

2026 PWDCA Superdog Award Rules

SUPERDOG is a very special honor awarded at the end of the National Specialty. This honor recognizes the overall versatility of the Portuguese Water Dog by requiring participation in a variety of events. It rewards capabilities and efforts of the individual PWD who competes in three or more events and accumulates the most overall points for placements and qualifying performance. To be eligible for SUPERDOG, dogs must be entered and compete in at least three of the seven possible areas of competition: Conformation, Obedience, Agility, Water, Rally, AKC Scent Work, and Tracking (if offered.) The scoring system allows dogs at all levels to compete and be recognized for their achievements and their versatility.

Scoring for SUPERDOG

1. CONFORMATION

- a. Points are given in all classes that are eligible for Best of Breed. 1st place=4 points, 2nd place=3 points, 3rd place=2 points, 4th place=1 point.
- b. Best In Specialty Show will receive 6 points total. Award of Merit, Best of Winners, Best Of Opposite Sex, Select Dog and Bitch, Winners Dog and Bitch will receive 5 points total. Reserve Winners Dog and Bitch will receive 4.5 points. (Note: a dog with two placements will take the points for the higher win. For example, if a dog takes 1st place in his class and then takes WD, the dog will be given the points for WD win only.)
- c. The maximum points awarded in Conformation are 6.

2. OBEDIENCE

- a. Regular Obedience class points are: 1st place=4 points, 2nd place=3 points, 3rd place=2 points, 4th place=1 point.
- b. Preferred Obedience class points are: 1st place=3.5 points, 2nd place=2.5 points, 3rd place=1.5 points, 4th place=0.5 point.
- c. Non-Regular and Optional Obedience classes points are: 1st place=3 points, 2nd place=2 points, 3rd place=1 point, 4th place=0.5 point. A dog must earn a minimum qualifying score of 170 points from a possible 200 to be eligible to earn points from these classes.
- d. Dogs who qualify in a class but do not place will receive a single 0.5 point.
- e. Dogs with placements or qualifying scores from multiple classes will take the points of their highest-scoring class. Points from multiple classes are *not* added together for the final score.

- f. High In Trial or High Combined award from Regular classes will receive a total of 6 points regardless of class placement.
- g. If offered, High Score or High Combined award from Preferred classes will receive a total of 5.5 points regardless of class placement.
- h. Any Combined score from Regular classes (Open B and Utility) other than High Combined will be given 1 bonus point in addition to placement or qualifying points.
- i. Any Combined score from Preferred classes (Open and Utility) other than High Combined from Preferred will be given 1 bonus point in addition to placement or qualifying points.
- j. If two Obedience trials are offered, the highest total score from either trial will be considered for SD. For any combined score, both qualifying runs must come from one trial. Individual qualifying runs from two separate trials cannot be used for a Combined score bonus.
- k. The maximum points awarded in Obedience are 6.

3. RALLY

- a. Rally Novice and Intermediate class points are: 1st place=3 points, 2nd place=2 points, 3rd place=1 point, 4th place=0.5 point.
- b. Rally Advanced, Excellent, and Master classes are: 1st place=4 points, 2nd place=3 points, 3rd place=2 points, 4th place=1 point.
- c. Dogs who qualify but do not place will receive 0.5 point.
- d. Dogs with two placements or qualifying scores will take the points of their higher-scoring class. Points for two classes are *not* added together for the final score.
- e. Any double combined score from Advanced and Excellent will be given 0.5 bonus point for the double Q in addition to the placement or qualifying points.
- f. Any triple combined score from Advanced/ Excellent/ Masters will be given 0.5 bonus point for the triple Q in addition to the placement or qualifying points. Dogs that earn A/E/M triple Q will NOT receive additional bonus points for the A/E double Q.
- g. Rally High Triple Combined (HTC) will earn a total of 1 bonus point (instead of the QQQ 0.5 bonus) in addition to the placement or qualifying points, for a maximum of 5 points. No additional bonus is given for High Combined (HC) other than the QQ bonus if applicable. However, if no HTC is awarded, HC will earn a total of 1 bonus point (instead of the QQ 0.5 bonus) in addition to the placement or qualifying points.
- h. If two Rally trials are offered, the highest total score from either trial will be considered for SD. Any Combined qualifying score must be from one trial.

Individual qualifying runs from two separate trials cannot be used for a Combined score bonus.

- i. The maximum points awarded in Rally are 5.

4. AGILITY

- a. All Regular Agility classes (STD, JWW and other classes) points for placements are: 1st place=4 points, 2nd place=3 points, 3rd place=2 points, 4th place=1 point.
- b. All Preferred Agility classes (STD, JWW and other classes) points are: 1st place=3.5 points, 2nd place=2.5 points, 3rd place=1.5 point, 4th place= 0.5 point.
- c. A single 0.5 will be given to non-placing qualifying dogs in any class.
- d. Dogs with multiple placements or qualifying scores will take the points of their highest-scoring class. Points for multiple classes are *not* added together for the final score.
- e. Any Double Q in JWW/STD Master will receive 2 bonus points. Any Double Q from JWW/STD Master Preferred will receive 1 bonus point. These bonus points are in addition to placement or qualifying points.
- f. Any combination of Novice, Open, Excellent, or Premier regular or preferred class JWW/STD double Q will receive a bonus 0.5 point in addition to placement or qualifying points.
- g. Specialty High-In-Trial will receive 6 total points regardless of class placement. Specialty HIT will be determined by the approved PWDCA HIT formula (see Policy and Procedure Manual.)
- h. If two Agility trials are offered, the highest total score from either trial will be considered for SD. Any Double Q must be from a single trial. Individual qualifying runs from two separate trials cannot be combined and used for a double Q bonus.
- i. The maximum points awarded in Agility are 6.

5. WATER WORK

- a. Points for qualifying scores in water classes are: JWD=3 points, AWD=4 points, WWD=5 points, CWD and Master=6 points.
- b. Non-regular Exhibition entries- When Exhibition (“For Exhibition Only”, or FEO) entries are permitted by the host club, qualifiers will be awarded two FEWER points for the appropriate placement. (For example, FEO AWD qualifier will earn 2 points.) Eligibility will be defined by the current PWDCA Water Trial Manual definition of Regular and Non-Regular entries. Any dog who earned a title more than 30 days before the trial date is considered a non-regular entry at that level

(with the exception of Courier and Master detailed below). Dogs with WWD title who have not yet earned WWDX are considered regular entry until the WWDX title has been earned. Note: Any dog that qualifies at Courier or Master level will receive 6 points regardless of FEO status. Any dog with CWD title or higher that enters Working will receive two fewer points even if they have not yet earned WWDX and are thus considered a regular entry.

- c. The maximum points awarded in Water Work are 6.

6. AKC SCENT WORK

- a. Scent Work Novice class points are: 1st place=3 points, 2nd place=2 points, 3rd place=1 point, 4th place=0.5 point.
- b. Scent Work Advanced and higher classes points are: 1st place=4 points, 2nd place=3 points, 3rd place=2 point, 4th place=1 point.
- c. Dogs who qualify but do not place will receive 0.5 point.
- d. Dogs with placements or qualifying scores from multiple classes will take the points of their highest-scoring class. Points from multiple classes are *not* added together for the final score.
- e. No points will be awarded for Scent Work Non-regular classes.
- f. Each Scent Work High-in-Trial HIT and High Combined Division HCD that is awarded will receive 1 bonus point, as long as there are at least three competitors in each class at that level. If a dog earns multiple HIT and/or HCD, only 1 bonus point will be awarded.
- g. If two Scent Work trials are offered, the highest total score from either trial will be considered for SD. High score and HIT/HCD from separate trials are not combined.
- h. The maximum points awarded in Scent Work are 5.

7. TRACKING (if offered)

- a. All qualifying dogs will receive 4 points for TD and TDU, 5 points for TDX and 6 points for VST.
- b. FEO- When "For Exhibition Only" tracking entries are permitted by the host club, qualifiers will be awarded two FEWER points for the appropriate placement. (For example, FEO TD qualifier will earn 2 points.) FEO eligibility will be defined by the host club in the Specialty premiums.
- c. The maximum points awarded in Tracking are 6.
- d. Tracking is by nature limited in the number of entries. The PWDCA Board made the decision that, "following normal entry procedures, if all Superdog entrants cannot be accommodated for a venue (e.g., Tracking), then that venue cannot be

counted toward Superdog". (PWDCA Board meeting minutes 05/11/2015, 04/18/2016)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

a. An additional 1 bonus point will be added to the final SD total for a dog that earns points in and is handled by one person in 4 or more venues which must include Conformation. The same handler must show the dog in all classes entered. Exceptions are: the Swim-with-Handler exercise in Water, a handler with two dogs in the same Obedience class group sits and downs, a dog passed on to a different handler for Winners or Best of Breed in conformation, and a handler who is injured during an event and cannot continue. **Handlers must notify the SD chair at the beginning and end of contest to confirm that one handler has shown the dog in all classes.**

b. Class size – There must be a minimum of 5 dogs in the class for Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Agility, or Scent Work or the points awarded for class placements will be reduced by 1 point for each dog fewer than 5 in the class.

For example, in Conformation or Regular Obedience classes, if there are only 4 dogs in the class, the points would be 3, 2, and 1 point for 1st through 3rd place, and no placement point for 4th place. If there are 3 dogs in the class, points would be 2 and 1 for 1st and 2nd place, and no placement points for 3rd place. Classes with reduced points (such as Preferred Obedience, Rally Novice, Preferred Agility, etc.) will also be reduced by 1 point for each dog fewer than 5 in the class.

In all events where a qualifying score is awarded (ie, performance events such as Obedience, Rally, etc), 0.5 points will be awarded for a qualifying score if NO placement points are earned. The 0.5 point for a qualifying score is NOT added to placement points.

c. FEO- When "For Exhibition Only" entries are permitted by the host club, qualifiers will be awarded two FEWER points for the appropriate placement. (For example, FEO WWD qualifier will earn 3 points; FEO TD qualifier will earn 2 points, etc.) FEO eligibility will be defined by the host club in the Specialty premiums. Note: exception is made for Courier and Master Water Trial entries, and certain Working entries- see Water Work section 5 above.

d. Maximum Points - The maximum SUPERDOG points any dog can receive in Conformation, Obedience, Agility, Water, or Tracking is 6. The maximum points any dog

can receive in Rally or Scent Work is 5. The single handler bonus point in section (a) above is in addition to these maximum allowable points.

e. When two trials in a performance event are offered, the highest total score including any bonus points or HIT points from either trial will be considered for SD. Any Double Q or Combined score must be from the same trial. Individual qualifying runs from two separate trials cannot be combined and used for a double Q bonus, or for any other type of bonus point.

f. If factors beyond anyone's control occur and an event is canceled before it is completed, the committee may disallow all of the scores for that venue, at the discretion of the committee.

IN CASE OF A TIE

1. In case of a points tie, the dog that has earned points in the most venues will take precedence over all other dogs.

2. If dogs are still tied, the points from *every* placement each dog has received will be examined when breaking second ties. (Placements for the tiebreaker will be defined as dogs defeating at least one other dog, so 0.5 points earned for 1st place in a class with just one entry will not count when calculating a tie-breaker.)

3. In case of a final tie, the dogs will share the honor. It is the responsibility of the Specialty Host Club to provide duplicate awards in the case of a final tie.

Notes to Specialty Host Clubs:

The Specialty Host Club will determine the SUPERDOG entry fee. A listing of competitors shall be posted on the Specialty grounds, with tabulations updated periodically. The first place SUPERDOG will be awarded at the Awards Banquet.