



# German Shepherd Dog Club of America

## Judges Regulations

### Contents

1. Preamble
2. Requirement, training and appointment principles
  - 2.1. Breed Show Judges
  - 2.2. Breed Survey Master
  - 2.3. IGP Trial Judges
3. Tasks and Duties
4. Disciplinary Procedures
  - 4.1. Disciplinary Senate
  - 4.2. Responsibility
  - 4.3. Disciplinary Measures
  - 4.4. Procedural Cost
  - 4.5. Place of Jurisdiction
  - 4.6. Termination of Appointment as a Judge
5. Service as a Judge
6. Duties as a Judge

## **1. Preamble**

1.1.1. The Judging Regulations utilized by the GSDCA SV Programs are patterned after the SV and WUSV Judging Regulations. Certain elements of the original SV and WUSV Regulations have been re-phrased, revised, or omitted, due to cultural/corporate/legal differences between The Federal Republic of Germany and The United States of America.

## **2. Requirement, training and appointment principles**

### **2.1. Breed Show Judges**

2.1.1. Applicants for breed show judges must meet the following.

- Provided evidence of having been an GSDCA member for at least 3 years and maintain membership throughout the breed show judges process.
- Have been or active breeder and exhibitor and provide evidence of the following minimum requirements:
  - At least 5 litters of his or her own kennel,
  - 10 selected adult animals bred by the applicant from at least 5 different litters with successful participation in breed shows,
  - Successful participation in the Association's breed events,
  - Responsible activity in the local club, regional, and national events,
  - The applicant must have trained three dogs him or herself and to successful IGP test title,
  - Provide permission to the GSDCA to conduct a background check.
  - Successful participation in a SV, WUSV, or GSDCA seminar within 1 year of the application.
  - Successful completion and passing score of 80% in an aptitude test. The aptitude test may only be granted if all formal requirements according to minimum requirements outlined above are met.

2.1.2 The application documents must be submitted to the GSDCA SV Programs Chair and will confirm their receipt to the applicant in writing and a copy will be sent to the GSDCA SV Programs office. If all requirements are met and the applicant has successfully passed the aptitude test the completed documents will be presented to the entire program committee of the GSDCA for final approval by majority vote to proceed to the apprenticeship process.

2.1.3. The apprentice candidate must participate in at least 3 apprenticeship shows and evaluate at least 50 dogs over the age of 12 months. It is the applicant's responsibility to gain permission to apprentice with a training judge, recommendations can be requested but the final decision is the at authority of the training judge to accept an apprentice judge. The apprenticeship process starts after the approval of the GSDCA committee at which time a start date will be established in writing. The training judges will need to be a fully licensed GSDCA, WUSV, or SV judge of at least 5 years, at least 2 of the 3 apprenticeships need to occur under two different licensed judges.

2.1.4. A written critique of all dogs evaluated at the event by the apprentice judge must be provided to the training judge. The training judge will write a written evaluation of the apprenticeship judge

detailing the apprenticeship judge's performance and any recommendation, qualities, or concerns. Three passing performance evaluations and successful recommendations or the remainder of the needed evaluations to meet 50 adult dogs under two different training judges is required to pass the apprenticeship. All critiques by the apprentice judge and training judge's performance evaluations are to be presented at the time of their completion and when submitting to the GSDCA SV Program committee for final approval of completion of the apprenticeship requirements

An apprenticeship judge has 3 years to complete their apprenticeship, extensions may be granted with the approval in writing from the committee chair or GSDCA Board if no violations prevent otherwise. In the event a failed performance is reported by the training judge the apprentice judge may repeat one additional apprenticeship once, under the direction of the GSDCA committee recommendation of an appointed training judge of their choosing.

2.1.5. After passing the apprenticeship judges program the candidate is then recommend to the GSDCA Board for final approval from the program committee. After final review of the candidate and the recommendation of the committee the majority board vote is required to appointment as a provisional judge status. The appointment is documented in the Review and posted to the website under listed judges as a provisional judge.

2.1.6. During the term of 5 years or completions of 3 events with at least 50 adult dogs evaluated provisional judge's status is met and the appointment of Breed Show judge is appointed.

2.1.7. The approval of a Breed Show Judge to officiate national show events are eligible after full appointment of at least three years of judging with sufficient activity.

2.1.8. Every two years the association may review the activity of the appointed Breed Show Judge to determine if the judge has been active at least once during the time period. If a judge is not active for a period of four years, the association is not obligated to extend the appointment.

2.1.9. If an individual already possesses a breed show judge license with a minimum of five years' experience in a recognized cytological association or their affiliations; such as the SV, WUSV, CKC, USCA or the GSDCA breed parent club and would like to become a breed show judge; disregard to any requirements are subject to the confirmation by the GSDCA Board. An aptitude test and breed show seminar must be completed before appointment of Breed Show Judge.

2.1.10. Once appointed, Breed Show Judges are entitled to judge events for and with German Shepherd Dogs in the jurisdiction of his or her home association. The possibility exists to officiate in other associations with the approval of the home association.

## **2.2. Breed Survey Master**

2.2.1. Experienced Breeding Judges may be appointed as GSDCA Breed Survey Masters. The appointment requires:

- At least three years' activity as a breed show judge,
- Sufficient activity with this period,
- The recommendation of the program committee and/or board,
- Successful experience training and titling of minimum three dogs to IGP title.
- Successful experience handling at least three dogs in breed surveys events.

- Performance of at least three breed survey apprenticeships under Breed Survey Masters (GSDCA, SV, WUSV, or affiliated) with approval of the committee. Two of the three apprenticeships must be by different breed survey masters. A minimum of eight dogs total must be evaluated. Successful completion and final appointment by the GSDCA board is required.
- For end of activity as a Judge also applies to a Breed Survey Master.

2.2.2. Required proof of the above is subject to be provided to the program committee and or board.

### **2.3. IGP Trial Judges.**

2.3.1. An applicant for appointment as an Apprentice IGP Trial Judge shall exhibit the following qualifications.

- provide evidence of having been a GSDCA member for at least 3 years and maintain GSDCA membership in good standing.
- have been an active trainer and Trial participant and provide evidence of the following minimum requirements.
- successful training and presentation of two different dogs (at least one of them being a German Shepherd) at the test levels BH, IGP-1 to IGP-3 (only dogs trained by the applicant count),
- one of these dogs must have been trained by the applicant to the level of FH and presented successfully,
- successful participation in at least one Regional Trial with a dog trained by the applicant,
- the applicant should have been active in training in a local Club,
- similar activities performed by the applicant in the area of service dogs [police, military, etc.] are considered but alone do not meet the requirements. Active participation in GSDCA activities must be demonstrated,
- successful participation in a GSDCA judging seminar,
- provide permission for GSDCA to perform a background check.

2.3.2. The application documents must be submitted to the GSDCA SV Programs Chairperson(s), who will confirm their receipt to the applicant in writing, with a copy sent to the GSDCA Board of Directors. Examination of the requirements according the above is the responsibility of the Board of Directors or their designee(s). They decide on whether the suggested applicant possesses the personal and professional qualifications and can be suggested to the Director of Judges for admittance as an Apprentice Judge Candidate. This Board of Directors recommendation is a prerequisite for admission as an Apprentice Judge.

2.3.3. Admission as an Apprentice Judge shall be published in the GSDCA Magazine. The admission may be appealed against within a period of two weeks. The appeal must be justified in writing.

2.3.4. After admission as an Apprentice Judge, the Candidate shall complete at least five Apprenticeships for a minimum of 30 dogs in IGP. For the inspection of the five Apprenticeships, the Director of Judges determines the veteran Judge(s) who will oversee the Apprenticeships.

2.3.5. Programs Training Director(s). The Apprentice Judge shall apply to the Director of Judges for the desired Trial, naming the date and place of the event. Approval to participate in that Trial may then be granted if the officiating Trial Judge is agreeable.

2.3.6. After completion of the Apprenticeship, the Candidate must send a written report on the event to the officiating Judge within a period of 14 days. The report must contain a detailed description of all dogs presented at the event and the usual formal reporting information (Bewertungsliste, etc.).

2.3.7. A subsequent Trial may only be approved if the evaluation report of the previous Apprenticeship is received by the program committee well enough in advance for it to be received by the officiating Trial Judge with reasonable notice, at the latest 3 days before the next Trial.

2.3.8. Repeating a failed exercise is only permitted once in the entire course of training.

2.3.9. After passing the five Apprenticeships, the Candidate must submit the final Trial documents. The final Trial may exclusively be carried out with the Director of Judges or a designate.

2.3.10. The Apprenticeship shall be completed within 3 years of being initiated.

2.3.11. Once the final Apprenticeship has been passed off, the Candidate is appointed as an GSDCA IGP Trial Judge by the President of GSDCA, after consultation with the Director of Judges and the SV Programs Chairperson(s). This appointment shall be for a probationer period of three years. The appointment must be published in the GSDCA Magazine. The new Judge shall be issued an IGP Trial Judge ID from the GSDCA Headquarters and his/her name is then included in the GSDCA IGP trial Judge List.

2.3.12. After three years of successful function, a final appointment as an IGP Trial Judge may be made. The decision on this matter is made by the President of GSDCA after consultation with the Board of Directors, SV Programs Chairperson(s), and Director of Judges. As of 04/24/2021, final Judge appointments are made for a period of four years. They automatically end after this period and may be extended. An extension may generally be granted if none of the items listed under section IV of these Judging Regulations have been violated. The extension is granted by the GSDCA Board, after consultation with the SV Programs Chairperson(s), and Director of Judges.

2.3.13. Assignments outside of the country are only permitted after appointment as a final Judge and approval of the program committee and/or board.

### **3. Tasks and duties**

3.1.1. Judges for Breeding/Performance Evaluation must always act correctly in accordance with the regulations of the GSDCA SV Programs. They are obliged to ensure that to the best of their knowledge and in good conscience, no grounds exist for an apprehension of bias. They will be deemed to have acted in a highly unsportsmanlike manner if they improperly discuss or criticize the activity of another Judge in public. Such actions represent a gross violation of these Regulations.

3.1.2. They may not evaluate dogs under the following conditions.

- owned or co-owned by them within the last two years.

- belonging to their spouses, children, parents or siblings.
- belonging to a person living within their household.

3.1.3. Moreover, Judges are prohibited from training and/or presenting dogs that they do not own or co- own. Judges must disclose all ownership or co-ownership of dogs to the GSDCA and/or SV/WUSV upon request at any time.

3.1.4. Non-disclosure will, in every case, lead to an immediate block from judging until a resolution is determined and an appropriate disciplinary proceeding is enacted according to Item 4. of the Judging Regulations.

3.1.5. Judges are active on a volunteer basis. As reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses, the event organizer must provide remuneration in the form of per diem, travel and accommodation expenses. Judges are discouraged from partly or completely forgoing the compensation for expenses to which they are entitled.

3.1.6. Judges are obligated to comply with deadlines and to inform GSDCA of any deadlines placed upon them. If the Judge is impeded, the GSDCA offices and the event organizer must be informed in a timely manner.

3.1.7 Judges are obligated to participate in continued training once every 2 years. They must pass the continued training events offered by GSDCA for this purpose and demonstrate corresponding evidence. When necessary due to changes in official IGP regulations or as the Director of Judges deems necessary a aptitude test may be required with successful completion. In the event the aptitude test is not passed successfully a judge may reapply to take the exam no sooner than two weeks from the first attempt, one reattempt is allowed.

## **4. Disciplinary regulations**

4.1.1. To guarantee and maintain its external and internal order, GSDCA takes measures with respect to Judges who are found guilty of acting in violation of the provisions of the Judging Regulations and the GSDCA Statutes.

### **4.2.1. Disciplinary Senate**

The GSDCA Board and program chair (s) are authorized to act in accordance to respond to disciplinary regulations and act as the Disciplinary Senate.

### **4.3.1. Responsibility**

4.3.2. The Disciplinary Senate is responsible for all matters and activities concerning Judges. The Disciplinary Senate generally meets on the request of the Senate members and must observe the rule of law.

4.3.3. If a member of the Disciplinary Senate is personally involved, the GSDCA Board must appoint a replacement member. The Disciplinary Senate decides, depending on the matter at hand, whether a written or oral procedure is to take place. In the case of oral proceedings, minutes must be kept.

4.3.4. The decision of the Disciplinary Senate must be recorded, justified and sent to the party involved in writing.

4.3.5. The Disciplinary Senate determines deadlines for the performance and hearing, which must be complied with.

#### **4.4.1. Disciplinary Measures**

4.4.2. The Disciplinary Senate decides at the beginning of the proceedings on a provisional abeyance of the office of the Judge for the duration of the proceedings. It may decide to impose the following disciplinary measures.

- Warning.
- Retraining.
- Temporary abeyance of the office of the Judge.
- Withdrawal of the office of the Judge.
- These measures may also be imposed concurrently.

#### **4.5.1. Procedural Costs**

4.5.2. The costs for the proceedings must be borne by the perpetrator in the case of a conviction.

#### **4.6.1. Place of Jurisdiction**

4.6.2. Place of jurisdiction is in same accordance with the GSDCA parent club and the same state of law as outlined by the GSDCA.

#### **4.7.1. Termination of Appointment as a Judge**

4.7.2. Office as a Judge expires as follows.

4.7.3. Automatically after expiry of the term of appointment.

- in the case of written declaration of resignation by the office holder to the offices of the GSDCA.
- in the event of deletion from the Judge List at the request of the GSDCA.
- in the event of a decision of the Disciplinary Senate according to Item 4.4.1. (5).

### **5. Service as a Judge**

5.1.1. Service as an GSDCA Judge (Performance or Breed Show Judge) is an essential pillar of the SV Programs' work, as only in this way can the further development of the breed be guaranteed both in terms of anatomy and performance (character).

5.1.2. Service as a Judge must thus only be performed in observance of the SV Programs' regulations.

5.1.3. The necessity to continuously update knowledge requires the willingness to engage in continuous further training.

5.1.4. For this reason, the SV Programs holds Judges' Conferences when necessary. Other information from the Committees is conveyed by the Director of Judges and/or program committee Chair (s) to the Judges in multiplier training.

5.1.5. Participation in the Judge conferences is mandatory, excusable only by the most direct of circumstances. Means shall be provided that allow any Judge missing the Conference to be briefed on the topics and issues therein.

5.1.6. Employment as a Judge outside of the country requires the consent of the GSDCA. Assent may only be given if the declaration of consent of the Director of Judges is present. Judges have no legal entitlement to be approved for judging Trials outside of the country.

5.1.7. Consent is issued by the relevant Inspector in the proper exercise of his/her discretion, under consideration of the interests of GSDCA and the requesting association. If s/he does not issue this consent, the application for approval is decided on by the GSDCA Board in the proper exercise of its discretion, under consideration of the above-mentioned interests. If a Judge judges without the consent of the GSDCA and without the consent of the Director of Judges, or committee program chair, the appointment as a judge outside of the country will not be approved for the duration of one year.

5.1.8. It is not permitted to judge dogs at exhibitions or breeding shows that are owned or possessed by one of the Judges officiating at the event in question. Utmost restraint should be exercised when evaluation dogs possessed or owned by close relatives. These are on the same level as domestic partnerships, breeding communities, owners' communities, household communities etc. This also applies to dogs that they have bred or ones owned, co-owned or possessed by close relatives (first or second degree). Domestic partnerships, breeding communities and household communities are considered equal to relatives.

5.1.9. GSDCA Judges function on a volunteer basis. As compensation for expenses, the event organizer must provide remuneration as follows.

5.1.10. Per diem expenses to the determined amount. Reimbursement of travel expenses.

- Fee per mile at the current IRS rate.
- Current judges rate per day not to exceed day's work and one day of travel.
- If applicable, costs for overnight accommodation with receipt, not including breakfast.

5.1.11. At the recommendation of the GSDCA Board, deserving Judges may be appointed as GSDCA Honorary Judges by the GSDCA Board after the completion of their career.

- This appointment entitles them, among other things, to a free catalog at all GSDCA events.
- The office of the Judge expires as follows.
- through resignation of the office of the Judge by its holder.
- No attendance of required completion of CUE's or mandatory education.



- Inactivity as a Judge for a period of three years leads to withdrawal of the office of the Judge.
- If a police background check contains serious criminal entries or if it is not submitted with respect to the extension of the office of the Judge.

## **6. Duties of Judges**

6.1.1. GSDCA Judges are discouraged to partly or completely forgo the compensation for expenses to which s/he is entitled.

6.1.2. GSDCA Judges must act in strict accordance with the GSDCA's regulations (including Breed Standard, Breeding Show Regulations, Test Regulations, and Character Regulations).

- GSDCA Judges are obligated to comport themselves in a collegial manner and maintain an impeccable appearance within and outside of the Association.
- GSDCA Judges are obligated to comply with deadlines unless impeded by an important reason. The event organizer must be notified in the event that a Judge is justifiably impeded.
- Judges officiating at the National Championship Trial are obligated to accept appointment as a Judge for a Regional Trial, and, if applicable, to withdraw acceptance for Club Trials within 4 weeks of the announcement of the obligation to participate in the National event. Judges must demonstrate sufficient activity for at least 3 years before officiating at a National event.