

STANDING RULES OF THE CLUB

In addition to the Bylaws of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Inc. (GSDCMSP or the Club), the following rules and regulations have been adopted by the Members.

I. ANNUAL SHOW, OBEDIENCE TRIAL AND PERFORMANCE EVENTS

We, as a recognized Regional Member Club of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America, Inc., will endeavor to hold one or more Specialty Shows and performance events or trials each year under the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.

The Club will hold our back-to-back Specialty Shows as a two-day show on a Membership-approved weekend as approved by the AKC and GSDCA. GSDCA Regional Futurity shows are AKC-designated and are held the same weekend (as approved by the Membership), and as approved by the GSDCA for our Club to act as host.

Selection of judges shall be performed according to the Procedure for Selection of Judges as follows:

The selection of conformation and performance judges for the Annual Specialty shows of the GSDCMSP will be conducted at the regular November Membership Meeting.

A change in the date of the annual voting for judges can be made if the announcement is made at the previous month's Membership Meeting, or the date selection of the judges is emailed to Members with active email addresses and mailed to those without a minimum of 20 days in advance.

The procedure for nomination and voting shall be as follows:

- The floor will be opened for nominations of conformation judges.
- Each person nominating a judge will provide a brief summary of the judge's experience (i.e. years of judging, champions owned or bred, kennel name, state of residence, etc.).
- Nominations will remain open until a slate of seven judges is achieved or until no further nominations are forthcoming from the floor.
- The voting will take place in rounds. In the first round each member in attendance will vote by show of hand for his first choice judge. The judge receiving the highest number of votes is the first choice judge.
- The second round will then begin. Each Member will cast their vote by a show of hand for his second-choice judge. The judge receiving the highest number of votes in this round is the second choice judge. The third, fourth, and fifth place judges will be selected using the same procedure.
- In the event of a tie, each Member is entitled to one vote in a special tie-breaking round between the tied judges. The judge with the most votes is recorded in the position in contention. The other judge is retained on the slate for further rounds of voting.

After completion of voting for conformation judges, the above procedure will be employed to select obedience and rally judges.

The Chairperson of other performance events will make recommendations for judges with Board approval.

The application for the next show will be made to the American Kennel Club to follow AKC guidelines for timely submission.

Judges accepting assignment with the GSDCMSP will sign and agree to a contract with the following stipulations:

The judge will accept no assignments to judge German Shepherd Dogs within six (6) months and 600 miles of the contracted show. The 600-mile radius is intended to include the GSD Regional Club areas of Chicago, Omaha, Kansas City, Quad Cities, Des Moines, and Wisconsin.

In addition to an agreed fee, judges will be reimbursed for two (2) nights lodging and either the standard IRS mileage rate or one economy airfare, whichever is less.

Contract will be sent to consenting judges within ten (10) days following verbal or email acceptance of judging assignment. If contract is not returned to the Club or Show Secretary within thirty days, it will be considered a refusal of the assignment.

The Club Treasurer will reimburse the judges for their expenses and provide their fees on the day of the show. All show expenses must be submitted by the Show Chairperson within 30 days of the show. If for some reason this is not possible; the Treasurer must be notified of the expenses and given an estimated total.

Trophies

The maximum amount to be spent on awards per show is to be determined by Membership donations on an annual basis. It is recommended that donations be solicited for both shows simultaneously prior to the June shows.

Donation pledges for trophies must be received prior to the printing of the Judging Program for Members to be acknowledged in it. Donations can be collected immediately or paid with Annual Membership dues.

II. AKC Sanctioned Match

The Club shall hold at least one AKC-Sanctioned match per year in accordance with the requirements of the American Kennel Club.

AKC-Sanctioned Matches sponsored by the GSDCMSP will be judged according to the following procedure:

The match judge will judge the following classes for male dogs: 3-6 Month, 6-9 Month, 9-12 Month, 12-18 Month, Novice, Bred-By Exhibitor, American-Bred, Open. Judging of bitches in similar classes will follow.

The first-place male and female 3-6 Month, 6-9 Month, and 9-12 Month puppies will be brought back into the ring for selection of Best Puppy and Best Opposite Puppy in Match.

The first-place male and female 12-18 Month, Novice, Bred-By Exhibitor, American Bred and Open Dogs will be brought back into the ring for the selection of Best Adult and Best Opposite Adult in Match.

The Best Adult and Best Puppy will compete for Best in Match.

The Club will offer the following obedience classes at the AKC Sanctioned matches: Pre-Novice, Novice A, Novice B, Open A, Open B, Utility A, Utility B, and Veterans.

Gifts for match judges will be as follows:

Club Members or judges residing within the seven-county metro area will receive a gift valued at approximately \$25.00.

Other judges will receive a \$50.00 honorarium.

III. TRAINING

Training Policy

Obedience training, and other performance training at this Club, will follow the structure of the various levels as set forth by the American Kennel Club.

Training classes shall be open to Members or non-members with registered or non-registered German Shepherd Dogs.

The minimum age for puppies entering Puppy training classes or Puppy conformation classes is nine weeks; for Beginner's obedience, the minimum age is six months (except for S.T.A.R. puppy graduates, or as recommended by the training instructor).

All participants in GSDCMSP-sponsored training will be required to sign the indemnification waiver and release of liability form prior to use of the training facility.

Puppies attending the Club for socialization and puppy classes should be at least nine weeks in age (week eight is the fear imprinting stage) and have their first two (2) sets of shots.

Conformation and Obedience Training Fees

Fees for training classes and blocks of training classes shall be established for all training events. The current fee schedule shall be kept current on the Club's Web page.

The training instructors and/or desk management team shall be responsible for collecting and tabulating incoming training class fees on a weekly basis. These funds are provided to the Treasurer on a consistent basis.

Regular instructors that are also members who are not paid a fee are exempt from paying training dues for dogs they own. The desk management team and conformation instructor will get free socialization, or a drop-in class, every time they manage the desk, or instruct a class. This courtesy does not include block lessons.

Training Regulations

Class Rules

Dogs deemed unmanageable by the instructor must be removed from the class promptly and should be brought to the attention of the Director of Training for prompt action.

Handlers may enter or leave a class only with the permission of the instructor.

Any training of special exhibition classes on regular training nights must be done with the approval of the Director of Training, and at no time shall any regularly scheduled class be disrupted or canceled by conflicting training periods.

No training will be permitted unless a club trainer is conducting a class in the ring and the training is approved by the Director of Training.

Children under fifteen (15) year of age may only train under their parent's or guardian's presence at the training facility. The Director of Training or training instructor determines the child's ability to handle the dog in class.

Obedience classes

If training more than one dog, a handler is allowed to train only one dog at a time at any one class level, with the exception of brace training.

While it is not recommended to have two members of the same family training the same dog at different class periods, it will be allowed subject to the approval of the Director of Training or training instructor.

It is recommended that a training collar and a leather leash six feet long be used for training.

IV. RULES FOR DOGS ON THE PREMISES

Dogs must be kept on leash at all times when at the training facility, except when doing advanced exercises in an organized obedience training class or in a ring and with the consent of the Director of Training or training instructor.

Dogs are not to be tied unattended anywhere in the training facility or on the grounds.

Females in season are allowed in the training facility upon consent of the Director of Training or training instructor, and with the requirement they wear pants.

Each handler is responsible to clean up after his dogs. If a dog has relieved himself in the training facility or on the outside grounds, the handler must promptly clean up. A shovel and place of disposal are provided. Any grooming or excessive shedding of coat must be promptly cleaned up by the handler (clean up clumps of their dog's hair).

Dogs are to be exercised in the designated area only.

There shall be no unauthorized use of the training equipment.

Owners must be able to show proof for all dogs brought to the training facility of current, temporary, or permanent shots or titers showing sufficient immunization against distemper, infectious hepatitis, and parvo and a certificate of Rabies Vaccination as requested.

V. GENERAL RULES FOR CLUB BUILDINGS, PROPERTIES AND GROUNDS

No soliciting of any kind shall be permitted at the training facility except by previous permission of the Board of Directors.

The Club name shall not be used in any way implying endorsement with any show, exhibition, demonstration, advertisement or display of any kind without previous approval of the Board of Directors.

Club property shall not be used in any way for exhibition demonstration or display of any kind, either private or public.

When Club property is taken from the Club, a reasonable deposit must be made and will be returned upon receipt of the property. The Director of Training shall be responsible for this.

The Club cannot be held responsible for any injuries to persons or dogs. Children watching training are the responsibility of their parents and are not to mingle with dogs other than their own. Those making use of the training facilities of the Club must sign the indemnification waiver and release of liability form.

No smoking is allowed in the training center. No alcohol is allowed on the training grounds.

No FOOD OR beverages are allowed in the rings, whether or not an organized class is in session. All food must be kept in the meeting room. Bait may be used in the ring but must be picked up upon exiting the ring.

Rental of videos from the Club Library Member identified as responsible. A deposit for the replacement value of the video will be required for rental. Videos will be made available during regular training periods or upon individual arrangement.

VI. CLUB MONIES

Expenditures up to \$100 must be approved by the Board, but need not be approved by the Membership. Any expenditures over \$100 must be approved first by the Board and then by the Membership.

If a specified amount of money is allocated for a certain project, no more than that amount will be paid.

No reimbursements will be made by the Treasurer without a receipt. Receipts should be submitted upon receipt and approval. All expenses must be submitted within 90 days; anyone requesting reimbursement after the 90-day period must personally appear before the Board or general Membership to get approval for receipts/invoice after the 90-day window.

The Club will reimburse the Club Member designated responsible for entertaining the show judges. The meal and entertainment costs for the Club Member, their spouse, the judge and their guest will be reimbursed within a reasonable amount. Any alcoholic beverages will not be reimbursed.

Only one signature is required on pre-approved or reoccurring expenses and any payments under \$100. Two signatures are required on any check made out to and signed by the person or relative of the person signing the check.

Any payment to a check signor or Member of the check signor's family must be cosigned, for any amount. The Treasurer must provide the Membership with a listing of all checks, including a description of what the check was for, written at since the last Treasurer's report.

The Treasurer must provide regular (at least semi-annual) reporting of regular income accounts, such as training.

Anyone indebted to the GSDCMSP must first satisfy that debt prior to being allowed to apply for Membership to or participate in any Club-sponsored event such as the banquet, a match, any class or specialty show.

VII. ANNUAL DINNER

All member instructors shall be the guests of the Club at the Annual Membership Dinner. Eligibility shall be determined by the Director of Training and this list shall be submitted to the Board of Directors.

VIII. HONOR ROLL AND AWARDS

Awards

The Club shall present an award for titles for Obedience, other performance titles, and Championships as issued by the American and Canadian Kennel Clubs. Awards shall also be given for performance titles issued by other canine associations as determined and approved by the Awards committee (starting for the year of 2017, at the banquet at 2018). Exceptions include any non-AKC or CKC conformation titles earned through other organizations such as UKC, Continental Kennel Club, etc.

Awards will also be given by the Club for titles and honors as recognized by the GSDCA and earned at the GSDCA National, and titles and honors earned from the GSDCA as well as those recognized by the GSDCA Working Dog Association.

These awards will be presented to Members of the Club in good standing. This requirement may be met by being a Member in good standing at either the time the award is earned or at the date of the Annual Banquet at which the award is to be given or by becoming a Member Applicant by the date of the Annual Banquet at which the award is presented.

The Club will present one plaque award per Member's dog. Any additional awards presented to that dog will be in the form of a bar, which will affix to the plaque.

A Member may purchase a plaque instead of a bar for the difference in cost to the Club.

Members and co-owners may purchase their own plaques for awards not recognized by the GSDCMSP at cost equal to the amount billed to the Club.

IX. SHEP-O-GRAM, SOCIAL MEDIA AND CLUB WEB PAGE

Any German Shepherd Dog owned by Members is eligible for recognition/brags in any Club publication Show wins, must be submitted within three (3) months.

All articles re-published in the Shep-O-Gram must have permission to reprint.

All advertising shall be limited to Members in good standing. Any advertising by commercial businesses shall be allowed at the discretion of the Club.

Only Members in good standing that have signed the GSDCMSP Breeder's Code of Ethics can advertise their puppies for sale or post litter announcements.

Club Officers' names and phone numbers shall be printed in each issue of the Shep-O-Gram.

X. FLOWERS

The Club will send flowers or a gift to any Member who has been hospitalized for surgery or serious illness. This is the responsibility of the Hospitality Chairperson. If same Member returns to the hospital for the same or related condition, a card will be sent.

Flowers will be sent to the family or to the memorial service in the event of a Member's death.

XI. BOARD MEMBERS

Two Members from the same family can serve on the Board of Directors with the exception of the combination of the offices of President and Treasurer.

XII. ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Club Members will not receive a ballot to vote for officers unless their Membership dues have been paid and/or postmarked by Nov. 15 of the previous year.

In addition to ballots mailed directly to the Treasurer, ballots for Club Officers will be accepted by the Treasurer and one other member at the Annual Dinner.

A Counting Committee, which will consist of three persons; one of whom will be a non-club member; will be appointed by the President at the Annual Dinner meeting.

Uncontested elections - Ballots will not be mailed if all candidates run unopposed.

XIII. STANDING CLUB RULES

These Rules must be available to Members via the Club Web page and made available to new Members.

The Secretary shall maintain the Standing Rules and update with changes as approved at the Membership Meetings.

Revised copies of the Standing Rules will be distributed at the Annual Dinner and published annually with the Club Membership list by the end of February.

XIV. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Regular monthly Membership Meetings shall be held on the second Friday of each month.

Member Applicants need not be present at the Membership Meeting when their application is read.

XV. MEMBERSHIP DUES

The dues shall be \$25.00 per Member and \$30.00 per couple living in the same household, per year, for an active paid Membership. Dues statements must be postmarked no later than Oct. 15.

Applicants become eligible to vote at the meeting at which their Membership status is announced.

Membership dues for applicants that become Members between July of a given year and the December Membership Meeting date of that year will be waived for the following year.

XVI. HONORARY MEMBERS

If a Club Member feels another Member should be considered for an Honorary Membership, the initiating Member shall notify the President and ask that the President set up a committee of three persons to review the candidate.

The President shall notify the Membership, at the next monthly meeting, that a committee has been formed to review the possible candidates for the Honorary Membership.

Names should be submitted to the committee complete with all reasons their candidate should be considered. All names shall be held in complete secrecy to all, except those on the committee.

After meeting and reviewing the candidate (s), the committee would report to the President stating only if they do or do not have a new Honorary Member.

If they do not have an Honorary Member, the committee will be disbanded immediately. If the committee feels they have just qualifications for naming a new Honorary Member, the person (s) shall have their name announce as such and honored with a plaque at the Annual Dinner. The committee would then be disbanded.

XVII. BREEDERS' LIST

The Breeders' list shall be made available to any person requesting information regarding breeders on the Club Web page. The Breeders' List shall be published in the annual Specialty Show Catalog.

A breeder must be a Member in good standing, and sign the GSDCMSP Breeder's Code of Ethics to be eligible for inclusion on the Breeders' List.

The cost to be included on the Breeders' List is \$10.00 annually to be paid with annual dues.

The Breeders' List will be assembled by the Treasurer based on responses requested for the Club dues.

The Breeders' List shall be qualified by the following statement: "The officers and members of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul do not endorse, recommend or represent the breeders listed."

Those listed on the Breeder's List must sign the GSDCMSP Breeders' Code of Ethics.

Rules approved March 8, 2013

Rules revised and approved Nov. 11, 2016