

# GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF AMERICA

## DRAFT TEST RULES AND REGULATIONS

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# GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB OF AMERICA DRAFT TEST REGULATIONS

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# INTRODUCTION

The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America (GSMDCA or Club) Draft Tests are a series of standardized exercises through which Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs (GSMD) and other breeds are judged at GSMDCA-sponsored draft tests in order to obtain GSMDCA drafting titles. The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog historically has functioned as a draft dog in various capacities. Accordingly these exercises have been designed to reflect realistic work situations. Successful performance should demonstrate:

- The dog’s inherent drafting ability refined by training and teamwork.
- The dog’s readiness to work with his handler to accomplish the exercises efficiently.
- The dog’s willingness and enjoyment of his work displayed by the combination of controlled teamwork with his handler and natural independence.
- The handler’s proper understanding of draft work, equipment and regulations.

## CHAPTER 1 Qualifying Performances, Titles, and Classes

### Section 1. Test Description and Qualifying Performances

a. **Test Description.** A GSMDCA Draft Test consists of three parts.

1. **Basic Control** exercises. Performed off cart and consist of the dog conducting a very simple heel pattern in which the dog remains within the handler’s reach at all times and includes a basic recall exercise. These exercises indicate whether the dog is obedient enough to safely pull a draft apparatus. Basic Control may be waived for dogs who have obtained their AKC Companion Dog (CD) title.
2. **Practical Draft Work** exercises. Consist of harnessing and hitching the dog, and, while hitched, negotiating a maneuver course consisting of various exercises.
3. **Group Stay** and **Distance Freight Haul** exercises. Consist of conducting a group stay in cart while loaded and a one mile freight haul.

b. **Pass/Fail:** Dogs are judged on a Pass/Fail basis. Two judges preside over a Draft Test and, for the dogs to qualify, both judges must mark them with a passing performance in all of the exercises in the class entered.

### Section 2. Titles

The following table lists the available draft titles and number of passing performances for each:

Novice		Open		Master (Open-level exercises)	
<b>NDD</b>	Novice Draft Dog 1 passing performance	<b>DD</b>	Draft Dog 1 passing performance	<b>MDD*</b>	Master Draft Dog 5 passing performances
<b>GNDD</b>	Graduate Novice Draft Dog 5 passing performances	<b>BDD</b>	Brace Draft Dog 1 passing performance	<b>MBDD*</b>	Master Brace Draft Dog 5 passing performances
<b>NBDD</b>	Novice Brace Draft Dog 1 passing performance				
<b>GNDD</b>	Graduate Novice Brace Draft Dog 5 passing performances				*MDD2, 3, 4... MBDD2, 3, 4... may be earned for 5 additional passing performances respectively.

GSMDCA draft title certificates will be mailed to the owners of passing dogs at GSMDCA draft tests following the receipt of the Draft Test Report and review by the GSMDCA Draft Working Committee (DWC) Chair.

The GSMDCA allows Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs to earn GSMDCA Draft Titles by passing a Bernese Mountain Dog, Newfoundland, Great Pyrenees, Saint Bernard or Leonberger Draft Test.

It is the responsibility of the dog's owner to maintain records of each passing performance (e.g. copies of the judges' score sheets) and submit proof of passing for each test when requesting issuance of GSMDCA tiles and certificates.

The GSMDCA participates in AKC's Working Dog Performance Title Recognition Program. For information about how to have your dog's drafting achievement appear on its pedigree, visit [www.akc.org/dog\\_shows\\_trials/titles/parentclub\\_workingdog.cfm](http://www.akc.org/dog_shows_trials/titles/parentclub_workingdog.cfm).

### Section 3. Classes

Dogs are eligible to enter any class without prerequisite (e.g. a dog may enter Open Draft Class without first obtaining a Novice Draft Dog title).

**a. Novice Draft Class.**

All exercises, except for the Recall in Basic Control and Group Stay, are on leash.

**b. Open Draft Class.**

All exercises are performed off leash and the handler is out-of-sight during the Group Stay.

**c. Novice Brace Draft Class.**

Performed with two dogs paired side-by-side and on leash. A coupling hitching one dog beside the other may be used but is not required. Dogs may be leashed individually or singly via a coupling not less than six inches in length. Evaluation criteria and all exercises are the same as those for the Novice Draft Class.

**d. Open Brace Draft Class.**

Two dogs paired side-by-side as in the Novice Brace Draft Class. All exercises are performed off leash and are same as those for the Open Draft Class.

## CHAPTER 2 Entry Requirements and Handler Responsibilities

### Section 1. Entry Requirements

**a. Dogs Eligible to Compete.** The Draft Test may be open to all breeds and mixed breeds. Draft Test Committees may opt to allow only GSMDs at their trial.

**b. Age.** Dogs must be 18 months or older on the day of the Draft Test.

**c. Bitches in Season.** Draft test organizers may allow bitches in season to participate in draft tests providing the following criteria are met:

- Bitches in season compete only after all male dogs have completed the entire test (including freight haul)
- Bitches in season are to be contained in a designed area well away from male dogs and the official test areas or arrive later in the day
- Bitches in season perform the Group Stay and Freight Haul exercises with at least one other dog; either another bitch in season, an honor dog, or a bitch who is entered in the trial and performs the entire test after all of the males have been tested
- Premium List clearly indicates that bitches in season are allowed in the test

Additionally, test organizers may test all males first, allowing bitches in season to arrive after they have competed. Organizers of multi-day trials may choose to allow bitches in season to compete only on the final day of the test. Bitches in season may wear heat pants. Entry fees will be refunded upon receipt of a veterinary certificate stating an entered bitch is in season at the time of the Draft Test if the test organizers are not allowing bitches in season to enter.

**d. Brace Teams.** Brace team dogs do not need to be the same breed, gender, or belong to the same owner.

- e. **Dogs That May Not Compete.** No dog belonging wholly or in part to the Draft Test judge or to any member of their immediate family may enter in the Draft Test at which they officiate.
- f. **Waiving Basic Control.** The Basic Control Exercises are waived for dogs who have earned an CD title if a copy of the CD title certificate is sent with the entry form. In the event the CD requirements were met but the title certificate has not yet been received, the entrant may so state on the entry form. If the dog passes the Draft Test, the certificate will be withheld until after the DWC Chairman receives a copy of the CD title certificate. For Brace Class entries both dogs must have earned their CDs in order to waive Basic Control.

## Section 2. Handler Responsibilities

- a. **Entering at Own Risk.** The handler entering a dog in a Draft Test does so at his own risk and agrees to abide by the GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations.
- b. **GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations.** It is the responsibility of each handler to be familiar with the GSMDCA Constitution and By-Laws, GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations, AKC Obedience Regulations, and AKC Dealing with Misconduct at AKC Events.
- c. **On Time.** Teams and their equipment must be present for the scheduled Equipment Check or forfeit their entry.
- d. **Same Handler.** Dogs are exhibited by the same handler for all exercises except if a handler has two or more dogs entered, each dog must have a separate handler for the group exercises when judged in the same group.
- e. **Control of Dogs Outside of Ring.** All dogs on the test grounds must be on leash or crated and kept away from the immediate edges of the basic control ring and maneuver course.
- f. **Training on the Grounds.** Training on the Draft Test grounds is not permitted. A dog may be hitched to a draft apparatus to aid in the unloading/transport of equipment from a vehicle to the competition area.
- g. **Warm Ups.** Entered teams are allowed a warm-up as permitted in AKC Obedience Regulations - approximately 5 minutes, all on leash, not hitched to a draft apparatus - prior to the ring exercises.
- h. **Discipline and Complaints.** Discipline for violations of the GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations will be under provisions of the GSMDCA Constitution and By-Laws. Complaints must be registered with the Draft Test Chairman no later than thirty days following the completion of the draft test.

## Section 3. Equipment

All equipment needs to be in serviceable condition and present at the time of the Equipment Check. The handler provides the following:

- a. **Apparatus.** A cart, wagon, sled, toboggan or travois may be used for testing. Each of these needs to be equipped so that the draft apparatus cannot run up on the dog when hauling downhill.

The same draft apparatus must be used for all exercises. The condition of this equipment is the responsibility of the handler. Judges may excuse a team from competition if the equipment is deemed inadequate or faulty. If a sled, toboggan or travois is used, the Backing exercise will be conducted unhitched.

Decorations not permanently attached to apparatus are not permitted on or in the apparatus. The apparatus will be empty at the beginning of the maneuver portion of the draft test except for tie-downs or other means of securing a load for the Load /Unload exercises.

- b. **Collars and leads.** Acceptable collars include buckle, slip or limited slip (Martingale) style of collars approved by the judge. Prong collars and electronic collars are not permitted. Nothing may be hanging from the dog's collar with the exception of ID, rabies and license tags.

Acceptable leashes are made of fabric or leather and should be of sufficient length to provide adequate slack.

**c. Brace Couplings.** Couplings hitching one dog beside the other may be used but are not required.

**d. Harness.** The harness must be in proper working condition and fit the dog.

**e. Freight Load.** The handler selects an appropriate freight load for the apparatus and the dog within the following guidelines:

- Travois: 5 to 30 pounds
- Sled or Toboggan: 15 to 50 pounds
- Wheeled Apparatus: 25 to 100 pounds\*

\*For dogs weighing less than 80 lbs, the freight load weight must be at least 25% of the dog's body weight, rounded up to the nearest pound. For example, a 50 lb. dog would carry 13 lbs of freight. Documentation from a veterinarian (or his staff) certifying the weight of the dog must accompany the draft test entry and include the name of the dog, name and phone number of the certifying veterinarian or assistant and be dated no earlier than 30 days prior to the receipt of entry.

Handlers are responsible for providing their own loads. The weight of non-standardized Freight Haul weights can be verified by a scale at the Draft Test site during the Equipment Check. No person or animal may serve as the Freight Load.

The handler needs to secure the load adequately so that it does not shift when the apparatus moves. The handler places and secures the load into or on the draft apparatus without help from anyone else, unless the judges permit assistance.

If permitted by the judges, handlers may carry water to offer to their dog during breaks during the Freight Haul and a tool kit for making emergency repairs. If these items are carried in the apparatus and not by the handler, it should be secured to prevent shifting and will be treated as if it is part of the Freight Load.

**f. Equipment Failure and Break Downs.** If at any time during the test the equipment breaks down, the judges may allow the handler to make an emergency repair. The repair must be made within ten minutes by the handler alone and only with materials that the handler carries or that are carried in the apparatus; the handler may not leave the ring or freight haul course.

## **CHAPTER 3      Equipment Check and Walk-through**

### **Section 1. Equipment Check**

The Draft Test day will begin with an Equipment Check. The time of the Equipment Check will be published in the draft test Premium List. Teams position themselves with dog(s) harnessed and hitched to draft apparatus, and the freight haul weight as well as any other material to be carried on the freight haul must be secured in the apparatus at the specified time. Teams may be disqualified if they are not available at the scheduled time of the Equipment Check. Judges will check all draft equipment to be used in the Draft Test, examining the collars, leashes, harnesses, apparatuses, freight loads, and tie-downs or other weight securing devices for adherence to these Regulations.

The judges will determine if the freight load and rigging are suitable for the apparatus. At the judges' discretion, a steward may be asked to weigh any of the loads.

If the judges think the handler's equipment could cause harm to the dog, they may recommend that the handler make the repair before entering the ring for the Practical Draft Work exercise.

The **Draft Apparatus Worksheet**, found on the GSMDCA website, can be used by the judges to record the equipment used by each team as well as to record the widest portion of the apparatus for



use by the Narrows Steward for computing and setting the width of the Narrow Passageway for each team.

## **Section 2. Walk-through**

The Judges' Briefing and Walk-through are next. The Walk-through includes the Basic Control, the Maneuver course, and Freight Haul course. The Walk-through of the Freight Haul may be omitted if all handlers decline to participate. Dogs may not accompany handlers on the Walk-through.

The handler has a one-time opportunity to change the weight of their freight load immediately following the freight haul walk-through. The handler must have walked the entire distance of the freight haul course in order to request this one-time change. If the handler deems that, for the well-being of the dog, the weight needs modification, the handler immediately requests the judges' permission for the weight modification. If the judges grant the change in weight, modified freight haul weight will be re-checked and recorded by the judges. After the Equipment Check, with the exceptions of any recommendations made by the judges, no alterations, substitutions, or eliminations may be made without the judges' approval.

## **CHAPTER 4      General Judging Procedures and Behavior Guidelines**

### **Section 1. General Judging Procedure**

- a. Pass/Fail.** All judging is on a pass/fail basis.
- b. Decisions.** To earn a title, both judges must pass the dog and handler on all exercises in the class. Judges' decisions are final.
- c. Criteria.** Dogs are judged for willingness, ability, enthusiasm, naturalness as a team, and smoothness of performance. A dog that correctly completes the exercises without physical assistance should be scored as passed if it has performed willingly. A dog that does everything correctly but appears to be in fear of severe correction from its handler may be scored as failed.
- d. Verbal Evaluations.** Each handler will be verbally informed by the judges if s/he is passing or failing at the completion of each series of exercises as follows:
  - Basic Control
  - Maneuvering Course
  - Group Freight Haul
- e. Draft Test Score Sheets.** Each team's performance will be recorded on a Draft Test Judges' Worksheet completed by each judge and given to the handler at the conclusion of the test.

### **Section 2. General Behavior Guidelines**

- a. Excusing a Dog.** Judges must immediately excuse any dog for any of the following reasons:
  - The dog attacks or attempts to attack a person or dog on the test grounds.
  - The handler deliberately interferes with another handler or dog.
  - The handler behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner in or outside the testing area. (Unsportsmanlike behavior includes: directing angry, abusive language at a person or dog; mistreating a dog; showing discourtesies to judges, test officials, stewards or others.)
  - The dog is lame or wears corrective bandages or other attachments.
  - The dog at any time during a test exhibits lack of physical capacity to perform.

The AKC Official policy\* concerning dog attacks, either to a person or to another dog will be followed at GSMDCA Draft Trials. Draft Test Judges may excuse, and even ask to have removed from a test site, if necessary, any dog that appears dangerous to other dogs or persons.

\*AKC Obedience Regulations: Chapter 1 Section 17a --“Any dog that, in the opinion of the Event Committee, attacks a person or a dog at an AKC event, resulting in injury, and is believed by that Event Committee to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified.”

The judges will mark the dog disqualified and state the reason on the Judge’s Report.

- b. **Misbehavior.** Any display of fear or nervousness by the dog, or any uncontrolled behavior of a dog such as snapping, barking or running away from its handler, whether it occurs before, during or between exercises, may be penalized according to the seriousness of the misbehavior, and the judge may expel or excuse the dog from further competition in the test.
- c. **Qualifying and Non-Qualifying Performances.**  
Judges will mark entrants with a failing performance for the following reasons during any portion of the test. Failures common to all exercises:
  - A dog is not under the handler’s control.
  - A handler yells at his dog frequently to maintain control of his dog.
  - A handler abuses the dog or fails to show consideration for the dog’s welfare.
  - A dog eliminates.
  - The handler or dog violates specific test site regulations.

## CHAPTER 5 Exercises for Novice Draft Dog

### Section 1. General Performance Guidelines

- a. **Desired Performance.** The dog and handler should evidence teamwork and efficiency, and the dog should appear happy and willing.
- b. **Multiple Commands.** Except as specified, multiple commands, verbal praise, hand and body signals may be used and are encouraged in all of the Draft Test exercises. Whistling is not permitted.
- c. **Position of Handler with Respect to Dog.** A handler may work on both sides, in back, or in front of the dog.
- d. **Collars and Leashes.** In the Novice exercises, guiding by the collar between exercises is permitted. All dogs must be kept on leash except when in the ring, and must be brought into and taken out of the ring on leash. Dogs must be kept on leash when entering the ring for the Group exercises and to receive awards.
- e. **Touches, Bumps and Crashes.**
  - Touches will not result in failure unless in the opinion of the judges they are excessive (exception: any touch while negotiating the Narrows exercise will result in failure, regardless of class entered).
  - A Novice team is allowed a maximum of two bumps, one during Practical Draft Work and another during the Group Stay/Distance Freight Haul exercises.
  - Any crash will result in failure.
- f. **Touching Dog or Equipment.** The handler may not touch the dog or equipment except in the following cases:
  1. During the Harness and Hitch Exercise to the extent necessary to complete both tasks.
  2. Permission to touch the dog or equipment is requested of and may be granted by the judge.
- g. **Intimidating Commands.** Harsh or overly loud commands or body movements meant to intimidate the dog into performing an exercise will be scored as failed. A dog that appears to be in fear of a severe correction from the handler will be scored as failed.
- h. **Body Blocking.** A handler that physically blocks or attempts to physically block the dog will be scored as failed.



- i. **Hovering.** Excessive hovering to force the dog to move backward will result in failure.
- j. **Food and Toys.** A handler may not carry or offer food or toys during the Draft Test exercises.
- k. **Double Handling.** A dog may not receive commands or be controlled or assisted from outside the ring.
- l. **Elimination.** A dog that eliminates during the test will be marked as failed, but the team will be permitted to continue with the exercises.

## Section 2. Basic Control

**a. Overview.** Basic Control takes place in the maneuverability ring in the vicinity of the draft equipment. Two different exercises make up Basic Control: a heeling pattern and a recall. One judge will call the commands, but both judges mark the dog's and handler's performances. Extra hand signals, voice commands, and praise are acceptable, including the sits during the heeling pattern.

**b. Heel:** The dog is expected to heel within arms' reach of the handler's left side at all times. The handler may not touch his dog but may command and encourage the dog to remain within arms' reach at all times. It is desirable, but not required, for the dog to sit by the handler's side at halts.

**1. Judge's Commands** (not necessarily in this order): "Are you ready?", "Forward", "Slow", "Fast", "Normal", "Right turn", "Left turn", "About turn", "Halt", "Exercise finished". Judges will determine the heeling pattern and order of their commands.

### 2. Failing performance:

- a) Dog frequently heels beyond the handler's reach.
- b) No change of pace.
- c) Dog is considered unmanageable by the judges.
- d) Handler physically guides or touches the dog.
- e) Leash Guidance.
- f) Dog leaves the ring.

**c. Recall:** The principal features of this exercise are that the dog stays where left until called by the handler and that the dog responds within approximately 15 seconds of the handler's initial command/signal to call his dog (the judge may silently count 1 thousand 1, 1 thousand 2, etc. to 15 in lieu of using a stop watch).

### 1. Sequence:

- a) On order from the judge, the handler may give a command and/or signal to the dog to stay in the sit position. The dog must execute the stay for the recall with a single command and/or signal.
- b) The handler will then walk forward to the other end of the ring, turn to face the dog, and stand with the arms and hands hanging naturally.
- c) On the judge's order or signal, the handler will command and/or signal the dog to come with a single or multiple commands and/or signals. The handler must stand in place while giving the commands/signals. Once the dog is in motion, the handler, while standing in place, may continue to give commands, encouragement, and hand signals until the dog comes directly to its handler.
- d) The dog must stop close enough to its handler so that the handler can touch its head without excessive bending, stretching, or moving either foot. It is desirable, but not required, for the dog to sit upon reaching the handler.

**2. Judge's commands:** "Are you ready?", "Sit your dog", "Leave your dog", "Call your dog", "Exercise finished".

### 3. Failing performance:

- a) Handler gives more than one stay command.
- b) Dog does not stay.

- c) Dog does not come to handler within 15 seconds of the handler's initial command/signal to come.
- d) Dog does not come to handler.
- e) Dog remains out of reach.
- f) Handler does not stand in place.
- g) Handler physically guides or touches the dog.
- h) Dog leaves the ring.

### **Section 3. Harness, Hitch, and Equipment Check**

**a. Overview.** A Draft Test demonstrates cooperation between the handler and dog. Since a handler's draft work knowledge and abilities are essential to draft work, the judges evaluate a handler's knowledge and ability to select the correct equipment for the dog, site, and conditions and to use the equipment properly. It is critical that a handler understand the equipment that the dog uses, since the dog has no recourse if the equipment is poor. The equipment includes the harness, draft apparatus, and any traces or tack required.

The equipment must remain in safe working condition throughout the Draft Test. Consequently, the judges may fail improper or unsafe equipment not only during the scheduled Equipment Check but also at any time during the remainder of the test.

**b. Handling During Harness and Hitch.** A handler may touch the dog only as required to harness and hitch the dog, but may not touch to discipline. The dog must demonstrate willingness to be harnessed and hitched to the draft apparatus without shying. The judges may touch the dog and equipment as necessary for checking. Once checked, equipment may not be substituted, and the handler must use the approved equipment throughout the remainder of the test.

#### **c. Sequence.**

1. Prior to the team entering the test area for basic control, the Cart Steward brings the cart into the Harness and Hitch area of the ring.
2. Dog remains off leash following the Recall. The team should heel freely or the handler may gently guide the dog with a hand under their collar to a position approximately 6 feet in front of the cart. The judge places the leash in the draft rig.
3. The handler leaves the dog on a Wait and retrieves the harness and leash from the draft apparatus. The handler may leave the dog in any position—Sit, Down, or Stand— and may turn the dog to face the cart while retrieving the harness.
4. The handler returns to and harnesses and leashes the dog.
5. For teams performing the test with a non-wheeled apparatus only: When instructed by the judges, the handler commands the dog to back up. Within a one minute time limit, the dog must back a distance of at least three feet in the direction of the draft apparatus without varying more than 90 degrees to either side.
6. The handler hitches the dog to the draft apparatus. The handler may direct the dog to move closer to the cart and/or move the cart closer to the dog in order to hitch it. Physically guiding and/or leash guidance of the dog, with the exception of the necessary contact to hitch, is grounds for a failing performance.
7. Once the dog is hitched, the handler will indicate readiness to proceed. The judges will then instruct the handler to move the dog forward at least ten feet where they will halt and the judges will verify that the equipment works properly and safely. At this time, the judges may move in closer and may touch the dog and apparatus as may be necessary to confirm that the rigging is safe and proper. Should the judges observe that something is unsatisfactory or unsafe, they must mark the team as failed. They may then allow the handler to correct the problem before continuing with the Draft Test. If the problem cannot be corrected, then the team will be excused.

**d. Judge's commands:** "Are you ready?" "Harness your dog", "(Back your dog)", "Hitch your dog", "Forward", "Halt", "Exercise finished".

**e. Failing Performance:**

1. Handler physically guides dog during the exercise, with the exception of the necessary physical contact required to harness and to hitch the dog.
2. Dog refuses to accompany handler to harnessing or hitching area.
3. Dog does not wait while handler retrieves harness from cart.
4. Dog is uncooperative and/or resists harnessing.
5. For teams performing the test with a non-wheeled apparatus only: Dog does not back up three feet on command within the one minute time limit.
6. For teams performing the test with a non-wheeled apparatus only: Dog substantially changes direction while backing (judges' discretion, but changes of direction less than 90 degrees will not fail).
7. Dog is uncooperative and/or resists hitching.
8. Dog does not move forward ten feet for equipment check.
9. Handler does not properly harness or hitch the dog to the apparatus.
10. Harness does not fit correctly.
11. The hitch is unsafe.
12. Apparatus balance is unsafe or causes dog trouble while working.
13. Equipment is poorly designed or is in need of repair.
14. Draft equipment selected by handler is inappropriate for site.

## **Section 4. Practical Draft Work**

**a. Overview.** The practical draft work portion of the test consists of the team negotiating a series of exercises along the path of a maneuver course. The course must cover at least 10,000 square feet and includes at least the following individual exercises. With the exception of the Loading and Unloading exercises, the exercises may be in any order.

1. Two 90 degree turns: one each to the right and left.
2. Two circular 360 degree patterns: one each to the right and left (may be in the form of a "figure 8").
3. One narrow area six or more feet long and at least two feet high which will be adjusted to a width of 12 inches wider than the widest portion of each draft apparatus or team negotiating the course.
4. Loading: the dog halts and waits while a Friendly Stranger greets and provides the Handler a Load that the Handler secures in the draft apparatus.
5. Unloading: the dog halts and waits while a Friendly Stranger pets the dog and receives the Load from the handler.
6. Removable obstacle: the dog halts and waits while handler removes an obstacle such as a tree branch or child's toy. The team then proceeds past the obstacle. A subsequent halt and wait while handler replaces the obstacle is at the option of the judges.
7. Backing: the draft apparatus must back a distance of three feet within one minute.
8. Slow: the team must demonstrate a slower change of pace for ten feet, and then resume a normal pace.
9. Weaves (optional): the team weaves between a series of straight line cones or other obstacles.

**b. General Performance Guidelines.** At the beginning of the maneuvering course, the judges tell the handler and dog to proceed with the course. The handler, with the dog on-lead and hitched to the draft apparatus hauls forward at a normal working speed unless commanded otherwise by the judges.

The handler need not memorize the maneuver course as the judge will direct the team towards each succeeding obstacle or exercise. However familiarization with the pattern obtained during the Walk-through may aid the team in executing a smoother performance.

The team may halt at any time during the course of the exercise in order to get their bearing for the next exercise as there are no time constraints for traversing the course as long as the dog continues to work. However, significant deviations from the path of the course may indicate a lack of control and may result in failure.

The handler may work beside, behind, or in front of the dog, or any combination of these positions. The handler may not impede the dog's forward movement at any time. This includes stepping in front of a dog to enforce a halt command or stepping in front of a dog who tries to change direction against the handler's command.

The key factor to be judged is the exhibition of teamwork as well as completion of the exercises and willingness, ability, enthusiasm, and smoothness of performance.

Judges may require the Practical Draft Work exercises to be performed in any order. The different components of each exercise do not need to be performed consecutively. Except for the load received during the Loading exercise and any tie downs necessary to secure this load (provided by the handler); the Practical Draft Work exercises are performed with an empty draft apparatus.

Any crashing of any object or obstacle by the handler, dog or apparatus while negotiating the course will result in failure. The handler may not handle the draft apparatus or dog unless special permission is granted from the judges.

### **c. Detailed descriptions (*Judges Commands*).**

1. Left and Right 90 Degree Turns. (*"Turn right", "Turn left"*). The handler may work on either side or in front of the dog but may not enforce a command by stepping in front of the dog to enforce a change of direction. Significant deviations from the path of the turn may indicate a lack of control and may result in failure.
2. Left and Right 360 circles or Figure 8. (*"Circle right", "Circle left"*). The handler may work on either side or in front of the dog but may not enforce a command by stepping in front of the dog to enforce a change of direction. Significant deviations from the radius of the 360 may indicate a lack of control and may result in failure.
3. Narrows. (*"Negotiate ((or Pull through)) the narrows"*) The narrow area should be adjusted to be twelve inches wider than the widest point of each team (usually the apparatus). A team may readjust its alignment by backing or, prior to entering the narrows, by circling back as long as it doesn't proceed past the plane of the entrance to the narrows. The entire team must pass through the narrows without touching, bumping or crashing.
4. Loading. (*"Halt for loading", "Exercise finished"*) For the loading and unloading exercise, the team will halt. The dog must wait in a stand, sit or down position. After the dog has been told to stay, a steward or judge approaches. The steward or judge greets the handler, gives the handler a lightweight load and then leaves. The handler secures the load in or on the draft apparatus. The dog must wait until the judge gives the *"exercise finished"* command. Subsequently, during the test if the load should shift the handler may stop and, with the permission of the judges, reposition and secure the load.
5. Unloading. (*"Halt for unloading", "Exercise finished"*) The team pulls the load at least 20 feet to another part of the ring where they again halt. The dog must again wait, as above. After the dog has been told to stay, another steward or judge approaches. The steward or judge greets the handler, greets and pats the dog and then receives the load from the handler. The dog must wait until the judge gives the *"exercise finished"* command.
6. The Removable Obstacle. (*"Negotiate ((or execute)) the obstacle"*) The dog halts and waits for the handler to move the obstacle and instructs the dog to move through the passageway. Once

through, the judges may instruct the team to halt and, while the dog waits, the handler returns the obstacle to its former position. This option will be determined at the beginning of the test.

7. Backing. (“Halt for backing”, “Prepare your dog for backing”, “Are you ready?”, “Back your dog.” Exercise Finished”). The dog must back the draft apparatus at least three feet within one minute.

On the judge’s command “*Prepare your dog for backing*” the handler will position himself at the location he intends to command the dog to back. Once he indicates he is ready, the judge will place a backing measuring stick at the wheels of the draft apparatus in order to measure the distance backed. If during the course of backing the dog pulls the apparatus forward from this point, the necessary distance to successfully Back will be added to the original three feet.

The direction of the backing should be approximately straight. Draft apparatuses which pivot more than 45 degrees will not pass. Handlers may attempt to have the dog straighten the apparatus, at which point it may continue the exercise. Again any additional distance traveled will be added to the original three feet.

8. Slow. (“*Slow*”, “*Normal*”). At the judge’s command of “*Slow*,” the dog and draft apparatus must exhibit a demonstratively slower change of pace for ten feet. At the judge’s command “*normal*” the dog and draft apparatus must exhibit a demonstratively faster change of pace. If the dog and apparatus do not exhibit both a slower and a return to faster pace, the team will be marked as failed. Note it is the pace of the dog and draft apparatus, and not the pace of the handler, that is being judged.

9. Weaves. (“*Negotiate ((or execute)) the weaves*”). This exercise is optional per the judges’ discretion. It consists of no more than five thin obstacles (e.g. traffic cones) in a straight line set at least nine feet apart. The team executes a weave pattern between the obstacles. A team may readjust its alignment by backing, or prior to passing between two obstacles, by circling back as long as it doesn’t proceed past the plane formed by the obstacles.

#### **d. Failing performance:**

1. Overall
  - a. Handler impedes the dog’s forward movement by moving in front of the dog to enforce a halt.
  - b. Any handling of the draft apparatus or dog unless special permission is granted from the judges.
  - c. Excessive touches by the dog or handler without judge’s permission.
  - d. Dog refuses to accompany handler.
  - e. Dog does not obey commands given by handler.
  - f. Dog, apparatus or handler bumps more than once (exception: Narrows).
  - g. Dog or apparatus crashes.
  - h. Leash guidance.
  - i. Dog significantly deviates from the route of the maneuver course.
  - j. Equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and cannot be repaired by the handler without assistance within ten (10) minutes.
2. Backing
  - a. Dog does not back up three (3) feet on command within the one (1) minute time limit.
  - b. The draft apparatus substantially changes direction and cannot be realigned and successfully backed within the time limit.
3. Slow - No change of pace.
4. Movable Obstacle
  - a. No halt.
  - b. Dog tries to pass removable obstacle without waiting for handler to move it.
  - c. Dog does not wait while the handler removes obstacle.
  - d. Dog does not wait while the handler returns the obstacle to original position (if required).
5. Loading and Unloading

- a. No halt.
  - b. Dog does not wait when greeted and patted.
  - c. Dog shows aggression or shyness when greeted and patted.
  - d. Dog refuses to pull loaded draft apparatus.
  - e. Load falls off draft apparatus.
6. Narrows.
- a. Any touch.
  - b. Any bump.

## Section 5. Freight Load

**a. Load Amounts.** The handler will provide the freight load for the apparatus. The handler selects an appropriate freight load for the apparatus as noted below:

- Travois: 5 to 30 pounds
- Sled or Toboggan: 15 to 50 pounds
- Wheeled Apparatus: 25 to 100 pounds.\*

\*For dogs weighing less than 80 lbs, the freight load weight may be 25% of the dog's body weight, rounded up to the nearest pound.

**b. Loading Procedures.** Prior to entering the maneuver course area for the Group Stay, the handler must place the load in the apparatus and secure it so that it does not shift when the apparatus moves. The handler must place and secure the load into or on the draft apparatus without help from anyone else, unless the judges grant an exception and permit assistance.

The load must be appropriate for the dog, apparatus, and the site conditions.

**c. Load Evaluation.** From the moment a team enters the maneuver area for the Group Stay until the conclusion of the Freight Haul, the judges will be evaluating the Freight Load. The judges must fail a handler for the following reasons:

1. The freight load is too heavy for the dog to pull.
2. The load is not balanced.
3. The load is not securely tied down.
4. The dog is improperly harnessed or hitched.

If the judges fail a handler because the freight load is too heavy for the dog to pull, weight may be removed and the handler and dog may continue the course with a lighter load.

**d. Failing Performance:** A failing performance may occur during loading or at any time during the remainder of the test.

1. Freight load is too heavy for the apparatus causing an unsafe condition.
2. Handler must reduce or re-balance the freight load after the dog begins to pull.
3. Dog refuses to move loaded draft apparatus.
4. Freight load becomes unbalanced when the apparatus is moving.
5. Freight load is too heavy for the dog.

## Section 6. Group Stay

**a. Overview.** The dogs demonstrate their ability to remain on a stay while hitched. This is a group exercise. The stay is off leash with the handler standing across the maneuver area from the dog.

**b. Sequence.**

1. Dogs are hitched to their loaded draft apparatuses outside the maneuver area.
2. They enter the maneuver area in Running Order and are positioned by the handlers in accordance with the judges' instructions no closer than five feet between dogs.
3. At a judge's command, the dog is gently placed in a stand, sit or down. Draft apparatus shafts may be adjusted for the dog's comfort. The leash will be placed behind the draft apparatus.

4. At the judge's command, the handler may command the dog to stay and leaves the dog to a position directed by the judge at least 30 feet away from the dog. The stay command and/or signal is given once and no other commands or signals may be given during this exercise. The stay is for three minutes. Upon a signal from the judges, the handler returns to the dog's side. After a signal from the judge that this portion of the exercise is over, the handler re-attaches the lead and prepares for the freight haul.

**c. Judge's commands:** "Position your dogs for the stay", "Leave your dogs", "Return to your dogs", "Exercise finished".

**d. Failing performance:**

1. Handler gives more than one stay command.
2. Dog changes position (e.g. from a down to a sit or stand).
3. Dog moves out of place.
4. Dog barks or whines repeatedly.
5. Rough placement of dog.
6. Dog is incorrectly harnessed or hitched

## Section 7. Distance Freight Haul

**a. Overview.** The Distance Freight Haul is a group event with a maximum of eight (8) handlers per group. Each dog will haul a loaded apparatus on a course that is ideally one (1) mile in length, plus or minus .1 miles to accommodate local conditions. Each handler and dog will start the course in Running Order with an assigned steward. Once the dogs begin the trail, judges may allow the dogs and teams to find their position within the group according to each handler's and dog's working speed. Passing another team may be done only by permission of the judge. Each handler and dog must be within sight of at least one judge at all times. Per judge's instructions, the two lead stewards will set and maintain a pace that the dogs and handlers will follow.

The course may have natural obstacles (bends in the trail, trees, potholes, etc.) that are native to the test area. Each dog will pull the freight loaded and secured during the Freight Load Exercise. As long as the dog works, there is no time limit. If the dog stops pulling at any point along the test route, the handler has one (1) minute to get the dog moving again. With the judges' permission, a handler may stop the dog at the side of the course to rest briefly. At that time, the judges may allow other dogs in the group to pass. If other situations arise, such as ice balls in paw pads during a winter draft test, the handler must ask permission from the judges to stop and attend to the situation.

With the judges' permission, a handler may touch the draft apparatus in order to lift it over an obstruction such as a curb.

The handler may work in front of, beside, or behind the dog, or any combination of these positions. The handler may not impede the dog's forward movement at any time. This includes stepping in front of a dog to enforce a halt command or stepping in front of a dog who tries to change direction against the handler's command.

**b. Principle Parts of the Exercise:**

1. Dog hauls a loaded draft apparatus a distance of at least one mile with the handler.
2. Dog must be under the handler's control and remain behind the lead stewards.
3. Dog cooperates with its handler for unhitching from the apparatus.

**c. Failing performance:**

1. Dog refuses to accompany handler.
2. Dog does not obey commands given by handler.
3. Dog refuses to move the loaded draft apparatus when told to do so (one minute time limit).
4. Dog cannot comfortably or safely move the freight load the full length of the course.
5. Leash guidance.



6. Handler physically handles the dog or apparatus during the exercise without judges' permission.
7. Handler must alter the load on the course.
8. Handler impedes the dog's forward movement by moving in front of the dog to enforce a halt.
9. Excessive touches by the dog or handler without judge's permission.
10. Dog, apparatus or handler bumps more than once.
11. Dog or apparatus crashes.
12. Dog bumps lead stewards or overruns and tries to pass lead stewards.
13. Dog passes another team without the judge's permission.
14. Equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and cannot be repaired by the handler without assistance within 10 minutes.

## **Section 8. Intriguing Distraction**

**a. Overview.** At some point during the moving exercises (Maneuvering or Distance Freight Haul) one planned visual intriguing distraction occurs near the dog. The distraction will be the same for each dog. If an unplanned distraction occurs, the dog will be judged the same as with the planned distraction.

When the distraction appears, the dog may stop what it is doing and/or shift its position to watch but is not allowed to significantly divert from the course it is following or to move the draft apparatus if the apparatus is at that moment stationary. The handler may speak to the dog with instructions concerning the distraction. If the dog has stopped to watch the distraction, the handler is to encourage the dog to proceed with the exercise when appropriate to do so. To give the dog time to respond to the handler's stop command, the dog may move two or three steps toward or away from the distraction. When the distraction has passed the handler is to instruct the dog to continue the exercise it may have stopped.

The distraction is arranged at the discretion of the draft test committee club with the draft test judges having final approval. It should be one that might occur in everyday situations. Possible appropriate distractions are: camera flash, stuffed animal on leash, ball/toy being thrown, person on a bicycle, person waving a flag, children running.

A steward performs the distraction under direction of the judges. Special emphasis should be placed on making the length and location of the distraction as uniform as possible for each team—it should occur approximately ten feet from the dog as it approaches and not last over three seconds. Thus the use of live animals as a distraction is discouraged.

### **b. Principle Parts of the Exercise:**

1. An intriguing distraction occurs near the working dog during a moving exercise.
2. The dog may stop and notice the distraction, but may not pursue the distraction.
3. The handler redirects the dog and the dog continues with the exercise.

### **c. Failing performance:**

1. Handler physically touches the dog or apparatus during the exercise without the judges' permission.
2. Dog changes direction and follows the distraction.
3. Handler impedes the dog's forward movement by moving in front of the dog to enforce a halt.
4. Dog flees from the distraction.
5. Dog barks more than a few times or refuses to stop barking when instructed by the handler.
6. Dog refuses to resume the exercise it was performing after the distraction is gone.
7. Dog fails a naturally occurring distraction for above reasons, even if it has passed the planned distraction.

8. Guiding, jerking and/or tight leash.

## CHAPTER 6 Exercises for Open, Novice Brace & Open Brace Draft Dog

### Section 1. Open Draft Dog

**a. Overview.** The three main differences between the Novice and Open classes are:

- All exercises are conducted off leash
- Any bumps will result in failure
- The Group Stay is conducted with the handler out-of-sight

With these exceptions, all exercises are conducted and graded as in the Novice Draft Dog class. The differences are identified below.

**b. Basic Control – Entering the ring.** In the heel exercise, the dog is brought into the ring on leash. Upon positioning for the beginning of the heeling pattern, the leash is removed by the handler and given to the judge. The judge places the leash in the draft rig following the recall portion of basic control and the leash will remain in the draft rig throughout the harness and hitch and maneuverability exercises.

**c. Harness, Hitch, and Equipment Check – Exiting the maneuver area.** The dog will be off leash following the recall and should heel freely or the handler may gently guide the dog with a hand under their collar to a position 6 feet in front of the draft rig. Unless needed to help manage an out-of-control dog during the Practical Draft Work portion of the test, the team will leave the maneuver area off-leash.

**d. Practical Draft Work – Bumps.** Any bumps by the team or apparatus will result in failure.

**e. Group Stay**

**Entering and exiting the maneuver area.** The hitched dog is brought into the maneuver area on leash. Upon positioning, the leash is removed by the handler and secured in the draft apparatus. Unless needed to help manage an out-of-control dog during the Freight Haul portion of the test, the team will leash the dog at the conclusion of the test after reentering the maneuver area and receiving an “exercised finished” from the judge.

**Out-of-Sight.** At the judge’s command, the handler, instead of moving to a position across the maneuver area and in-sight of the dog, leaves the dog and moves to a position outside the maneuver area and out-of-sight of the dog as directed by the judge.

**f. Distance Freight Haul – Bumps.** Any bumps by the team or apparatus will result in failure.

### Section 2. Novice Brace Draft Dog

**a. Overview.** All exercises are conducted and graded as in the Novice Draft Dog Class with the obvious exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog in the ring at once. The dogs in the team are to perform the commands together and to work as partners. Dogs may have their collars connected by a coupling device not less than 6 inches in total length but may not have their harnesses connected.

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as in the Novice Draft Dog Class with the stipulation that a failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure of that exercise for the entire team. If one member of the team consistently pulls less than its share, the team is considered to have failed the exercise. Judges should consider ages and sizes of the dogs when judging the team’s allocation of work. Exceptions or notable differences are listed below:

**b. Basic Control.** For Brace Class entries both dogs must have earned their CDs in order to waive Basic Control.

**c. Harnessing, Hitching, and Equipment Check.** The handler may work with each dog individually when harnessing and hitching and may instruct the other dog(s) to cooperate appropriately. If used, the coupling device may be connected and unconnected as needed.

**d. Practical Draft Work and Basic Commands**

- **Narrows.** The adjustable narrows area should be twelve inches wider than the team or apparatus (whichever is wider).
- **Backing.** Both dogs must back together simultaneously. Sequential individual backing will be cause for failure.

**e. Freight Load – Load Amounts.** The weight for brace teams is as follows:

- Travois: 10 to 60 pounds
- Sled or Toboggan: 30 to 100 pounds
- Wheeled Apparatus: 50 to 200 pounds.\*

\*For teams in which both dogs weigh less than 80 lbs. each, the freight load weight may be the total of 25% of each dog's body weight, rounded up to the nearest pound. For example two 50 lb. dogs would carry 26 lbs of freight. Documentation from a veterinarian (or his staff) certifying the weight of the dogs must accompany the draft test entry. Documentation must include the name of the dog and the name and phone number of the certifying veterinarian or assistant and must be dated no earlier than 30 days prior to the receipt of entry.

### Section 3. Open Brace Draft Dog

All exercises are conducted and graded as in the Draft Dog Class with the obvious exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog in the ring at once with the differences noted in the Novice Brace Dog Class also applying.

## CHAPTER 7 Judging

### Section 1. Pre-Judging

**a. Maneuver Course Diagram.** Judges are responsible for designing the maneuver course used in the Practical Draft Work Exercise and providing copies for participants. The course map may not be given to handlers prior to test day. Generic maneuver course templates and sample courses are available at the GSMDCA website. The judges may make changes to either the maneuver or freight haul courses the day of the test due to terrain, weather and/or safety.

**b. Arrival.** Judges should arrive early enough to have adequate time to supervise or confirm the set up of the Maneuvering Course and check the Freight Haul route.

### Section 2. Evaluations

**a. In-Test Evaluations.** During the draft test, the judges will inform entrants if they pass or fail at the completion of each series of exercises as follows:

- Basic Control
- Maneuvering Course
- Group Freight Haul

**b. Post Test Assembly.** Upon completion of the draft test, judges should assemble all entrants to provide an after-action-review of the test and commemorate any qualifiers.

**c. Judge's Worksheet.** Each judge will complete a written evaluation on each team's performance using the Draft Test Judges' Worksheet. Upon completion of the draft test, the judge will sign the worksheets and give them to the handler, who retain them for their records.

**d. Judges' Report.** The judges will complete and sign a Judges' Report Worksheet and give it to the Draft Test Secretary who will send it to the GSMDCA DWC Chair. Judges are encouraged to provide feedback about the test to either the Draft Test Committee or the GSMDCA DWC Chair.

### Section 3. Judges' Authority and Comportment

**a. Judges' Authority.** Judges will reach a mutual decision regarding the passing or failing performance of each team in each exercise. The judges' decisions are final. The judges have sole authority over all persons and dogs within the test areas (the ring and the freight haul route) until their judging assignment is complete.

**b. Judges Comportment.** Judges must act in a professional, impartial, and pleasant manner. Draft Test judges in attendance at a GSMDCA Draft Test, whether judging, exhibiting, working, or as a spectator, will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner as befits every official representative of the GSMDCA.

**c. Familiarity with Regulations.** The judges are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations, GSMDCA By-laws and Constitution pertaining to sportsmanlike conduct, the AKC Obedience Regulations and Obedience Judges Guidelines, and AKC's Dealing with Misconduct. All judging matters and situations not covered in the GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations and GSMDCA By-laws and Constitution will be resolved by reference to the AKC Obedience Regulations and Obedience Judges Guidelines and AKC's Dealing with Misconduct.

### Section 4. Judging Guidelines

**a. Standardized Judging.** Adapted from AKC Obedience Regulations Chapter 2, Section 1: Standardized judging is of paramount importance. Judges are not permitted to inject their own variations into the exercises, but will see that each handler and dog execute the various exercises exactly as described in these regulations. In no case should the judges vary the exercises or to add, delete, or change any requirements stated in the GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations. Every exercise, pattern, or course is to be the same for each entry in a class. The judges will evaluate every team on an equal and uniform basis for each exercise.

**b. Enthusiasm and Teamwork** Each dog will be judged for control, willingness, ability, and enthusiasm and each team will be judged on naturalness, smoothness, and cooperation in their performance.

**c. Running Order.** The dogs will be judged in Running Order if it is practical to do so without delaying judging. Judges are not required to wait for dogs for either the individual or group exercises. If a request is made in advance of the class starting time, the judges may agree to judge a dog earlier or later than the time scheduled by Running Order.

**d. Judging Sequence.** Attempting to maintain as similar climatic conditions as possible, all entries should complete each set of exercises before proceeding to the next (i.e. all applicable teams finish the Basic Control and Practical Draft Work exercises before proceeding to Group Stay/Distance Freight Haul), with the exception of the bitches in season criteria if applicable.

**e. Group Exercises.** A maximum of eight teams may be judged together in the Group exercises. Group Exercises include the Group Stays and the Freight Haul.

### Section 5. Qualifications of Judges

**a. GSMDCA Member Judges.** Draft Test judges should thoroughly understand draft work and the physical conditioning necessary for draft and other types of pulling. An approved list of GSMDCA member judges is on the GSMDCA website.

**b. Applying to be a Judge.** GSMDCA members may apply to the GSMDCA Board through the DWC to become a Draft judge after fulfilling all of the following requirements:

1. Trained and handled a dog when obtaining a GSMDCA Draft Dog title on one or more dogs.
2. Acted as either a Draft Test Chair or Draft Test Secretary at a GSMDCA draft test. Or acted as a steward at a minimum of four draft tests (includes BMD and ND Tests).
3. Thoroughly understands the GSMDCA Draft Regulations and applicable AKC Obedience Regulations and AKC Obedience Judges Guidelines .
4. Apprentice judged at two Draft Tests (preferably under four different judges). This includes Newfoundland, Bernese Mountain Dog, Saint Bernard and Leonberger Draft Tests.
5. GSMDCA members in good standing who are interested in becoming a GSMDCA Draft Judge should complete an on-line application.

These documents will be kept on file by the DWC for all Draft Judges. The DWC Chairperson will immediately acknowledge the receipt of the application.

**c. Apprentice Judging.** An Apprentice Judge:

1. Completes at least two Apprentice assignments at GSMDCA, BMDCA, NCA, Saint Bernard or Leonberger Draft Tests (preferably under four different judges). The Apprentice is responsible for arranging this assignment with both the mentor judges and the host club, and obtaining approval of said assignment from the DWC Chairperson. All expenses of this Apprentice assignment are the responsibility of the Apprentice Judge.

Upon approval of the apprenticeship, the DWC Chair will send an Apprentice Judging Evaluation form to the mentor judges to be completed and returned to the DWC Chair following the draft test. As the judging schedule allows, the Apprentice evaluates and discusses each team with the Approved Judges, as well as observe and discuss all other aspects of judging a Draft Test; to include Maneuvering and Freight Haul course layouts, Equipment Checks, briefings, course walk-throughs, and paperwork.

2. Designs and submits a Practical Draft Work maneuver course layout to the judges, at least two weeks prior to the test, for evaluation and discussion.
3. Observes the judging of a minimum of three Novice and one Open team at each test. Multiple Apprentice assignments may be necessary to meet this requirement. The Apprentice will complete his or her Judge's Worksheet on each team and submit them to the handler with the mentor judges' score sheets at test's end.
4. Calls a maneuvering pattern and prepares a separate score sheet for one or more teams during non-judging hours if time permits. The judges evaluate the Apprentice's performance and include their observations in their reports. Similar practice judging is encouraged at Draft Matches. If an approved GSMDCA Draft Judge is present and observing, they are requested to send an evaluation of the Apprentice's performance to the DWC Chairperson.
5. Receives positive evaluations, from both judges, of the Apprentice's knowledge, attitude, focus, ring presence, communication skills, organization, efficiency, and physical ability to judge. Their evaluation also includes the Apprentice's maneuvering course layout and their critique thereof. Evaluations are kept on file with the DWC Chairperson and applicants may request copies of their evaluations. The judges send their evaluations to the DWC Chairperson within ten days of the Draft Test.
6. Take an open book test provided by the GSMDCA DWC Chairperson on the GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations, AKC Obedience Regulations and Obedience Judges Guidelines. Failure to complete the test or scoring less than 80% of the questions answered correctly will result in not fulfilling the requirements to become a Draft judge.
7. Within four weeks of completion of the Apprentice requirements, the DWC Chairperson will notify the Apprentice Judge, in writing, that the requirements for Apprentice judging have been met and will submit the Apprentice's name to the GSMDCA Board for approval. If the

Apprentice's application is deficient, the Apprentice will be notified, in writing, of the reasons why the requirements are not yet fulfilled.

8. Following approval by the GSMDCA Board, the Apprentice will be notified that they have been approved to be a GSMDCA Draft Judge.

**d. Continuing Education.** GSMDCA member Draft Judges are required, every two years, to take an open book test provided by the DWC Chairperson on the GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations, AKC Obedience Regulations and Obedience Judges Guidelines. Failure to complete the test or scoring less than 80% of the questions answered correctly will result in revocation of GSMDCA member judging privileges.

**e. Termination of Membership.** Termination of GSMDCA membership in good standing for any reason will result in revocation of GSMDCA member judging privileges. Lapsed judges complete the entire application process.

**f. Non GSMDCA Member Judges.** Current Mentor, Partner or Provisional Newfoundland, Approved and Provisional Bernese Mountain Dog, Leonberger, and Saint Bernard judges may judge at GSMDCA Draft Tests upon approval of the DWC chair. Prior to the Draft Test, these judges should familiarize themselves with the GSMD Draft Test Regulations.

## CHAPTER 8      Draft Test Administration

### Section 1. Draft Test Committee

**a. Official GSMDCA Representatives.** The Draft Test Committee acts as official representatives of the GSMDCA and enforces the Draft Test Regulations. Any violations of the Draft Test Regulations are to be reported by the Draft Test Committee to the DWC in writing and be included with the Draft Test Report. Failure of the Draft Test Committee to follow these regulations could result in any member of the committee being banned from running future tests.

**b. Draft Test Committee Members.** The Draft Test Committee will consist of a minimum of two people, one of whom is the Chairman. The Draft Test Committee Chairman and Draft Test Secretary must be members in good standing of the GSMDCA.

1. Draft Test Chairperson. Responsible for all aspects of the draft test so that it runs efficiently according to these and other applicable regulations.
2. Draft Test Secretary. The Draft Test Secretary is responsible for the administrative aspects of the draft test. Specific responsibilities include:
  - a) Preparing the Premium List.
  - b) Receiving and confirming entries.
  - c) Preparing and distributing the Running Order
  - e) Procuring and maintaining on hand during the draft test the following documents:
    - 1) The GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations.
    - 3) American Kennel Club Obedience Regulations.
    - 4) The Constitution and By-laws of the GSMDCA.
    - 5) The complete entry forms of each exhibitor.
  - f) Consolidating and sending the Draft Test Report to the DWC Chair.

**c. Other Key Personnel.**

1. Stewards. See the GSMDCA website for Steward job descriptions.
2. Veterinarian: The services of a veterinarian must be available during a Draft Test. The veterinarian should be within a short drive of the test site and the office location provided in the Premium List

**d. Notification of Changes/Extenuating Circumstances.** Extenuating circumstances may necessitate cancellation, changes of site, date, draft test committee member(s) and/or judge. Weather, fire, flood, financial hardship, illness or death, for example, could cause modifications to

be made. The DWC Chair should allow changes to be made in order for the event to safely take place. In the event of emergency and on-the-spot changes are needed, attempt to contact the DWC Chair via phone, e-mail, text message or other means to make them aware of the situation and necessary changes. If the DWC Chair cannot be reached, the Draft Trial Chairperson can make the required adjustments and follow up with an explanation to the DWC Chair as soon as possible. The DWC Chair will notify the rest of the Draft Committee of the changes and the reasons they occurred. In the event that the draft test date(s) or location is changed, attempts are to be made to notify each entrant of the change as soon as the decision for the change is finalized.

Draft trial organizers should consult historic temperature tables to schedule the trial during times when temperatures are favorable to draft work. In cases of extreme heat, the draft trial may need to be canceled or rescheduled. Other options include starting the test with the Group Stay and Freight Haul exercises and concluding with the maneuver course.

The DWC Chair may grant a waiver to the administrative portion of these rules on a case-by-case basis.

## **Section 2. Application to Hold a Draft Test**

**a. GSMDCA Approval.** Written approval of the DWC Chair must be obtained to hold a Draft Test at which dogs earn GSMDCA Draft Titles.

**b. Time of Application.** Application to hold a Draft Test must be made at least six weeks prior to the date of the proposed Draft Test. The Draft Test Application is located on the GSMDCA website and the DWC Chairman will respond via e-mail upon receipt of the application. Approval or rejection of the Draft Test Application by the DWC will be communicated to the Draft Test Chairman by the DWC chair within five days of receipt of the completed application.

**c. Forms.** The following forms are needed to host a draft test and are found on the GSMDCA website: Entry Form, Judges' Worksheets, Judges' Report, Draft Apparatus Worksheet.

## **Section 3. Entries**

**a. Entry Limitations.** The Draft Test Committee will establish the maximum and minimum entries allowed in the test. The Draft Test Secretary will receive all completed entries prior to the closing date stated in the Premium List. Additionally, entrants must notify the Draft Test Secretary if a dog has earned a title in the entered class, including if the title is earned after the entry has been submitted.

Entry priority will be:

1. GSMD's have preference over all other dogs.
2. Untitled teams have preference over titled teams, where 'title' means the title of the entered class. In the case of a brace, both dogs must be titled to be considered a titled team.

If entries exceed the test limit, the above priority will be used to create four groups which are applied to the test limit in order:

1. Untitled GSMDs.
2. Titled GSMDs.
3. Untitled other dogs, including brace teams with one GSMD.
4. Titled other dogs, including brace teams with one GSMD.

A random draw will be held for each group that exceeds the test limit. Entries exceeding the total test limit will be assigned to an alternate list in the order in which they were drawn. Alternates may compete if a slot becomes available because a team is absent or unable to compete. In the event that a dog earns its title after the draw and continues showing in that class (does not "Move-up" in the case of Novice), it will be moved to the end of the appropriate titled group.

Clear communication about entry minimums and maximums, closing dates and how alternate lists will be created must be in the Premium List.



**b. Entry Confirmation.** Handlers will be notified (via an e-mailed Running Order) no later than five days prior to the test date confirming their entry has been accepted or listing placement on the alternate list.

**c. Move Ups.** Move ups are permitted in multiple day tests or closely scheduled tests when a team, originally entered in the Novice class, passes the earlier test in Novice and desires to “move up” to the Open class in the subsequent test. A dog may be moved up from one individual class to another individual class or from one brace class to another brace class, but not between individual and brace classes. The Move-Up team will be entered at the end of the Running Order in the class to which it has moved up.

The Draft Test Secretary must be notified of the Move-Up no later than thirty minutes prior to the Equipment Check. The Draft Test Secretary will make written note of the Move-Up in the Running Order.

**d. Prizes.** Test sponsors are encouraged to offer ribbons and/or trophies for passing teams. Funding for all ribbons and trophies will be provided by the club hosting the event and may be supplemented by the Draft Test Committee and donations from club members, at the committee’s discretion.

## Section 4. Premium List and Running Order

**a. Premium List.** The Premium List contains all the necessary information an individual needs in order to enter the draft test. It must be completed and submitted for approval to the DWC at least three weeks prior to the draft test. The GSMDCA website contains a sample Premium List.

Once approved, the Premium List may also be sent to GSMDCA web master in order to be listed on the GSMDCA web site

The Premium List contains the following (\*Optional):

1. The statement “Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America Draft Test”
2. Name of Test-giving club (if applicable)
3. Date, time, and location of the Draft Test
4. Entry fee
5. The officers and board of directors of test-giving club, including the address of the club’s secretary (if applicable)
6. The Draft Test Committee, including email addresses for the Test Chair and Secretary
7. Names and e-mail addresses of the judges
8. Name, address, website, and telephone number of the Draft Test veterinarian
9. List of classes offered
10. The test minimum and maximum entries allowed, any Class Limits and method for creating Alternate Lists
11. Closing date and time followed by the statement, “after which time entries cannot be accepted, cancelled or altered, except as specifically allowed in these Draft Test Regulations.”
12. Description of awards or prizes, if any.
13. The statement: “Entrants are responsible for obtaining the GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations and being familiar with them.”
14. Age of dog limits (e.g. “Entered dogs must be 18 months or older on the day of the Draft Test”).
15. A GSMDCA Draft Test entry form or a link to the entry form on the GSMDCA website.
16. \*Local Accommodation Information.
17. \*Information regarding any Draft Judges’ Dinner (if applicable)
18. \*Information regarding any advertising (if applicable)

**b. Running Order.** The Running Order provides specific information regarding entries as well as the tentative order of entries. The GSMDCA website contains a Running Order sample. While the judges reserve the right to modify the exact order of judging, Running Order is the published order

of entries. Draft Test Secretaries will use the following priorities as guidelines when determining Running Order.

1. By Class (Open vs. Novice). Although there is no requirement as to which class goes first, usually the Open classes (both Individual and Brace) are scheduled before Novice.
2. Multiple entries with the same handler. Splitting the entries with the same handler so that one dog is closer to the front and the other to the back helps preclude instances where the teams must employ a second handler for the group exercises.
3. Date Received.

The Running Order contains the following information of each entry assigned in numeric order:

1. Name of Class
2. Full/Registered Name of Dog (if applicable) and Call Name
3. Owner's name and contact information
4. An indication of which dogs are eligible to waive the Basic Control Exercise (if any)

## Section 5. Draft Test Site and Equipment

**a. Draft Test Site.** The draft test site consists of two general areas:

1. **Basic Control and Maneuver Course Area.** The maneuver course and basic control area should be level, be a minimum of 10,000 square feet, and be defined by ring gates, ropes, fencing, or other barriers. The area may incorporate existing manmade (e.g. fences) and natural (e.g. trees and shrubs) features as part of the maneuver course. The entrance to the area should be clearly marked and at least six feet or 12 inches greater than the widest portion of the widest team in the test, whichever is greater.

The exercise locations within the Maneuvering Course will be clearly defined with markers and may include signage directing handlers through the course as in an AKC Rally Obedience or Agility course. Handlers are permitted in the area for the walk-through; teams are permitted in the area only when they are called for testing.

2. **Freight Haul Course.** The one-mile Distance Freight Haul Course should be clearly marked and include as many natural features as possible. At the judges' discretion, un-entered spectators and dogs on leashes may be permitted to follow the last entrant on the freight haul course but are not permitted in other testing areas.

**b. Equipment and Supplies.** Those sponsoring the Draft Test provide:

1. The following documents:
  - a. The GSMDCA Draft Test Regulations
  - b. American Kennel Club Obedience Regulations
  - c. The Constitution and By-laws of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America
  - d. The complete entry forms of each exhibitor
  - e. Judging Worksheets. Two copies for each team – one for each judge, and a set for an apprentice judge
  - f. Judges Report
  - g. The Draft Apparatus Worksheet
2. Ropes and stakes, ring gates, or fencing to define the maneuvering course. The markers should be large enough to be clearly visible to both handlers and spectators.
3. A removable obstacle, ideally an object which might be found in everyday carting situations (i.e. gates, saw horses, logs, branches, and highway construction cones).
4. A minimum of two markers to define a narrow area. The markers must be no less than two feet high, with a recommended height of three to four feet, and must be six feet in length.
5. A minimum of four markers to define the 360 degree left and right turns and 90 degree left and right turns (note: natural preexisting markers such as trees may be used).
6. A tape measure at least six feet in length.

7. A three-foot stick or dowel for measuring the backing exercises.
8. One visual distraction.
9. A stop watch or watch to time stays.
10. Markers for the Distance Freight Haul course.
11. A method (e.g. numbers, signs or decorations) of identifying the specific exercises within the maneuver area.
12. Running Order numbers for carts (numbers for exhibitors are optional).
13. The Running Order catalog identifying each entered dog as in an AKC show catalog.
14. A scale for verifying freight loads, if necessary.
15. First aid equipment and a vehicle large enough to carry a dog and handler.
16. An item (e.g. a blanket or quilt) for the load/unload exercise.

Recommended:

1. A chart by which spectators may be silently informed as each team passes or fails each exercise.
2. A diagram of the maneuvering course either clearly posted at ringside or separately provided to the exhibitors and spectators.

## Section 6. Stewards.

Six to eight stewards are needed to assist the judges. Stewards may act only on the judges' instructions. Volunteers may be recruited via the entry form, using handlers as stewards when possible. Please see the document "Draft Stewards Roles and Responsibilities" on the GSMDCA website.

## Section 7. Post-Test Responsibilities

**a. Post Test Assembly.** Upon completion of the draft test, the Judges should assemble all entrants to provide a high level after-action-review of the test and commemorate any qualifiers.

**b. Draft Test Report.** The Draft Test Secretary will be responsible for sending (via USPS or e-mail) the Draft Test Report materials to the Draft Work Committee Chairperson within ten business days following the Draft Test. If sending via e-mail, please clearly name each file. The materials include:

1. Signed Judges' Reports.
2. One marked Running Order
3. Reports on Test violations, excusing of a dog or team, etc.
4. All completed entry forms
5. Diagram of the Maneuvering Course
6. Description of the Freight Haul Course and Map, if different from that submitted with the Draft Test Application

## APPENDIX      Glossary of Terms

**Apparatus.** The draft equipment used at the test. It may be a cart, wagon, sled, toboggan or travois

**Body Blocking.** The use of the handler's body to physically block the motion of the dog.

**Brace.** Two dogs working beside each other on one apparatus, coupled or uncoupled.

**Brace Team.** A Brace and handler.

**Bump.** Moderate contact between the dog, apparatus and/or handler with any object or person during any portion of the draft test. Also includes contact between the dog or apparatus and handler and vice versa. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Glancing contact between the wheel of the apparatus and an obstacle when conducting a turn.
- The dog brushing against the side of the gate when leaving the Practical Draft Work area.
- The dog bumping into a handler.

In a severity of contact spectrum Bumps are in the middle between Touch and Crash.

**Change of Pace.** The alteration of the speed in movement from Normal to Slow to Normal or from Normal to Fast to Normal. Both the handler and the dog should demonstrate the Change of Pace. Teams will not be asked to perform a Fast with the apparatus.

**Crash.** Significant contact between the dog, apparatus and/or handler with any object or person during any portion of the draft test. Includes contact between the dog or apparatus and handler and vice versa which results in:

- The upset of an obstacle and/or object.
- The upset of the apparatus.
- The cart and/or team require hands-on extraction from the obstacle.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Knocking over a traffic cone used to mark a turn.
- The cart flips when a traversing a tree root on the freight haul.
- The shafts become stuck in fencing to the extent the cart can't be extracted by backing or maneuvering only causing the handler to physically free the apparatus.

**Decorations.** Any decorative attachment that is not part of the basic construction of the apparatus.

**Distraction.** An event which focuses the dog's attention away from negotiating the draft test. It may be planned or unplanned

**Dog.** The term "dog" applies to dogs of both genders.

**Double Command.** A command that includes both a verbal and hand or body signal command.

**Double Handling.** Commands issued by a person other than the handler outside the ring.

**Elimination.** The act of either defecation or urination during the draft test.

**Halt.** The cessation of motion of the dog upon the handler's command. "HALT" is the concept being judged. Handlers may use any command word they wish.

**Hover.** The bending of the handler's upper body directly over the dog.

**Leash Guidance.** Any movement of the leash by the handler that is made with the intention of exerting control. A leash "guides" the dog as the slack is reduced. A tight leash is only the most extreme example of leash guidance. Judges will use common sense in evaluating whether the dog would have responded if the leash had not been there.

**Move Ups.** Changing an entry from Novice to Open Class in back-to-back or closely scheduled tests when a team qualifies at the earlier test in Novice and desires to "move up" to Open in the subsequent test.

**Off Course.** A significant deviation from the established path of the basic control pattern, maneuver course or freight haul course.

**Physically Guide.** Contact of any part of the handler's body with the dog or the draft apparatus with the intention of exerting control.

**Slow.** A pace distinctly slower than the pace immediately preceding it. Both the handler and the dog demonstrate the change.

**Stay.** Dog remains in both the same location and same position (sit, down, or stand). Minor movements such as adjusting of feet or rolling to the opposite hip are acceptable, provided the apparatus is not moved out of position. "STAY" is the concept being judged. The handler may use any command word they wish.

**Team.** Handler and one dog or two dogs.

**Tight Leash.** A lead that is not slack or loose and does not have a visible "U" or "J" shape between dog and handler.

**Touch.** Incidental and inconsequential contact between the dog or apparatus and handler and vice versa. Examples include but are not limited to:

- The brushing of the apparatus' shafts with the handler's clothing when conducting a turn.
- The dog suddenly rubbing against its handler's hand during a break in the freight haul.

**Wait.** Dog remains in the same location but may change its position (sit, down, or stand) or shift its feet, provided the apparatus does not move out of position. "WAIT" is the concept being judged. Handlers may use any command word they wish.