

Mission Statement

The GSPCA Board of Directors recognize the desire of its members to be provided a venue to compete with their field dog(s) with the handlers being on foot. The board also recognizes that the quality of a gun dog performance is not related to the method of conveyance used by the handler. They have therefore decided to hold a National Championship caliber field trial with the words "Horseback Handling Prohibited" in its running rules. This event will be known as the GSPCA National Amateur Gun Dog Championship (NAGDC). This event will be held under the rules and procedures of the American Kennel Club (AKC) and judged on the AKC standards recognized for Gun Dogs.

Running Rules: GSPCA National Amateur Gun Dog Championship

Governing Body

The NAGDC will be run by an Executive Committee consisting of a Chair and Co-Chair and one member from each of the recognized geographical areas. (i.e., Northeast, Southeast, East Central, North Central, South Central, Northwest and Southwest). These boundaries will be those currently recognized by the Parent Club. Any changes in the boundaries in the future by the parent club will also direct change in the NAGDC field trial committee makeup. In addition, the committee will include the Recording Secretary of the GSPCA and the Treasurer of the GSPCA. The Field Trial Secretary for the event will serve as a non-voting member of the committee. The members of the committee will be presented to and approved by the GSPCA Board of Directors on an annual basis at its June meeting.

The Executive Committee will meet as often as necessary as determined by the Chair(s), to conduct its business. The committee may meet by e-mail discussion, telephone or electronic conferences, or in person. At least one meeting per year will be in person at the NAGDC trial itself. The committee will meet as needed to keep all committee members abreast of trial happenings and decisions and as necessary to deal with other issues. They may include but are not limited to standards of conduct, judge's replacements, suspending the trial for weather conditions and the interpretation or application of AKC rules. The Executive Committee is responsible for the strategic aspects of running the event from year to year, the Executive Committee may delegate the tactical running of a particular year's event to a named Event Chair(s) and an event committee.

Delegates Meeting

The annual NAGDC Delegates' meeting will be held annually in conjunction with the running of the NAGDC. At the NAGDC Delegates meeting each geographical section (Northeast, Southeast, East Central, North Central, South Central, Northwest and Southwest) will elect a representative for a two year term to the NAGDC Executive Committee. Representatives of the NE, NC, and SW will be elected in odd years and Representatives of the SE, EC, SC and NW will be elected in even years. The term of office will commence on the day elected and will terminate in two years when successors are elected.

German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America Member Clubs will be represented at all Delegate meetings by not more than one member selected from among their membership. This member must also be a member in good standing of GSPCA and in good standing with the AKC. An appropriate letter of qualification from the member club must be turned in to the GSPCA Recording Secretary prior to the date of the Delegate meeting. Each member Club will be entitled to one vote cast by its delegate. Each delegate will be entitled to carry two additional proxy votes from two clubs in their geographical section.

Notices to member clubs asking for items to be discussed at the NAGDC annual Delegates' meeting, will be emailed to member club secretaries, any items for discussion and proposals for two years in advance must be returned before the named deadline to the GSPCA Recording Secretary to be included on the agenda.

Following the Annual Delegates meeting and election of the Executive Committee, the Committee will hold an organizational meeting and elect a Chair and a co-Chair from among its membership. Vacancies created by these appointments or any other reason can be filled by majority vote of the Executive Committee and approval of the Board of Directors.

Location of Trial

The site of the NAGDC will be chosen by the Executive Committee with approval of the GSPCA Board of Directors.

Duties of the NAGDC Chairperson(s)

The NAGDC Executive Committee will elect the NAGDC Chair and Co-Chair. Since the Executive Committee can name a Chair and Co-Chair to run a particular event in a given year, this means that the NAGDC Chair(s) and the NAGDC Executive Committee Chair(s) do not have to be the same individuals.

Specific responsibilities of the Chair(s) include

1. Conduct all meetings. (NAGDC Committee meetings, Disciplinary, Judges, Banquets, Etc.)
2. With the assistance of the GSPCA Treasurer the NAGDC Executive Committee Chair(s) will prepare a detailed budget outlining the proposed and actual expenses of the NAGDC. The budget for the upcoming trial will be submitted to the GSPCA Board no later than the GSPCA Board Meeting immediately prior to the trial. A detailed financial report outlining the expenses and income of the NAGDC will be submitted to the treasurer no later than 30 days following the completion of the event.
3. Following the selection of next year's judges by the NAGDC Executive Committee (from the nominated list) the Chair(s) will contact the people selected and confirm their acceptance. These judge's names and letters of acceptance will be presented to the GSPCA Board for their approval no later than the board meeting prior to the event. The NAGDC Executive Committee Chair(s) will arrange for travel, lodging, care of horses (if judge brings their own) and incidentals during their stay at the NAGDC. The NAGDC Chair(s) will insure that all judges are accorded proper respect, courtesy and dignity and act promptly with the NAGDC Executive Committee concerning any violations of these. Should there be a late declination of a judge, it is the responsibility of the NAGDC Executive Committee Chair(s) to obtain a replacement subject to the Executive Committee and GSPCA Board approval. Replacement judges will be selected from the original list of candidates considered by the Executive Committee if at all possible.
4. Arrange with the appropriate state department of wildlife concerning permits needed for field trial permits and permits required for the keeping and killing of game birds

Event Chair(s)

5. The Chair(s) will familiarize the judges and handlers with AKC Rules, GSPCA Rules and judging criteria as found in the guidelines for running the NAGDC.
6. The Chair(s) will contract with the grounds owners for the period of the trial. They will also make arrangements for separate training grounds during the trial if possible and practical.
7. The Chair(s) are responsible for the layout of the course for each event and any alterations which may be needed for unforeseen circumstances. There will be a Judges' marshal riding each brace to inform the handlers of the direction of the course and to keep whatever gallery and/or observation vehicle from interfering with the smooth running of the event.
8. All decisions concerning starting time, ending time, number of braces to be run in a day are the responsibility of the Chair(s) and their committee.
9. An orientation preview of the course will be provided to familiarize any interested parties prior to the running. An appropriate announcement will be made.

NAGDC Secretary

The NAGDC Field Trial Secretary will be a non-voting member of the committee. A member of the named event committee can serve as the event secretary to handle tactical duties at the actual event.

Specific Duties of the Field Trial Secretary include

1. Makes application to the AKC for the NAGDC.
2. Submit the premium lists to the AKC.
3. Provide the premium list to the GSPCA Webmaster and the GSPCA Corresponding Secretary who will post it on the website and email it to all the GSPCA club members.
4. Place advertisements in the official GSPCA Journal and other applicable publications/social media, etc. in ample time to generate entries. These ads should outline amenities associated with the trial, i.e. lodging, food services, camping on site and scheduled events.
5. Receive entries and entry fees and send monies to the GSPCA treasurer. The NAGDC Field Trial Secretary may coordinate the use of an entry service with the approval of the Executive Committee. All entries must be paid by the advertised closing of entries.
6. Conducts the drawing and emails the running order to the catalog chair. The NAGDC Executive Committee will determine the entry fees with the approval of the GSPCA Board of Directors. The drawing will be held in accordance with the AKC Field Trial Rules and Procedures.

Standard Procedure at the time and place specified in the premium list

1. Prepares judges' books and a judges' marshal book for the event.
2. In the event of scratches coordinates the changes in running order and informs the judges and judges' marshal.
3. Maintains the GSPCA insurance policy on the ground during the trial.
4. Verifies other qualifications for entry such as DNA requirements, previous placements required for entry and if the handlers meet defined amateur status per these running rules and AKC rules.
5. Obtains judges signatures on appropriate forms and in judge's books and forwards to the AKC in a timely manner.
6. Arranges for someone to take pictures at the event.
7. Sends results, and pictures to the Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator to post on the Website and Social Media during the event and immediately after the conclusion. Send results and a complete write up with pictures to the GSPCA Journal by the cutoff date for inclusion in the next possible issue and other applicable publication(s)/Social Media on a timely basis. .
8. Write thank you letters to the Judges and Marshals.

GSPCA Recording Secretary

As in all committees the GSPCA Recording Secretary is a voting member of the NAGDC Committee.

Specific duties of the GSPCA Recording Secretary in regards to the NAGDC

1. Acts as secretary for all NAGDC and associated GSPCA committee meetings.
2. Submits reports and minutes to the GSPCA Board and to the NAGDC committee members.
3. Notes and records the result of votes taken at committee meetings.
4. Receives items from member clubs for inclusion on the agenda of the NAGDC Delegate's Meeting.

GSPCA Treasurer

As in all committees of the GSPCA, the GSPCA Treasurer is a voting member of the NAGDC Committee.

Specific duties of the GSPCA Treasurer

1. Responsible for all treasury functions of the NAGDC including receiving revenue and dispersing debited funds.
2. Supplies the NAGDC Chair(s) and Executive Committee members with financial reports and assists in the preparation of the budget for the next year's event.
3. Provides the GSPCA insurance policy with necessary Certificates of Liability Insurance to the GSPCA NAGDC Field Trial Secretary.
4. Advises the NAGDC on the financial aspects of the trial.
5. Makes payment of expenditures incurred at the trial authorized by the Chair.
6. Submits a report to the GSPCA Board of Directors.

Hospitality Chairperson

Specific duties of the Hospitality Chair

1. Responsible for organizing specific events and/or banquets during the event. A welcoming event on the night before the start of the running explaining the order of events and the introduction of the judges would be essential.
2. Hospitality events during and at the close of selected days running.
Breakfast, midmorning and midafternoon beverages and snacks for participants and judges. This could be coordinated with the dog wagon chair if one is being used if delivered to the course.
3. Lunches for Judges and volunteers
4. Solicit sponsors for hospitality, banquets, and their related costs. Contact local chambers of commerce, they many times want to become involved in national events in their area.
5. Order judges' gifts as directed and approved by the Executive Committee.

Advertising and Catalog Chair

Specific duties of the catalog chair

1. The NAGDC Catalog will be an official GSPCA publication consisting of information, running order and advertisements.
2. The catalog chair will receive the running order from the Field Trial Secretary to include in the catalog.
3. Solicit catalog advertising, utilizing the GSPCA Journal, member clubs, social media, emails to members, contacting dog related businesses that do not conflict with any GSPCA contracts, businesses local to the event location, etc.
4. Arrange for the printing and delivery of catalogs to the event.
5. Complete a financial report regarding the catalog and submit to the GSPCA treasurer and NAGDC Chair(s) within 30 days following the event.

Merchandise Chair

Specific duties of the Merchandise Chair

1. Utilize an existing vendor or if necessary select a new one if necessary.
2. Select and price appropriate merchandise to sell before and during the event.
3. Coordinate with the Webmaster and Corresponding Secretary to post and advertise offerings.
4. Provide a financial report to the GSPCA Treasurer and NAGDC Chair(s) within 30 days following the event.

Game Steward

Specific duties of the game steward

1. Reserve and order birds and holding pens (if needed) well in advance of the event.
2. Arrange for handlers to purchase training birds during the event if they desire.
3. Arrange for delivery to the grounds.
4. Control the key for the locked holding pen.
5. Coordinate with bird planters and arrange for carrying bags or boxes to deliver to the course.

Horses and Feed

Specific duties of the horse and feed chair.

1. If the committee decides that a wrangler is needed to provide horses for judges, bird planters, marshals and gallery rental, the horse & feed chair will arrange.
2. Verify wrangler's liability insurance is adequate for the event.
3. Agree upon accepted price and contract with the wrangler.
4. If the judges provide their own horses, provide someone to saddle them up in the morning prior to the running and to unsaddle them and care for them in the evening after the running.
5. Arrange for bird feed, bags, feeders and waterers.

Dog Wagon

The NAGDC committee may choose to run a dog wagon. If so a committee chair will be appointed to assume the responsibility for the dog wagon.

Captain of the Guns

Specific duties of the Captain of the Guns

1. Ensure an appropriate numbers of gunners are available. If a kill on course venue is decided upon; arrange for two gunners to accompany each brace.
2. Make sure the gunners are responsible, conservative and are well trained in the use of their weapons.
3. Provide shotgun shells.
4. If a call back situation is necessary, arrange for an appropriate site, and two responsible gunners.
5. Ensure that all people present including, judges, handlers, scouts, gallery and gunners are wearing blaze orange in all appropriate situations. Coordinate ATV usage for gunners if necessary.
6. Provide a walking "pacer" for disabled handler in the event that they are running alone.

Trophy and Awards Chair

Specific duties of the Trophy and Awards Chair

1. Select and order the approved AKC ribbons for first thru fourth place along with the approved number of award of merits.
2. Assist with design and selection of trophy for first and second place.
3. Assist with design and selection of other awards such as second series pins, etc.
4. Prepare budget of related expenses for NAGDC Executive Committee approval.

Judges

The NAGDC will be judged by Approved AKC Field Trial judges and will be judged on the accepted AKC Gun Dog Standard as printed in the AKC Rules Standard Procedure Guide. The judges will be chosen by the NAGDC committee and will be presented to the GSPCA board of directors for their approval at the meeting prior to the event. Any GSPCA member may submit a name to be included on a list to be considered to judge this event. Nominations must include the nominee's name, their previous judging resume and a letter of acceptance. The NAGDC Committee will compile this list and may add other names to it if they wish. The Executive Committee will by vote select two judges and one alternate judges for the running of this event.

The Event Itself

The NAGDC will be a 30-minute qualifier followed by a 45-minute second series. Horseback handling will be prohibited although the judges, scouts and gallery may be mounted. The NAGDC will be a retrieving stake. At the discretion of the committee the retrieve will be obtained either in a kill on course situation or by a call back to retrieve. A successful retrieve will be mandatory on the first series, but a retrieve will not be needed in the second series.

Horseback scouting will be allowed but only after the handler has asked for and received permission from one of the judges.

Whatever marshals that are necessary to maintain the orderly sequence of events will be appointed by the FT Chair.

The winner will be awarded the title "Amateur Field Champion" (AFC) if that title is not already held, and this title may be displayed as a prefix to the dog's registered name

The winner will be declared "National Amateur Gun Dog Champion" (NAGDC) and this title may be displayed as a prefix to the dog's registered name.

Qualifications and Rules of Entry

Entry in this event is open to any AKC Registered German Shorthaired Pointer six months of age or older who meets the following criteria.

1. Dogs must be amateur owned and if co-owned the co-owner must be an amateur. The handler of each dog will, in the opinion of the NAGDC Field Trial Executive Committee, meet the definition of an Amateur Handler for Pointing Breed Field Trials that is contained in the AKC Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures. The AKC specifies that an amateur may handle a limit of three amateur owned or co-owned dogs for which he/she is not an owner or co-owner.
2. Dogs must include DNA number on entry form.
3. Entry is open to any German Shorthaired Pointer six months of age or older that has placed in Amateur or Amateur Limited, All Age, Open or Open Limited Gun Dog stake or is currently a Field Champion or Amateur Field Champion or Master Hunter (MH) of record in the United States or Canada. Placements in derby stakes will not qualify.
4. All placements must be obtained in the 36 months prior to trial close.
5. Bitches in season may compete. It is the responsibility of the handler to notify trial officials in time to allow running order changes to handle bitches in season.
6. A minimum entry of 30 dogs is required by the closing of entries for this event to proceed unless approved by the GSPCA Board.