

STANDING RULES OF THE GSMDCA 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), website (GSMDCA.org) and the official GSMDCA Facebook page to communicate with the membership. The Board will use the internet email address (boardgsmdca@gmail.com) 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 website 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.

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 with the exception of Technology Chair which is part of Treasurer responsibilities. 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 website, 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 listservs. 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 E-SENNtinel 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
 - d. Provide quarterly report of titles earned for publication in E-SENNtinel
3. The **Breeder's Directory Manager** shall be responsible for:
 - a. Maintaining the GSMDCA Breeders' Directory in compliance with the Board approved guidelines. The Breeder Directory Manager shall escalate any concerns about a breeder's actions or policies that he/she feels might warrant action beyond the scope of the Manager's role to the Board for consideration and action as the Board deems appropriate. Accepting directory applications from members.
 - b. Supplying an updated copy of the Breeders' Directory (March 1, July 1, Nov 1) to the SENNtinel Editor for publication with each issue of the SENNtinel and to the website manager for the website.
 - c. 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-SENNtinel 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's 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 pages (Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America and Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America National Specialty) under the direction of the Board of Directors.
 - a. shall be responsible for updating albums annually based on end of year results and statistics and National Specialty results.
 - b. shall be responsible for adding GSMDCA National Specialty Show Chair as an editor on GSMDCA National Specialty page.
 - c. shall be responsible for monitoring the message inboxes.
 - d. shall be responsible for monitoring commenting to ensure public comments and post adhere to the membership guidelines of the GSMDCA.
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 GSMDCA Health Committee 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
 - b. shall be responsible for determining CHIC requirements
 - c. shall be responsible for determining disbursement of AKC donor advised funds
 - d. shall be responsible for AKC Breeder of Merit program requirements.
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. **Junior Handler Awards Chair** shall with a committee representing all regions of the country, but not including a parent/caregiver of a currently active junior, oversee the process of selecting and awarding the Junior Handler awards each year. The Chair and committee
 - a. shall maintain all application forms as approved by the Board
 - b. assure timely communication of the award process and deadlines,
 - c. The selection will be made by the Junior Handler Award Committee with final approval by the Board of Directors
 - d. Organize and implement fundraising among GSMDCA members and regional clubs as needed to maintain the funds necessary to support the awards.
11. **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, E-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 in a timely fashion.
 - 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)
 - h. The MC shall provide a master membership file in the form of an online google drive excelsheet with all information for current members (name, address, e-mail, phone number, sponsors, pin date) that is updated throughout the membership year, at least monthly.
 - i. The MC shall submit new membership submissions to the Board for approval at minimum once monthly.
12. **The National Specialty Advisory Committee** shall consist of a Chair and 2-3 members appointed by the President and approved by the Board. Each member should have served on at least one prior NS Show Committee, preferably from one of the prior 3 Nationals. The NS Advisory Committee shall be responsible for assuring that the following occurs:
- a. contracting the superintendent (as far in advance as needed),
 - b. contracting with a ribbon vendor (as far in advance as needed),
 - c. filing the AKC event applications in coordination with the Show Committee.
 - d. serving as an advisor to the NS show committees,
 - e. reviewing AKC documents before they are published including the show premium, judging program, and catalog.
 - f. reviewing and approving any proposed deviations from the guidelines and handbook,
 - g. reviewing NS applications to be submitted to the Board for final approval.
 - h. Once approved by the Board, the NS Advisory Committee shall periodically review and propose updates to the NS Guidelines and Handbook.

13. **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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. **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.

17. The **Working Titles Chair**

- a. Event reports shall be sent to the WTC within 10 days of any GSMDCA working event.
- b. WTC computerized 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 the owner of the dog via letter or email and explains options towards claiming or waiting to claim titles. Letter is to be sent to the primary owner of the dog.
- d. No title is awarded until the primary owner of the dog requests the title be awarded. WTC shall award title within 30 days of owner request. In the case of co-owned dogs, the 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 regarding the eligibility of title should be reviewed 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 the committee is presented

within 30 days, and the title chair is unsure about awarding the title, WTC presents the issue to the GSMDCA board for a decision. GSMDCA board has 30 days to provide a solution. If no decision is made, the title is automatically awarded.

- f. The goal of the WTC should be to award all titles within 30 days of owner request.

WTC sends a list of new titles to the 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.
20. The **Technology Chair** will be a duty of the Treasurer position. The chair shall oversee the management of club technology platforms (GSMDCA board forum, GSMDCA club e-mail addresses, website, PayPal and the like) to assist with functionality and maintenance.

E. SENNtinel & E-SENNtinel

1. The SENNtinel and E-SENNtinel are the official 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 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 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. The suggested format is to showcase these special seniors by age group.
4. The **E-SENNtinel** Editor shall:
 - a. Publish and distribute the E-SENNtinel on a quarterly basis for the GSMDCA.
 - b. Coordinate with the SENNtinel editor and the GSMDCA President for content.

- c. Coordinate with the Web Manager to ensure 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 to the Historian.
- f. Shall include quarterly GSMDCA board minutes, quarterly GSMDCA financials, and quarterly awards chair report.

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 the GSMDCA treasurer/Technology Committee Chair.
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. Annually updated member achievements for the following:
 - a. Annual Club Award recipients (Ambassador of the Breed, AKC Outstanding Sportsman, Margaret Poole Lifetime Achievement, Friend of the Swissy, Exemplary Junior Handler)
 - b. Production Awards and Achievements (Annual top producing sire and dam for working and conformation, Legion of Merit holder, Register of Merit Holders)
 - c. National Specialty Winners (Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Grand Futurity, Grand Maturity, Best in Puppy Sweepstakes, Best of Opposite Sex Puppy Sweepstakes, Best Veteran in Sweepstakes, Best of Opposite Sex Veteran Sweepstakes, Most Weight Pulled Per Pound, Most Weight Pulled, Obedience High In Trial, Bill Faure Memorial Trophy)
 - d. Top 20 and Top 20 People's Choice
 - e. Versatility Greater Swiss title holders
 - f. Top achieving member GSMDs in working and performance events.
 - i. AKC Agility - MACH, PACH, top-level agility titles
 - ii. AKC Conformation

1. #1 Breed
2. #1 All-Breed
3. #1 Owner-Handled Series
4. Platinum Grand Champion
- iii. Draft – Master Draft Dog, Master Draft Dog Brace
- iv. Herding – titled above Junior Herd Dog (AHBA) and Pre-Trial (AKC)
- v. AKC Obedience – Utility Dog Excellent, Utility Dog
- vi. Pack Dog – Working Pack Dog Excellent
- vii. AKC Rally – Rally Advanced Excellent
- viii. Tracking – Tracking Champion and all other tracking titles
- ix. Weight Pull – ACE titled
- 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 Board will approve the release of funds for trophies for National Specialties or may approve the setup of a fund for expenses for National Specialties, on an annual basis after reviewing the budget submitted by the Treasurer.
2. 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.
3. On occasion members will be asked to represent the GSMDCA and will be eligible for travel reimbursements. Examples of such representation include, 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 pre-approved 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 accommodation and transportation. If for personal reasons,

the member chooses upgrades in accommodation 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. Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall:

- a. Be responsible for bi-annual entity filing with state of Indiana
- b. Be responsible for filing annual taxes with IRS
- c. Be responsible for receiving all payments to the club and for payment of ongoing club expenses.
- d. Manage and oversee PayPal transactions for GSMDCA.
- e. Serve as committee chair for Technology Committee
- f. Be responsible for maintaining club insurance policies (Commercial General Liability,

Directors & Officers, Crime)

- g. Coordination and consultation with outside accountant for taxes and other matters as needed.
- h. Submit a quarterly financial statement for publication in E-SENNtinel.

J. Awards

1. National Specialty Perpetual Trophies are maintained in the hands of GSMDCA members only and awarded at the conclusion of judging of the corresponding event(s) by a club officer. 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.

National Specialty Committees should make a concerted effort to have the perpetual trophies on display for the duration of the event in a prominent location.

Winners who are club members in good standing with the GSMDCA shall:

- i. Possess the perpetual trophy after official win photos are taken.
- ii. Winners have the following options available.
 - a. Maintain care, custody and control of the trophy until the next National Specialty.
 - Can arrange transportation of trophy to deliver to the National Specialty for arrival a minimum of 24 hours before the corresponding events start.
 - If transportation cannot be arranged, it is the winner's obligation to ship the trophy insured for \$500 at the winner's expense in the club provided shipping container to the address designated by the Trophy Chair.
 - b. You may elect to NOT assume responsibility for the trophy and related shipping and will return the trophy to the Trophy Chair by the end of the awards banquet.
 - iii. Provide the name of the winning dog and owner(s) to the Trophy Chair for brass engraving (if no response is provided, what is recorded with AKC will be used).
 - iv. Replace any perpetual trophy lost, damaged, or destroyed while in winner's care, custody and control.
- 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 of Winners at the National Specialty.** A one-of-a-kind wooden sculpture of a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog created by Jonathan Bastian offered by the GSMDCA.
- d. **Best of Opposite Sex at the National Specialty.** A one-of-a-kind wooden sculpture of a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog created by Jonathan Bastian offered by the GSMDCA.
- e. **Best Bred-By Exhibitor at the National Specialty.** A one-of-a-kind wooden sculpture of a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog created by Jonathan Bastian offered by the GSMDCA.
- f. **Best of Breed Owner-Handled at the National Specialty.** A one-of-a-kind wooden sculpture of a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog created by Jonathan Bastian offered by the GSMDCA.
- g. **Breeders Class Winner at the National Specialty.** A one-of-a-kind wooden sculpture of a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog created by Jonathan Bastian offered by the GSMDCA.
- h. **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.

- i. **Best Veteran in Sweepstakes at the National Specialty.** A one-of-a-kind wooden sculpture of a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog created by Jonathan Bastian offered by the GSMDCA.
- j. **Best Veteran at the National Specialty.** A one-of-a-kind wooden sculpture of a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog created by Jonathan Bastian offered by the GSMDCA.
- k. **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.
- l. **Most Weight Pulled at the National Specialty.** A wine cooler offered by the GSMDCA.
- m. **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.
- n. **Top Twenty Traveling Trophy / The Diane Engleking Memorial Trophy.** The trophy is 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 be provided to the former winner for permanent possession. Initiated in 2007 at the Purina Farms, Missouri National Specialty.
- o. **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.
- p. **Brood Bitch Class 1st Place.** A trophy offered by the GSMDCA.
- q. **Stud Dog Class 1st Place.** A trophy offered by the GSMDCA.
- r. **High in Trial:** A trophy offered by Joanne Schottinger.
- s. **GSMDCA National Specialty Junior Award** Recognizes and supports our GSMD Junior Handlers achievements in the Junior Showmanship ring at the National Specialty. The GSMDCA National Specialty Award will be given to the Best Junior in the GSMDCA National Specialty junior competition. The Award will be a \$100 gift card of the NS Host Committee’s choosing. Eligibility: **1)** The handler must be between the ages of 9 and 19. **2)** Must be correctly entered and compete in the Juniors’ classes at a GSMDCA National Specialty. Initiated at the 2024 Vergennes, Vermont National Specialty

2. 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 presented 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.

3. **Register of Merit (ROM):** 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** - 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 to be an ROM or an AKC Champion. This award was established in January 2009 and is retroactive to all GSMD on record.

5. **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.

6. Breeder Recognition Award. An award will be presented annually to the Top Producing Breeder of Titles

7. 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)

8. 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)

9. Versatility Register of Merit (VROM): 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 two (2) or more offspring having attained VGS titles. A sire shall be designated a VROM when he has produced four (4) or more offspring having attained VGS titles. If any of the offspring has attained a VGSX, these will qualify towards the VROM designation.

10. Versatility Greater Swiss (VGS): The Versatility Greater Swiss title is awarded to dogs whose achievements have been recognized with at least four, obedience, and 3 other event certifications.

K. Annual Honorary Awards

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.)

Eligibility requirements:

- Owner of GSMD must be a current member in good standing with GSMDCA
- GSMD must have been alive during nominated year

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.

Eligibility requirements:

- Must be current member in good standing with GSMDCA

AKC Outstanding Sportsman 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.

Method of Selection (*Ambassador of the Breed Award, Margaret Poole Lifetime Achievement Award, AKC Outstanding Sportsman Award*)

An announcement must be placed in the 3rd triennial SENNtinel and the club Facebook page seeking nominations. Nominations may be submitted through gsmdca.org or by email to

boardgsmdca@gmail.com by March 1st . The Board may request additional information from the nominators and will not discuss the merits of any nominations until after the deadline. Voting will be conducted by secret ballot of the Board of Directors. Results will be provided to the Awards Chair and remain confidential for announcement at the awards banquet at the National Specialty.

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.

Eligibility requirements:

- Must be current member in good standing with GSMDCA

Method of Selection

- Nominations will be collected on an ongoing basis throughout the year and may be submitted through gsmdca.org or by email to boardgsmdca@gmail.com.
- As nominations are received they will be posted on the GSMDCA Facebook page. All nominations received will be compiled and become the final considered candidates for the Friend of the Swissy Award.
- Nominations will be considered on calendar year basis. Any volunteer work done in the current calendar year will be rolled over to next year's nomination pool.
- The Board may request additional information from the nominators and will not discuss the merits of any nominations until after the deadline. Voting will be conducted by secret ballot of the Board of Directors. Results will be provided to the Awards Chair and remain confidential for announcement at the awards banquet at the National Specialty.

GSMDCA Exemplary Junior Award: This award may be awarded annually to a junior through an application process organized and managed by a Board designated committee. The selection will be made by the Junior Handler Award Committee with final approval by the Board of Directors. The Award will be presented at the National Specialty and include an award of \$500 to the junior selected. If no applications are received, or the committee deems there are no qualified applications, the award will not be given in that year. Initiated at the 2006 Snowmass, Colorado National Specialty.

Eligibility requirements:

1. Applicants must be between the ages of 9 and 19.
2. Applicants must either be an individual member or part of a household membership of the GSMDCA or said Junior's GSMD owner must be a member.
3. Applicants must submit an official application form with all required pieces no later than August 1 of the award year. The most current application form is available on the GSMDCA website.
4. Applicants may be in the top 10 junior handler rankings for GSMD at the time the application is submitted or finished the previous year in the top 10
5. Applications will include the following:

- Copy of the Junior's official school transcripts from the most current 2 school semesters showing a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Evidence, in a manner which can be confirmed with AKC records, of their interest and participation in showing GSMD by competing in a combination of Junior Showmanship and dog show breed or performance competitions.
- Include information on additional activities with a GSMD, e.g., regional club, community service, therapy, rescue, education, etc. This information will be considered but is not a requirement to qualify for the award.
- 300–400-word essay describing their experience with, and interest in GSMD

L. 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. Majors (3 points) for reserve winner bitch (RWB) and reserve winners dog (RWD) will be offered per AKC rules ONLY at the GSMDCA National Specialty and the Independent or Designated Specialty associated with the National Specialty. These majors will not be offered with any other GSMDCA Specialty.
8. Non-Regular Classes Involving Multiple Dog Entries – At the judge's decisions in the Non- Regular Classes involving Multiple Dogs Entries are based on the merits of more than one dog or bitch, no one of the dogs or bitches making up the entry judged first in these classes will be eligible to compete for Best to Breed by virtue of having won these classes.

STUD DOG CLASS - For Stud Dog a minimum of two (2); maximum a four (4) of their Get. It is not necessary that the Get is under the same ownership as that of the Stud Dog. The Stud Dog may be entered separately in one of the regular classes, or if a Champion of Record in Best of Breed Competition, but **MUST** be entered in the Stud Dog Class, the Get **MUST** be entered and show in one of the regular classes. The Stud Dog shall be considered as one entry and requires one entry fee, this being the regular fee plus the additional class fee if the Stud Dog is entered in another class. The Stud Dog must be shown in the ring with the Get. The class will be judged on the merits of the Get. Note – Chapter 11, Section 8, of the AKC Rules

Applying to Dog Shows, provides that neutered dogs may be entered as the Stud Dog.

BROOD BITCH CLASS – Same as for the Stud Dog except substitute Brood Bitch for Stud Dog and Produce of Get.

BRACE CLASS – Full particulars for each dog entered must be given on individual Official AKC Entry forms. Two dogs of the same recognized breed or variety that are similar in appearance, performing in unison, and presented by a maximum of two handlers. Both dogs competing in brace competition must have at least one common owner.

GENERATION 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.

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. The Breeder(s) of record may only enter a single unit of 3-5 dogs from their kennel, i.e., no kennel may enter more than one unit. 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.

J. 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.

© 1996-2025 the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.