

ACFA Year-End Scoring Questions and Answers for the Northcentral Region

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The Basics

To be eligible for an Inter-American (IA) win, a cat (used here to mean all classes—kitten, cat, alter and household pet) must be registered with ACFA and compete in a minimum of 24 rings. To be eligible for a Northcentral (NC) regional win, the cat must compete in a minimum of 16 rings. (For Eastern Canada, only 10 rings are required.)

For IA year-end scoring, the cat's best 24 scores are added together and divided by 24 for IA placement. If the cat has been in 24 rings, the same score is also used for NC regional placement; if the cat has been in 16-23 rings, the best 16 scores are added together and divided by 16 to determine regional placement.

Article XVI of the ACFA Show Rules has some basic information about annual awards:

<http://www.acfacat.com/ACFASHOWRULES2011>.

Scoring system reference: <http://www.acfacat.com/scoring.htm>

Eligibility and Computing the Score

Q: *Do I have to be an ACFA member to earn year-end awards for my cats?*

A: The cats have to be registered with ACFA, but you don't have to be an ACFA member. It's covered in Section 9 of the ACFA Bylaws, "Non-Member Rights and Privileges."

Q: *Do the rings my cat was in before it was registered count?*

A: Yes, as long as your cat is registered by April 30.

Q: *Does it make a difference if I VW (Voluntarily Withdrawn) my cat from the ring rather than marking it AB (Absent)?*

A: A VW counts as being present in a ring but an Absent (AB) doesn't, so if your cat has been in 15 rings and needs to skip the 16th ring, make sure it's marked as a VW so he'll be eligible for regional wins. If it's marked AB, he'll only have 15 rings, but with a VW he'll have 16, even though his score for the 16th ring will be a zero. Similarly, if he's been in 23 rings, a VW in the 24th ring will make him eligible for IA awards, but AB won't. (See article V, Section 10 of the Show Rules.)

Q: *What if the score Central Office reported doesn't match the number I thought it should be?*

A: Contact Central Office. The last date for making corrections for year-end scoring is three weeks after the certificates are mailed out.

Q: *Is there a minimum score for being a regional winner? My household pet (HHP) was in 16 rings but never got a final and is still a Novice, but there are only 9 HHPs in our region. Does this mean she'll be a winner even though her score is zero?*

A: No. A regional certificate is not printed with a 0 for a score. The regional listing would only show 8 HHPs.

Q: *Does a cat / kitten / alter / HHP need a score greater than zero to receive a year-end award?*

A: Yes, but long-time ACFA members have only seen a score of zero after 16 or more rings happen in HHPs. That is because the cat, kitten, or alter will have received at least a 2nd Best of Color award.

ACFA Year-End Scoring Questions and Answers

- Q:** *Does a purebred cat (or kitten or alter) have to have at least one final to get a year-end breed award or top 20?*
- A:** No, you could get a regional top 20 or breed award without any finals. For example, if a cat's only win in 24 rings was one 2nd best of color, then its year end score would be $2/24 = 0.083$, but because it's greater than zero, it is still (in theory) possible that the cat could be 2nd best of color for that breed and get a certificate. In a small region, that might be enough for a regional award.
- Q:** *My alter Muffy was 15th best IA alter, but in the regional wins, she was 5th rather than 4th because another alter, Duffy, who wasn't even an IA winner was 4th best in the region. How can that happen?*
- A:** Muffy was eligible for IA wins because she competed in at least 24 rings, but Duffy wasn't because he was only in 23 or fewer rings. Even though Duffy wasn't eligible for IA wins, he had at least 16 rings and thus was eligible for a regional win. His average score (over his best 16 rings) was higher than Muffy's (over her best 24 rings), so he was ranked higher in the region than Muffy.
- Q:** *I know that my cat has to have shown in at least 16 rings to be eligible for a year-end regional win, but I'm worried about going to a one-day show that will give me another 6 rings. If I have between 17 and 23 rings (e.g., if I have 22 rings after the one-day show), do you divide by 24 when computing my score?*
- A:** If a cat is shown in 16–23 rings, the year-end scoring program takes the top 16 rings and divides by 16 for the score. If a cat is shown in 24 or more rings, the program takes the top 24 rings and divides by 24 for the score. So don't be afraid of going to that one-day show.
- Q:** *Is it ever possible to lower my year-end score by competing in more rings?*
- A:** Your score for IA awards will always go up or stay the same as you compete in more rings. However, there is one case in which competing in another ring could lower your regional score: going from 23 to 24 rings. To illustrate, consider a situation in which your cat has been in 23 rings and has an average score of 48. This score is computed by taking your *best 16* ring scores and dividing them by 16, discarding seven of your scores to get the average of 48. Now, for the sake of numerical simplicity, suppose your cat didn't final in the other seven rings (the ones whose scores you discarded). Finally, suppose your cat finals as best Allbreed cat in his 24th ring. You might think your average score would increase, since the best cat final is worth 50 points. However, now all 24 rings count and the result is divided by 24. Your point total of 818 gives you an average of 34.08. Thus, while the 24th ring in this (extreme) example made you eligible for IA awards, it probably decreased your regional ranking.

ACFA Year-End Scoring Questions and Answers

Which Region?

- Q:** *Do I have to show my cat in the Northcentral region to get a NC regional win?*
- A:** No. Where you show the cat doesn't matter. Regions for regional awards are based solely on the primary owner's address. If the address is in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, or Illinois, then the cat is eligible for NC regional wins, even if the shows it attended were all in other regions.
- Q:** *I bought a cat from someone in another region and transferred him to my ownership. Do the points he earned while in the other region count toward year-end regional wins?*
- A:** Yes, any points the cat earns in ACFA shows are counted toward regional wins for the region of the cat's owner as of the last day in the show season, even if the cat's previous owner was in another region.
- Q:** *I own a cat jointly with friends from another region. Which region gets the regional win, or do we both get it?*
- A:** A cat can only get a regional win in one region during a particular show year. The cat's region is determined by the address of the primary owner—the first person in the list of the cat's owners.
- Q:** *I live in Iowa but I bought a cat from a breeder in Florida. Who gets the regional win?*
- A:** At the close of business on April 30th, either you or the breeder will be listed in ACFA's Central Office as the owner of the cat. If the transfer was received by then, you'll get the regional win. Otherwise the breeder will.
- Q:** *Following up on the previous question, I mailed the transfer paperwork and fee to Central Office on April 15th but I haven't heard back yet. If the paperwork is in the office but hasn't yet been processed by the end of the show year, will I still get the regional win for the cat I bought from the Florida breeder?*
- A:** During the month of April, Central Office watches especially closely for transfers of color and ownership. If the cat has been shown in 16 rings or more, Central Office contacts the breeder because sometimes the breeder has requested the new owner not to submit the transfer of ownership until after the end of the show year. Thus, they contact the breeder to make sure that it is OK to transfer the cat; if it is OK, then you'll get the regional win.
- Q:** *I sold my regional winning cat to somebody in another region on May 5th (after the show year ended) and sent in the paperwork for the transfer to Central Office during the verification period for IA and regional wins. Do I still get the regional win, even though somebody else now owns the cat during the score verification period?*
- A:** Yes, you get the regional win because it was your cat at the end of the show year. To make sure the awards go to the right owners, Central Office waits until the official date the awards become final before completing any transfers requested after the end of the show year.
- Q:** *The cat I bought from a breeder in the Northeast region would have been 10th best cat in the Northeast area, but because of the greater number of cats in Northcentral region, his score only makes him 21st in NC. I live in Minnesota and I've already transferred him to my name before the end of the show year. Do I get any kind of regional win?*
- A:** No, when a cat moves from one region to the next, his score is compared with the competition in his new region, so yours doesn't have a high enough score in NC to earn a regional win.
- Q:** *My cat would have been in the top 20 in the region, but he died before the end of the show year. Does he still get the regional win?*
- A:** Yes.

ACFA Year-End Scoring Questions and Answers

Judges

- Q:** Which judges count for my year-end score?
- A:** Any judges who've judged your cat at an ACFA show count—even guest international judges.
- Q:** Carolyn Prucha has been an Allbreed judge since February, but she judged in the Specialty format at the Dunes show in March. Do the cats in her finals get the Allbreed points (1st=50, etc.) or the Specialty points (1st=25, etc.)?
- A:** Because she judged in the Specialty format, the Specialty scores apply. Scores are determined by the format of the ring, not the license level of the judge.
- Q:** If a Specialty judge is unable to judge at the last minute (e.g., due to bad weather cancelling the airline flight) and an Allbreed judge fills in as a Different Judge, does the ring stay a Specialty ring with Specialty scoring, or does it become an Allbreed ring with Allbreed scoring?
- A:** The ring stays as a Specialty Ring, as advertised, with Specialty scoring.
- Q:** If an Allbreed judge is unable to judge at the last minute (e.g., due to bad weather delaying or cancelling the airline flight) and no Allbreed judge is available to fill in as a Different Judge (DJ), and a Specialty judge fills in as a DJ, does the ring get turned into a Specialty ring with Specialty scoring?
- A:** Article IX, Section 1.d of the show rules allows any licensed championship or household pet judge to judge the household pets in the advertised format—Allbreed in this example, even though the DJ is a Specialty judge. The rest of the classes would be changed to Specialty format with Specialty scoring if an Allbreed replacement could not be found.

Changing Color or Class

- Q:** My kitten's color changed partway through showing her as a kitten. Can I count her points in both colors toward year-end awards?
- A:** No, only the points earned in the color she was as of April 30th will count. The kitten must be shown in the color listed on the registration certificate, and all previous wins under the old color are void if a color change is made during the show season.
- Q:** My red and white kitten stayed the same color until she became an adult, and then her color changed to cameo and white. Even though she's now registered as a cameo and white, can she count her kitten points as a red and white toward year-end awards?
- A:** Yes, if you didn't change her color during the show year. If you did change her color during the show year, then even though she was a red and white kitten, she is now registered as a cameo and white, so she can't win a year-end award as a red and white kitten. The kitten wins would be void after the color change.

When an owner sends in a request to change the color, Central Office checks to see if the cat has high finals and enough rings to be a candidate for year-end awards; they want to make sure the owner is aware that wins will be lost by changing the color. If a request to change colors is close to the end of the show season, Central Office contacts the owner and recommends that the owner wait and change the color after the new show season starts.

Sometimes the owner wants to make a color change for the new show season that starts in May. Central Office will give the owner the new color code but will not change the color in the data base until the year-end awards are final, since the year-end scoring program is designed for only one color designation. This way the cat retains all the wins from the previous show year in the color class in which he or she was shown.

- Q:** If I neuter my cat after he's competed in 16 rings, then continue to show him in 16 more rings as an alter, is he eligible for both cat and alter regional year-end awards?
- A:** Yes, with 16 rings as a whole cat, he is eligible for regional awards, and with 16 as an alter he is also eligible for regional awards as an alter. Furthermore, if he began the show year as a kitten and showed at least 16 rings before becoming an adult, he would be eligible for regional year-end awards in all three classes.

ACFA Year-End Scoring Questions and Answers

Tie-Breakers

- Q:** *If my cat and another one both have the same score, how do you decide which cat gets the higher ranking?*
- A:** The tie-breaker rules are spelled out on the ACFA web site: <http://www.acfacat.com/scoring.htm> The first step in breaking the tie is to discard all but the best 4 scores from every judge. What remains are your “clean” finals. E.g., suppose you had 6 finals from the same judge—a 1st, 1st, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th. Only the 1, 1, 1, and 2 can count for this part of the tie-breaker. Using only the clean finals, both cats’ scores are recomputed using the best 24 scores, and the one with the higher average wins.
- Q:** *How does a DJ figure in when cutting down to the clean finals?*
- A:** Wins under a substitute judge (called a “Different Judge” or DJ) may be included, regardless of the identity of the judge. Thus if the judge in the previous example also gave your cat a 1st when filling in as a DJ for an absent judge, you can include that final under DJ, and there is no limit to the number of DJs you can count.
- Q:** *Don’t Lonnie Alitz’s finals break the tie, since she’s the first judge alphabetically?*
- A:** Until last year, when the ACFA board clarified the wording, Rule 1 of the Level 2 scoring formula said that the score would be computed “using the highest four scores from each judge, starting with the first judge as computed alphabetically.” While many people thought Lonnie broke the tie, that’s not the way it worked. The rule has now been clarified to add “and continuing until all judges have been included.” That’s the way it’s always been done, and the wording in the scoring rules now reflects the actual practice.
- Q:** *What if the score, recomputed using just the clean finals, is still a tie?*
- A:** At this point, the tie-breaker Level 2 Rule 2 applies. Both cats have the same average, but they might have gotten them in different ways. For example, if Fluffy and Muffy both have point totals of 1188 (for an average of 49.5), Fluffy might have 20 Allbreed (AB) 1sts, two AB 2nds, and two AB 3rds, and Muffy might have 21 AB 1sts, two AB 2nds and an AB 5th. Rule 2 tells us that Muffy is the winner, because he has more AB Best Cat awards.
- Q:** *How do Specialty ring finals figure into the tie-breaker?*
- A:** Let’s modify the example above to say that both Fluffy and Muffy had the same 24 best clean finals, including 20 AB Best Cat awards. At this point, Specialty (SP) Best Cat finals are more important than AB 2nds, even though they carry a smaller point value. Because both cats have the same number of AB Best Cat awards, the cat with more SP Best Cat awards wins the tiebreaker (unless they both have the same number or they both have more than 24, situations that are covered below).
- Q:** *What if it’s still a tie after figuring both Allbreed and Specialty Best Cat awards?*
- A:** Then the AB 2nd Best Cat awards are counted, and the one with the most AB 2nd awards wins the tiebreaker (with an exception explained below). If it’s still a tie, then the SP 2nd Best Cat awards are counted, and the one with the most SP 2nd awards wins the tiebreaker (with the exception below). This continues until the tie is broken.

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Q: *What if a cat has more than 24 Best Cat Awards?*

A: Let's go back to the original example and suppose that our competing cats have the following clean finals:

Fluffy:	Muffy:
40 AB 1 st	50 AB 1 st
29 SP 1 st	10 SP 1 st
16 AB 2 nd	18 AB 2 nd
14 SP 2 nd	14 SP 2 nd
...	...

Fluffy has 40 clean AB Best Cats and Muffy has 50. They tie at the end of the first level, since they both still have perfect 50-point scores with their clean finals. They also tie when comparing AB Best Cat awards, since only the first 24 count. At this point, those 24 have been used and can't be used again. This leaves Fluffy with 16 unused AB Best Cat awards and Muffy with 26.

Fluffy:	Muffy:
16 AB 1 st	26 AB 1 st
29 SP 1 st	10 SP 1 st
16 AB 2 nd	18 AB 2 nd
14 SP 2 nd	14 SP 2 nd
...	...

Q: *What's the exception you mentioned above? Isn't there some kind of trickle-down of 1sts that become 2nds etc. for cats with lots of Best Cat awards?*

A: When the SP Best Cat awards are counted, the leftover AB Best Cat awards can be added in, up to a total of 24. In this example, Fluffy has 29 SP Best Cat awards and Muffy has 10. Only 24 of Fluffy's SP Best Cat awards can be used for this round. Muffy only has 10 SP Best Cat awards, but Level 2 Rule 2a says that we add in 14 of Muffy's unused AB Best Cat awards to bring his total to 24. Thus it's again a tie. Here's what each cat has for unused finals at this point:

Fluffy:	Muffy:
16 AB 1 st	12 AB 1 st
5 SP 1 st	no remaining SP 1 st
16 AB 2 nd	18 AB 2 nd
14 SP 2 nd	14 SP 2 nd
...	...

Even though Fluffy had fewer AB 1sts, he has the edge here, because those 16 unused AB 1sts can trickle down to help fill out the AB 2nd awards.

Q: *What about Fluffy's leftover Specialty 1sts?*

A: The 5 leftover SP 1sts can't be used yet—only if there's a tie when comparing the number of AB 2nds. Since Fluffy has 16 AB 2nd awards and Muffy has 18, the trickled-down AB 1sts can bump up the totals to the maximum of 24, leaving us with this count of unused finals:

Fluffy:	Muffy:
8 AB 1 st	6 AB 1 st
5 SP 1 st	no SP 1 st
no AB 2 nd	no AB 2 nd
14 SP 2 nd	14 SP 2 nd
...	...

Now it's time to compare SP 2nds, and it is allowable to use AB finals to fill in for SP finals (but not the other way around). Fluffy and Muffy each have 14 SP 2nds. Fluffy can add in his 5 SP 1sts and 5 of his AB 1sts to get to the maximum of 24 (with 3 AB 1sts left over to use in another round, if necessary). Muffy can add in his 6 AB 1sts to get to 20. Thus Fluffy wins the tie-breaker.

ACFA Year-End Scoring Questions and Answers

Breeder of the Year

- Q:** *How is the ACFA Breeder of the Year award determined?*
- A:** For every cat, kitten, and alter in the ACFA top 20 list, each breeder earns points toward this award. Best cat / kitten / alter is 20 points, down to 20th best cat / kitten / alter, which earns 1 point. When they are added together, the breeder or breeders with the most points are the winners.
- Q:** *When computing points for the regional breeder of the year, are the cats on the regional top 20 winners lists (cats, kittens and alters) the only ones considered?*
- A:** Yes, the regional wins list, not the IA list, is used for figuring the regional breeder of the year.
- Q:** *Some of the cats of my breeding were top 20 IA winners, but their primary owner is in a different region, so they aren't in the NC regional winners list. Do I get any credit for them in the competition for NC breeder of the year?*
- A:** No, if their primary (first-listed) owner is in a different region, they don't count toward your score in the competition for NC breeder of the year.
- Q:** *Do you have to be an ACFA member to be ACFA's breeder of the year?*
- A:** Yes. At the 2010 Semi-Annual Board Meeting, the ACFA board voted to require the ACFA Breeder of the year to be an ACFA member. If the person who has the most points toward that honor is not an ACFA member on the last day of the current show season, then the honor will pass to the person with the next highest point total.
- Q:** *What if a lot of people from our region had top 20 cats, kittens, or alters bred by somebody from a different region; could somebody from a different region be the Northcentral region's breeder of the year?*
- A:** That's up to the regional director. The informal tradition in the NC region is that the region's breeder of the year must be an ACFA member living in the region. In addition, the ACFA board considered the question of whether or not the regional breeder of the year could be a non-ACFA member and decided to leave that up to each region's director. Since I'm the regional director, I've decided that for the NC region, our breeders of the year (including 2nd and 3rd place) must be ACFA members. I announced that board action and my decision in my March 1, 2010, email to members of the NC region and posted it in the News section of the NC region web site, www.acfanorthcentralregion.org.