GENERAL RULES: 2027 - 2028

GROOM TEAM SANCTIONED CLASSES and SALON FREESTYLE
SHOW STRUCTURE, DIVISIONS AND AWARDS

STRUCTURE:
Three-Tier, Multi-Division Competition
Open Division, Intermediate Division and Entry Division compete separately for titles of first, second and third in their division classes. Class winners will then compete against each other for Group placements. Group placements will compete for Best All Around Groomer, and Group first in each class will compete for Best in Show.

COMPETITION LEVEL DIVISIONS
GroomTeam Sanctioned Class rules will apply to all levels with the following exception:
ONLY Entry division may use clippers, scissors and thinning shears when bodywork is typically hand stripped and/or carded for show ring in sporting class and wire coat class. A fifteen-minute time reduction will be levied.

OPEN: Open to all competitors. Recommended for groomers with advanced styling skills, previous successful competition experience and professional conformation show exhibitors and/or certifiers with expert styling skills. ONLY OPEN division class winners are eligible to earn GroomTeam USA points.

INTERMEDIATE: Restricted to competitors who have not won three Best in Show or three Best All Around groomer titles, from intermediate division at any show. OR four group placements from any tiered show, OR six 1st placements from intermediate division at any show. Recommended for groomers with intermediate styling skills or conformation dog show exhibitors and/or certifiers and instructors with intermediate styling skills.

ENTRY: Restricted to competitors who have not won a Best in Show or Best All Around title from any division at any show, OR four 1st placements from entry division at any show, OR one group placement from any tiered show. Recommended for groomers who have never competed and/or possess novice-grooming skills. Conformation dog show exhibitors, owners, breeders, handlers who have finished a champion, and/or certifiers and grooming instructors are not permitted to compete in the Entry Division.

A minimum of four contestants must be entered and judged for a class 1st to be considered in level advancement protocols.
A contestant placing and defeating someone in a regular class, in open division, at any show is prohibited from competing in intermediate or entry division.
A contestant placing and defeating someone in a regular class, in intermediate division, at any show is prohibited from competing in entry division.

AWARDS:
All divisions are judged simultaneously. Three placements are awarded in each division.
Immediately following the Class awards presentation, Open division, Intermediate division and Entry division are judged against each other to establish Group placements and Best in Show contenders.

GROUP LINEUP
The 1st place winners from the three divisions compete for group 1st. The 2nd place class winner from the winning division will then compete with remaining Group contestants for group 2nd. The division which wins the group 2nd will send forth the next class placement to compete for Group 3rd.

BEST IN SHOW
Best in Show will be chosen from the 1st place winners from each of the Groups: Wire Coat Class, Salon Freestyle, Sporting, Poodles and Other Purebred. The finalists will be determined in the Group competition, immediately following each class awards presentation.

The Group 1st place winners should remain in the arena with their dog, for evaluation by the Best in Show judge(s) and then return with their entry to the Best in Show Awards Presentation at designated time and place. Those winners not present for final Best in Show judging will not be eligible.

BEST ALL-AROUND GROOMER
Will be chosen from all three divisions as established by the five Group placements as follows:
Group 1st = 3 points, Group 2nd = 2 points, Group 3rd = 1 point.

- 1st tie-breaker: quantity and highest placements. Three thirds will beat one first, two firsts and a third will beat two seconds and a first.
- 2nd tie-breaker: quantity of entries defeated; If the exact tie still exists, the prize monies will be divided equally.

ELIGIBILITY
Contestant must enter a minimum of three of the following GroomTeam USA, Inc.® sanctioned classes: Wire Coated Breeds, Sporting Breeds, Poodles, and Other Pure Breeds.

AWARD POLICIES
Provided sufficient eligible competitors are entered, 1st, 2nd and 3rd placements must be awarded in that order. Awards will not be withheld unless there is a specific disqualifying factor as described in Warnings and Disqualifications.

Refer to Procedures and Protocols for other important information

Revised 9/2024

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