement will be signed that this is the second (or subsequent) selection.

The panel of three (3) judges selected will conduct the judging of the event the scores will be averaged to determine the winner. In case of a tie, the "Judge's First Impression" score will be used to break the tie, with highest average placement being declared the winner.

The panel of three (3) Judges will represent different categories as stated in A, B, and C below:

- A. BREEDER: One (1) breeder judge will be selected by random drawing from qualified persons who meet all the requisite criteria as breeder judge and who express an interest in judging this competition. The random selection for the three judges will take place at the same time as the random selection for the two AKC judges. An established Alaskan Malamute breeder must have been breeding Alaskan Malamutes for a minimum of five (5) years and must have produced at least five (5) conformation AKC Alaskan Malamute champions as published in the AKC Awards. Breeder judges must be AMCA members in good standing. Two or more AMCA members of the same household may be nominated; however, the first name selected and approved from the member household shall result in the disqualification of other member(s) from the same household. Breeder judges must not have any connection to any dog entered in the Top 20 competition. Breeder judges must guarantee that he/she does not have any of the following connections to any dog in the Top 20 competition, by signing an informational form to determine such qualification.
1. Breeder judges cannot own or co-own the sire or dam of any dog in the competition.
 2. Breeder judges cannot have bred or co-bred a bitch to any dog entered in the competition.
 3. Breeder judges cannot have bred or co-bred a dog to any bitch entered in the competition.
 4. Breeder judges cannot own or co-own any dog entered in the Top 20 competition.
 5. Breeder judges cannot own or co-own any puppies produced by a dog/bitch in the competition.
 6. Breeder judges may not share National week accommodations with the breeder, owner, co-owner or handler of any Top 20 participant.
 7. Breeder judges are eligible to judge at this event once every ten (10) years and shall not be eligible to judge again until the eleventh (11th) year following their last assignment.
- B. AKC: One (1) AKC judge who is approved to judge Alaskan Malamutes, have expressed an interest in judging this competition, and meet all qualification (above Section A 1-7) criteria of breeder judge listed in the section above as well as the following requisite criteria:
1. AKC judges must be approved to judge at least four (4) other breeds as set forth in the AKC Judge's Directory.
 2. AKC judges are required to give his/her consent to judge at the event, prior to being placed in the random draw.
 3. AKC judge's residence should be within a 200-300 mile radius of the National show site.
 4. No AKC judges may judge the Top 20 Event more than once in any ten (10) year period.
 5. No provisional judges shall be used for the judging of this event.
 6. Conformation judges who are under contract for future National Specialties and associated Regional Specialties shall not be eligible to judge any Top Twenty Event prior to and including the year of their assignment.

- C. HANDLER: One (1) Professional (past/retired or present): The handler judge will be selected by random drawing from qualified persons who have expressed an interest in judging this competition, and meet all qualification (above Section A 1-7) criteria of breeder judge listed in the section above as well as the following requisite criteria:
1. Meets the criteria for membership in the Professional Handlers Association (PHA) though not necessarily a member.
 2. Must have a minimum of five (5) years handling experience.
 3. In the event a Handler judge is not obtainable, a Breeder-At-Large may be used as alternate, that shows an interest in judging this event, is a qualified licensed judge for judging Alaskan Malamutes in their country of domicile, and meet all qualification (above Section A 1-7) criteria of breeder judge listed in the section above

Each judge on the final judging panel shall be asked not to disclose it to anyone; the judges will be introduced at the Top 20 event.

Catalogs

A catalog will be printed for this event. No advertising will be allowed in the event catalog. The catalog must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- A. The cover shall consist of the Top 20 EVENT logo, the words TOP TWENTY EVENT, the event date and city where the event is held.
- B. A list of the final Top 20 dogs in descending order and a listing of the Top 20 dogs that are participating for the current year.
- C. A two-facing page spread of each entrant in the final Top 20 standings who has paid the required fee. There will be no further charge to entrants for these pages.
 - A. The left-hand page shall have the name of the entrant, names of owner(s) and breeder(s) and a write-up about that dog, furnished by the primary owner (even-numbered page).
 - B. The right-hand page shall have a full body photo of the entrant and a four (4) generation pedigree, including the dog's date of birth (odd-numbered page).
 - C. Each dog will be issued an armband number that will correspond with the odd-numbered page of the entrant in the event catalog.
- D. A copy of the scale of points used for the competition is printed in the catalog to encourage this discussion among the audience during the event.

Ring & Judging Procedures

A mandatory meeting of Exhibitors/handlers - will be held prior to the start of the competition. Only one (1) representative, per dog, shall be allowed at the mandatory meeting. An exhibitor/handler who does not check in for the mandatory meeting will automatically be given #1 spot in the competition order and will be the first dog to enter the competition. If multiple exhibitors do not attend the mandatory meeting, all absentee's numbers will be placed in a box and will be drawn to determine their competition order. The first absentee drawn will compete first, the second absentee drawn will compete second, and so forth until all absentee numbers are assigned for the competition. After absentees have been assigned their competition order, completion of the drawing will be conducted to determine the order in which the remainder of the dogs enter the ring. Drawing of those present will be by rank of dog entered, in descending order based on the Final Standings. In the event of a tie in final standings, each dog that is ranked the same will be placed in a separate box and the event chairperson will draw to determine who draws first. After the competition order has been determined, the competing dogs will be divided into groups for the individual judging portion of the competition.

Ring Set Up - The ring will be set up with three (3) judging stations. Each station will include a table and two (2) chairs. A separate trophy table will be set up. At the commencement of the event, the judges and ring stewards will be introduced and escorted to their respective station where they will be provided with a score sheet for each individual entrant and an envelope to place their completed score sheets in.

Ring Procedure & Judging - The Emcee shall announce the dog in the ring as being the entrant on page number ____ (odd-numbered page) in the catalog. The Emcee shall instruct the handler as to where to position and gait his/her dog.

The entrants shall adhere to the following procedure:

- A. Each entrant shall be evaluated individually in his/her relationship to the breed standard, using a scale of points as stated in the event catalog. Points must be scored in whole points only.
- B. The entrants shall be brought in together, in the order drawn for competition, for two complete revolutions around the ring, as an initial introduction and welcome from spectators and judges and will then exit from the ring.
- C. For each group, the first entrant will complete one revolution back to the entrance gate and then walk to his/her assigned judging station. Each remaining dog in the group will do the same. When all the dogs in the group are at their assigned stations, the judges shall proceed with their examinations.
- D. Judges will individually examine and score each entrant at their station. Judge's "First Impression" score will be recorded before the actual hands-on examination takes place and will only be used in the event of a tie. Upon completion of individual examination, judges are asked to be seated at their station to indicate judging on that particular dog is complete. The Emcee will announce when it is time for entrants to move on to the next station.
- E. When all judges have completed their examination of all the dogs in the group, the judges will be moved to the diagonal to observe each dog do two individual down and backs and a 4-point stack to be completed in the center of the ring. The dog will then complete two revolutions around the ring for the judges to evaluate and return to its original station.
- F. After each dog has been moved for the judges, all of the dogs in the group will complete one revolution around the ring together, then exit. After each dog has been moved for the judges, all of the dogs will line up behind the dog closest to the ring entrance. The dogs will then complete one revolution around the ring together and then exit.
- G. When the judges have finished evaluating the first group, the next group(s) will come in following the same procedures until all entrants have been evaluated.
- H. When judging has been completed, all dogs will be called back into the ring one at a time, while their biography is being read, at which time they will be presented with their rosette and a Top 20 Catalog.

Score Sheets and Determination of Winner

When Judges have completed their scoring of an entrant, they will be required to sign the score sheet and turn the score sheet into the ring steward who will check for accuracy and immediately place it in the envelope provided. No score sheets shall be tabulated by the judges or stewards. Following Best of Breed judging of the National Specialty, each score sheet shall be tabulated by a committee, consisting of the Top 20 Event Chairman, one other committee member, the Top 20 Statistician, and, one Board Member selected by the Top 20 committee. The dog with the highest score will be declared the winner. In case of a tie, **the Judge's First Impression score marked by each judge will be averaged to break the tie.**

In the event a judge is determined to be disqualified after the competition has been completed, but before the score sheets are tallied, that judge's score sheet will be discarded for each entrant and the remaining scores will be totaled to determine the winner. Because all judges have signed a contract or agreement before being eligible to judge, after the score sheets have been tallied there will be no recourse from any entrant regarding the winner.

Completed score sheets will be provided to the primary owner of each entrant in the Top 20. The scores will not be made public by anyone involved with this event. If the owner wishes to publish the dog's scores, it will be at his or her own discretion.

Fundraiser - People's Choice Award

As a Top 20 fundraiser, an annual "People's Choice" award will be given. To determine the winner of this award, ballot tickets will be sold. All ballot tickets must be purchased and turned in by the conclusion of judging and prior to the dogs being called back into the ring for the reading of their biographies as stated above. Ballot tickets will be tabulated and the winner announced. The "People's Choice" winner will lead a "victory lap" around the other participants gathered in the center of the ring and will then lead all entrants around for one final lap before exiting the ring.

The Top 20 Committee retains the right to establish additional fundraiser events in any given year.

Cancellation of Event / Additional Fees

At any time the entry drops below 12 entrants, the event may be cancelled for that year.

The event committee may charge a nominal spectator admission fee of \$3.00 per person for those spectators who do not attend the Top 20 dinner gala. In any year when admission may be charged, entrants in the Top 20 event shall receive 4 complimentary tickets for admission only.