

## Changes to the Irish Wolfhound of the Year Competition

The great increase in the number of shows in recent years has had the consequence that at many shows there are an uncompetitive number of wolfhound entries. Nevertheless, Best of Breed is still awarded and the hound gains as many points as a hound winning Best of Breed at a competitive show with a large number of entries. For example, in 2017 one or more wolfhounds were entered in 60 different shows and BOB was awarded at 56 of them. The table below shows there were as many BOB points awarded at shows with only three entries as in all four of the most competitive shows combined.

No. Entries	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	40
No. Shows awarding BOB	6	17	1	3	2	10	5	4	2	3	1	1	1

The Committee felt that this situation was unsatisfactory and that wins at competitive shows should be more heavily weighted. The Committee tabled three options to replace the current system at the 2018 AGM. A further option was tabled by members and a fifth proposed from the floor for a total of five options in all.

Given the central role of the IWoY competition in the Club, the AGM voted to refer the various options to paid-up members to vote on using a ranked preference system.

Nothing would prevent owners who wish to make up their hound to champion from seeking CC's any KUSA show, nor campaigning in other, all breeds competitions such as the Animal Talk Top 100.

The options were:

### Option 1

Twelve shows would qualify towards IWoY.

One weekend of All Breeds Championship shows on a Saturday and a Sunday in each Province per year. The shows chosen were spread throughout the year as evenly as possible.

Plus the KUSA Championship Show (dates change from year to year)

Plus the Irish Wolfhound Club Championship Show.

The current point allocation system would still apply

### **Option 2**

22 All Breeds Championship shows would qualify towards the IWY competition being shows from each Province weighted by the total number of shows in that Province. Being:

Three weekends of two shows each – Sat and Sun – in Gauteng

Two weekends of two shows each – Sat and Sun – in Western Cape

Two weekends of two shows each – Sat and Sun – in Eastern Cape

Two weekends of two shows each – Sat and Sun – KZN

One weekend of two shows each – Sat and Sun – Free State

Plus – KUSA Championship Show

Plus – Irish Wolfhound Club Championship Show

The current point allocation system would still apply

### **Option 3**

22 qualifying shows in different Provinces on weekends throughout the year, of which only one show per weekend will count. It would be either the Saturday or Sunday show.

Plus – KUSA Championship Show

Plus – Irish Wolfhound Club Championship Show

The current point allocation system would still apply

#### Option 4

This option would mean that points awarded at Group and BIS would have a heavier weight in IWoY. All qualifying KUSA sanctioned shows qualified for IW0Y with the following point system to apply:

RCC 1 point, CC 2 points, RBOB 4 points, BOB 5 points

Group Placing      Points awarded would be the number of all hounds beaten less group placement for Group 4<sup>th</sup> or better

e.g. 2<sup>nd</sup> in Group with 80 hounds entered to show:  $80-2=78$  pts

BIS, RBIS      Points awarded would be the number of dogs of all breeds beaten less BIS placement

e.g. RBIS with 200 entries to show:  $200-2=198$  pts

Points would be non-cumulative. In the above example the Group points (and any CC or BOB points) fall away and only RBIS points would count.

#### Option 5

This option would retain all qualifying KUSA shows. Only points awarded for RBOB or BOB would count towards IWoY but RBOB and BOB points awarded would be weighted by the number of wolfhounds entered. Minor shows would not be disenfranchised but competitive shows would have greater weight. BOB would receive 10 points plus 2 points for each entry. RBOB would receive 8 points plus 1 point for each entry.

E.g. if there were 20 wolfhound entries. RBOB 8 points +  $20-2$  hounds entered  $18 \times 1$  points = 26 points.

Note that the weighting systems in option 5 would use dogs entered rather than present. This is because absences are inconsistently reported in the marked catalogues posted by KUSA, the main source of information the competition uses.

## Results

48 paid up Club members were sent ballots and 25 responses were received. The tables below show the results of the ballot.

Ballots																									
Ballot	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Option 1	4	3	3	2	5	3	5	4	5	5	5	3	3	1	2	2	3	3	2	2	5	5	5	5	3
Option 2	2	2	2	3	3	4	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	1
Option 3	3	4	4	4	4	5	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	5	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	4
Option 4	5	5	5	5	1	2	3	5	1	1	1	5	5	4	5	5	2	2	5	5	4	4	4	4	5
Option 5	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2

Summary					
Ballot	No. 1st choices	No. 2nd choices	No. 3rd choices	No. 4th choices	No. 5th choices
Option 1	1	5	8	2	9
Option 2	1	11	8	5	0
Option 3	0	1	8	13	3
Option 4	4	3	1	5	12
Option 5	19	5	0	0	1

Option 5 received a clear majority of first preference votes and will be adopted for the 2019 show season.