

CLUMBER SPANIEL CLUB OF AMERICA

Top Ten Event Rules

The Clumber Spaniel Club of America (CSCA) offers a Top Ten event to showcase excellence in the Clumber Spaniel dog. This event provides special recognition to those Clumber Spaniel dogs with the most outstanding records as well as their breeders, owners and handlers.

The inaugural event took place at the 2018 CSCA National Specialty in Portland, Oregon.

This event is an optional part of the CSCA National Specialty and serves many purposes. It offers education for breeders, exhibitors, fanciers and judges. The event offers all who attend a chance to view top dogs in the breed. The Top Ten event provides an incentive for breeders to strive for excellence in conformation, movement, structure and temperament.

STATISTICS AND ELIGIBILITY (PROPOSED):

Dogs may qualify if during the calendar year preceding the year of the Top Ten event:

- They are ranked in the Top Ten (breed and all-breed) AKC rankings as of December 31 of the qualifying year prior to the CSCA National Specialty; **or**
- They have won a Best of Breed at the CSCA National Specialty Show or the Regional Specialty Show held in conjunction with the CSCA National; **or**
- They have won a Best of Breed at one of the specialty shows held by one of the regional clubs, e.g. Clumber Spaniel Fanciers of Michigan, Williana Clumber Spaniel Club, Clumber Spaniel Club of Southern California or other regional club based in the United States; **or**
- They have won a Best of Breed at the American Spaniel Club show; **or**
- They have won Best of Breed at the CSCA regional specialty held in conjunction with the American Spaniel Club show.

Qualifying dogs are based on point standing in breed (total of Clumber Spaniels defeated) or all-breed (total of dogs defeated) as published by the American Kennel Club, counting on a calendar year basis. Deceased qualifiers will be noted in the CSCA Top Ten qualifiers list published in the event catalog.

To compete in this event, all owners and/or co-owners of finalists must be in good standing with the AKC and CSCA at the time the invitations are extended AND at the time of the event.

All dogs must be eligible at the time of the event to compete in AKC events.

Spayed bitches or neutered dogs named among the final CSCA Top Ten qualifiers may compete in this event.

Top10 Committee members or their immediate family members may not exhibit a dog owned or co-owned by them in the competition for Top10. These dogs may be entered for 'Exhibition Only' and compete for the People's Choice Award.

All previous Top Ten winners are invited to attend the event for 'Exhibition Only,' as they are ineligible to compete for any future Top Ten award.

INVITATIONS AND BRIEFING PACKET:

The CSCA Top Ten qualifiers will be sent an invitation to participate in the event. There is an entry fee to be returned with the entry form and other required information accompanying the invitation by the noted deadline on the entry form.

Invitation packets include:

- Formal Invitation
- Entry Form (includes catalog advertisement form)

Exhibitor Information packets include:

- Judging Procedures & Score Sheet
- Instructional information
- Reference to the *CSCA Top Ten Guidelines* document is available on www.clumbers.org under club documents.

JUDGES:

There will be three (3) judges for the CSCA Top Ten Event. The judges may not exhibit any dogs at the National Specialty, Regional Specialty, or Sweepstakes during the National Week. There will be one judge from each of the following three categories:

1. **Breeder** - a Spaniel Breeder in good standing with the CSCA or their parent club and home-country Kennel Club. The Breeder must not own or co-own a dog in the CSCA Top Ten competition.
2. **AKC Multi-Breed Judge** - a person approved by AKC to judge Clumber Spaniels; not a breeder or owner of Clumber Spaniels.
3. **Professional Handler** – a person in good standing with the AKC or their home-country kennel club and licensed preferred.

CATALOGS/PROGRAMS:

Each year a catalog is prepared exclusively for the CSCA Top Ten Event. They are available for sale to spectators just prior to the scheduled starting time of the event and during the remainder of the CSCA National week.

The catalog contains a page for each competitor, with photograph and text supplied by the dog's owner. A profile of each judge is included along with a sample score sheet and judge procedures.

The catalog shall list by year all of the previous Top Ten and People's Choice winners and the judges.

EVENT SCHEDULING:

The CSCA Top Ten Event will be held during the CSCA National Specialty week and prior to the National Specialty Show.

The Draw for armband numbers and the order of competition will be held at least one-half hour before the beginning of the competition.

The winners are announced immediately at the conclusion of the event.

PRIZES:

Participants: All exhibitors who have entered the CSCA Top Ten Event will receive a commemorative rosette that includes their dog's name.

Winner: The dog judged overall winner will take home a rosette.

People's Choice Award: At the same time as the Top Ten dogs are being judged, spectators can participate as People's Choice ringside judges, placing a single vote for their top dog in the appropriate ballot box provided. Votes are tallied at the end of the evening and the winner of the People's Choice Award will be announced at the conclusion of the event. The winner of the People's Choice Award will take home a rosette.

All prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the CSCA Top Ten Event, that evening.

EVENT PROCEDURES:

Entrants and handlers will only be allowed to compete if at least one representative of the entrant attends the exhibitor briefing held at least 30 minutes prior to the event commencement.

Exhibitor Briefing:

1. Check in with the Top Ten Committee
2. Receive armband
3. Receive instructions and order in which the participants will enter the ring
4. Participants will be given instructions regarding when to be ringside, where to wait, and specific ring/judging procedures.

Attire for the Top Ten Event: This event is considered to be a formal event and as such formal, gala type attire is encouraged to be worn at the event, both by attendees and handlers. Costuming or props of any kind, but not limited to, anything worn on the dog are prohibited. There shall be NO extraneous props for the handler, as well. This event is about showcasing the dogs and their road to this prestigious Top Ten event. The dogs themselves should be showcased alone in a manner similar to any other AKC conformation event.

Judging Procedure:

1. After all Top Ten competitors are viewed in the ring as a group, each dog will be judged individually. Each dog, as determined in exhibition order, will enter the ring and pose for "First Impression." Judges assign a score of 1-10 (10 being the highest) at this time to be used only in a case of tie points using the breed standard. The dog will then be moved down and back, and in a circle while all three judges watch, and the judges will score the dog for movement. The dog will then be examined and scored completely by the three judges, each judge touching and examining the dog as he/she sees fit. The dog will then circle the ring and exit. This process will be repeated until all dogs have been scored.
2. All dogs will be scored by each judge using the scale of points as provided in the AKC approved standard for the Clumber Spaniel.
3. Immediately following the completion of judging, the judges' marked (but not tallied for total scores) sheets will be turned over to an independent and impartial person or persons to be tabulated. The scores for each dog, from each of the three judges, are added together, then divided by three (3) to determine the dog's average score.
4. The winner will be determined on the basis of the average score of each dog. The score sheets and the identity of the winning dog will be given to the Top Ten Chairperson and awarded at the Event that evening.
5. In the event of a tie, the winner is determined by consulting the First Impression total. The dog with the highest First Impression total is declared the winner. The First Impression score is used **ONLY** to break a tie, and is not included in tabulating the average score. If there is still a tied score, the judge panel will meet to determine the winner.



TOP TEN SCORE SHEET

DOG NO. _____

FIRST IMPRESSION (1-20) _____

SCALE OF POINTS

For Evaluation Of Individual Specimen
On The Basis Of The Standard

<u>Category</u>	<u>Maximum Points</u>	<u>Points Assigned</u>
General Appearance, Size, Symmetry & Balance	20	_____
Head	15	_____
Front & Rear Legs and Feet	10	_____
Neck & Shoulders	10	_____
Body, Back, Chest & Loin	15	_____
Gait	20	_____
Color & Coat	5	_____
Tail and Tailset	5	_____
Total	100	

FINAL SCORE: _____

