



Simplified Guide to IWC Conformation Titles and How to Get Them

The Show Secretaries and Show Chairpersons are often asked many questions about IWC conformation shows, titles, and rules. This guide is designed to answer most of them. The complete and detailed rules are found on the IWC website, www.windsprites.org > Club > Titling > Junior and Adult Championships, or Grand Championships.

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DEFINITIONS:

Dog (when Capitalized) – a male canine

Bitch (when capitalized) – a female canine

dog (no capitalization) – either male or female canine

Puppy – a dog less than 12 months of age (<12 mo.)

Adult – a dog one year of age and older (= \geq 12 mo.)

Junior (as it refers to a Show Class) – an adult dog who is 12 months of age up to 18 months of age (= \geq 12 months to <18 months)

Veteran – a dog 9 years of age or older (= \geq 9 years)

Junior Championship – title awarded to a Puppy (it is not related to the Junior Class above)

Variety – Smooth Windsprite or Longhair Windsprite

Smooth – a Windsprite with one copy of the dominant “short hair allele” of the *FGF5* gene

Longhair – a Windsprite with two copies of recessive “long hair allele” of the *FGF5* gene

Junior Champion – a dog who has earned the Junior Championship (JCH) title while a Puppy

Champion – an Adult who has earned the Championship (CH) title

Grand Champion – an Adult who has earned the Grand Championship (GRCH) title

Special – a GRCH dog entered in the Best of Variety Class

Winners Dog (WD) – the top placing non-Champion Dog, chosen from First Place Dogs in 12 to 18 Month, Open, and Bred-By Exhibitor classes

Reserve Winners Dog (RWD) – the penultimate placing non-Champion Dog

Winners Bitch (WB) – the top placing non-Champion Bitch, chosen from First Place Bitches in 12 to 18 Month, Open, and Bred-By Exhibitor classes

Reserve Winners Bitch (RWB) – the penultimate placing non-Champion Bitch

Best of Winners (BOW) – the top placing Winner (i.e., the top placing non-champion Windsprite), chosen from Winners Dog and Winners Bitch

Best of Opposite Sex (BOS) – the top placing dog that is a different sex from the Best of Variety dog

Best of Variety (BOV) – the top placing dog in each Variety

Best in Specialty Show (BISS) – the top placing dog in the specialty show

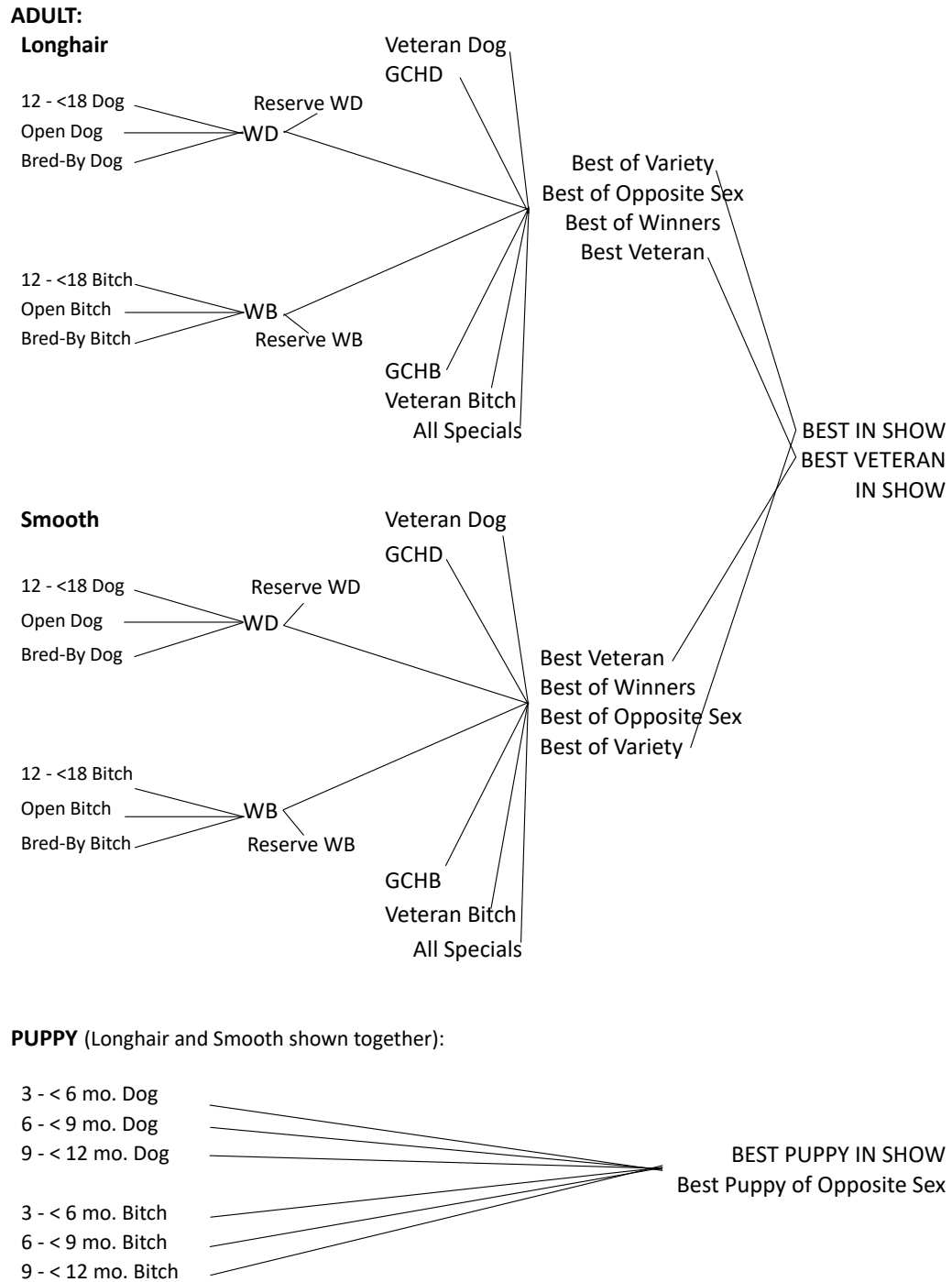
Best Veteran (BV) – the top placing Veteran in each Variety

Best Veteran in Specialty Show (BVISS) – the top placing Veteran in the show

Best Puppy (BPISS) – top placing Puppy in the specialty show

Best of Opposite Sex Puppy (BOSP) – the top placing puppy that is a different sex from the Best Puppy

FLOW CHART OF THE SHOW – at each show a flow chart may be created on the White Board next to the Steward’s table and lists the armband number of each dog entered in each class.



A special note before getting into specifics. Many of us are inexperienced at handling or are physically incapable of running a dog around the show ring. PLEASE DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU FROM ENTERING YOUR WINDSPRITE IN A SHOW. We are a friendly group and are happy to share handling tips or to volunteer to handle your dog in the ring. Just let us know and ask the Show Secretary or Show Chairperson for help. They can answer questions or point out someone who can-

If you are willing to handle other dogs in the ring, let the Steward or Show Secretary or Show Chairperson know you are available.

COMPLETION OF THE ENTRY FORM

Do you want the show secretary to be happy that you entered the show and greet you with a smile?

Then please take care when you fill out the entry form.

- Most importantly, enter your dog's registered name correctly and completely, including their kennel name and correct Upper- and Lower-case spelling.
- Doublecheck that the dog's registration number is correct.
- When asked for the breeder's name, use their name and not their kennel name (the kennel name is part of the registered name, so we already know that).
- Make sure the sire and dam's registered names are correct and include their kennel name.
- If your dog is co-owned with someone else, don't forget to include the co-owner as one of the owners.
- You can find all this information on your dog's Registration Certificate. Contact Sidney Hoblit or the current club Registrar if you need a replacement. You can receive an unsigned replacement certificate by email at no cost, or a signed paper certificate by mail for a replacement fee.

Now that the dog's information is entered, you need to decide which class to enter. Here's the rundown on titles, Conformation Certificates (CC forms) and why they are important, and classes offered at a show. This will help you decide.

Conformation titles:

Puppies can be awarded a Junior Champion (JCH) title.

Adults can be awarded Champion (CH) and Grand Champion (GRCH) titles.

Any other awards such as Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, Best of Winners, Best of Opposite Sex, Best of Variety, and Best in Show, are honorifics.

Overview of Champion Certificates

Any dog 3 months of age and older that does not yet have an ADULT Championship is given a Championship Certificate (CC) rating at each show by the show judge. These CC

ratings are converted to points and are used to award Junior and Adult Championships. The ratings are based on the Breed Standard Scale.

General appearance, symmetry, and attitude	10
Coat	10
Head, eyes, muzzle, and nose	10
Ears	5
Neck	5
Shoulders, forelegs, and feet	10
Brisket and tuck up	10
Back, loin, and topline	10
Hindquarters	10
Tail	5
Gait and movement	<u>15</u>
Total	100

- A total of 70-79.99 receives 1 point toward title,
- 80-89.99 receives 2 points,
- 90-100 receives 3 points. (The total number of points needed for Championship titles are explained below.)

PUPPY CLASSES AND THE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

Puppy classes are divided by sex and age (not by Variety [length of hair]).

Classes are: Puppy 3 to <6 mo., 6 to <9 mo., 9 to <12 mo.

First place Puppies from each class go back into the ring and compete for Best Puppy in Show and Best of Opposite Sex Puppy. So, if your puppy wins their class, stay near to the ring and don't go away!

Puppies under one year of age can earn a Junior Championship by accumulating 7 points as detailed below:

These points are based on the rating of each Championship Certificate (CC) awarded. A rating of

- 70-79.99 receives 1 point,
- 80-89.99 receives 2 points,
- 90-100 receives 3 points.

Additional rules,

- One rating must come from the 90-100 range.
- One rating must be awarded when the dog is 8 months of age or older.
- One rating must be awarded by a judge, in a regular class (Puppy 3 to <6 mo., 6 to <9 mo., 9 to <12 mo.), in an IWC sanctioned show.
- The remainder of the ratings may be awarded by IWC approved evaluators in a non-show setting. CC ratings must be done by 3 different judges or evaluators. A list of evaluators is on the IWC website.

If an evaluator completes a CC form for your puppy, please submit it to Donna DeVoist, or whomever is collecting the data, so it can be entered in the database. CC ratings from evaluators are only accepted for the Junior Championship.

The Junior Championship must be completed by the dog's first birthday. Any CC ratings received before the dog's first birthday can only be used toward the dog's Junior Championship – unused ratings do not carry forward to the Adult Championship.

All CC ratings earned on or after the dog's first birthday count toward the Adult Championship.

When the dog earns its Adult Championship, it moves into the Grand Champion class and CC ratings are no longer given by the judge.

ADULT CLASSES AND CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

The Windsprite earns points towards its Championship based on the rating of the CC form awarded by the show judge. A rating of

- 70-79.99 receives 1 point,
- 80-89.99 receives 2 points,
- 90-100 receives 3 points.
- In addition, 1 point is automatically awarded to a dog who has achieved a Junior Championship.

To earn the Championship title, it is necessary to earn 12 points from at least 4 different show judges, and two scores must be in the 90-100 range.

CC forms are filled out for non-CH dogs entered in all classes (and not for dogs entered in the Grand Champion classes or Veteran classes if they have already earned their Champion title). Once the dog has earned its Adult Champion title, it may be entered in the Grand Champion class to compete for the Grand Champion title (see below).

NOW THAT MY DOG IS NO LONGER A PUPPY AND IS ENTERED AS AN ADULT, WHICH CLASS SHALL I ENTER AND WHAT HAPPENS IF MY WINDSPRITE TAKES FIRST PLACE IN ITS CLASS?

JUNIOR DOG/BITCH, OPEN DOG/BITCH, BRED-BY EXHIBITOR DOG/BITCH CLASSES

Here is a brief explanation of show classes for non-champion Adults.

The classes are divided by Variety (Smooth and Longhair) and by sex (Dogs and Bitches). The show premium will list the order of the classes for that show.

Within each Variety, Adult Dogs and Bitches are shown in either Junior 12 to < 18 months (this is for young adults and is not to be confused with the "Junior" of Junior Championship), Open, and Bred-By Exhibitor. (A note of explanation: Veteran, Grand Champion, or Best of Variety

have separate rules as explained below. Only Windsprites who are Grand Champions may enter the BOV class on the entry form – they are known as Specials. The rest of the participants earn their way into that class at the show.)

Let's use a non-Champion, non-Veteran Longhair Bitch for our example. She may be entered in Junior 12 to <18 Month (for females at least 12 months of age and less than 18 months of age), Open (for any adult female), or Bred-By Exhibitor (for females who are owned and handled by their breeder). The judge completes a CC form for each entrant and awards first through fourth placements in each class.

WINNERS BITCH AND RESERVE WINNERS BITCH

The Winners Bitch is the top placing non-Champion female. All the non-Champion females who placed first in their respective classes compete for Winners Bitch. Therefore, the first place females in Junior 12-18 mo., Open, and Bred-By Exhibitor classes go back in the ring and compete against each other for Winners Bitch. The Reserve Winners Bitch is the second highest placing non-Champion female. She is chosen from the remaining First Place females AND the SECOND place female from the Winner's own class. She goes back in the ring to be compared by the judge against the winners in the other non-CH female classes. For example, if the Open Bitch is awarded Winners Bitch, the second place female from the Open class competes against the first place females in the Junior and Bred-By Exhibitor classes for Reserve Winners Bitch. This means that if your female takes second place in any of these classes, you must be ready to take her back in the ring for the Reserve Winners Bitch competition. Don't wander off. (Note that Veterans and Grand Champions do not compete for Winners Bitch – they have their own competition – see below.)

The Winners Bitch moves on to the Best of Variety (BOV) class where she competes with the Winners Dog (who is the highest placing non-Champion non-Veteran male) for Best of Winners (BOW). So, if your dog wins Winners Bitch or Winners Dog don't leave as your dog will need to go back into the ring in the BOV class near the end of the show. BOW is the highest placing non-Champion non-Veteran Adult. While in the BOV class, she also competes against the other entrants for the BOS and BOV awards.

This above example applies to the Dogs, too in that there are a Winners Dog and a Reserve Winners Dog.

More about the BOV class below.

VETERAN CLASSES

Windsprites 9 years of age or older may enter this class if they choose. Or they may enter a non-veteran class for which they are eligible. Veterans compete by Variety and Sex. The first-place male and female in the Veteran classes compete in the BOV class to be awarded Best Veteran in each variety. They are also eligible for Best of Variety. Then each Best of Variety Veteran competes in Best in Show Veteran class to become overall Best Veteran in Show.

GRAND CHAMPION CLASSES

Only Windsprites who have an Adult Championship can enter this class. The rules were revised on May 11, 2025 and for Longhairs are complicated enough to be quoted here in part from:

https://www.windsprites.org/files/ugd/071d94_bb86111f9f7b463abc77978750c6eaea.pdf

Grand Championship Guidelines revised (May 11, 2025). For a dog to be eligible to compete in an IWC Grand Champion (GC) class, a dog must first obtain its Adult Championship (CH). Dogs less than one year of age are not eligible to compete for the Grand Championship (GRCH) title. Grand Championships may only be obtained at IWC sponsored events (see below).

For a Longhair Windsprite to attain its Grand Championship, it must obtain 18 points, and the equivalent of three (3) first placements in the Grand Champion class, with competition, under a minimum of three different judges. There will be separate classes for Grand Champion Dog (male), and Grand Champion Bitch (female).

For a Smooth Windsprite of Longhair Windsprite Descent to attain its Grand Championship, it must obtain 8 points and three first placements in the Grand Champion class, with competition. No fractions of first placements will be awarded.

Points: The 18 points for Longhairs and 8 points for Smooths will be obtained by defeating other dogs entered in the Grand Champion class, with one dog counting for one point. However, the dog itself cannot be counted for a point. All dogs in competition will receive points for the dogs that they defeat, except for the last place dog. The last place dog receives no points because it did not defeat any other dogs.

[This is the complicated part, so pay attention and don't be afraid to ask questions.]

First Placements for Longhair Windsprites: Due to the wide range in the number of entrants in the Longhair Grand Champion class across different shows, first placements or fractions thereof will be awarded based on the number of entrants.

2 entrants will earn 25% (0.25) of a First Placement.

3-4 entrants will earn 50% (0.50) of a First Placement.

5-6 entrants will earn 75% (0.75) of a First Placement.

7+ entrants will earn 100% (1) of a First Placement.

The Longhair Windsprites must receive the equivalent of three 100% (3) First Placements. The three (3) first placements must be received under at least three different judges and must be in classes with competition.

First Placements for Smooth Windsprites of Longhair Descent: Smooths will receive one (1) first placement for each win with competition.

Windsprites who have their Championships can work towards their Grand Champion title by entering the appropriate Grand Champion class (these classes are divided by Variety and Sex). Let's use Longhair Grand Champion Bitch class as our example. The females are placed First through however many are entered in the class, let's say 8. The points awarded to each female are determined by how many others she has defeated in the class. Thus, the first place female earns 7 points (she defeated 7 others), the second place female earns 6 points, and so forth until the last place female who earns 0 points.

To earn the Grand Champion title, the Longhair female must receive the equivalent of 3 first placements in her class and accumulate 18 points. (Smooth Windsprites need to earn 8 points and 3 first placements.) There are a few intricacies, but this is the Simplified Guide – so please see

complete rules. When these requirements are met, a Grand Championship is awarded, and the female can henceforth be entered directly into the Best of Variety class at future shows. These Windsprites are known as Specials. Or if she is 9 years of age or older, she may enter the Veterans class. It's the handler's choice.

BEST OF VARIETY CLASS

Let's return to the BOV class and our non-champion non-veteran Longhair Bitch.

She competes against the Winners Dog to be awarded Best of Winners. She also competes against the other Windsprites in the BOV class – Winners Dog, first place Grand Champion Dog, first place Grand Champion Bitch, Veteran Dog, Veteran Bitch, and the Specials – to be judged Best of Variety or Best of Opposite Sex. Only the Veterans compete for Best Veteran.

To summarize, the awards given out in the BOV class are:

- Best of Variety Veteran (chosen from Veteran Dog and Veteran Bitch).
- Best of Winners (chosen from Winners Dog and Winners Bitch).
- Best of Variety (chosen from Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, Grand Champion Dog, Grand Champion Bitch, Veteran Dog, Veteran Bitch, and Specials).
- Best of Opposite Sex (e.g., if BOV is a male, the BOS is chosen from Winners Bitch, Grand Champion Bitch, Veteran Bitch, and female Specials).

Only the Best of Variety Windsprite goes on to compete for Best in Specialty Show.

BEST IN SPECIALTY SHOW

The BOV Smooth and BOV Longhair compete to be Best in Specialty Show.

The BOV Veteran Smooth and the BOV Veteran Longhair compete to be Best Veteran in Specialty Show. Note: if a Veteran is chosen Best of Variety, it is possible it can be both Best in Specialty Show and Best Veteran in Specialty Show.

A FEW NOTES ABOUT RING ETIQUETTE

If you are unable to take a conformation handling class, here are a few items to keep in mind while in the ring. Don't crowd the other dogs in the ring. Give the dog in front of you adequate space to stack nicely. When the judge asks you to take your dog down and back or to the corner and back or some other configuration, line up your dog in front of the judge, so that it moves directly away from the judge, not off to the side. The judge wants a good view of your dog's gait from the front, back, and side. When you return to the judge, stop the dog in front of the judge and let it free stack. You may encourage the dog to move a step or two to improve the stack. When the judge asks you to go around the ring with other dogs, ask the person behind you if they are ready to move before you do. Pick up any treats you may drop in the ring. Keep your eye on

the judge. You don't know when the judge is looking at you or when they will ask you to move your dog. Smile!

A FINAL NOTE TO KEEP YOUR CONFORMATION SHOW SECRETARY HAPPY

In all the classes, it is the exhibitor's responsibility to remain in the ring in placement order until the Show Steward has recorded armband numbers and placements on the Official Judge's Form. The Show Steward will dismiss exhibitors from the ring when this task is complete. The Show Steward will also inform you if your Windsprite will need to go back into the ring to compete for another award. The Show Steward will also record the CC scores on the Official Judge's Form and then distribute the CC forms to the exhibitor.

It is important that this be done because...

The Official Keeper of the Conformation Records uses the Official Judge's Form to track CC scores and Grand Champion points. After each show the points from the CC scores and Grand Champion points are recorded in the conformation spreadsheet and checked against the rules so that the conformation titles can be awarded and certificates of title sent out.

Then CONGRATULATIONS are in order!

If this Simplified Guide doesn't answer all your questions, please check the rules and then contact the Official Keeper of the Records (currently Donna DeVoist, although that will change in the future). They will be happy to answer questions and report on your dog's progress to a title.

And, most of all, have fun with your Windsprite!

Each of us goes home with the Best Dog in the World.