

German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia



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9 October 2023

Mrs T Barry

DOGS Australia Administrator

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BY EMAIL: tbarry@dogsaustralia.org.au

Dear Tracey

I refer to correspondence authored by Jenny Yuen (National Breed Commission Chairperson) on behalf of the Executive of the GSDC of Australia on 14 October 2020.

The correspondence referred to regulations from Section 4 in reference to amending regulation 4.1.2 or perhaps enabling an exemption for GSDCA Conformation Shows where a GSDCA grading may be awarded by GSDCA approved specialist GSD Judges and at All Breeds GSD Specialty feature shows where GSDCA Gradings are awarded by GSDCA approved Specialist Judges. I have attached copies of the correspondence between the two organisations.

It is our understanding that Dogs Australia considered the request in 2020 and as the letter had come directly from the GSDCA Executive and not been passed by the member clubs the request was denied.

Since the time of the original correspondence to Dogs Australia, the numbers of entries at GSD Specialty Shows across Australia have declined significantly in all states. Specialist clubs are having to consider the number of events that are held each year now, as many clubs are running shows at a loss due to the high costs of airfares and accommodation for judges, hire of grounds and general show expenses.

We also note that many of our younger members are not stepping forward to train as judges due to the inhibiting factors surrounding ownership, partnerships, and handling dogs for other people. They enjoy handling and prefer to do that rather than giving up what they enjoy doing. For many years the fraternity has relied on the good will of able-bodied handlers to assist with the presentation of their dogs at shows. We are an ageing population and the demands of Specialty showing means that owners are being discriminated against because they are unable to meet the endurance demands required for working animals.

At the 62nd Annual General Meeting of the GSDCA in February 2023 with the presidents and delegates from all member clubs across Australia, a motion was put to the Council by the GSDCV for an exemption request from Dogs Australia regarding Section 4.1.2 parts b, c, d, e. The rationale for the motion from the club was; given the further decline in the situation for our fraternity, that the GSDCA resubmit the original request for an exemption to Dogs Australia. This was to stem the loss of entries at our GSD Specialty Shows and encourage our younger members to take seniority roles in canine affairs enabling them to become judges and administrators and still engage in the activities that drew them to the sport in the first place. The motion was carried in a democratic vote for the Member Clubs of the GSDCA.



I have attached a copy of the original letter written in 2020, for your information. We note there have been changes to the wording and numbering of the regulations in 2022. Therefore, I have provided a screenshot of the current regulations.

SECTION 4 Exhibitors

4.1 Ownership Interest

- 4.1.1 No person shall exhibit a dog in any sanctioned conformation exhibition at which a judge who is a member of the competitor's immediate family, or who resides at the same address, or who has had a proprietary interest in such dog whether solely or in partnership is scheduled to officiate
- 4.1.2 A person may not exhibit or handle under a judge officiating at a conformation show where:
- The person is a member of the judge's family and/or resides at the same address as the judge.
 - The judge has or has had any ownership interest in a dog or dogs solely or in partnership with the member within a period of **12** months prior to the conformation show.
 - Where the judge has handled any dog owned, leased or part leased by the person within a period of **12** months prior to the conformation show.
 - The person has accommodated the judge or been accommodated by the judge within a period of **12** months prior to the conformation show or intends to accommodate the judge within **24** hours after the conformation show

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- The judge has trained or groomed for reward, for gift or favour a dog owned, or part owned, leased or part leased by the person in a period of **12** months prior to the conformation show
 - The dog was bred by the judge or the judge's family.
 - For the purposes of these regulations the definition "handled" does not include any circumstance where a person has assisted another exhibitor who, due to a judging decision on the day, was required to compete with two or more exhibits at the same time. **(Clause 4.1.2 amended 10/22, 7.5.3. Effective 01/01/23)**

We look forward to a review of the current situation in understanding the challenges we face in attempting to encourage, engage and enable our members to participate positively and ethically in our specialist shows.

Kind regards

Janet Haase

Janet Haase | Honorary Secretary

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