

National Specialty Judges Selection Criteria

EVENT	CONFORMATION	SWEEPSTAKES	FUTURITY/MATURITY	OBEDIENCE/RALLY	PERFORMANCE
Who may judge	AKC Licensed Judges approved for GSMD (no permit judges), Parent Club requested individual with AKC approval	Breeders (must be GSMDCA member, 10 years currently active in breed, have bred a minimum of 3 CH or others may be considered on a case by case basis by the GSMDCA BOD), or judges actively pursuing approval for the GSMD, or AKC permit judges, or AKC licensed judges	Breeders (must be GSMDCA member, minimum of 10 years involvement in the breed and produced a minimum of 3 litters, AKC approved judges (regular or permit status), or judges actively pursuing approval for the GSMD	AKC Approved Obedience/Rally judge or permit	GSMDCA members already approved to judge performance events shall be given first consideration.
How often eligible	Eligible every 8 years	Eligible every 5 years	Eligible every 5 years	As desired	As desired
Assignment restrictions and conflicts	All AKC rules regarding showing, handling, owning dogs entered in the show and all rules related to conflicts of interest apply, including erring on side of avoiding any gray areas. No GSMD assignments 6 mos prior to NS	All AKC rules regarding showing, handling, owning dogs entered in the show and all rules related to conflicts of interest apply, including erring on side of avoiding any gray areas. No GSMD Sweepstakes assignments 6 mos prior to NS	All AKC rules regarding showing, handling, owning dogs entered in the show and all rules related to conflicts of interest apply, including erring on side of avoiding any gray areas.	All AKC rules regarding showing, handling, owning dogs entered in the show and all rules related to conflicts of interest apply, including erring on side of avoiding any gray areas.	All GSMDCA rules regarding showing, handling, owning dogs entered in the event judged and all rules related to conflicts of interest apply, including erring on side of avoiding any gray areas.

Compensation	Judge's negotiated rate; travel expenses compensated at the discretion of NS Show Committee	No fee; travel expenses compensated at the discretion of NS Show Committee	No fee; travel expenses compensated at the discretion of NS Show Committee	Judge's negotiated rate; travel expenses compensated at the discretion of NS Show Committee	No fee; travel expenses compensated at the discretion of NS Show Committee
Food arrangements	2 tickets to banquet, lunch on days judging	2 tickets to banquet, lunch on day judging	2 tickets to banquet, lunch on day judging	2 tickets to banquet, lunch on day judging	2 tickets to banquet, lunch on day judging
Contract	Written contract required	Written contract required	Written contract required	Written contract required	Written contract required
Selection Process	Nominated and selected by GSMDCA membership vote	Nominated by NS Show Committee and selected by GSMDCA membership vote	Nominated by NS Show Committee and selected by GSMDCA membership vote	Nominated by NS Show Committee and selected by GSMDCA membership vote	Selected by NS Show Committee

National Specialty Judge Selection Process

The National Specialty Judge Selection Process has been designed to provide GSMDCA members with a meaningful voice while still allowing the National Specialty Show Committee valuable input to assist in maintaining control over the National Specialty budget. This Process also allows the Board the ability to ensure that the mission and objectives of the Club will be served by the judges it hires.

Judges Selection Committee

The Officers of the GSMDCA Board of Director will serve as the "Judges Selection Committee (JSC) for the purpose of overseeing the process of selecting conformation, sweepstakes, futurity, obedience, and rally judges at the National Specialties.

Selection Process

The selection of the National Specialty (NS) judges for conformation, sweepstakes, futurity/maturity, obedience, and rally shall be conducted on an annual basis as soon as the date and location of the National Specialty has been finalized, and as soon as practical prior to the date of the

National Specialty through vote of the membership via electronic balloting. The Judges' Selection Ballot for each NS will be composed of five nominees for Conformation and at least three nominees each for sweepstakes, futurity/maturity, obedience, and rally.

Updated 1/2025

Nominations

Nominations for conformation judges will be solicited from the General Membership via an annual electronic ballot conducted in time to allow for the selection process to be completed as soon as practical prior to the National Specialty. The JSC shall prepare a Judges' Nomination Ballot consisting of those judges regularly approved by the AKC who live in the United States and are licensed to judge Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs as of 14 days prior to the release of the ballot to the membership. Members may also write in candidates directly on the nomination ballot, which must include the judge's name and contact information. Each GSMDCA member in good standing will be allowed to nominate up to five judges for Conformation. Nominated conformation judges must have a minimum of eight nominations to be on the Judges' Selection Ballot for Conformation. If the selection ballot is not filled by nominees receiving at least 8 nominations, the JSC will send a second nomination ballot to the membership for voting, consisting of all nominees who received at least three nominations on the first nomination ballot.

The NS Show Committee will provide three nominees each for sweepstakes, futurity/maturity, obedience, and rally to the JSC for inclusion on the final Judges' Selection ballot. The NS Judges' Coordinator will have previously contacted these nominees to determine their interest in and availability to accept the judging assignment.

After the nomination process is complete, the JSC will tally the nominations and review the nominees for compliance with stated GSMDCA requirements. Should an individual receive enough write in nominations to be included in the Judges' Selection ballot for conformation, they will be asked if they are willing and able to fulfill all criteria set by the AKC to have a onetime permit approved to judge the National Specialty. (Per AKC regulations and criteria, the GSMDCA can request AKC approval for a Breeder/Owner/Exhibitor, who is not currently an AKC licensed judge, to judge the National Specialty.)

The top vote getting qualified nominees and nominees provided by the NS Show Committee will be presented to the GSMDCA Board of Directors (BOD) for approval. The BOD may veto a proposed candidate if they believe the Club will not be well served by that candidate; however, the final ballot shall be established primarily based on the number of votes received from the General Membership. If the BOD vetoes a nominee, the nominee with the next highest number of votes will be added to the draft Judges' Selection Ballot.

Once a draft selection ballot has been established, each of the nominees as voted on by the membership will be contacted to verify that they would, if chosen, accept the assignment considering show site, date and established criteria. If the nominee judge declines, contact will be made with subsequent judges in descending order of votes received until the required pool of judges has been obtained. Nominees will be asked to submit a biography summarizing their qualifications for publication with the ballot.

Updated 1/2025

Voting

The five nominated candidates selected for conformation and at least three candidates each for sweepstakes, futurity/maturity, obedience, and rally listed in alphabetical order will be sent out to membership, along with their biographies. An electronic Judges' Selection Ballot will be sent to each GSMDCA member in good standing, who in turn can vote for 2 candidates for conformation and 1 candidate each for sweepstakes, futurity/maturity, obedience, and rally. The vote will be tallied by the JSC. The candidate with the most votes in each venue will be selected to judge at the National Specialty Show. In the event of a tie vote, the candidate who received the most nominations on the initial nominating ballot will be selected from those tied in the final vote.

Schedule

The Voting Schedule should facilitate the selection of judges at least 24 months prior to the National Specialty. Specific dates will be applied to the schedule based upon the date selected for the NS. Announcement of upcoming nominations - start date:

- Nominating Ballot to the membership - 1 week
- Compile Candidates for final vote (process nominations, vet and acquire bios from judges) - ~3 weeks (will vary depending on responsiveness of the judges)
- Judges' Selection Ballot to the membership - 1 week
- Proposed list of judges sent to GSMDCA BOD for approval – within 1 week of ballot closing
- Prioritized list of judges sent to NS Judges' Coordinator for contracting – judges will be contacted in the order of votes received - end date

Hiring

Hiring and contracting a judge will be the responsibility of the NS Judges' Coordinator (NSJC). The NSJC is to be appointed by the NS Show Committee and is ineligible to exhibit any dog or enter a dog owned/co-owned by them at that National Specialty in Conformation, Sweepstakes, Futurity/Maturity, Obedience or Rally. Utilizing the prioritized list of judges provided by the JSC for each venue, the NSJC will contact the top vote receiving judge to verify their availability to judge for the date and location of the show, as well as verify the fees and expenses that will be charged to the club. The NSJC will send a draft contract using the GSMDCA's template contract to each judge. If a judge declines the assignment, then the judge with the next highest number of votes on the JSC's prioritized list will be contacted and so on. After the NS Judges' slate has been contracted, any other specialties that are being conducted in conjunction with the NS will be encouraged to use any of the remaining judges on the JSC's prioritized list.

Replacing Judges

In general, judges who are unable to conduct their assignment shall be replaced by the candidate with the next highest number of votes in the Judges' Selection voting. If no other candidates selected during the voting are available, the NS Show Committee will select a qualified candidate and submit this candidate to the GSMDCA Board of Directors for approval.

Other Considerations

- All conformation judges must adhere to AKC Guidelines for Conformation Judges, and this provision must appear in the signed contract.
- The NS Judges' Coordinator will provide all judges with the GSMDCA approved judges' seminar packet. The judging contract will stipulate that the judge must review this material prior to judging at the NS.
- Per AKC rules, dogs owned or co-owned by the Conformation, Sweepstakes and Futurity Judges may not be exhibited in the Sweepstakes, Futurity or Regular conformation classes at that Specialty event. A multi-day specialty is considered one event, and the restriction will apply for the duration of the event. Additionally, the Conformation judge may not exhibit any dogs owned or co-owned by them or their household members, the three days before and the three days after an assignment within 200 miles of the assignment.
- Per GSMDCA rules, dogs bred by the judge may not be shown to the judge but may participate in other events. For example, dogs bred by the Sweepstakes judge may not be shown in Sweepstakes but may be shown in regular conformation classes and/or Futurity provided they are not owned by the judge.
- Sweepstakes and/or Futurity/Maturity judges may exhibit at Independent/Regional Specialty shows following the National Specialty. They are not part of the multi-day National Specialty and carry their own event number. Contracted judges may not exhibit at Independent/Regional Specialty shows taking place prior to National Specialty to prevent any predisposed bias.

- Professional handlers, unless they own or co-own the entered dog they are showing, may not show in Sweepstakes and Futurity/Maturity. Nor may any handlers, amateur or professional, accept remuneration for handling another person's dog in sweepstakes and futurity. This notice of exclusion must be included in the premium list.
- NS Committee must approve all judge's contracts before being finalized. Top 20 judges are exempt and are selected (and kept secret) by the Top 20 committee. (see Top 20 rules for judges' selection process)
- Members of the Judges Selection Committee will not have any direct communications with judge nominees or candidates on the voting ballot. All necessary communication will be handled by the Judges' Coordinator with a copy to the GSMDCA Board e-mail. The NS Judges' Coordinator and their immediate family shall not show a dog at the NS in Conformation, Sweepstakes, Futurity/Maturity, Obedience or Rally unless their identity remains anonymous to the judges (e.g., the Board email account is used for all communication without signature by the Judges' Coordinator. The mere fact that the Club President signs the judging contracts as a sole act does not preclude them from showing or having their dogs shown in any event at the National Specialty. Any other person (and their immediate family) delegated to contact a Judge in order to hire, contract or coordinate judging details will not show a dog at the NS to that judge.
- Judges of all events and especially the AKC Conformation judge are requested to attend and speak at the banquet and are requested to provide a written critique for the SENNtinel.
- The Judges' Coordinator is only responsible for the contracting of judges for Conformation, Sweepstakes, Futurity/Maturity, Obedience, and Rally. The individual chairs for working events (pack hike, weight pull, draft, and herding) are responsible for those assignments.