

# **STANDING RULES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## **Introduction**

The GSMDCA Constitution and Bylaws authorize the Board of Directors (Board) to represent the members of GSMDCA. Unless specifically authorized in the bylaws, individual board members have no power when acting on their own. The Board provides a vision of where the GSMDCA should be in the future and directs the “daily” operations of the GSMDCA.

The GSMDCA Board acknowledges that the consistent application of the GSMDCA’s governance policies is essential to protect the rights of all members. As such these governance policies will be uniformly (fairly and impartially) applied to all members, regardless of length of membership or any past or perceived future contributions.

To assist the Board in the fair and impartial treatment of members and to communicate those expectations, the Board has established these standing rules.

### **A. Board Meetings and Board Business.**

1. In addition to called meetings, the Board will conduct business through the use of an electronic bulletin board or through email or conference call.
2. The Board may choose to consider individual business under the procedures applicable to either a deliberative assembly or a small board as defined in the GSMDCA parliamentary authority.
3. All documentation of electronic deliberations is the property of the GSMDCA.
4. Board members can and should express any and all objections to proposed actions. Once a decision is made, board members are responsible for supporting the decision. Board members will not talk against action taken by the board.
5. The specifics of Board business are strictly confidential.
6. Motions for which the Board has expressed consensus will be adopted by consensus.
7. Board members have one week, unless extended by the President or a consensus of the Board, to cast votes on called motions.
8. Motions made as a result of other Board topical discussions may be called for a vote within 48 hours but not to exceed one week.
9. Board actions which have the effect of being standing rules will be added to these rules by the Recording Secretary.
10. Board minutes will be written in accordance with the procedure for “Minutes To Be Published” as defined in the GSMDCA parliamentary authority.
11. The Board will use the GSMDCA’s newsletters (SENNtinel & E-SENNtinel Matters), web-site (GSMDCA.org) and the official GSMDCA Facebook page to communicate with the membership. The Board will use the internet email address ([board@GSMDCA.org](mailto:board@GSMDCA.org)) to communicate with individual members.
12. In cases of vacancies in the Recording Secretary and Treasurer positions, the Board may solicit individual members. In cases of vacancies in Director positions, the Board will communicate vacancies to the membership via the Recognized Clubs, the web-site and the official GSMDCA Facebook page.
13. All outgoing officers must forward any GSMDCA records to the incoming officers within 30 days. All other Board members must forward any GSMDCA records to the incoming President within 30 days.
14. The treasurer will purchase crime insurance annually.

### **B. Appointed Positions Rules**

1. The President shall appoint members to appointed positions and committees, Standing or Special, as needed to serve the best interest of the Club.

2. All appointments made by the President must be approved by the Board.
3. There is no limit on the terms appointees may serve. There is no implied right of ownership to appointed positions. All appointments fall to the floor at the end of a Board's term of office. All current appointees wishing to remain in their status must follow the same process for those seeking an initial appointment.
4. All appointees' actions with regard to their responsibilities to the GSMDCA are subject to the final authority of the Board. Appointees wishing to resign at any time from their position must do so in writing or by e-mail to the Board.
5. All appointees' should advise the Board if they are unable to fulfill their appointed position's responsibilities in a timely manner. All efforts will be made to ensure that adequate support is available.
6. All members in appointed positions will submit a report to the Board twice yearly. Reports submitted and published in the club newsletters will satisfy compliance with this rule.
7. Appointees of the respective committees responsible for working dog tests, temperament tests, obedience trials, and agility trials, all performance events, etc., shall forward results to the Communications Committee and the Awards Chair.
8. Each committee is encouraged to develop goals.
9. All committee chairs are responsible for submitting the names of committee members and proposed budgets to the Board by February 15 of the calendar year.
10. All documents necessary to verify the approval of GSMDCA events and awarded titles are the property of the GSMDCA. All committee chairs are responsible for maintaining those documents for their term of office.
11. All outgoing committee chairs must forward any GSMDCA records to the incoming committee chairs within 30 days of the announcement of their appointment. All other Board members must forward any GSMDCA records to the incoming President within 30 days.
12. Any records not necessary for the current charge of a committee are to be forwarded to the President and Recording Secretary for storage in the document vault.
13. The Board will communicate all other vacancies in appointed positions to the membership via the Recognized Clubs, the web-site, Facebook and email blast. The Board will select a replacement from both the names submitted and other qualified members by a majority vote.

### **C. AKC Delegate**

The **AKC Delegate** is the communication link between the GSMDCA and the AKC. As soon as the Delegate receives the Delegate Meeting agenda, s/he will post it to the GSMDCA Board Bulletin Board for guidance and direction in casting votes in the upcoming meeting. The Delegate may wish to elaborate on agenda items so the Board understands the context of the items, and share insights the Delegate has received during conversations at previous Delegate Meetings or the electronic listserves. The Board will make the review and discussion of the agenda a priority to ensure guidance and direction are provided to the Delegate in advance of the Delegate Meeting.

The Delegate should prepare a brief summary of the Delegate Meeting and post it to the GSMDCA Board Bulletin Board as soon after the meeting as possible, and submit the summary to the SENNtinel and/or eSENN editor for inclusion. Additionally, the Delegate should relay pertinent information to the GSMDCA committee chairs that affects the purpose, scope and/or function of the committee.

### **D. Appointed Positions**

1. The **AKC Gazette Columnist** shall prepare a short breed related article to be published in the AKC Gazette on a quarterly basis. Articles must appeal to a wide audience of AKC exhibitors of all breeds yet also be of interest to GSMDCA members. Articles must comply with AKC Guidelines.

2. The **Awards Chair** shall be responsible for:
  - a. providing a list of dogs having received titles during the current year for recognition at the annual membership meeting;
  - b. creating an Annual Banquet Program and forwarding an electronic copy to the Historian
  - c. Only the Awards Chair may forward a list of awards and titles for publication by the Communication's Committee
3. The **Breeder's Directory Manager** shall be responsible for:
  - a. maintaining the GSMDCA Breeders' Directory in compliance with the Board approved guidelines;
  - b. accepting directory applications from members;
  - c. Supplying an updated copy of the Breeders' Directory (March 1, July 1, Nov 1) to the Communications Committee for publication with each issue of the SENNtinel and on the web site.
  - d. Remitting all receipts for the Breeder's Directory to the Treasurer with an itemized report of the receipts by payee, check number, amount and date. Breeder's Directory checks should be forwarded to the Treasurer at least monthly.
4. The **Electronic Communications Committee** includes the Web Manager, the E-Senn editor, the Facebook administrator and the Membership Chair.
  - a. The general purpose of the committee is to disseminate information on official GSMDCA business, activities, and other matters that relate specifically to the best interest of the GSMD and the membership.
  - b. The committee will determine the best methods of disseminating information to the membership in accordance with the bylaws and the Standing Rules.
  - c. The committee will to work in tandem to disseminate information to club members in a timely manner.
  - d. Specific responsibilities for this committee are outlined in separate sections pertaining to the SENNtinel, Facebook, and GSMDCA.org.
5. The **Facebook Administrator** shall be responsible for making notifications on the club facebook page under the direction of the Board of Directors.
6. The **Draft Chair** shall be responsible for maintaining the GSMDCA Draft Trial Rules and forms, coordinating the approval of draft trials, maintaining a current list of approved GSMDCA Draft Judges on the GSMDCA website, and reporting titles to the Awards Chair and the Working Titles Chair.
7. The **Health Chair** shall be responsible for developing, coordinating and publishing studies and other information concerning the health issues of the GSMD with board approval.
  - a. shall be responsible for organizing a health clinic or seminar at the GSMDCA national specialty
8. The **Historian** is responsible for electronically storing the following GSMDCA documents: SENNtinel, Top 20 program, annual awards program
9. The **Judges Education Coordinator** shall be responsible for maintaining and distributing the GSMDCA judges education presentation materials; coordinating or presenting the judges education seminars including one each year at the GSMDCA National Specialty.
10. The Membership Chair (MC) shall maintain the GSMDCA's current membership list. This shall be accomplished by:
  - a. Distributing the Board approved membership forms to prospective members.
  - b. Place a request for the payment of dues in the third triennial SENNtinel, the fall issues of the, and on the web site and mail a statement of dues owed to members who have not paid by February 15 of the following year.

- c. Provide a complete copy of the membership database to the Recording Secretary, the SENNtinel editor and American Kennel Club quarterly, and provide an accurate membership list of voting members for each annual club meeting, prior to ballot initiatives and elections. The database should reflect the membership as of March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1
- d. Provide an electronic distribution of the membership directory after March 1 of each year.
- e. The MC will provide a Board approved membership application and a Board approved membership guideline to the communications committee for publication on the club web site.
- f. The MC shall remit all receipts for membership to the Treasurer with an itemized report of the receipts by payee, check number, amount and date. .
- g. The MC shall mail membership pins. Regular Members are eligible for membership pins based on consecutive years of paid membership even if dues were not paid by the deadline. If membership dues remain unpaid for an entire membership year, the consecutive years count will begin again. (Established May 2007)

#### **11. Nominating Committee**

- a. By February 1st of an election year, the President must submit a full page advertisement to the Newsletter editor notifying members interested in being considered for placement on the Nominating Committee slate of candidates to get their Letters of Intent to the Nominating Committee no later than July 15.
- b. The Board must appoint the Nominating Committee by April 1st of an election year so that they can send a similar announcement to the Newsletter editor by May 1st for distribution on June 15th.
- c. The committee will follow the process as outlined in our bylaws.

The **Pack Dog Chair** shall be responsible for maintaining the GSMDCA Pack Dog Rules and forms, coordinating the approval of hikes and reporting titles to the Awards Chair and the Working Titles Chair.

#### **12. The Recognized Clubs Coordinator** must be a member in good standing of a GSMDCA recognized club and shall be responsible for:

- a. maintaining the Rules for Recognized Clubs;
- b. maintaining a roll of recognized clubs, along with their respective constitution and bylaws, membership roster, and elected officers;
- c. maintaining a calendar of recurring events hosted by recognized clubs;
- d. maintaining contact with all recognized clubs;
- e. processing applications for clubs seeking recognized club status
- f. Polling the recognized clubs concerning planned local and regional specialty shows.

#### **13. The Versatility Chair** shall be responsible for maintaining the GSMDCA Versatility Greater Swiss Rules and forms, awarding versatility titles, and reporting titles to the Awards Chair and the Working Titles Chair.

#### **14. The Weight Pull Chair** shall be responsible for maintaining the GSMDCA Weight Pull Rules and forms, maintaining a current list of GSMDCA approved Weight Pull judges on the GSMDCA website, coordinating the approval of weight pulls, maintaining and distributing the GSMDCA's weight pull harness inventory, and reporting titles to the Awards Chair.

#### **15. Trophy Committee** is responsible for taking inventory of the Perpetual and Challenge Trophies and making recommendations to the board about maintenance, repairs, replacement, shipping cases, etc. Additionally, the Trophy Committee organizes the return of each trophy for the next National Specialty.

#### **16. The Working Titles Chair**

- a. Event reports shall be sent to the WTC within 10 days of any GSMDCA working event.

- b. WTC computerizes records within 30 days of receiving and reviews title progress for all dogs that competed at the event
  - c. When a dog becomes eligible to claim a title, WTC informs owner of dog via letter or email and explains options towards claiming or waiting to claim titles. Letter is to be sent to primary owner of dog.
  - d. No title is awarded until primary owner of dog requests the title be awarded. WTC shall award title within 30 days of owner request. In the case of co-owned dogs, primary owner (owner handling dog at event) shall request title. Breeders, co-owners, non-owners may not claim title for primary owner without primary owner approval.
  - e. Any questions of eligibility of title should be addressed with the appropriate working committee. Title should be awarded unless there is a clear reason as to the ineligibility/inaccuracy of the title requirements. If no decision from committee is presented within 30 days, and title chair is unsure about awarding title, WTC presents issue to the GSMDCA board for a decision. GSMDCA board has 30 days to provide solution. If no decision is made, title is automatically awarded.
  - f. The goal of the WTC should be to award all titles within 30 days of owner request. WTC sends list of new titles to Awards Chair on a quarterly (or more frequent) schedule.
18. **The National Specialty Judge Selection Committee** shall be responsible for the National Specialty balloting process as specified in the National Specialty Judges Selection Criteria.
19. The **Futurity Chair** shall be responsible for taking the futurity/maturity litter and puppy nominations, as outlined in the futurity/maturity guidelines.

#### **E. SENNtinel**

1. The SENNtinel is the official newsletter publications of the GSMDCA.
2. A disclaimer must be published with each edition notifying the readers that advertisement in the SENNtinel does not imply endorsement by the GSMDCA and that the GSMDCA is not liable for inaccuracies in submitted advertisements and articles.
3. The **SENNtinel** Editor shall:
  - a. Publish and distribute the SENNtinel by the triennial deadlines.
  - b. notify the board notify the Board no later than 10 days prior to posted mail date, if the SENNtinel is not going to be mailed within 7 calendar days of the mailing date
  - c. Monitor advertising for content prior to publication and refer questions regarding advertisements to the Board.
  - d. Strive to provide a well-balanced, interesting and informative publication to all members.
  - e. Have the authority to establish the SENNtinel advertising rates.
  - f. Submit a proposed annual budget to the Board by January 31st of each year. The Board, at its discretion, may allow flexibility as needed to cover the cost of the newsletter; however, the size and printing specifications of the publication should always be parallel with the amount of revenue generated by advertising so that the newsletter does not become a heavy financial burden to the club. The Board may subsidize the Newsletter on request.
  - g. Submit a hard copy and electronic copy of each SENNtinel to the Historian.
  - h. Include an annual feature in the T1 SENNtinel to showcase "Decade Swissies" - GSMD who are ten years or older as of December 31st of the previous year. Feature to be called "That's My Senior". Owners to provide a recent photo, registered name of dog, call name, date of birth and name of owner. Dogs that have passed away after their 10 year birthday will be included on a one time basis. Dogs who continue to live after 10 can be featured as long as they live. Suggested format is to showcase these special seniors by age group.
4. The **E-SENNtinel Matters** Editor shall:

- a. Publish and distribute the E-SENNtinel Matters on an as needed basis for the GSMDCA. Frequency of publication is determined by available content.
- b. Coordinate with the SENNtinel editor and the GSMDCA President for content and frequency of publication.
- c. Coordinate with the Web Manager to insure all links to GSMDCA.org are working properly prior to publication
- d. Strive to provide a well-balanced, interesting and informative publication to all members.
- e. submit an electronic copy of each E-SENNtinel Matters to the Historian

#### **F. GSMDCA.org**

1. GSMDCA.org is the official web site of the GSMDCA.
2. The web site shall be a source of breed information and club information
3. Information shall be presented in a positive, but honest, method and shall advance the interest of the breed.
4. All Login and password information will be kept on file with the President and at minimum one other elected GSMDCA officer.
5. The Web Manager shall:
  - a. Make timely updates of posted material
  - b. Notify the board if updates will not be made for an extended period.
  - c. Strive to provide a well-balanced, interesting and informative web site for all members.
  - d. Submit a proposed annual budget to the Board by January 31st of each year. The Board, at its discretion, may allow flexibility as needed to cover the cost of the web site; however, the web site should not become a heavy financial burden to the club.
6. The web site shall include but is not limited to:
  - a. All official club documents including, but not limited to, Bylaws, Constitution, Standing Rules, Breeder's Guidelines, Breed Standard, National Specialty Guidelines, Recognized Club guidelines
  - b. List of Club awards and AKC and GSMDCA titles earned by Swissys and GSMDCA members
  - c. Information pertaining to the breed, breed health, and the club and the activities our breed is involved in
  - d. Judges, Breeders and Buyers Education materials
  - e. Directories of current officers/committees, draft judges, weight pull judges, breed mentors, and recognized clubs
  - f. Calendar of events
  - g. Available Ways and Means items
  - h. Membership information
  - i. National Specialty information
  - j. Contact information for the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Rescue Foundation
  - k. Donation links

#### **G. Budget**

1. The Treasurer shall submit a triennial financial statement for publication by the Communications Committee.
2. The Board will approve the release of funds for trophies for National Specialties, or may approve the set up of a fund for expenses for National Specialties, on an annual basis after reviewing the budget submitted by the Treasurer.

3. Based on availability of funds, the Treasurer shall include a \$2,000 annual donation in the proposed budget to the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation for Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs.
4. On occasion members will be asked to represent the GSMDCA and will be eligible for travel reimbursements. Examples of such representation includes, but is not limited to AKC Parent Club Conference, AKC Delegate meetings, the AKC-CHF Conference, Meet the Breed and other important conferences or events pertaining to club business. GSMDCA representation at these meetings should not be limited to those members that can afford the expense.
  - a. These expenses will be approved in the annual budget. The amounts to be determined by each Board as part of the budget or budget amendment process. If the member feels they will incur expenses above the budgeted amount they must be preapproved by the board.
  - b. The attendees are required to report to the membership with a report to be published by the Communications Committee if applicable.
  - c. Eligible reimbursements may include lodging, meals and transportation expenses. Members are asked to acquire the most economical accommodations and transportation. If for personal reasons, the member chooses upgrades in accommodations and transportation, the member is responsible for the additional costs; regardless of the available budget.
  - d. Other expenses such as beverages, laundry, tips, portage, telephone charges, are not eligible for reimbursement.
  - e. Cash stipends received from organizations must be split with all member participants. The stipend and the list of members participating should be forwarded to the National Treasurer for disbursement.
  - f. The treasurer will reimburse the member as promptly as possible.

#### **H. Recording Secretary**

1. The Recording Secretary shall:
  - a. Maintain a current list of Standing Rules and the Bylaws. The Recording Secretary is authorized to make editorial changes as defined in the GSMDCA parliamentary authority.
  - b. Shall prepare triennial minutes of the Board meetings.
    - i. These minutes will be posted to the Board Bulletin Board.
    - ii. The minutes will be considered approved by consensus if no correcting comments are made within 2 calendar days.
    - iii. Minutes may report on all other matters discussed by the board, including failed motions
    - iv. Approved Minutes must be submitted to the Communications Committee for publication
  - c. shall forward the results from official authorized balloting of the membership to the Communications Committee for publication
  - d. Provide current copies of the Bylaws, Standing Rules, Breed Standard, and Breeder Guidelines for annual publication by the Communications Committee.
  - e. Submit proposed revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws or Breed Standard to the membership by mail with the ballot or by submission for publication in the Newsletter prior to balloting the membership.
  - f. Store an archival copy of all updated GSMDCA governance documents and all approved minutes in the document vault.
  - g. Review all correspondence sent to the board e-mail and either respond from the board e-mail, forward it to the appropriate appointee or committee for response, or post it to the bulletin board for board discussion.

#### **I. Awards**

1. National Specialty **Perpetual Trophies** are maintained in the hands of GSMDCA members only and awarded at the annual Awards Banquet and listed in the Awards Program. As such, in accordance with AKC rules, Perpetual Trophies are not listed in the National Specialty Premium List. The Perpetual Trophies may be present at the photographer's stand for formal photographs.
  - a. Winners who are club members in good standing shall:
    - i. maintain custody until requested to clean and ship item for the next National Specialty
    - ii. engrave the names of the winning dog and owner thereon,
    - iii. submit receipts for reimbursement of engraving and ground shipping
    - iv. replace any challenge trophies lost, damaged or destroyed while in their possession
    - v. If the winners do not wish to assume responsibility for the challenge trophy, they may request that the GSMDCA engrave, hold and forward said trophy to the subsequent year's National Specialty Chair.
  - b. **Best of Breed** at the National Specialty. A one-of-a-kind bronze sculpture of a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog created by Caryl Castleberry offered by an anonymous donor.
  - c. **Best Puppy in Sweepstakes** at the National Specialty. The Summons Memorial Trophy is awarded in honor of Howard and Gretel Summons, founding members of the GSMDCA and outstanding influences on the breed. A loving cup offered by the GSMDCA.
  - c. **Highest Regular Obedience Qualifying Score with a GSMDCA Working Title** at the National Specialty: **The Bill Faure Memorial Trophy**. A trophy offered by Friends of Bill Faure. For purposes of this trophy, a GSMDCA working title is defined as a weight pull, pack dog or draft dog title accepted by the GSMDCA. Initiated in 2006 at the Snowmass, Colorado National Specialty.
  - d. **Most Weight Pulled** at the National Specialty. A wine cooler offered by the GSMDCA.
  - e. **Highest % of Body Weight Pulled** at the National Specialty. The Bit-A-Swissy Bridger-Teton WPDX WWDS ACE Trophy. A Jonathan Bastian carving offered in honor of "Bridger" by Alison & John Woods and Teresa Petterson.
  - f. **Top Twenty Traveling Trophy** at National Specialties where the event is offered. **The Diane Engleking Memorial Trophy**. The trophy kept in possession of the winner until it is awarded at a subsequent Top Twenty event. At the time of the subsequent events, a smaller version of the trophy will provided to the former winner for permanent possession. The creation of this trophy is not intended to require a Top Twenty Event at any given National Specialty. Initiated in 2007 at the Purina Farms, Missouri National Specialty.
  - g. **Highest Scoring Dog in Novice A The Carolyn White Memorial Challenge Trophy**. A large ceremonial Swiss cow bell offered by Friends of Carolyn White. Initiated in 2004 at the Lexington Kentucky National Specialty.
  - h. **Brood Bitch Class 1<sup>st</sup>** A trophy offered by the GSMDCA.
  - i. **High in Trial** : A trophy offered by Joanne Schottinger.
  - j. National Specialty Memorial/Honor trophies may be donated by club members in honor of a dog or a person and become the permanent possession of whoever wins it the following year. Memorial/Honor trophies are not listed in the National Specialty Premium List but may be present at the photographers stand for formal photographs. Memorial/Honor trophies are presented at the annual Awards Banquet and listed in the Awards Program. One or more Memorial/Honor trophies will be accepted for each class and must be approved by the board.
2. National Specialty **Challenge Trophies** are maintained in the hands of GSMDCA members only and awarded at the annual Awards Banquet. As such, in accordance with AKC rules, Challenge Trophies are not listed in the National Specialty Premium List. The Challenge Trophies may be present at the photographer's stand for formal photographs.
  - a. Winners who are club members in good standing shall:
    - i. maintain custody until requested to clean and ship item for the next National Specialty



- ii. engrave the names of the winning dog and owner thereon,
  - iii. submit receipts for reimbursement of engraving and ground shipping
  - iv. replace any challenge trophies lost, damaged or destroyed while in their possession.
  - v. If the winners do not wish to assume responsibility for the challenge trophy, they may request that the GSMDCA engrave, hold and forward said trophy to the subsequent years National Specialty Chair.
- b. For permanent possession, these trophies must be won three times by the same owner, not necessarily the same dog nor at consecutive shows.
  - c. **Stud Dog Class 1<sup>st</sup>** The BISS CH Ky Quiet Riot v. Sarmac, ROM “Rio” Challenge Trophy. A hand-crafted piece by Jonathan Bastian, offered by Lori Price. Initiated in 2000 at the Reno, Nevada National Specialty.
  - d..The board is not accepting additional Challenge Trophies. When current Challenge Trophies are retired, the Challenge Trophy designation will cease to exist.
3. **Register of Merit:** The ROM is awarded to any dog that has produced 10 Champions in his first generation progeny, and to any bitch that has produced 5 Champions in her first generation progeny.
  4. The **Legion of Merit (LOM)** producer - In order to obtain LOM status, a dog must have sired three or more ROMs and a bitch must have produced two or more ROMs. LOM status is based upon offspring only, and does not require the receiver be an ROM or an AKC Champion. This award was established in January 2009 and is retroactive to all GSMD on record.
  5. **Award of Outstanding Achievement:** Award of Outstanding Achievement: (a) Awarded to all Top Ten Winning Conformation Dogs (b) all Top Five Winning Obedience Dogs and to any dog earning the title of Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH). To be awarded annually at the GSMDCA Awards Banquet.
  6. **Owner-Handler Awards:** To recognize the achievement of owner handlers in the GSMDCA and encourage owners to handle their dogs to their AKC Championship or Grand Championship. To be awarded annually.
  7. **Breeder Recognition Award.** An award will be presented annually to the Top Producing Breeder of Titles
  8. **Top Producer of Champions Award** Awarded to the GSMD dog and GSMD bitch producing the most Champion get within the previous calendar year. To be first awarded in 2008 for the 2007 calendar year. (Established May 2007)
  9. **Top Producer of Working Titles Award** Awarded to the GSMD dog and GSMD bitch producing the most Working Titled get within the previous calendar year. (Established May 2007)
  10. **Versatility Register of Merit-**Awarded to a dam or sire for a required number of offspring attaining Versatility designations. There are no requirements for the dam or sire, themselves, to earn conformation or working titles. A dam shall be designated a VROM when she has produced three (3) or more offspring having attained VGS titles. A sire shall be designated a VROM when he has produced six (6) or more offspring having attained VGS titles. If any of the offspring has attained a VGSX, these will qualify towards the VROM designation.
  11. **Versatility Greater Swiss-**The Versatility Greater Swiss (VGS) title is awarded to dogs whose achievements have been recognized with at least four, obedience, and 3 other event certifications.

## **J. Annual Honorary Awards**

1. Annual Awards offered:
  - a. **Friend of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog:** - To be awarded to the GSMDCA member who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication and altruism contributing to the welfare of the GSMD (in the United States). By way of example and not by way of limitation, consideration

should be given to involvement and contribution on behalf of breed education, mentorship, rescue, health, and similar efforts for the benefit of the breed and its owners.

- b. **Ambassador of the Breed Award** - To recognize purebred Swissies demonstrating extraordinary accomplishments as working/service dogs, both perpetuating the breed's historical purpose by example and through motivating others in the interest and pursuit of preserving the GSMDs working heritage. Nominees must be purebred GSMD.  
(Note: Titles may be considered but are not to define qualification for this award.)
  - c. **The Margaret Poole Lifetime Achievement Award** - To honor from time to time a person or team demonstrating a lifetime commitment to the GSMD breed and exemplary service to the GSMDCA. Nominees must have been active members in good standing of the GSMDCA for at least 15 years.
  - d. **Exemplary Junior Award:** to honor who has demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship and dedication to the GSMD in the preceding year through participation in AKC's Junior Handler Program (provide AKC Handler number on nomination) and various events or community service that has contributed to the welfare of the breed or the GSMDCA. Parent or guardian of the junior must be a member of the GSMDCA. If no qualified candidates are nominated the Board may elect to not present the award. Initiated at the 2006 Snowmass, Colorado National Specialty.
  - e. **AKC Sportmans Award:** This award honors those individuals who deserve special recognition that have made a difference in the sport of purebred dogs, embodied the AKC Code of Sportsmanship, and have been an active and valued member of an AKC member club. Medallions are awarded solely at the GSMDCA discretion.
2. Method of Selection:
    - a. The President must place an announcement in the 3<sup>rd</sup> triennial SENNTinel seeking nominations for these four awards from the membership to be received by a member of the Board by January 31st. Late nominations will not be accepted.
    - b. The Board shall vote by secret ballot to be sent to the Recording Secretary.
    - c. The Board will not discuss the merits of any nomination until after the deadline.
    - d. The Board may request additional information from the nominators.

### **K. Specialties**

1. The National Specialty will be held in successive years in the West, Midwest, and East regions as defined in the National Specialty Guidelines. If members do not wish to host the National in their designated year, members from the other regions may host the National by petitioning the Board in writing.
2. As the GSMDCA grows and Recognized Clubs form, this section will be changed to increase the number of regional divisions and to clarify the rules for application to host the National Specialty.
3. The GSMDCA approved National Specialty Guidelines contain the rules and regulations that must be followed by the recognized club hosting the National Specialty.
4. It is the responsibility of the chair of the National Specialty to organize the gathering of all results for publication by the Communications Committee and distribution to the Awards Chair, Historian and Statistician.
5. The GSMDCA Treasurer shall appear as a signatory on all national specialty bank accounts.
6. The sponsorship of the Best of Breed Trophy at the National Specialty will be offered to the BOB winner from the previous year. If that is refused the sponsorship will be open to the general membership.
7. Additional Classes
  - a. Generations Class

Three dogs with one exhibit from each generation of a three-generation pedigree regardless of sex, exhibited from oldest to youngest. Neutered dogs and spayed bitches are eligible. Ownership does not need to be identical. Dog #1 - Father or Mother; Dog #2 - Son or Daughter; Dog #3 - Grandson or Granddaughter of Dog #1 and Son or Daughter of Dog #2. Dogs entered in the Generations Class do not need to be entered in a regular class.

b. Breeder's Class:

The breeder of record enters a team with a minimum of three and a maximum of five dogs, without distinction as to gender. The entrant must be the breeder of record for all exhibits.

It is not required that the breeder of record be the current owner. All dogs entered must be a minimum of 6 months of age - spayed and neutered dogs are eligible. The team that is exhibited in the Breeder's Class must represent more than one litter and cannot all have identical parentage. Each team will be judged as a unit, standing and moving to determine their overall quality, consistency and similarity, breed type and conformation to the breed standard. Awards will be presented to Best Breeder's Team and Reserve Best Breeder's Team.

8.

#### **L. Miscellaneous**

1. These Standing Rules may be reviewed and revised as needed by a majority vote of the Board.
2. The use of the GSMDCA membership roster for commercial, personal gain or political purposes shall not be permitted.
3. Any dog, Greater Swiss Mountain Dog or otherwise, shall be excluded from any Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America event that has been disqualified (DQ'd) for aggression by the American Kennel Club until fully reinstated. Furthermore, dogs found to be an excessive nuisance or threat may be asked to be removed from the event at the discretion of the event manager, host, and/or judge.

Updated: December 2018

© 1996-2018 the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.