

Proposed New Systems for Ranking BCOA Member-Owned Borzois in Obedience, Agility and Rally

Eligibility for Ranking of BCOA Member-Owned Borzois

- The first person listed as the dog's owner by AKC must be a BCOA member. In this report these dogs are referred to as "eligible Borzois" or as "Borzois with BCOA members as first owners".
- If an individual becomes a member of BCOA after January 1 of a given year, the scores of that individual's dog which were awarded after the individual's membership application was approved by the BCOA Board, will be the only scores counted toward that year's rankings.

Overview of the Current Quarterly Ranking Systems and the Current AKC Titling Classes¹

- Borzois with BCOA members as first owners are ranked within class based on the qualifying scores, computed as an average of all qualifying scores. The current quarterly ranking system for each of the three venues is described below. These systems are easily understood and it is relatively easy for the Statistics Standing Committee Chairs to compile the quarterly statistics for each eligible Borzoi competing in the respective venues.

Obedience: Currently, the majority of eligible Borzois are competing in two lower level classes and very few are competing at higher levels. Recently, AKC has added a number of non-regular titling classes so that the list of possible titles has increased dramatically. The titling classes are the following: Beginner Novice, Preferred Novice, Novice, Graduate Novice, Preferred Open, Open, Versatility, Graduate Open, Preferred Utility, and Utility. Within each class all qualifying scores (Qs) of each eligible Borzoi are averaged and the average determines the ranking of the Borzois with the highest score ranking first, and so on. No distinction is made between A and B classes for the purposes of averaging and ranking. The number of Qs is also listed with the ranking and the average score for each Borzoi.

Agility: Currently, there are very few eligible Borzois competing. Although they are not usually listed in the quarterly rankings, there are numerous titling classes: Master Standard and Jumpers, Preferred Master Standard and Jumpers, Excellent Standard and Jumpers, Preferred Excellent Standard and Jumpers, Open Standard and Jumpers, Preferred Open Standard and Jumpers, Novice Standard and Jumpers, and Preferred Novice Standard and Jumpers. Within each class all qualifying scores (Qs) of each eligible Borzoi are averaged and the average determines the ranking of the Borzois with the highest average score ranking first, and so on. The number of Qs is also listed with the ranking and the average score for each Borzoi.

¹ This list purposely omits the new virtual titling classes added by AKC during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rally: Currently, a relatively large number of eligible Borzois are competing in all levels of Rally, except for the highest level. There are five titling classes: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Excellent, and Master. Within each class all qualifying scores (Qs) of each eligible Borzoi are averaged and the average determines the ranking of the Borzois with the highest score ranking first, and so on. No distinction is made between A and B classes for the purposes of averaging and ranking. The number of Qs is also listed with the ranking and the average score for each Borzoi.

Proposed Revisions to the Current Quarterly Ranking Systems and to the Current Ranking the Top 5 Borzois Competing in Obedience, Agility, and Rally

- The OAR Committee recommends two distinct ranking systems for eligible Borzois competing in Obedience, Agility, and Rally.
- In the proposed revisions to the quarterly ranking system **within** class, the scores of eligible Borzois are not weighted.
- In contrast, rewarding the Borzois that are performing at a higher level compared to those at a lower level introduces the necessity for weighting scores from different classes.
- The OAR Committee has received an offer from a BCOA member to develop a computer-based program for ranking the eligible Borzois in the companion venues.

Proposed Revisions for the Current Quarterly Ranking Systems

- For the first two quarters of the year, very few eligible Borzois have competed in the companion venues and accumulated three or more qualifying scores (Qs). Therefore, for the first two quarters, eligible Borzois competing **within** each class for the three venues will be listed by name in alphabetical order with their average scores and numbers of Qs. For the first two quarters this change in the quarterly listing will be explained at the beginning of the list for each venue. This recommendation acknowledges the fact that it usually takes several months for a sufficient number of eligible Borzois to achieve enough Qs to produce meaningful rankings in these venues.
- Beginning in the third quarter and continuing through the fourth quarter, eligible Borzois will be listed in rank order with their average scores and number of qualifying scores (Qs), according to the proposed revisions to the year-end rankings of the Borzois competing **within** each class for the three venues, as described below. For each of the lower-level classes in obedience and rally, those Borzois with three or more Qs will be listed in rank order (#1, #2, etc.) in a sub-section at the beginning of the respective class list. The heading of this subsection

will indicate that these Borzois are eligible for year-end rankings **within** class. All other eligible Borzois competing in each lower-level class and having at least a single Q and will be ranked in a separate subsection based on their average scores. An explanation will precede these subsections.

Proposed Revisions to the Year-End Rankings of the #1 Borzoi Competing **Within** Each Class for the Three Venues

- Currently, the top Borzoi competing **within** any class is determined by the highest average and requires only a single qualifying score.
- The Committee recommends that for agility no change be made to the year-end rankings within any class, because of the small numbers of eligible Borzois competing in any of the classes.
- The Committee proposes that for both obedience and rally changes be made to the requirements for the #1-ranked Borzoi competing in the lower levels of classes. In order for an eligible Borzoi to be ranked #1 in any of the following obedience classes, there must be at least three qualifying scores (Qs): Beginner Novice, Preferred Novice and Novice. Likewise, in order for an eligible Borzoi to be ranked first in any of the following rally classes, there must be at least three Qs: Novice and Intermediate. The eligible Borzoi with the highest **average** score within each of these classes will be the #1-ranked Borzoi in that class. For all of the other higher-level obedience and rally classes, the eligible Borzoi with the highest average regardless of the number of Qs will be the #1-ranked Borzoi in that class. Thus, for the higher-level classes in both obedience and rally, the Committee recommends that the current ranking system **within** class be unchanged and only require a minimum of a single qualifying score.
- The Committee proposes the following: The #1-ranked Borzoi **within** a given class in each companion venue will be awarded a certificate memorializing that achievement. These certificates will be presented at the next year's National Specialty. If a BCOA member as first owner does not attend that Specialty, the certificate will be mailed to the first owner.

Proposed Revisions for Ranking the Top 5 Borzois Competing in Obedience, Agility, and Rally

- The Committee recommends that a weighted system that accounts for the higher degrees of skills and more intensive training required for qualifying in higher-level classes is the only fair way to determine end of year rankings in these three venues. The weighting factors for each venue are somewhat arbitrary, do not necessarily reflect the increase in difficulty in the required skills for each level, but will suffice to separate the levels enough to reward the higher skills.

- The Committee recommends that no changes be made to the Top 5 Awards with the Top Borzoi in each venue receiving a plaque and the remainder of the Top 5 receiving rosettes. These awards will be presented at the next year's National Specialty. If a BCOA member as first owner does not attend that Specialty, the awards will be mailed to the first owner.
- The committee recommends that, because there is some complexity involved in the weighted systems proposed below for the end-of-year Top-5 rankings, two members independently compute the final rankings for each venue. Unless they want to do final computations, the two members would not necessarily have to include the tabulator, who currently is one of the members of the Statistics standing committee. Members of this *ad hoc* committee will volunteer to assist with the final computations, especially during the first year.

Obedience: Considering that titles can be earned from all the classes listed below, the committee recommends that the requirement that the qualifying scores (Qs) must come from only the regular classes be changed so that qualifying scores from any titling class may be used to determine the Top 5 Eligible Borzois competing in obedience. To be eligible for the Top 5 in Obedience, a Borzoi must have at least 3 qualifying scores from any combination of titling classes.

No distinction is made between A and B classes. Novice is considered the baseline for determining scores: classes are ranked above and below that class. It is important to take the average so the number of scores earned does not become the deciding factor. With this proposed weighting system, we are looking to more fairly rank the dogs competing across various levels of classes, not to reward actual scores.

Therefore, the committee proposes the following scoring system:

<u>Weighting Factor</u>	<u>Class</u>
0.8	Beginner Novice
0.9	Preferred Novice
1.0	Novice
1.1	Graduate Novice
1.2	Preferred Open
1.3	Open
1.3	Versatility
1.35	Graduate Open
1.4	Preferred Utility
1.5	Utility

Computation of the weighted score for an eligible Borzoi is done as follows:

- a. The sum of every qualifying score within a class is multiplied by its weighting factor. This gives a weighted total score for a class.
- b. If qualifying scores are awarded in more than one class, the weighted total scores from all classes are summed and that sum is divided by the total number of qualifying scores. This value will be the total weighted average score from all classes.

These weighting factors do not reflect the increase in difficulty in the required skills for each level but will suffice to separate the levels enough to reward the higher skills. And yes, a dog earning 3 Utility scores averaging 190 would, with this scale, show an average score of 285.

Example 1: A dog earning 3 Q's of 190, 191 and 194 in Beginner Novice will have earned a total of 575 points. Multiplied by the weighting factor of .8, the Beginner Novice total score equals 460 points. This dog goes on to earn 3 Q's in Novice of 189, 190, 187 for a total of 566 points. Times the weighting factor of 1.0, the Novice total score equals 566 points. The two totals sum to 1026 points. Divided by 6 (the total number of Qs), the weighted average score from all classes is 171. Looks like an 'ouch', but keep in mind that half the scores were earned in Beginner Novice so the total weighted average score should not have the same value as higher classes. And remember that this system is designed to separate skills and not produce an average qualifying score. We are looking to more fairly rank the dogs competing across a number of levels of classes, not to reward actual scores.

Example 2: A dog is working towards its UDX. The total of open scores of 192, 194, 197, 196 equals 779 points. Multiplying by the weighting factor of 1.3, the Open total score equals 1,012.7. The dog also earns three Utility scores of 190, 189, 195, for a total 574 points, which is multiplied by the weighting factor of 1.5 for a Utility total score of 861 points. Added together the total is 1,873.7, which is divided by the 7 qualifying scores to yield a weighted average score from both classes 267.7. So, in any tabulation of scores earned in different classes, the final score is weighted by the percentage of the scores earned in each class. In the UDX case, 57% of the scores were in Open, 43% in Utility.

Agility: As with all BCOA awards, the first listed owner must be a member of BCOA. An eligible Borzoi can be ranked in the Top 5 in Agility with only one qualifying score.

Calculation of Top Agility Borzoi will be in the following order, the more difficult listed first:

- Master Standard and Jumpers
- Preferred Master Standard and Jumpers
- Excellent Standard and Jumpers
- Preferred Excellent Standard and Jumpers

Open Standard and Jumpers
Preferred Open Standard and Jumpers
Novice Standard and Jumpers
Preferred Novice Standard and Jumpers

Master requires a perfect score of 100 in order to qualify. If there is any Borzoi competing at the Master level, that Borzoi should be identified as the Top Borzoi. Thus, the total number of perfect scores in both Master Standard and Jumpers classes will be used to identify the Top Borzoi in Agility, and so on. In the event there is a tie, the Borzoi, also qualifying in Time 2 Beat, Premier, and/or Fast and having the most Qs in these classes will be given precedent for breaking the tie. The other Borzois competing at the Master level will be ranked based on numbers of Qs in both Standard and Jumpers classes, with any ties being broken as described above.

In the event there are no Master Borzoi qualifying during the calendar year, the average score for both classes will be used for Excellent, Open, and Novice. **A weighted system will be used to reward the difficulty of the higher classes.** Novice is considered the baseline for determining scores: classes are ranked above that.

Excellent scores will be multiplied by 3, Open scores by 2, and Novice scores by 1. Within a class these scores will be summed, multiplied by the weighting factor, and then divided by the number of qualifying scores for a weighted average score for a specific class.

If the dog competes at more than one level during the year, all scores will count towards the Top Borzoi award as per the weighted system above. Within a class the qualifying scores will be summed, multiplied by the appropriate weighting factor. The total class scores will then be added together and the sum will be divided by the total number of qualifying scores from the classes.

In the event there is a tie, the Borzoi who has also qualified in Time 2 Beat, Premier, and Fast and has received the most Qs will be given precedent for breaking the tie.

Rally: Considering that titles can be earned from all the classes listed below, the committee recommends that the requirement that the qualifying scores (Qs) must come from only the regular classes be changed so that qualifying scores from any titling class may be used to determine the Top 5 Eligible Borzois competing in rally. To be eligible for the Top 5 in Rally, a Borzoi must have at least 3 qualifying scores from any combination of titling classes.

No distinction is made between A and B classes. Novice is considered the baseline for determining scores: classes are ranked above that. It is important to take the average so the number of scores earned does not

become the deciding factor. We are looking to more fairly rank the dogs competing across various levels of classes, not to reward actual scores.

This can be easily done by multiplying each higher level by either an additional 5% or 10%. While the total average scores in this method for a dog that achieves high scores in Excellent or Master classes may exceed the perfect score of 100, we are determining rankings, not assigning actual scores.

The following chart shows a 10% increase at each level with no distinction between A & B classes.

<u>Weighting Factor</u>	<u>Class</u>
1.0	Novice
1.1	Intermediate
1.2	Advanced
1.3	Excellent
1.4	Master

Example 1: A dog earns 3 Qs of 95 in Novice, for a total of 285 points; multiplying by 1.0, the Novice total score is 285 points. The dog then moves up to Advanced, earning 1 score of 91; multiplying that score by 1.1, the Advanced total score equals 100.1. Added together the two total scores yields a total of 385.1, which is divided by 4 (the number of qualifying scores). This dog's total weighted average score from Novice and Advanced will be 96.3.

Example 2: A dog is working towards its RAE. Five scores in Advance of 100, 100, 100, 98, 95 give for a total of 493, which is multiplied by 1.2 for a total weighted Advanced score of 591.6 points. Dog also earns 5 Qs in Excellent of 98, 97, 100, 99, 98 for a total of 492, which is multiplied by 1.3 for a total weighted Excellent score of 639.6. Added together the two total weighted scores from the two classes yields 1,231.2, which is divided by the 10 (the number of qualifying scores) for a total weighted average score of 123.1.