

NEAA FUTURITY – “THE BREEDER'S CUP” and MATURITY Guidelines and Rules



Introduction

The purpose of the NEAA Futurity – “*The Breeder's Cup*” and Maturity competition (*aka Futurity/Maturity*) is to encourage breeders to continually strive for excellence and to reward them for their breeding efforts. Because of this, the competition is weighted in favor of the breeder of the litter. However, recognition is also given to the sire for his genetic contribution and to the owners of the individual entries for their work in the development process as the quality of the individual entry is reflected in these combined efforts. The purpose of holding both a Futurity and Maturity competition is to allow the observer the opportunity to study various individuals and lines from puppyhood through early adulthood and thus make better breeding choices in their own breeding programs.

Litter Nomination

Litter nominations are to be made by NEAA members in good standing. Only puppies from breeder-nominated litters, and nominated as individuals, may compete in the NEAA Futurity – “*The Breeder's Cup*” and Maturity. If there are multiple breeders, at least one of the breeders must be an NEAA member in good standing. The stud/semen owner(s) at the time of mating/insemination shall be the stated Owner(s) of the Sire/Semen on the litter nomination application and on each event entry form for the duration of the litter nomination.

Non-members may submit an application for NEAA membership attached to the nomination form for the litter or the individual nomination form for the puppy. If the NEAA Board accepts the membership application, the nomination will be valid as of the date the nomination was received. If the membership application is not accepted, the nomination of the litter or the individual puppy will be invalid and the nomination fee will be refunded.

The litter nomination shall be submitted on the form available from the Futurity/Maturity Coordinator or from www.neaa.net with all fields completed. A pedigree form, available from the Futurity/Maturity Coordinator or from www.neaa.net, shall be submitted along with the litter nomination form. It is understood the litter is being nominated for the next Futurity/Maturity Stakes for which the offspring qualify by age.

A litter nomination and payment postmarked* more than thirty (30) days after the whelping date will not be accepted. Litter nomination fees are as follows:

- \$30.00 – nomination and payment postmarked* prior to whelping date
- \$70.00 – nomination and payment postmarked* up to thirty (30) days thereafter (whelping date counted as day one)

**NOTE: Litter nomination and pedigree forms shall be PDF forms and available to be filled out and submitted online within designated deadlines, if desired, or the traditional copy and mail option remains.*

The Futurity/Maturity Coordinator will send an acknowledgement of the litter nomination application along with the assigned identification number within thirty (30) days of receipt. A litter nomination shall be considered null and void if ...

- no living puppy is whelped.
- no individual puppy nomination is on record once the litter is five (5) months old.
- all individually nominated puppies are no longer eligible having been entered in one (1) Futurity and one (1) Maturity.

Futurity/Maturity Stake

Any member who, having nominated a litter or individual puppy, fails to remain a member in good standing with the NEAA, by lapsing of dues, suspension, or expulsion, and has not been reinstated thirty (30) days prior to a Futurity/Maturity event, shall lose all rights in the Futurity/Maturity Stake and nomination fees will not be refundable. If the owner(s) of the sire/semens used in the breeding is not an NEAA member in good standing, the individual(s) shall lose all rights in the Futurity/Maturity Stake. An individual dog nominated by a lapsed, suspended, or expelled member, but co-owned or transferred to the ownership of another NEAA member before said lapse, suspension, or expulsion, is eligible to compete in a Futurity/Maturity event. In each such instance, monetary awards at the Futurity/Maturity event will be presented only to the breeder(s), owner(s) of the dog, and owner(s) of the sire/semens in good membership standing with the NEAA.

Individual Puppy Nomination

Puppies from breeder-nominated litters must be nominated as individuals in order to compete in the NEAA Futurity – “*The Breeder's Cup*” and Maturity. Individual puppy nominations are to be made by NEAA members in good standing. If there are multiple owners, at least one of the owners must be an NEAA member in good standing.

The individual puppy nomination shall be submitted on the form available from the Futurity/Maturity Coordinator or from www.neaa.net with all fields completed. The nomination form should include the AKC registration number of the puppy. If the AKC registration number is pending, then this should be noted on the individual nomination form, and the puppy owner should forward the number to the Futurity/Maturity Coordinator no later than forty-five (45) days from the original puppy nomination submission. Change in ownership of the puppy should also be forwarded to the Futurity/Maturity Coordinator. An individual puppy nomination and payment of the appropriate fee must bear a postmark* date consistent with the puppy's specified age group. An individual nomination and payment postmarked* after the puppy reaches five (5) months of age will not be accepted.

Individual nomination fees are as follows:

- \$20.00 – puppy under three (3) months of age
- \$40.00 – puppy three (3) months of age and under four (4) months of age
- \$60.00 – puppy four (4) months of age and under five (5) months of age

**NOTE: An individual nomination form shall be a PDF form and available to be filled out and submitted online within designated deadlines, if desired, or traditional copy and mail option remains.*

The Futurity/Maturity Coordinator shall send an acknowledgement of the individual nomination within thirty (30) days of receipt of the application. All correspondence will be sent to the nominating owner unless a change is requested by the nominating owner (i.e. puppy ownership changes).

An individual puppy nomination shall be considered null and void if ...

- puppy is no longer living.
- puppy is no longer eligible having reached 39 months of age or older.
- puppy is no longer eligible having been entered in one (1) Futurity and one (1) Maturity.

Eligibility Period

Once an individual puppy has been nominated, the eligible puppy shall be allowed to compete in one (1) Futurity and one (1) Maturity during its lifetime. Upon the determination of a Futurity/Maturity event date, individual dog eligibility for that event begins on April 1st three (3) years prior to the event year and ends six (6) months prior to the event date. An eligible puppy must be at least six (6) months of age and under 18 months of age on the event date without a prior entry in a Futurity class. An eligible dog must be at least 18 months of age and under 39 months of age on the event date without a prior entry in a Maturity class.

Class Divisions

The class divisions are as follows:

Classification

Futurity – “The Breeder's Cup”

- Dogs, 6 months and under 9 months – Bitches, 6 months and under 9 months
- Dogs, 9 months and under 12 months – Bitches, 9 months and under 12 months
- Dogs, 12 months and under 15 months – Bitches, 12 months and under 15 months
- Dogs, 15 months and under 18 months – Bitches, 15 months and under 18 months

Best in Futurity

Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Futurity

Maturity

- Dogs, 18 months and under 24 months – Bitches, 18 months and under 24 months
- Dogs, 24 months and under 30 months – Bitches, 24 months and under 30 months
- Dogs, 30 months and under 39 months – Bitches, 30 months and under 39 months

Best in Maturity

Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Maturity

Non-Monetary Awards

Awards will be funded from sponsors and from the portion of allocated funds from the Futurity/Maturity General Expense Fund. Non-monetary awards shall be as follows:

- First Place.....Rose Ribbon
- Second Place Brown Ribbon
- Third Place.....Light Green Ribbon
- Fourth Place Gray Ribbon

- Best in FuturityPink and Green Rosette
- Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Futurity..... Lavender Rosette
- Best in MaturityPink and Green Rosette
- Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Maturity..... Lavender Rosette

Two (2) special NEAA traveling trophies will also be given:

- **“The Breeder's Cup”** to the Breeder(s) of Best in Futurity
- **“Best in Maturity”** to the Breeder(s) of Best in Maturity

The trophies are awarded to the breeders of the winners of Best in Futurity and Best in Maturity and are given in addition to the monetary awards. Engraving of each trophy nameplate is the responsibility of the winning breeder as are the expenses for returning the trophies to the Futurity/Maturity Coordinator at any time before six (6) weeks prior to the next Futurity/Maturity unless the current trophy holders will be in attendance at the next Futurity/Maturity. If the trophies are shipped, each should be insured for \$500 and include tracking of the shipment.

Monetary Awards

The money from nominations and entries makes up the Futurity/Maturity Stake and shall be distributed as follows:

- **Futurity/Maturity General Expense Fund 25%**
(for expenses)
- **Best in Futurity 15%**
(divided 50% to breeder, 30% to puppy owner, 20% to sire/semen owner)

- **Best in Maturity 15%**
(divided 50% to breeder, 30% to puppy owner, 20% to sire/semen owner)
- **Class Placements 45%**

The 45% allocated to Class Placements is distributed according to the number of entries in each class:
Percent allocated to class = (number in class) / (total entry)

From the Individual Class Stake, the division by placement is as follows:

- 1st = 40% (divided 60% to breeder, 40% to owner)
- 2nd = 30% (divided 60% to breeder, 40% to owner)
- 3rd = 20% (divided 60% to breeder, 40% to owner)
- 4th = 10% (divided 60% to breeder, 40% to owner)

All monetary awards will be rounded to the nearest whole dollar amount. Monetary awards for class wins and placements, Best in Futurity and Best in Maturity will be awarded in the ring to the individual handling the dog. Monetary awards to the Breeder of Best in Futurity, Breeder of Best in Maturity, the owner(s) of the sire/semen of Best in Futurity and the owner(s) of the sire/semen of Best in Maturity are to be claimed by the individual(s) named on the litter nomination application from the Futurity/Maturity Coordinator.

Monetary prizes not awarded will be put into the category of Futurity/Maturity General Expense Fund. Allocated expenses (e.g. ribbon expense, judge expense, etc.) will be funded from the Futurity/Maturity General Expense Fund. At the conclusion of each Futurity/Maturity event, any remaining balance in the Futurity/Maturity General Expense Fund will be put into the NEAA General Operating Fund.

Judge Nomination

- At least **nine (9) months prior to the closing date** of the Futurity/Maturity event, the Futurity/Maturity Coordinator shall place a notice in the *NE News* to notify each nominator of the judge nomination deadline. Within the same notice, the Coordinator shall provide a Judge Nomination Form and a standardized Judge Nominee Biographical Questionnaire. These forms shall be available from the Coordinator or from www.neaa.net.
- Regardless of the number of litters he/she nominated, each nominator shall be given an opportunity to nominate one (1) individual to judge the Futurity/Maturity.
- At least **six (6) months prior to the closing date** of the Futurity/Maturity event, the Futurity/Maturity Coordinator, for each nominated litter, shall send a Validation Letter to the nominator to confirm the information on record. Every effort should be made to allow a minimum of fourteen (14) days from the date the Validation Letter is sent for the return of any necessary corrections.
- The judge nomination deadline shall be approximately **six (6) months prior to the date** of the Futurity/Maturity event. A Judge Nomination Form and a Judge Nominee Biographical Questionnaire, which shall include a photograph of the nominee, must be received by the specified deadline set by the Coordinator, after which time any Questionnaire or nomination received shall not be accepted.
- Only the one (1) breeder identified as the nominator on the litter nomination form shall receive correspondence related to judge nomination.
- An electronic mail address noted on the litter nomination form shall serve as authorization for a nominator to receive correspondence sent by electronic mail from the Futurity/Maturity Coordinator.

Judge Nominee

- It shall be the responsibility of each nominator that submits a Judge Nomination Form to initiate the submission of a standardized Judge Nominee Biographical Questionnaire and a photograph from the individual nominated.

- The Questionnaire shall have a check box for those judge nominees interested in judging as well as for those judge nominees declining the judging opportunity. Failure of a judge nominee to complete and submit a Questionnaire shall be considered a decline of the judging opportunity.
- The Futurity/Maturity Coordinator shall send a Nominee Letter to each individual nominated specifying judge nominee rules and policies.
- Individuals being considered for nomination as the Futurity/Maturity judge do not have to be a licensed Norwegian Elkhound judge but must be in good standing with the NEAA and the American Kennel Club (AKC), or (if applicable) the kennel club of their country of origin.
- Any individual elected to judge the Futurity/Maturity who has a litter nominated for that Futurity/Maturity shall forfeit that nomination; any puppies individually nominated for that Futurity/Maturity, which are owned by others, shall forfeit their nominations as well.
- Any individual who judges an NEAA conformation event, including judges of sweepstakes or futurities held with licensed or member shows, shall do so in accordance with the policies and rules as defined by the AKC in *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges and Rules Applying to Dog Shows* ("Chapter 11, Section 13 – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility"). In accordance with American Kennel Club rules, any person judging sweepstakes or futurities at a multi-day specialty show will not be allowed to show in conformation for the duration of the show, but will be allowed to show in performance on the days they are not judging. They may, however, show the day before a multi-day specialty show begins and the day after a multi-day specialty show ends.

Voting Ballot

- The Futurity/Maturity Coordinator shall send to a nominator a voting ballot for each litter he/she has nominated (e.g. three (3) nominated litters, three (3) voting ballots). The ballot, inclusive of all judge nominees interested in judging the Futurity/Maturity, shall include a short biography on each judge nominee. Chapter 11, Section 13 of the AKC *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* shall be included on the ballot.
- The voting method for the election of the Futurity/Maturity judge shall be based on the principle of *preferential voting* allowing a nominator to rank the judge nominees in order of preference. A nominator, before returning their voting ballot, may list up to four (4) judge nominees in order of preference.
- A nominator shall return their voting ballot in the provided ballot envelope by a specified deadline set by the Futurity/Maturity Coordinator, allowing a minimum of fourteen (14) days from the time the ballot is sent. The voting ballot must be returned by **first class mail** in the provided **ballot envelope** and postmarked prior to the specified deadline; no electronic mail or fax ballots shall be accepted. Any ballot postmarked on or after the specified deadline shall not be accepted.
- Based on ballot results, judge nominees voted first through fourth choice shall be contacted in order of most votes received until a judge nominee agrees to judge. The judge nominee receiving the most first choice votes shall be acknowledged the majority winner, contacted first and if willing, declared the Futurity/Maturity judge.
- If there is a draw, of those judge nominees tied for first choice, the nominee receiving the most votes for second choice shall be acknowledged the majority winner, contacted first and if willing, declared the Futurity/Maturity judge.
- Should circumstances prevent the declared judge from performing the Futurity/Maturity judging assignment, the judge nominee declared second choice shall be contacted first with the option to accept the judging assignment, and so on through fourth choice if need be.

Event Secretary, Show Secretary, Superintendent

- The American Kennel Club **must receive** the Futurity/Maturity event application and specialty club judging panel at least **eighteen (18) weeks prior to the closing date** of the Futurity/Maturity event (Chapter 2, Sections 4 and 9, and Chapter 4, Section 1 of the AKC *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*).

- The show secretary/superintendent or if applicable, the Futurity/Maturity Coordinator, shall provide a premium list and judging program to the Futurity/Maturity judge and to each entrant. Entrant's confirmation of entry and judging program shall be sent to insure receipt no later than seven (7) days before the event date.
- Once entries close, the show secretary/superintendent shall provide the Treasurer with a breakdown of entry fees and class divisions. The Futurity/Maturity Coordinator or if applicable, the Treasurer, shall determine the exact amount of the monetary awards, prepare payout envelopes, and deliver the sealed envelopes to the Futurity/Maturity ring steward prior to event judging.

Source: NEAA Working Rules, Appendix D: NEAA National Futurity – “The Breeder’s Cup” and Maturity Rules (Amended 14Aug2011; Restored and Updated thru 01Nov2012; Amended 08Oct2013; Amended 11Mar2014; Amended 04Apr2016; Amended 18Jul2016; Amended 12Sep2016; Amended 08May2017; Amended 12Nov2018.)