

I - National Specialty Show:

A. The GSPCA shall sponsor and hold a National Specialty Show, GSPCA Regional Show, Futurity, Sweepstakes, Obedience Trials, Rally Trials, Junior Showmanship and other related activities here in after referred to as the National Specialty Show.

B. All activities surrounding the National Specialty Show shall be conducted and governed by the National Specialty Show Executive Committee hereafter referred to as NSSEC.

C. GSPCA Member Club specialty shows, and/or AKC performance and companion events may be held in conjunction with the National Specialty Show with the approval of the NSSEC.

D. The National Specialty Show dates to be determined by the NSSEC, with preference given to the months of April and/or May.

E. The National Specialty Show schedule to be determined by the NSSEC, with a preference to encompass at least one (1) weekend day.

F. The National Specialty Show shall be held on a rotating basis among three geographic regions of the country as follows:

1. East (comprised of the following sections):

- Northeastern: CT, DE, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT
- Southeastern: AL, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV, DC

2. Central (comprised of the following sections):

- North Central: IA, IL, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI
- South Central: AR, KS, LA, MS, MO, OK, TX
- East Central: OH, IN, KY, MI, TN

3. West (comprised of the following sections):

- Northwestern: AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY, that portion of CA with postal zip codes 93600 and above.
- Southwestern: AZ, CO, HI, NV, NM, UT and that portion of CA with postal zip codes of 93599 and below.

G. The site of the National Specialty Show shall be voted on/selected by the National Specialty Show Delegates from a list prepared by the NSSEC. The site shall be selected and voted on two (2) years in advance. The site may include both an indoor and outdoor venue. All site details will be presented for approval by the GSPCA Board of Directors prior to the delegates voting at the Delegates Meeting at the show location. In the event of the inability to hold the National Specialty Show at the location as selected by the National Specialty Show Delegates, the NSSEC can select an alternate location with final approval of the GSPCA Board of Directors.

H. The financing of the National Specialty Show shall be the responsibility the GSPCA.

J. All aspects of the National Specialty Show shall be subject to the approval and direction of the Board of Directors of the GSPCA.

II. National Specialty Show Delegates:

A. There shall be an annual meeting of the National Specialty Show Delegates representing the Member Clubs of the GSPCA. Member Clubs and their designated representative must be in good standing with the AKC and with the GSPCA to be able to participate in the meeting.

B. A member club will be represented by one individual at the delegates meeting. Each delegate must reside in the same region as the club they are representing or be a member of that club. Prior to the annual meeting, each Member Club is responsible for furnishing the Secretary of the GSPCA with the appropriate credentials for their Delegate by the prescribed deadline. The delegates must be submitted to the secretary of the GSPCA in writing prior to the National Specialty Show Delegates meeting.

C. In the event that a Delegate from a Member Club cannot attend the Delegates Meeting, the Member Club can exercise its voting right by proxy provided this has been submitted to the Secretary of the GSPCA by the member club prior to the National Specialty Show Delegates Meeting. The proxy must be a resident of the same section as that of the Member Club. The total number of votes that may be held by any single Delegate is two (2). Proxies shall have the right to vote on all questions presented at that meeting.

D. Member Clubs may also cast their vote by mail and/or electronically on any matter submitted by a prior agenda.

E. All items voted on at the meeting must be presented to the GSPCA Recording Secretary as an agenda items. The deadline for these items is two (2) months prior to the event. A request will be sent out to all member clubs by the GSPCA Corresponding Secretary four (4) months prior to the event asking for delegate names and agenda items. All delegates and agenda items will be available on the web page.

F. Each Member Club shall be entitled to one (1) vote, cast by its designate representative on the items as follows:

1. Selection of the site for the next National Specialty Show.
2. Election of representatives to the NSSEC.
3. Any matter pertaining to the running of the National Specialty. These items are presented as agenda items by any GSPCA member or member club in good standing.

G. The annual meeting of the National Specialty Show Delegates shall be held at the place of and in conjunction with the NSS as determined by the NSSEC.

H. All Delegates present at the National Specialty Show Delegates Meeting will receive a copy of the agenda and order of business for that meeting, prior to the start of the meeting from the Secretary of the GSPCA. Agendas will also be available on the GSPCA website prior to the NSS.

I. A majority vote of the Member Club Delegates present, in person or proxy, shall decide any question.

J. The Chairman of the NSSEC shall preside at the annual meeting of the National Specialty Show Delegates. They shall have the usual functions and duties of a presiding officer and shall exercise the general supervision of the business of the meeting.

K. The Vice-Chairman, in the absence or disability of the Chairman, shall perform all duties and functions of the Chairman at the annual meeting of the National Specialty Show Delegates.

L. The Secretary for the Delegates Meeting shall be the Recording Secretary of the GSPCA.

III - National Specialty Show Executive Committee:

A. There shall be a NSSEC composed of the Recording Secretary and Treasurer of the GSPCA and seven (7) additional members, one (1) from each geographical section as defined in the Constitution and By-Laws of the GSPCA. With the exception of the Recording Secretary and Treasurer, whose positions are automatic. The other NSSEC members shall be elected by a majority vote from among the delegates attending the annual National Specialty Show meeting. In addition to NSSEC members above the NSSEC may use qualified members as consultants to the committee. These consultants would have no voting privileges.

Any candidate for election to the NSSEC must:

1. Be in good standing with the AKC and with the GSPCA.
2. Members will attend all and participate actively in committee meetings. If more than two (2) meetings are missed during a calendar year, the member may be replaced by a majority vote of the committee. Be willing to assume the responsibilities of at least one (1) or more of the following functions or activities including presenting a financial report of said committee to the NSSEC Chair and treasurer:

Banquet Reservations

Grounds

RV Parking

Hospitality

Judges Hospitality/Gifts

Catalog Advertising

Merchandise

Parade of Title Holders

Premium List

Raffles

Ribbons

Seminar Reservations

Top 20/25 Competition

Trophy Donations

Other Activities/Functions as required

- B. The term for each member of the NSSEC will expire three (3) years from the date elected.
- C. NSSEC members must attend each NSS during their term unless excused by the NSSEC Chair
- D. The NSSEC shall hold an organizational meeting following the annual meeting of the National Specialty Show Delegates to elect a Chair as per Article VI, Section 5 of the Constitution and By- Laws of the GSPCA and a Vice-Chairman.
- E. The Chair, the Assistant Show Chair and the Event Show Committee of the National Specialty Show will be selected by the NSSEC.
- F. The NSSEC shall select an individual(s) to oversee Companion/Performance Events to be held in conjunction with the National Specialty Show. This individual shall report to the NSSEC all activities and will delegate as deemed necessary.
- G. If a member of the NSSEC moves out of their region they will step down from their position and the remaining members of NSSEC will appoint a replacement from that section.
- H. It is preferred by the NSSEC that members of the GSPCA Board of Directors (other than the Recording Secretary and Treasurer) not be elected to serve on the NSSEC.
- I. If a member of the NSSEC is elected to the board in any capacity other than Recording Secretary or Treasurer they will step down and the NSSEC will appoint a new member that will serve until the original member's term expires.
- J. The NSSEC shall have overall responsibility for the National Specialty Show, subject to the authority of the GSPCA Board of Directors. In addition, it shall have the power to:
1. Make changes or additions to the running rules whenever deemed necessary, subject to approval of the GSPCA Board of Directors. The changes and additions will be published in the minutes and the GSPCA web site. Each year prior to the June board meeting a revised copy of the running rules will be presented with a notation of any revisions. If no revisions are made a notation will be made.
 2. Select a Judge if a vacancy occurs prior to a National Specialty event.
 3. When appropriate, dedicate the National Specialty Show to the memory of deceased members of the GSPCA.
 4. Make changes to the National Specialty Show as required subject to the review and approval of the GSPCA Board of Directors.

IV-GSPCA National Specialty Show Conformation Judges

A. Selection Process

1. Selection of judges is done two (2) years prior to the assignment.
2. The NSSEC will appoint a Scribe prior to the National Specialty show. The scribe will be a member in good standing with GSPCA. Preference will go to the individuals who have demonstrated participation in volunteer duties for the GSPCA in the past and have completed them in a timely manner.

3. The scribe will establish and update yearly a pre-screened list of judges in good standing with the AKC and the GSPCA for the Breed. A list will consist of judges meeting the minimum qualifications as of September 1st of that current year. This list will highlight and list alphabetically breeder judges first. All other eligible judges will then be listed alphabetically. A list of eligible judges that cannot be nominated because they have judged within the past three (3) years or will be judging in the future will be clearly differentiated. The list will be available on the GSPCA website and published annually in the Journal. The list will be modified and updated by the scribe using the minimum qualifications in the National Specialty Show Running Rules Section as approved by the GSPCA Board.
4. All members and member Clubs may vote for three (3) **different** eligible persons for regular class judging and for two (2) **different** eligible persons each for Futurity and Sweepstakes. Eligibility requirements for Futurity and Sweepstake judges will be included on the ballot.
5. Voting Deadline: Feb. 1.
 - a. Voting must be submitted with the person's GSPCA current membership number or by the member club secretary on club letterhead. Votes may be cast electronically or ballots may be mailed to the scribe. Mailed ballots must be postmarked no later than February 1st.
6. A computer generated tabulation of votes will be presented to the scribe. All mailed ballots will be sent to the scribe. The top five (5) candidates in each category will be identified and letters requesting bios and fee information will be mailed. The scribe will send the final list and tally sheets to the GSPCA Recording Secretary for confirmation and retention.
7. The scribe will send letters to the top five (5) candidates by February 12th requesting their Bio, fee schedule and statement as to why they would like the honor of judging our National Specialty. The deadline for the return of this information to the scribe will be March 1st.
8. As the candidates letters are returned, and either acceptance or refusal is indicated, the scribe will contact the Webmaster to post the top five (5) candidates in each category on the GSPCA web site. Copies of each candidate's Bio may be made available for review by the membership via the web site.
9. Each candidate's fee schedule will be reviewed by the NSSEC and deemed acceptable or not. If not acceptable the NSSEC may contact the nominee to renegotiate the fee. If still unacceptable then the nominee's name will be withdrawn. The reason for removal from the list will be posted on the web site. If the minimum number is not met, the scribe will contact the next nominee on the list and ask for the bios/fee/schedules. If the minimum number is not met, the scribe will contact the next candidate on the list and ask for the bio/fee/schedule. The deadline to send out these notices is March 20th with a return date April 10th.
10. There will be only one NSS Conformation judge for all regular and non-regular classes, unless otherwise deemed necessary by the NSSEC. If it is necessary to add an additional judge he/she will be chosen in order from the alternates.
11. The judges and 1st alternate for each category will be announced at the National Specialty Show Banquet.
 - a. The names and alternates for each assignment will be recorded by the GSPCA Recording Secretary.
 - b. Once the names have been announced and recorded they cannot be contested by any GSPCA individual or club member.
12. The results of the election will be posted on the web site under the appropriate year.

13. The GSPCA Recording Secretary will dispose of all ballots on file after the NSS at which these judges officiate.

14. Once a person has judged a regular conformation class assignment they are not eligible for nomination to judge regular conformation classes again for three (3) years. They would be eligible for nomination to judge **Futurity** or **Sweepstakes**. A person who judges Futurity may not be nominated to judge Futurity again for three (3) years. A person who judges Sweepstakes may not be nominated to judge Sweepstakes again for three (3) years. The Sweepstakes/Futurity judges will be eligible to judge regular conformation classes any time after their assignment is completed.

15. A Futurity or Sweepstakes judge who declines the assignment after accepting it will not be eligible for nomination again for three (3) years from the date of the original assignment. In cases of extenuating circumstances that are justified by the NSSEC this rule can be set aside i.e. death in the family, severe illness that would prevent attendance.

16. Obedience, Rally, and Junior Showmanship judge to be selected by the NSSEC. Other Performance judges will be selected by the Performance Chair with the approval of the NSSEC.

17. The GSPCA Webmaster will publish the results from the election of judges within thirty (30) days. The Journal Editor will publish the results from the election in the next Journal edition.

18. If the BOB judge cannot fulfill their assignment the first (1st) alternate judge would be asked to fill the assignment.

B. Criteria qualifying persons as eligible for nomination to judge GSPCA National Specialty Conformation Events

1. Conformation Judges:

a. The selection of a Breeder Judge is encouraged by the GSPCA.

b. A Breeder Judge is defined as a person who is knowledgeable with success in breeding, exhibiting/handling GSP for twelve (12) years or more. Has produced at least five (5) GSP Champions from multiple litters. Breeder Judges can be nominated while on permit status. A breeder judge must be a GSPCA member in good standing with AKC and GSPCA for a minimum of ten (10) years. Breeders will be highlighted and listed first on nomination list.

c. Any AKC approved (regular status) judge for German Shorthaired Pointers in good standing with AKC and the GSPCA is eligible to be voted to judge the GSPCA National.

d. Any approved foreign judge (regular status) for German Shorthaired Pointers in their country of residence and in good standing with AKC and the GSPCA is eligible to be voted to judge the GSPCA National. Foreign judges will have to be nominated as a write in.

e. Parent Clubs by request may invite eligible individuals to judge their Nationals or Specialties. In addition to the AKC requirements the Individual would be required to be a member of the GSPCA in good standing a minimum of ten (10) consecutive years. Full details for this process can be found on the AKC web site and they must be completed prior to the nomination process.

2. Futurity Judge: mandatory requirements at time of nomination:

- a. Will be knowledgeable, with success in breeding/exhibiting/handling the GSP breed for ten (10) years or more. Candidate will take and pass two (2) AKC courses through the online Canine College. They are “ABC’s of Dog Breeding - Canine Anatomy Course and German Shorthaired Pointer Breed Course.
- b. Produced 5 GSP bench champions.
- c. Candidate will be a member in good standing of the GSPCA for a minimum of ten (10) years.
- d. Judging experience in a minimum of two (2) events such as local sweepstakes or puppy matches. If a candidate does not have this experience and is selected to judge it should be stipulated in their contract that they will need to accomplish this prior to the NSS they are selected to judge. (This will give them a time frame of three (3) years).

3. Sweepstakes Judge: mandatory requirements at time of nomination:

- a. Attended at least one (1) national specialty for a sporting breed. Candidate will take and pass two (2) AKC courses through the online Canine College. They are “ABC’s of Dog Breeding - Canine Anatomy Course and German Shorthaired Pointer Breed Course.
- b. Seven (7) years of involvement in AKC conformation venues with a sporting dog.
- c. Bred or exhibited at least five (5) sporting dogs to their bench championship.
- d. Judging experience in a minimum of two (2) events such as local sweepstakes, puppy matches or 4-6 month old beginner puppy. If a candidate does not have this experience and is selected to judge it should be stipulated in their contract that they will need to accomplish this prior to the NSS they are selected to judge. (This will give them a time frame of three (3) years).
- e. The NSSEC is responsible for assuring all names submitted for vote fully meet all mandatory requirements.

(**See explanation of voting timeline at end document)

C. Judges’ Contracts and Obligations

1. The GSPCA Corresponding Secretary will contact Judges voted to judge the National Specialty conformation events after GSPCA Board approval and site contract signed by the GSPCA Treasurer or designated Officer and countersigned by the site informing them of their selection and providing them with a judging contract for signature. Selected judges will be requested to return their signed contracts within thirty (30) days of the date of this notification letter.
2. Allowable expenses for Judges shall not exceed round trip air coach transportation, roundtrip transportation to and from home and the hotel to the airport, airport parking, lodging and meals from the day preceding the start of events they are judging to the day after the conclusion of the events they judge. Judges fees may be negotiated with the judge by the NSSEC Chairman. Futurity and Sweepstakes judges expenses will include lodging and meals one day preceding the start of events they are judging to the day after the conclusion of the events they judge and **excludes** travel expenses. The contracts are executed by the GSPCA Corresponding Secretary.

3. The Futurity and Sweepstake judge contracts will have the following notation in accordance with AKC's "Rules Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges": neither the judge nor any member of their immediate family/ household may exhibit at this National event and no dog they own or co-own, may be shown at the National event which is to include all host functions prior to and following the National event. The contract for Futurity and Sweepstakes will also state that no dog the judge bred or co-bred may be shown to them. If an exhibit is professionally handled by the Futurity /Sweepstakes judge in the year prior to the National event, it is understood that the owners/co-owners and the exhibit cannot show or be shown to said judge.

4. In accordance with AKC Guidelines: No dog may be entered or exhibited under a judge if, within the prior year, the owner or co- owner also owns or co-owns a dog with the judge.

5. Elected judges (including Futurity and Sweepstakes) will not judge German Shorthaired Pointers six (6) months prior to the NSS they will be judging except in group judging.

6. All judges, regular and non-regular, will not exhibit, own or co-own an exhibit at the National event which will include all host functions prior to and following the National during national week.

V-National Specialty Show-DNA requirements:

A. All entrants at the National Specialty Show including performance and hunt test events will require a AKC DNA number at the time of entry. This number must be included with the entry form. The number can be a temporary AKC DNA number that has been assigned to that dog pending the final results. If a AKC DNA number is contested and proven to be falsified then all wins will be revoked by the GSPCA and AKC per entry certification.

VI- National Specialty Show Futurity:

A. The GSPCA National Specialty Show Futurity shall be held each year in conjunction with the National Specialty Show. The NSSEC will determine the schedule with preference to holding the National Show Futurity after the National Specialty Show Sweepstakes.

B. **ELIGIBILITY:** Puppies whelped between October 1 and September 30, of a consecutive year will be eligible for the Futurity in the year following the September cutoff date. (Ex: Yearend Sept 30, 2020, eligible for 2021 Futurity). All breeders and co-breeders of litters nominated for the Show Futurity must be members of the GSPCA at the time of Nomination. All owners and co-owners of individual dogs or bitches that compete in the Show Futurity must be members of the GSPCA before February 28th. If the ownership changes prior to the Futurity, the dog will remain eligible provided all new owners/co-owners are members or applies for membership to the GSPCA. The Futurity Chairman must be notified within ten (10) days of any changes of ownership.

NOMINATION: Bitches must be nominated within **56 days** (8 weeks) of whelping, and a fee accompany the nomination. Any nominations **postmarked or finalized online** later than 56 days from whelping will be considered late. Litters may be nominated after the 56th day but not later than **112 days** (16 weeks), with an additional \$50 penalty payment (\$75 total). Litters may be nominated after 112 days (16 weeks), with an additional \$200 penalty payment (\$225 total). No nomination will be accepted if **postmarked or finalized online** later than **143 days** (20 weeks) after whelping.

SENIOR CLASS: For dogs whelped on or after October 1 through January 31. Dogs and bitches will be judged separately.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS: For dogs whelped on or after February 1 through May 31. Dogs and bitches will be judged separately.

JUNIOR CLASS: For dogs whelped on or after June 1 through September 30. Dogs and bitches will be judged separately.

PAYMENT OF FORFEITS: Three forfeits must be paid as follows: **First Forfeit** of \$20 must be **postmarked or finalized online** by **December 31**; **Second Forfeit** of \$20 must be **postmarked or finalized online** by **February 28 (29)**; **Third Forfeit** of \$20 (to count as entry fee) must be **received at the Superintendents Office** by the **closing date of the National Specialty Show entries**.

Any forfeits, with the exception of the third forfeit, will be accepted if **postmarked or finalized online** up to 21 days late and accompanied by a penalty payment of an additional \$20 on the First Forfeit and \$20 per pup on the Second Forfeit. **Late forfeits postmarked or finalized online after the 21st day, or forfeits without proper payments, will be returned and/or deemed ineligible.** All forfeits will become the property of the GSPCA Futurity and are nonrefundable.

All payments must be U.S. Funds. U.S. Funds drawn on a foreign bank must include an additional \$5 processing fee per check.

FORMS: An email acknowledgement with your Futurity Litter Number will be sent to the breeder upon nomination of the litter. After Futurity Litter Numbers have been received by the breeders, First Forfeits can be made. First and Second Forfeit Forms are downloadable on the GSPCA website or payments can be made online. All Forfeits must be made within the noted timelines either by mail or online.

First Forfeits are paid as a quantity of pups multiplied by the fee. Second Forfeits require a form for EACH pup moving forward in the Futurity. Forfeit Forms must be completed in full. Leaving items blank or filling with incorrect information can be cause for refusal and/or ineligibility. Entries are compared to the Second Forfeit Form, be sure all information is correct. Any deviations can result in pups being deemed ineligible.

DIVISION OF PRIZE MONEY:

Actual Futurity expenses will be deducted from Futurity money. The balance remaining will be divided as follows:

- a. Best of Futurity and Best of Opposite will receive 12.5% of the funds, which will be further divided 50% to the owner and 40% to the breeder.
- b. The winner of each class will receive up to \$300 or the total of the funds available for that class if the funds are less than \$300.
- c. If the funds available for each class are more than \$600, the winner will receive at least \$300 of those funds available, according to the following allocation:

1st Place = 50%

2nd Place = 25%

3rd Place = 15%

4th Place = 10%

d. If the funds available for each class allow for the winner to receive \$300, but are less than \$600, the allocation of the funds for placements 2 through 4 would be as follows:

2nd Place = 50% of the remaining funds

3rd Place = 32% of the remaining funds

4th Place = 18% of the remaining funds

All funds for each class will be further divided 60% to the owner and 40% to the breeder.

VII - National Specialty Show Sweepstakes:

The **National Specialty Show Puppy Sweepstakes** shall be held each year in conjunction with the National Specialty Show. The following classes may or may not be offered as follows, subject to NSSEC final approval.

Puppy dogs (6 mos. & under 9 mos.) Puppy Bitches (6 mos. & under 9 mos.)

Puppy dogs (9 mos. & under 12 mos.) Puppy Bitches (9 mos. & under 12 mos.)

Dogs (12 mos. & under 15 mos.) Bitches (12 mos. & under 15 mos.)

Dogs (15 mos. & under 18 mos.) Bitches (15 mos. & under 18 mos.)

Dogs (18 mos. & under 24 mos.) Bitches (18 mos. & under 24 mos.) (To be determined by the NSSEC).

Division of the prize money will be as follows:

The GSPCA shall retain 30% of the total receipts of the Sweepstakes entry fees. The remaining 70% shall be known as the Sweepstakes Fund and shall be divided proportionately based on the number of entries in each class, and then further divided as follows:

Best in Sweepstakes: 7% of Sweepstakes Fund

Best of Opposite: 5% of Sweepstakes Fund

1st place: 40% of Class Fund

2nd place: 30% of Class Fund

3rd place: 20% of Class Fund

4th place: 10% of Class Fund

Dogs and bitches that are entered in the Sweepstakes must also be entered in a regular or non-regular class of the National Specialty Show.

The **National Specialty Show Veteran Sweepstakes** shall be held each year in conjunction with the National Specialty Show. The following classes may or may not be offered as follows, subject to NSSEC final approval:

Veteran dogs (8 yrs. & under 10 yrs.) Veteran bitches (8 yrs. & under 10 yrs.)

Veteran dogs (10 yrs. & Over) Veteran bitches (10 yrs. & Over)

Entrants are not required to enter a regular class at the National Specialty Show. Spayed or neutered veterans may enter the Veteran Sweepstakes.

Division of the prize money will be as follows: The GSPCA shall retain 30% of the total receipts of the Sweepstakes entry fees. The remaining 70% shall be known as the Veteran Sweepstakes Fund and shall be divided proportionately based on the number of entries in each class, and then further divided as follows:

Best Veteran Sweepstakes Dog: 5% of Sweepstakes Fund

Best Veteran Sweepstakes Bitch: 5% of Sweepstakes Fund

1st place: 40% of Class Fund

2nd place: 30% of Class Fund

3rd place: 20% of Class Fund

4th place: 10% of Class Fund

****NEW popular vote procedure:**

*2022 - Judges chosen for 2025 by the current procedure.

*2023 - New procedure becomes effective.

No judges will be chosen this year (2023).

*2024.- New procedure to choose judges by popular vote for 2026 is put into effect.