

ACA Conformation Dog Show Rules

To earn the title of Champion a dog must:

- Earn a total of twenty (20) cumulative points.
- Participate in a minimum of three (3) shows.
- Be awarded points by at least two (2) different judges.
- Earn a Major in at least two (2) different shows.
- Two (2) points must come from a certified veterinarian clearing the dog of at least one (1) congenital defect.
- A maximum of six (6) points can be obtained from a certified veterinarian by having a Health Certification Form (ask your ACA representative for this form) completed and submitted to an ACA representative.
- Separate shows (Puppy class) are held for canines less than six (6) months old.
- No points will be awarded for show participation for dogs less than six (6) months old.

The remainder of the points will come from sanctioned ACA conformation dog shows. The dogs will be judged to the Foundation Standard of the Breed. The judge(s) will place the dogs that best represent the Breed Class, Group Class & Best in Show. The class/point system is as follows:

Best of Opposite - if needed	Best of Breed	Best of Group	Best of Show
1st Place - 1	1st Place - 1 to 5 pts	1st Place - 2 pts	1st Place - 3 pts
2nd and below - 0 pts	2nd and below - 0 pts	2nd Place - 1 pt	2nd Place - 2 pts
		3rd and below - 0 pts	3rd Place - 0 pts

Best of Opposite

Within a breed, if there are at least three (3) dogs of one (1) sex and at least one (1) of the opposite sex, the breed will be split and judged separately by sex first. The winner of each side will then be judged against the winner of the opposite sex. The winner from those two will be awarded Best of Breed, the loser will be awarded Best of Opposite.

Best of Breed Points

The winner of Best of Breed can earn between one (1) and five (5) points based on the number of other canines competing in that breed. The winner of Best of Breed will earn one (1) point for each canine in the ring up to a maximum of five (5) points i.e. If there are three (3) canines in the ring including the winner, the winner will earn three (3) points.

Majors

To earn a Major, a dog must compete against and defeat at least two (2) other canines in the Breed, Group or Show class. Multiple Majors can be earned in a single show, however, to earn

Champion status, a dog must earn a Major in at least two (2) different shows. Best of Opposite does not award a Major regardless of the number of canines defeated.

The highest number of points awarded at any conformation show per canine is 10 points. The points will carry to the dog's permanent record and accumulate from each show to equal a total of 20 points for the Championship. All Judge's decisions are final. If there is only one dog per breed and/or group, the dog will still be judged to the Foundation Standard of the Breed and receive the minimum point(s) for that class and move on to the next class.

Once a dog has achieved Champion status, that dog can only compete in Grand Champion shows.

To earn the title of Grand Champion a dog must:

- Already be recognized as an ACA Champion.
- Have at least one (1) offspring that is recognized as an ACA Champion.
- Earn a total of fifty (50) cumulative points.
- The points earned to reach ACA Champion status count towards the fifty (50) cumulative total.

Rules for Judges

- A judge cannot judge a dog owned in part or whole by an immediate family member (spouse, child, step-child, parent, step-parent, child's spouse or parent's spouse) or judge a dog handled by an immediate family member. However, an immediate family member can handle and/or have a dog they own in part or whole in a separate show held by the club on the same day under a different non-related judge.
- A judge cannot show a canine and/or handle a dog shown in a conformation show on the same day they are judging a conformation show. They can judge a Grand Champion show and enter a conformation show on the same day OR judge a conformation show and enter a Grand Champion show on the same day.
- Each judge is responsible for signing the record form for each dog judged after each breed, group and show is finished. This will mean up to 3 signatures from a judge on a form if a dog wins Best in Breed and Best in Group. The record forms are to be held by the Event Organizer between and after each show. If a judge needs a copy of a record form, they can request that from the Event Organizer. Additionally, judges are permitted to take electronic photographs of the judge's signed record sheets of the events they officiated.