

Entries open 8 am on July 15, 2026 and close at the Trial Secretary's Office at 5pm, August 8, 2026 after which time entries cannot be accepted, canceled, or substituted.

PREMIUM LIST

PWDCA WATER TRIAL

Hosted by
Nutmeg Portuguese Water Dog Club, Inc.



**Deer Lake
101 Paper Mill Rd.
Killingworth, CT 06419**

Saturday & Sunday, August 29 & 30, 2026
Junior, Apprentice, Working, Courier & Master Trial Levels

Practice on Friday, August 28, for those who have volunteered for the Trials
BBQ immediately after Saturday's Trial

**Judge both days: Janice Reilly
Cary, NC**



OFFICERS OF THE PORTUGUESE WATER DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

President..... Michele Wolford
Vice President.....Jill Roudebush
Recording Secretary..... Meg DeFore
Corresponding Secretary.....Cindy Miner
Treasurer..... John Ellery
Directors: Jan Allred, Julie Conger, Zac Crump, Annie Smith-Jones, Kathy Souza

OFFICERS OF NUTMEG PORTUGUESE WATER DOG CLUB, INC.

President..... Ginny Cuneo
Vice President.....Melinda Harvey
Secretary..... Mary Nottingham
Treasurer.....Alex Vinopal
Directors: Jane Freeman, Jane Harding, Patty Hobin, Libby Ibey, Terri Pecora,

NUTMEG WATER TRIAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Melinda Harvey

Members: Jane Freeman, Jane Harding, Patrice Lattrell, Rachel Narducci, Alex Vinopal

Trial Secretary:

Jane Freeman

244 Talcott Notch Rd

Farmington, CT 06032

Freestylepwd@gmail.com



TOTAL ENTRY LIMITS

Entries will be limited to 35 teams or 8 hours of judging per day.

NOTE: The Water Trial Committee reserves the right to lower the number of teams for each trial should the make-up of the levels for that day exceed 8 hours of judging.

ORDER OF JUDGING

Saturday, August 29, 2026: Junior to Master

Sunday, August 30, 2026: Master to Junior

OPENING DATE/CLOSING DATE

Opening Date: July 15, 2026

Closing Date: August 8, 2026

Day-of-Trials Entries: If entry limits are not reached by the closing date, day-of trial entries will be accepted from 7:30am-8am on a first come, first serve basis with an additional fee of \$5 per entry, and as space and time are available.

For-Exhibit or Non-Regular Entries or Multiple Entries: For-exhibit or non-regular entries will be accepted after all regular entries are accommodated. Entries of the same dog in more than one class will **only** be accepted if the trial doesn't fill and all dogs have been allocated at least one spot at one level. If the trial doesn't fill, second entries will be filled from first received forward.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Saturday

8:00am Site set up

Equipment check for Junior and Apprentice levels

Judge's briefing for Junior level followed by judging

Judge's briefing for Apprentice level followed by judging

Equipment check for Working, Courier and Versatility levels

Judge's briefing for Working level followed by judging

Judge's briefing for Courier level followed by judging

Judge's briefing for Master level followed by judging

BBQ to follow completion of the Trial

Sunday

Site set up

Equipment check for Master, Courier and Working levels

Judge's briefing for Master level followed by judging

Judge's briefing for Courier level followed by judging

Judge's briefing for Working level followed by judging

Equipment check for Apprentice and Junior levels

Judge's briefing for Apprentice level followed by judging

Judge's briefing for Junior level followed by judging

Site breakdown

** Breaks and lunch will be taken at the discretion of the judge. Following the completion of judging each day, awards will be presented and photos taken. **

NOTICE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

The water trials will be held in accordance with the provisions of the PWDCA Water Trial Manual, as revised through 2026 (the “Manual”). Copies of the Manual may be downloaded free of charge from the PWDCA website (www.pwdca.org).

Eligibility: Minimum age of dogs for Trial: 6 months to enter Junior and one year of age to enter the Apprentice level and above, unless the dog has successfully passed the Junior level. Minimum age of handlers: 9 years. A dog must have an Apprentice Water Dog Title to enter the Working Water Dog test, must have a Working Water Dog Title to enter the Courier Water Dog test, and must have a Courier Excellent title to enter Master. A Junior Water Dog Title is not required to enter the Apprentice Water Dog test except as mentioned above.

Event Secretary: All entries should be mailed to **Jane Freeman, 244 Talcott Notch Rd, Farmington, CT 06032** Questions regarding the Trial should go to **Jane Freeman: 401-225-0570 or Freestylepwd@gmail.com**

Entries and Closing Date: Entries must be made on the Official Entry Form or photocopy thereof. Entry forms without a signed Participation Agreement or without fees will not be accepted. Entries received before the opening date are invalid and will be returned. Acknowledgment of entries will be made as soon as practicable. Returned checks do not constitute a valid entry fee. A collection fee of \$25.00 will be added to the amount of each returned check. Check should be payable to Nutmeg Portuguese Water Dog Club, Inc.

Entries close August 8, 2026 at 5:00 pm or on any earlier date when the entry limit is reached. After the closing date, entries cannot be accepted or canceled; there will be no refunds. There will be no substitutions of dogs after entries have closed. If, on the date that closes the trial, more entries are received than can be accepted, those entries will be placed on a waiting list, in the order they are received by the Trial Secretary, and will be accepted as positions become open due to withdrawals, etc.

Please let the Trial Secretary know immediately if you cannot compete so that we may fill the space with someone from the waiting list.

Day of Trial Entries: Will be accepted if time allows and must be submitted by 8:00 am. See above for entry details.

Day of Trial Move Ups: If time allows, dogs will be allowed to move up to the next trial level after receiving consent from the trial judge and the trial secretary and paying the appropriate fees.

Entry Limits: The following spaces will be reserved: Junior: 3 Apprentice: 3, Working: 3, Courier: 3, Master 3. 5 spaces will be reserved for weekend volunteers.

Waiting list: After 8 hours of judging time has been initially allocated, all remaining trial entries will be put on a waiting list. The waiting list entries will be given judging time if any entry is withdrawn before or after the closing date. See above for additional details.

Change of Entry Level: If a dog entered in a title level test earns that title at another PWDCA water trial before this trial, the dog may be moved up to the next test. These changes must be sent to the Trial Secretary, to **Jane Freeman, 244 Talcott Notch Rd, Farmington, CT 06032 or Freestylepwd@gmail.com.**

Non-Regular Entries: Non-regular entries received before the closing date includes “exhibition entries”. These are entries of: (1) dogs that have earned titles/certificates at the level entered more than 30 days before the trial date and (2) dogs that have earned a title before the trial date and are entered at the Junior Water Dog level. Non-regular entries also include: (3) entries received after the closing date (“post entries”), including day of trial entries, (4) day of trial move-ups and (5) any other entries which do not qualify as regular entries.

Refunds: Entry fees shall not be refunded in the event the dog is absent, excused by a veterinarian or judge, or barred from competition by action of the Trial Committee. If because of riots, civil disturbance or other acts of God beyond the control of the Trial Committee, it is impossible to open or complete the trial, no refund of entry fees will be made.

Bitches in Season: Bitches in season are eligible to enter the Trial, but owners must notify the Trial Secretary of the bitch's condition before the day's judging. The bitch must be crated in a separate area designated by the Trial Site Chair and will not be allowed near the trial area until they are to be judged. Bitches in season will be judged last.

Order of Judging and Judging Program: The order of judging within each test level will be determined by random drawing on or around the closing date and entrants will be notified as soon as practicable thereafter.

Substitute Stewards: A substitute steward must be named in the entry form for him/her to participate in the Trial. A handler is allowed the use of one substitute steward when competing at the Courier and Master level. The use of a substitute steward is allowed for the Timed Swim at the Junior or Apprentice levels. For all other exercises at any level, the use of a substitute steward must be approved by the judge and the Trial Chair prior to the briefing.

Equipment: Exhibitors may use their own water trial equipment provided such equipment conforms to the PWDCA's Water Trial Manual.

Vests and Footwear: Any person in or near the water must wear a USCG approved life vest and protective footwear as stated in the PWDCA Water Trial Rules & Regulations.

All Dogs Present: must be held on leash or confined to their crates except when being judged. All dogs must be under control at all times.

What to Bring: Crate, USCG-approved life vest (**mandatory**), appropriate protective footwear (**mandatory**), towels, chairs, shade devices, foul weather gear, trial equipment, leash, water dish, dog food, food for yourself, poop-scoop bags, sun screen, etc.

Trial Grounds Availability: The Trial Grounds are NOT available before Saturday, except for volunteers who will have access for a practice day on Friday.

Registration/Equipment Inspection: Begins at approximately 8:00 am each day and will be available half an hour before the Judge's briefing for each level. The Judge's briefing for the first level will begin at approximately 8:30. The Trial starts at approximately 9:00 am and runs until the judge's assignment is finished. We reserve the right to adjust times if necessary.

Clean Up: You are responsible for cleaning up after your dog and yourselves. Please bring the necessary items for this purpose. Deer Lake is strictly carry in/carry out.

Veterinarian on Call: There will be a veterinarian on call.

Awards: NPWDC Rosettes will be awarded on the day of the Trial to all qualifying teams. Each team which successfully passes all exercises required at its test will receive a certificate from the PWDCA, Inc. reflecting the title earned.

All rights: to video tape, televise, advertise, photograph, promote and otherwise exploit this event are vested in the host club. All persons and animals in attendance who appear in any resultant effort grant the use of their likeness and voice without further consent.

HOTEL INFORMATION

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Motels that take dogs: Please check with the individual hotel for pet policy specifics

PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG AND COVER YOUR BED

Sheraton Hartford South 860-257-6000
100 Capital Blvd.
Rocky Hill, CT
Approx. 27 miles from trial site

Motel 6 203-483-5828
320 E. Main St.
Branford, CT
Approx. 15 miles from trial site

Red Roof Plus & Suites 877-843-7663
2300 Boston Post Rd.
Guilford, CT
Approx. 11 miles from trial site

Spark by Hilton 203-453-5600
300 Boston Post Rd
Guilford, CT 06437
Approx 8 miles from trial site

Hilton Garden Inn Wallingford/Meriden 203-284-0000
1181 Barnes Road
Wallingford, CT 06492
Approx 19 miles from trial site

Econo Lodge Inn and Suites 860-399-7973
1750 Boston Post Rd
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
Approx 13 miles from trial site

PHOTOGRAPHER

Jeremy Kezer
www.jeremykezerphotography.com

Keep scrolling

LUNCHES AND DINNER

Saturday Night BBQ

Following Saturday’s trial, as Nutmeg’s guests, hamburgers, hot dogs, sides and desserts will be provided to exhibitors. If you are bringing a guest, there is a \$10 charge per guest.

How many humans are attending the BBQ? # _____

Lunches

Sandwiches can be purchased for \$20 and include a cookie and chips. See menu below:

(Please indicate quantity for each day)	Saturday	Sunday
Roast Turkey, bacon, cheddar, romaine, tomato, lemon mayo, Sourdough	# _____	# _____
Italian Combo	# _____	# _____
Roast Beef, Gorgonzola, arugula, sun dried tomato aioli	# _____	# _____
Balsamic roasted vegetable, fresh Mozzarella and pesto	# _____	# _____

CALCULATE YOUR TOTAL FEES:

My entries (\$48 per entry) \$ _____

My BBQ guest fee (\$10 per exhibitor’s guests) \$ _____

My food reservation: (\$20 per sandwich per day) \$ _____

TOTAL CHECK AMOUNT (to be included with entry) \$ _____

PLEASE INCLUDE ONE CHECK WITH TOTAL FEES made payable to Nutmeg Portuguese Water Dog Club, Inc. and mail to the Trial Secretary:

**Jane Freeman
244 Talcott Notch Rd
Farmington, CT 06032**

WATER TRIAL VOLUNTEER FORM

Water trials are great fun. But they can only take place with the help of dedicated volunteers. We need your help! Please fill out the form below and send it along with your entry and meal choices to: Jane Freeman, 244 Talcott Notch Rd, Farmington, CT 06032 or email to: Freestylepwd@gmail.com

If you are entering the trials, please indicate which class or classes you are entering. Include classes in which you are substitute stewarding.

Saturday Junior Apprentice Working Courier Master
Sunday Master Courier Working Apprentice Junior

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Do you have water trial experience? Briefly explain. (Don't worry if you don't!)

Here are some of the tasks for which we may need volunteers. Please check the ones you are interested in helping with. Don't worry if you don't understand the jobs involved. Someone will help you.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Steward | <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds set-up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat Steward | <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds clean-up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gate Steward | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment check-in |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality (Dinner) | <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to help wherever I'm needed |

I have read and agree to be bound by the agreement printed on the entry form as well as the stipulations contained in the premium list, plus any directive received from any official involved in staging the event.

Signature of volunteer* _____ Date _____

*If the volunteer named herein is under 18 years of age, this form must be signed and acknowledged by his/her legal guardian.

Participation Agreement

Conditions: These trials are open to pure bred Portuguese Water Dogs. I/we understand that the dogs must be in good health, proper fitness and condition for the test they are about to enter and must be at least 6 months of age in order to compete in the water trials. I/we agree to these terms. I/we accept full responsibility for the care of my dog(s) during the water trial.

Special Rules: The water trial is located within the confines of _____.
I/we agree to become familiar with and adhere to all site rules and regulations including but not limited to the following:

- Dogs must be on leash or confined to a crate at all times except when participating in practice sessions or when actually being judged.
- If my dog soils the grounds, I am responsible for cleanup and disposal
- Nothing (dogs, banners, etc.) is to be attached to any tree in the park.

General Rules: The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc., (hereinafter "PWDC") rules, regulations, policies and guidelines for water trial participants (hereinafter "the rules") are in the current PWDC Water Trial Manual available on the Web site, www.pwdca.org. I/we have received the current Manual and/or have read the rules via the Web site and I/we agree to obey the rules.

Hold-harmless: I/we agree to hold the PWDC and the event-giving club, their members, directors, officers, agents, and judge(s) at this event, the owner and/or lessor of the premises, any provider of services for this event and any employees or volunteers of any of the aforementioned parties, harmless from any claim for loss, injury, or illness which may be alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly to any person, animal or thing by the act of my dog while in or upon the trial grounds or while entering or leaving same, and I/we further agree to hold the aforementioned parties harmless from any claim for loss, disappearance or theft of, or damage injury or illness to, my dog, whether such loss, disappearance, theft, damage, injury or illness is caused or alleged to be caused by the negligence of the club or any other parties aforementioned, by the negligence of any other person, or by any other cause or causes.

Indemnification: I/we hereby assume the sole responsibility for and agree to indemnify and save the aforementioned parties harmless from any and all loss and expense (including legal fees) by reason of the liability imposed by law upon any of the aforementioned parties for damage because of bodily injuries, including death at any time resulting there from, sustained by any person or persons, including myself (ourselves) or on account of damage to property, arising out of or in consequence of my (our) participation in this water trial, howsoever such same may have been caused or may be alleged to have been caused by negligence of the aforementioned parties or any of their employees or agents, or any other persons.

Arbitration: Notwithstanding any of the above, in the event that I/we or my dog(s) suffer any damage, injury, illness, or loss (including the death of the dog(s) arising from the water trial), I/we agree that any claim arising out of or related to the entry, exhibition or attendance at the event or as to the construction, interpretation and effect of this agreement shall be settled by arbitration pursuant to the applicable rules of the American Arbitration Association. I/we agree that any such arbitration will take place in _____ within 60 days of the incident giving rise to the claim, or at such other time and place as the parties may agree. I/we agree to pay a prorated share of the costs of any such arbitration.

I/we agree that these clubs have the right to refuse this entry or any entry for any cause which they deem to be sufficient.

Owner/Handler's initials: _____ Substitute Steward's initials: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

Entry is not valid unless signed, dated, and submitted with correct fees by the closing date.

PWDC Water Trial Entry Form

Entry Fees: _____ per entry/per day. **Entries open** _____ and close at the trial secretary's mailbox on _____ after which time entries cannot be cancelled for refund. **If using an overnight service, please indicate "no signature required" for delivery. Mail entries to:**

Level entered (one level per dog): Junior Apprentice Working Courier Master

What leg are you working on? Working _____ Courier _____ Master _____

Days Entered: _____ _____ _____ _____

Make checks or money orders payable in U.S. funds to _____

I enclose \$ _____ for entry fees.

Fill out form completely. Use the TAB key to move from field to field.

Prefix Titles _____ Registered name of dog _____

Suffix Titles (include PWDC titles) _____ Sex _____ Call Name _____

Date of Birth _____ AKC # or Foreign Reg # (list country) _____

Breeder _____

Sire _____

Dam _____

Owner(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Owner(s) Email _____

Handler _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Handler's Email _____

Substitute Steward _____ Phone _____

I hereby certify I am the actual owner of the dog or duly authorized agent of or handler for the actual owner whose name has been entered above. I have read and agree to be bound by the agreement printed on the reverse side of this entry form as well as the stipulations contained in the premium list plus any directive received from any official involved in staging the event. I certify and represent that the dog entered is over 6 months of age (at the time of this event) and is not a hazard to persons or other dogs.

Signature of owner/handler* _____ Date _____

Signature of substitute steward* _____ Date _____

*If the handler and/or substitute steward named herein is under 18 years of age (must be at least 9 or older), this entry form must be signed and acknowledged by his/her legal guardian.

Entry is not valid unless accompanied by the signed and dated Participation Agreement.