



The Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club

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.
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 newsletter (SENntinel), and web-site (GSMDCA.org) to communicate with the membership. The Board will use the internet email address (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 and the web-site.

13. A separate electronic bulletin board will be established for the incoming Board. Upon the announcement of the election results, the incoming Board may access and use this bulletin board for organizational and networking purposes.
14. 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.
15. Those authorized by the Board to sign checks shall be bonded at the expense of the GSMDCA.

B. Appointed Positions Rules

1. The President shall appoint members to positions, or may create positions with Board approval that are deemed necessary and would benefit the GSMDCA.
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 timely. All efforts will be made to ensure that adequate support is available.
6. A Board member will be designated to maintain contact with all appointees' and serve as a liaison to the Board.
7. All members in appointed positions will submit a report to the Board with a copy to the historian twice yearly. Reports submitted and published in the SENNtinel will satisfy compliance with this rule.
8. Appointees of the respective committees responsible for working dog tests, temperament tests, obedience trials, all performance events, etc., shall forward results to the Newsletter editor, the Awards Chair, the Historian and the Statistician.
9. Each committee is encouraged to develop a Mission Statement to be placed on the club website after approval from the Board.
10. All committee chairs are responsible for submitting the names of committee members and proposed budgets to the Board.
11. All documents necessary to verify the approval of GSDMCA events and awarded titles are the property of the GSDMCA. All committee chairs are responsible for maintaining those documents for their term of office.
12. 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.
13. Any records not necessary for the current charge of a committee are to be forwarded to the Historian, with record of transfer notification to the President and the Recording Secretary.
14. The Board will communicate all other vacancies in appointed positions to the membership via the Recognized Clubs and the web-site. The Board will select a replacement from both the names submitted and other qualified members by a majority vote.

C. Appointed Positions

1. The **AKC Delegate** shall function as the communication link between the GSMDCA and the AKC. The delegate will answer directly to the Board and will provide periodic reports in the newsletter regarding information relayed by the AKC.
2. The **Awards Committee Chair** (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. providing this list to the Historian;Only the Awards Chair may forward a list of awards and titles for publication to GSMDCA website.
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 (Feb 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1) to the Newsletter editor for publication with each issue and the same copy to the web chair on March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15 for posting on GSMDCA 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 **Breeder's Education Committee Chair** shall be responsible for developing and submitting to the Board for approval a breeder's education program.
5. The **Corresponding Secretary** shall be responsible for:
 - a. answering of all inquiries about the GSMD and the GSMDCA;
 - b. maintaining accurate records thereof;
 - c. submitting proposed information packets or cover letters being distributed on behalf of the GSMDCA to the Board for approval;
6. The **Draft Committee Chair** (Draft Chair) shall be responsible for:
 - a. maintaining the GSMDCA Draft Rules and forms;
 - b. coordinating the approval of draft trails; and
 - c. reporting titles to the Awards Chairs and Historian.
7. The **Health Committee Chair** (Health Chair) shall be responsible for developing, coordinating and publishing studies and other information concerning the health issues of the GSMD.
8. The **Herding Committee Chair** (Herding Chair) shall be responsible for:
 - a. maintaining the GSMDCA Herding Rules and forms;
 - b. coordinating the approval of herding tests and trials; and
 - c. reporting titles to the Awards Chair and Historian.
9. The **Historian** shall be responsible for:
 - a. maintaining the historical records, both hard copy and electronic, of the GSMDCA and GSMD;
 - b. maintaining written records of recipients of perpetual trophies and awards of outstanding achievement;
 - c. establishing a method for the donation, display and access of GSMDCA and GSMD items; and
 - d. determining the appropriate preservation of the GSMDCA and GSMD archives.
10. The **International Liaison** shall maintain contact with GSMD clubs and breeders outside the USA and periodically submit for publication in the newsletter articles regarding health issues, breeding practices and other information provided by these

clubs and breeders. The liaison is not permitted to act as a broker or agent for the sale of GSMD.

11. 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.
12. 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 fourth quarter Newsletter 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. Distribute a membership directory to the members annually at the direction of or after obtaining approval from the Board. The membership directory is to be mailed with the 4th Quarter SENNtinel.
 - e. The MC will provide a Board approved membership application and a Board approved membership guideline to the newsletter editor for publication back to back with each issue and to the web chair for posting 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. Membership checks should be forwarded to the Treasurer at least monthly. More frequent remittance maybe necessary during the first quarter of the membership year.
 - g. The MC shall mail membership pins. 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)
 - h.. The MC shall assign each member a tracking number. The number will include the year joined, type of membership, followed by a sequential number. Example: 07I001 I-Individual, H-Household, A-Associate, F-Foreign. (Established May 2007)
13. The **National Specialty Coordinator** is the liaison between each NS committee and the Board of Directors.
 - a. The NS Coordinator works with each NS Show Chair or an appropriate person designated by the Show Chair.
 - b. The NS Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that all AKC and GSMDCA deadlines for each NS are met by the Show Chair and for notifying the Board of Directors if a deadline has not been met.
 - c. The NS Coordinator must be well versed in the GSMDCA NS Guidelines (Manual) and own a copy of an American Kennel Club Show/Trial Manual: A Guide for Planning AKC Dog Shows and Obedience Trails (Grey Book).
 - d. The NS Coordinator maintains a timeline for each National Specialty. This timeline, with deadlines noted, must include the following:

- a) AKC Paperwork submission including special events paperwork
 - b) Superintendent contract, premium list and catalog proof submission
 - c) Superintendent labels for mailing
 - d) NS Committee's mailing of schedule, entry forms for other GSMDCA working and social events to GSMDCA members.
 - e) Quarterly financial reports due the board of directors
 - f) Applications or requests for working events submitted to appropriate GSMDCA Committee Chairs for approval.
 - g) Closeout of NS bank account and return of GSMDCA Seed Money.
- e. NC Coordinator and NS Show Chair must provide the Board of Directors the agreed upon timeline within three months of the NS being awarded. The NS Coordinator will submit records collected for each NS to the Historian within 90 days of the NS. *(Established July 2006)*
- 14.** The responsibilities of the **Newsletter Editor** may be found in the section of the Standing Rules dealing with the newsletter.
- 15. Nominating Committee Chair**
- 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.
- 16. The Obedience Committee Chair** (Obedience Chair) shall be responsible for maintaining the obedience award rules and reporting titles to the Awards Chair and Historian.
- 17. The Pack Dog Committee Chair** (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 Historian.
- 18. 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; and
 - f. polling the recognized clubs concerning planned local and regional specialty shows.
- (Established November 2004.)*
- 19.** The **Registrar** shall maintain the registry of the GSMDCA. The Registrar shall submit the names of members submitting litter registrations to the Newsletter Editor and Historian quarterly. The Registrar shall proactively seek to identify GSMD breedings and request a litter registration. In cases where no litter registrations are forthcoming, the Registrar will record any known information about the breedings.
- 20.** The **Rescue Committee Chair** shall be responsible for coordinating the rescue activities; maintaining records of all reported rescues; approving reimbursements for

rescue volunteers; and providing rescue summaries to the Newsletter Editor and Historian.

21. The **Statistician** shall maintain the Conformation, Obedience and Owner Handler ranking statistics of GSMDs. Quarterly these statistics must be provided to the GSMDCA web master for publication on the GSMDCA web site. These statistics will not appear on private web sites. Annually these statistics shall be provided to the Awards Chair and the Historian.
22. The **Versatility Committee Chair** (Versatility Chair) shall be responsible for maintaining the GSMDCA Versatility Greater Swiss Rules and forms, awarding versatility titles, ordering the appropriate crate tags and reporting titles to the Awards Chair and Historian.
23. The **Ways and Means Committee Chair** shall be responsible for approved GSMDCA Ways and Means revenue generating items. The Ways and Means Committee Chair may request up to a \$50 petty cash fund to be used for shipping expenses. The fund will be replenished upon submission of the appropriate shipping receipts. This shall be accomplished by:
 - a. submitting to the Board for approval proposals for new and the reorder of inventory items;
 - b. submitting to the Board for approval proposed price of inventory items;
 - c. upon Board approval coordinating the purchase of inventory items;
 - d. submitting invoices to the Treasurer for the payment or reimbursement of purchased inventory items;
 - e. receiving sales receipts and distributing items sold;
 - f. forwarding gross monies received for sales to the Treasurer with an itemized report of the receipts by payee, check number, amount and date, monthly; and
 - g. keeping an accurate inventory including beginning inventory, inventory sold and ending inventory and submitting the inventory report to the Treasurer quarterly.
24. Web Site Committee Chair will follow the established Mission Statement.
25. The **Weight Pull Committee Chair** (Weight Pull Chair) shall be responsible for maintaining the GSMDCA Weight Pull Rules and forms, coordinating the approval of weight pulls, maintaining and distributing the GSMDCA's weight pull harness inventory, and reporting titles to the Awards Chair and Historian.
26. Working Therapy Dog Committee Chair shall be responsible for promoting GSMD owners to participate in Therapy dog programs.

D. Newsletter

1. The newsletter is the official publication of the GSMDCA. The newsletter's official title is the SENNtinel.
2. The general purpose of the newsletter 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.
3. It is the policy of the Board that no individual be refused advertising space in the newsletter because they do not follow a specific breeding program.
4. Advertising space will be refused to individuals who are not members of the GSMDCA or who have been suspended by the GSMDCA or the American Kennel Club for the duration of the suspension.
5. A disclaimer must be published with each edition notifying the readers that advertisement in the newsletter does not imply endorsement by the GSMDCA and

that the GSMDCA is not liable for inaccuracies in submitted advertisements and articles.

6. The Newsletter Editor shall publish and distribute the SENNtinel by the quarterly deadlines.
 - a. If the SENNtinel is not going to be mailed within 7 calendar days of the mailing date the Newsletter Editor must notify the Board no later than 10 days prior to posted mail date.
 - b. The Newsletter Editor shall monitor advertising for content prior to publication and refer questions regarding advertisements to the Board.
 - c. With the diverse membership in mind, the Newsletter Editor shall strive to provide a well-balanced, interesting and informative publication to all members.
 - d. The Newsletter Editor shall have the authority to establish the SENNtinel advertising rates.
 - e. The Newsletter Editor shall 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.
 - f. The Newsletter Editor shall submit a hard copy and electronic copy of each SENNtinel to the Historian.
7. Annually, the Q1 Senntinel is to showcase "decade Swissies" - GSMD who are ten years or older , free of charge. Feature to be called "Thats My Senior" Owners to provide a recent photo , registered name, call name and DOB of dog and name of owner. Dogs who 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. The feature will showcase these special seniors by age group. *(Established August 2006)*

E. Budget

1. A quarterly financial statement from the Treasurer shall be published in every issue of the newsletter.
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. The Board believes that it is important to ensure that the best person for the job attends AKC Parent Club Conference, the AKC-CHF Conference, the AKC Delegate meetings and other important conferences. GSMDCA representation at these meetings should not be limited to those members that can afford the expense. The attendees are required to report to the membership with a report to be published in the SENNtinel. *(Established May 2007)*
5. The GSMDCA sponsor the Best of Breed trophy at the National Specialty. The Treasurer will include this item in the annual budget and forward the funds to the NS Treasurer when the sponsorship amount is established. *(Established May 2007)*
6. Travel Policy.

On occasion members will be asked to represent the GSMDCA and will be eligible for travel reimbursements. Eligible reimbursements may include lodging 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.

Other expenses such as meals, beverages, laundry, tips, portage, telephone charges, are not eligible for reimbursement.

Without prior Board approval, committee chairs may not authorize travel for their committee members; regardless of the available budget.

If members receive any cash stipend from organizations "hosting" judges education or breed studies; this stipend must be split with all member participants. The stipend and the list of members participating should be forwarded to the National Treasurer for disbursement.

Travel for the AKC Parent Club Conference, the AKC Health Conference and the AKC Delegate meetings is authorized, the amounts to be determined by each Board as part of the budget or budget amendment process.

F. "Dog World" Advertisement.

The Board will consider the approval of advertising in Dog World magazine, in the Annual Breed Issue, on a yearly basis.

G. Recording Secretary

1. The Recording Secretary shall 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.
2. The Recording Secretary shall prepare quarterly minutes of the Board meetings. These minutes will be posted to the Board Bulletin Board. The minutes will be considered approved by consensus if no correcting comments are made within 2 calendar days.
3. The Recording Secretary may report briefly in the minutes on all other matters discussed by the Board including failed motions.
4. The Recording Secretary shall forward the results from official authorized balloting of the membership after tallying to the Newsletter Editor for publication in the next issue of the newsletter.
5. The Recording Secretary will forward to the Newsletter Editor the Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Rules, Breed Standard, and Breeder Guidelines for annual publication in the newsletter.
6. The Recording Secretary will forward the Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Rules, Breed Standard, Breeder Guidelines, and other Board approved rules, regulations, and Committee Mission Statements to the Web Chair for placement on the GSMCDA website.
7. The Recording Secretary shall 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.
8. The Recording Secretary shall submit the minutes of all Board meetings and the Annual Membership Meeting held at the National Specialty to the Newsletter Editor for publication after approval by the Board on the Board Bulletin Board.
9. The Recording Secretary shall submit an archival copy of all updated GSMDCA governance documents and all approved minutes to the Historian.

10. The Recording Secretary shall 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.

H. Committee Members

1. The President may appoint committee members, Standing or Special, as needed to serve the best interest of the Club.
2. Appointments must be approved by the Board.

I. Awards

1. The GSMDCA through the generosity of its friends and supporters offer the following Perpetual Trophies at its National Specialty shows only. Winner shall have custody until requested to engrave the names of the winning dog and owner thereon, clean and ship item to the Specialty Chair prior to the next specialty as requested by the National Specialty Trophy Chair. The cost of engraving and ground shipping perpetual trophies will be reimbursed by the GSMDCA. Winners are to replace any challenge trophies lost, damaged or destroyed while in their possession. If the winners do not wish to assume responsibility for the challenge trophy, they may request that the GSMDCA engrave and forward said trophy to the subsequent years National Specialty Chair.
 - a. **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. The Summons Memorial Trophy was offered by Catherine O. Cooper, Shadetree Kennels.
 - b. **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. (*Established January 2006*)
2. 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.
3. 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), (C) Tracking Dog (TD), or ISDRA weight pull title. To be awarded annually at the GSMDCA Awards Banquet. (*Revised February 2006*)
4. Owner-Handler Awards: To recognize the achievement of owner handlers in the GSMDCA and encourage owners to handle their dogs to their AKC Championship. To be awarded annually. (*Established November 2004*)
5. The GSMDCA through the generosity of its friends and supporters offer the following Challenge Trophies at its National Specialty shows only. For permanent possession, these trophies must be won three times by the same owner, not necessarily the same dog nor at consecutive shows. Winner shall have custody until requested to engrave the names of the winning dog and owner thereon, clean and ship item to the Specialty Chair prior to the next specialty as requested by the National Specialty Trophy Chair. The cost of engraving and ground shipping challenge trophies will be reimbursed by the GSMDCA. Winners are to replace any challenge trophies lost, damaged or destroyed while in their possession. If the winners do not wish to assume

responsibility for the challenge trophy, they may request that the GSMDCA engrave and forward said trophy to the subsequent years National Specialty Chair.

- a. **Best of Breed** The BISS CH Shamrock Leader CGC, ROM “Newt” Challenge Trophy. A traditional hand-carved piece by Jonathan Bastian, offered by Karen and Skip Conant, RidgeBridge Farm. Initiated in 2001 at the Springfield, Illinois National Specialty.
- b. **Stud Dog Class 1st** 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.
- c. **Brood Bitch Class 1st** The Ch. Lone Star Elle Trophy offered by Lisa Mayo. A bronze GSMD on a wooden base. Initiated in 2005 at the National Specialty in Leesburg, VA
- d. **f. High in Trial** Schonste Engi Robertson TD UDX “Enga” Challenge Trophy. A hand painted wooden trophy offered by Dee Montgomery. Initiated in 2002 at the Perry, Georgia National Specialty.
- e. **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.
- f. **Top Twenty Traveling Trophy** at National Specialties where the event is offered. A large loving cup on a solid walnut handmade base trophy engraved with a GSMD head offered by Diane Engleking. 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. (Established February 2007)

6. Proposals for additional challenge trophies must in compliance with any applicable AKC regulations and approved by the Board.

7. **GSMDCA NEWSLETTER CHALLENGE**

The GSMDCA Newsletter Challenge shall be open to all GSMDCA Recognized Regional and Local Clubs who publish a printed Newsletter, which is distributed to their entire membership, at least two (2) times a year. Clubs wishing to participate in the Challenge should select one (1) issue of their Club’s Newsletter, published in the calendar year previous to the Challenge year, for submission. Submission selection is at the discretion of the Club’s Newsletter Editor, who is encouraged to solicit feedback from their membership when making their decision.

Each year’s judges will be announced in the 3rd quarter issue of the SENNtinel, or will be available upon request from the GSMDCA Board. The panel will consist of three (3) members of the GSMDCA board currently sitting at the time of judge selection. Regional and local Club representatives sitting on the Recognized Clubs Committee will not be eligible to judge the Challenge.

The Club’s Newsletter Editor should send one (1) copy of the selected Newsletter individually to each judge. Submissions should be postmarked no later than January 15th of each Challenge year. Each judge will score every submission independently using the following criteria and then all three scores will be averaged for a final score. The Newsletter with the highest averaged score will be the winner for that year. In the

event of a tie, the first and second place prizes will be combined and distributed evenly between the two winners, and both will be announced and published as co-winners for that year.

One Grand Prize winner and one runner up will be selected by March 31st and the winning Clubs notified. The winner & the runner up will be announced at that year's GSMDCA National Specialty Banquet and published in the 2nd Quarter SENNtinel. The winning Newsletter will be published on the GSMDCA website and will remain available to the public for a period of four (4) months. The winning Club will receive a commemorative certificate and a monetary prize in the amount of 75.00. The runner up will receive a certificate and a monetary prize in the amount of 25.00.

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. Content (0-40 points) Examples: listing current Officers and Directors, including a calendar of events, information about Club meetings (times, dates and/or minutes), information about recent events (reports/results), a President's message, Chairperson reports, Informational & educational articles, recognition of member and club achievement. Generally, does the newsletter promote understanding of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog and the Club? Using photos can also greatly enhance the quality of the Newsletter.

2. Editing & Layout (0 to 30 points): This is where the judges take into account the "special" touches put into a newsletter. Does the writing meet acceptable standards for sentence structure, spelling, & punctuation? Is the writing interesting and clear? Does the layout indicate careful attention to white space, page balance, effective use of graphics, and thoughtful organization of the articles?

3. Uniqueness/Personality (0 to 30 points): This is where the judges will assign a value based on their "gut" reaction. How does the newsletter look? Does it read well, is there a certain characteristic or special feature that stands out? Does the newsletter's appearance stimulate reader interest?

(Established March 2006. Initiated at the 2007 Purina Farms, Missouri National Specialty.)

8. **Breeder Recognition Award.** A Breeder Recognition Award will be established to include a Breeders Cup and Breeders of Achievement Award. (Established May 2007)
9. **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)
10. **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)

J. Annual Honorary Awards

1. **Friend of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog:** Awarded to the individual who has done the most for the GSMD in the United States in the preceding year.

2 Ambassador of the Breed Award - To recognize purebred Swissies demonstrating extraordinary accomplishments as working/service dogs, both perpetuating the breeds 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.)

3. 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.

4. Exemplary Junior Award: to honor who has demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship and dedication to the GSMD in the preceding year through participation in 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. (*July20, 2005*)

Method of Selection:

a. The President must place an announcement in the 4th Quarter 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.

f. The Board will not discuss the merits of any nomination until after the deadline.

g. 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 placement in the Newsletter and distribution to the GSMDCA Awards Chair, Historian and Statistician.

5. The GSMDCA Treasurer shall appear as a signatory on all national specialty bank accounts. (*November 25, 2005*)

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. One years associate membership will be provided to all non-members adopting a GSMD through the clubs rescue Committee. If necessary, rescue funds will be used

to fund the cost of these memberships. This is a one time benefit. (*November 15, 2005*)

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