

Portuguese Podengo Pequenos

Top 20 Invitational

Invitational Eligibility

*This is a “**by invitation only event**” composed of the Top Twenty Portuguese Podengo Pequenos who have defeated the most of their breed during conformation competition. Dogs need to be owned or co-owned by a Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America Club member to be eligible.*

Dogs eligible for this competition are the Best of our Breed, by virtue of the number of dogs and bitches that they have defeated by winning Best of Breed at all AKC licensed shows including all Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America, Inc. approved specialties. Each Best of Breed winner will be awarded one point for each dog and bitch defeated at said shows. A spayed/neutered dog who has otherwise qualified for the Invitational would be eligible and invited to compete. The final tabulation is compiled using the American Kennel Club official reports. Group and Best in Show wins are not counted. The competition year runs January 1 through December 31.

The Top Twenty event will also invite the Top Twenty NOHS winners. The Top ranking NOHS qualifiers are based on the total number of NOHS points earned through the year. The competition year runs October 8, 2020 through October 13, 2021. (The date range will adjust to the current calendar year.)

Each dog will receive one invitation for the Top Twenty event even if they qualify under both categories.

General Information for the Event:

This event is intended to provide a unique experience for breeders, exhibitors, spectators and judges alike, by offering an exceptional opportunity to evaluate those Pequenos, which by virtue of breed competition during the previous year, have been deemed to be the Best 20 dogs of our breed. Using a “scale of points” each dog is evaluated according to how closely it conforms to the AKC approved breed standard. This judging approach is both positive and quantifiable. This procedure is not utilized at any other conformation competition. This elite event is conducted during a formal Meet & Greet, celebrating the “Best of the Best” the breed has to offer.

Once an individual dog has won the event 3 times, the dog is no longer eligible to compete. These wins need not be consecutive. These dogs may be shown in the “Exhibition Only Showcase” and appear in the catalog.

The judges are selected by the Invitational Committee and are kept a secret until introduced at the event. The secrecy of the judging panel is significantly different from the judging typically seen, in that the owners of the Top 20 dogs enter this show based on the merits of their dogs – not on who is judging the competition. At no time will a person who is a member of the Committee participate in judges’ selection if they are deemed ineligible by criteria listed in competition eligibility. This criterion includes but is not limited to: Any dog owned or co-owned by any member of the Top 20 Invitational Committee is ineligible to compete. Any dog owned, co-owned, bred or co-bred, by an Invitational judge is ineligible to compete.

This Invitational judging panel shall consist of 3 judges who meet one of the four following criteria, and no 2 judges from the same criteria. Example(s): one breeder, one handler, one AKC licensed multi-breed judge or one breeder judge, one breeder and one AKC licensed multi-breed judge combination.

1. A Portuguese Podengo Pequenos breeder – with a minimum of 5 or more years documented experience in the breed and having bred 3 litters, resulting in a minimum of 4 champions of record.

2. A Portuguese Podengo Pequenos breeder judge – an AKC licensed judge that has met the requirements as a breeder with a minimum of 5 or more years documented experience in the breed and having bred 5 litters, resulting in a minimum of 5 champions of record. Preferably a judge with a recent history within the breed.
3. A professional handler, either active or retired, who meets the minimum requirements for membership in a professional handlers' association (though not necessarily a member). This professional handler will have a minimum of ten (10) years documented experience in their profession.
4. A multi-breed AKC licensed judge, licensed (no provisional) to judge Portuguese Podengo Pequenos for at least five (5) years.

Judges will be asked to volunteer their services to judge the Top 20 judging. The club will not pay for transportation to and from the event. However, if the need arises and a judge is traveling a great distance, the club agrees to pay for one-night hotel room, at the host hotel and at the room rate negotiated by the club. All judges will be invited to attend the Annual Awards Banquet. The club will cover the cost of the meal.

The judging score sheet shall be based upon the official standard of the Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, as recognized and approved by the American Kennel Club. The score sheet shall be concise, broken down into specific scoring categories. A maximum of 100 points shall be possible. Each judge shall assign a "tiebreaker" score, based on overall presentation and impression, only to be used in case of a tie. Judges will sign each score sheet, as a second method of properly identifying their score sheet. Each competitors' individual score sheet(s), with a combined total of points from all 3 judges, shall be made available to each respective owner/handler no later than the end of day following the competition.

Scheduling of event:

The Top 20 is to be held in conjunction with the PPPA National Specialty. Preferable the evening before, following the Futurity/Maturity judging. See National Specialty Guidelines for sample schedule.

Judging Protocols & Procedures – The Event:

The Master of Ceremonies shall announce the start of the event. The Master of Ceremonies shall then introduce each judge and their steward(s) and call all of the dogs into the ring. The dogs will be asked to move together around the ring and then free stack in a line up as the judges complete a "First Impression" rating card. Once the judges have completed the first impression rating card, all dogs will then leave the ring and wait in the "holding area". (*This is a designated location out of site from the judges.*)

Each judge will score each dog individually, using a "scale of points". The winner will be determined based on the total score of each dog. In the event of a tie, it shall be broken by using the "First Impression" marked by each judge prior to the marking of the score sheet, as the determining factor. Scores will be tabulated during the event and winner will be awarded that evening.

The judges shall be given score sheets for each entry. After each dog is scored the steward will take the sheet to the tabulators (2 tabulators).

There shall be one judging/exam table, at approved American Kennel Club height. All three judges shall be stationed near the table with their steward.

Each dog will be exhibited to their own selection of music. When that dog's music is played, their number will be announced. That dog shall enter the ring, circling once; then move to the center of the ring, for a series of three poses for the crowd, taking no more than 15-30 seconds in the center of the ring.

The handler shall proceed to the table, setting up their dog. Once the dog is set up, and all three judges are in position; the handler shall show the bite of the dog for the judges. This procedure will eliminate excessive time being taken with mouth exams. Each judge shall physically examine the dog.

The judge shall have the dog move on the diagonal to the corner, out to the crowd and back to the judges. The judges have the discretion to have the dog move on the diagonal to the corner and back again, should they feel the need to do so. The judges shall then have the dog circle and exit the ring.

This procedure will repeat, until all dogs have been examined.

Each spectator will receive ballots, to vote for “The People’s Choice” Award. This award is given to the crowd favorite.

All dogs will enter ring and will be handed their Participant Rosettes and stand together.

The winner of The People’s Choice Award shall be announced first by the Master of Ceremonies. That dog will circle once, with rosette in hand.

The winner of the NOHS Top20 shall be announced first by the Master of Ceremonies. That dog will circle once with rosette in hand.

The Reserve Winner Award shall be announced first by the Master of Ceremonies. That dog will circle once, with rosette in hand.

The winner of the Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America, Inc. Top 20 Invitational shall be announced. At that time, the Master of Ceremonies will invite the breeder and owners of the winning dog into the ring with rosettes. The winner and handler shall take two victory laps and exit the ring.

ATTIRE:

The dress code for judges, stewards and handlers: semi-formal to formal. The dress code for spectators: open to personal preference.

“These rules were edited and approved on *May 25, 2022* and may be reviewed annually by the board. Changes may be made only if the changes are in the best interest of the PPPA Membership and continue to uphold the integrity of the event.”