

NSFRC Sweepstakes Update: Blue Variety Awards and ARBA Rule Alignment

To all NSFRC members

We recognize that our current sweeps process has had its challenges, and as your Board of Directors, we have been working diligently to find a solution that ensures everyone's sweeps points are accurately calculated and readily accessible.

Why Blue Variety Sweepstakes Awards Are Discontinued

To improve accuracy and transparency, we have recently partnered with Breed Club Services by Barry Burton to manage our sweepstakes points. During the set-up process, we discovered discrepancies in the blue variety sweeps. As we investigated, we found that several show secretary programs had dropped blue sweeps points from their reporting due to Section 28-A-2 of the ARBA Show Rules, which states: "such exhibits shall not compete for sweepstake points or other awards." The blue variety of Silver Fox currently has a Certificate of Development (COD) and is shown under a working standard, not as a fully recognized variety, making it ineligible for sweepstakes points at ARBA-sanctioned shows.

For over a year, no one-yes, that means you, me, and your friendly Fox enthusiast in your hometown-was checking blue variety points, which allowed this issue to go unnoticed. The show software used by all breed clubs also abruptly stopped calculating points for COD varieties without any notice to us. Because of this, blue points were not being calculated or tabulated, and since show secretaries only have access to show data for about a year, it's simply not possible to fairly reconstruct or award blue sweeps based on the small, incomplete sample of reports we have.

While we explored every possibility to recognize our blue exhibitors, awarding points when some exhibitors are excluded would create an unfair situation. We also recognize that the NSFRC sweeps SOP states that blue sweeps will be recognized; however, this is in direct conflict with ARBA regulations. Given these limitations and our commitment to aligning with ARBA policies, NSFRC will not be providing sweeps awards for the 2023-2024 show year and beyond.

Moving Forward: Improved Sweepstakes Tracking

The good news is that the NSFRC has recently launched a new sweepstakes program, now live on our website. This new system makes it much easier for members to track all aspects of sweeps, including both processed and pending show reports as well as current points totals. This level of access empowers members to catch discrepancies early and ensures that all results are as accurate as possible.

We encourage all exhibitors to:

- Check your show reports and points totals regularly, including both processed and pending reports
- Promptly report any discrepancies by emailing nsfrc.sweeps@gmail.com
- Save your own copies of show reports for your records

Timely action by all participants in sweeps is essential to ensure accuracy and prevent long-lingering issues like this in the future. Your vigilance and engagement help maintain the integrity of the NSFRC sweeps program for everyone involved.

In Summary

- ARBA Show Rule 28-A-2 prohibits sweepstakes points/awards for blue Silver Fox (COD) entries.
- The club's previous practice of tracking blue sweeps was not in compliance with ARBA rules.
- Software changes and lack of oversight contributed to the delay in catching this issue.
- The new NSFRC sweeps system increases transparency and member involvement.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we make this necessary adjustment. Thank you for your continued support of the Silver Fox breed and the NSFRC.

NSFRC Board of Directors

Key ARBA Reference:

ARBA Show Rule 28-A-2: "All breeds and varieties that are covered by an official working standard (as described in the ARBA Standard of Perfection) must be accepted for exhibition and showing. Such exhibits will not compete for sweepstake points or other awards."