

**THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG LEAGUE OF GREAT BRITAIN LIMITED**  
**RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
**PRELIMINARY**

1 .In these regulations unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent therewith:-

‘The League’ means the above named German Shepherd Dog League of Great Britain Limited

‘The Council’ means the Council for the time being of the League constituted as thereafter mentioned.

Words denoting the singular number shall include incorporations:

‘Month’ means calendar month

‘Offices’ means the Principle Office for the time being of the League

‘Register’ means Registers of Members

‘Registered Address’ means the address of the Member for the time being appearing in the Register.

‘In writing’ means written or typewritten or printed or partly written or typewritten or printed.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

2. The objectives for which the League is established are:-

- I. To advance the breed of German Shepherd Dogs in Great Britain.
- II. To regulate the show points and working dog standards of German Shepherd Dogs.
- III. To co-operate with and extend and amplify the efforts of other Clubs, Leagues or associations formed for the like or similar purposes.
- IV. To assist breeders and owners of German Shepherd Dogs by providing means of practical co-operation among them.
- V. For the exemplifying of good sportsmanship and unselfishness amongst all those interested in the breed of German Shepherd Dogs, and to do all things conducive to the formation of a common policy for promoting the ultimate unification of the whole German Shepherd Dog Movement in the British Isles or elsewhere.
- VI. To hold periodical or other meetings of the Members of the League in England or elsewhere, or of other Societies, Clubs or of persons in any way interested in or connected with canine members. To promote, hold or arrange dog shows, competitions and matches, either independently or in connection with any person or persons, show or other committees, body or bodies, whether corporate or not, and either alone or in connection with any other canine or other exhibitions of a canine nature or of interest to dog owners, with the object of encouraging the breeding and propagation of the German Shepherd Dog and the promotion of interest in canine matters. To acquire exhibition and other requisites for the purpose of canine exhibitions, also of furniture, fittings and effects required by the League in connection with any object for which the League is founded.
- VII. To offer prizes, awards and distinctions, and to contribute towards the provision of prizes, awards and distinctions for merit in connection with canine matters, also for the purpose of any show, competition or match or other exhibition whether held by or in connection with the League or not.
- VIII. Subject to the approval of The Kennel Club, to affiliate with, join, subscribe to, become a Member of or allied with or co-operate with any person or persons or any body or association whether incorporated or not – whose objectives are altogether or in part of a canine nature, or, not being so, whose objectives or works are considered by the League to be likely to assist towards attaining any one or more of its objectives.

- IX. To promote in canine matters honourable practice, to suppress malpractice, to settle, promote and arrange the settlement of disputes by arbitration or otherwise, and to act as or nominate arbitrators and umpires as may be deemed expedient and to decide questions of usage, courtesy and customs provided always that The Kennel Club shall be the last Court of Appeal in all matters of dispute.
- X. To provide accommodation and other facilities for the conduct of the League and carrying out of all or any of its objectives, and with the same objectives, either alone or in conjunction with others to acquire by purchase, taking on lease, or otherwise, land, buildings and all other property, real and personal, corporeal and incorporeal, which may be lawfully held, and so far as the Law or Licence of the Board of Trade may from time to time allow to resell under lease or sub-let, surrender, exchange, turn to account, and dispose of such property or any part thereof to erect upon such land any building for the purpose of or alter any existing building acquired by the League also to purchase or otherwise acquire furniture, effects, dogs and any other kind of property which may be acquired for the purpose of the League. To borrow, raise or secure the payment of money in such a manner as the League may think fit and to take any gift or property, whether subject to any special trust or not, for all or any one or more of the objectives of the League.
- XI. To remunerate the officers, judges, and employees of the League or any others persons in good faith for their services rendered in conjunction with the League or canine or other matters and do all such other lawful acts of things incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objectives of the League. Out of the funds of the League to defray all the expenses incurred in connection with its formation.
- XII. To contribute out of the funds of the League to the funds of any other canine body or to the funds of any exhibition, show or other competition or to the funds of any club, committee, or other body or person promoting the same, or towards the promotion of any objective of canine interest or of a canine nature which shall be deemed to be for the benefit of the German Shepherd Dog movement.
- XIII. To contribute out of the funds of the League towards any charitable objective, and to promote dog shows or exhibitions wholly or partly, in aid of charity.

#### **CUPS AND TROPHIES**

3. All challenge Cups and Special Prizes shall be vested in the Council, who may make such rules thereto as they may think fit. In the event of the League ceasing to exist the Cups, Trophies and all other assets shall be dealt with by the Council as provided for in rule 20.
4. Any member who shall win one of the League's challenge cups or trophies and wish to take possession of same shall give a guarantee for its safekeeping to the Secretary, and the Member shall be liable for the full value of the said cups and trophies whilst in his possession. The said cups or trophies shall be returned by the holder to the Secretary at the chief office of the League on the holder receiving six days notice in writing requiring him so to do, which notice may be given at any time. In the event of there being a cup or trophy for which the terms upon which it may be won had not been specified then it shall be necessary for any one exhibitor to win the cup or trophy three times consecutively or four times in all non-consecutively, and if a Member after scoring one or more wins for such cups or trophies resigns from or ceases to be a Member of the League, such wins cease to count, and if such a Member rejoins the club he starts on the same footing as Members who have not scored any such wins.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

5. Membership of the League shall be open to all persons interested in German Shepherd Dogs, but no person shall be elected or shall continue in being a Member who is ineligible for showing at shows promoted under The Kennel Club Rules.
6. The Council shall annually appoint a President, Vice-Presidents and such other Officers of the League as they may think fit, and shall have power to elect Honorary Members on such terms and conditions as it may deem expedient.
7. The election of Members is vested absolutely in the Council and may take place at any subsequent meeting of that Council following the receipt of the proposed Member's application. The majority of votes for or against the candidates shall be decisive.
8. The liability of Members shall be limited to the amount of their subscription as provided herein.
9. The annual subscription shall be \_\_\_\_\_ for each member and \_\_\_\_\_ for two Members of the same household, or partners, payable on joining and on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year. In the case of Members joining after the 1<sup>st</sup> of August of any year the subscription shall be \_\_\_\_\_ single and \_\_\_\_\_ joint, which entitles them to Membership until December 31<sup>st</sup> the following year. In the case of Members joining after the 1<sup>st</sup> November, the subscription shall be \_\_\_\_\_ single and \_\_\_\_\_ joint, and shall carry Membership to December 31<sup>st</sup> the following year. Juniors under sixteen and Old Age Pensioners the annual subscription shall be \_\_\_\_\_ single and \_\_\_\_\_ joint. Subscriptions shall be payable on application but will be refunded in case of non – election. The names and addresses of all Members shall be entered in a Register which shall be open to inspection by Members of the society or The Kennel Club at reasonable times.
10. At the beginning of each year the Secretary shall post to each Member a Notice that the annual subscription is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January and no Member shall be allowed to vote or compete for any of the prizes of the League or in any way whatsoever enjoy any of the privileges of Membership until his current subscription and all other outstanding debts due by him to the League have been paid.
11. Applications for Membership received on or before the date of closing of entries entitle an exhibitor to compete at any of the League's shows with Members privileges provided their election is confirmed.
12. The affairs of the League generally shall be directed by a Council, which shall consist of up to 12 Members, who shall be elected as provided for in rule 13. The Council shall have the power to *seek advice without the necessity to co-opt Members*. The President, Secretary and Treasurer shall have no power to vote unless they are elected Members of the Council.
  - a) No person whilst an un-discharged bankrupt may serve on the Committee of, or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society.
  - b) Members of the Council and of any Sub-Committee and officials of the League shall be indemnified by the League against any legal claim made against them, in connection with any oral or written statement, made by them in good faith in the course of, or in furtherance of their League duties or responsibility.
13. The ballot of Members attending the Annual General Meeting, whose subscriptions have been paid in the current year, shall be held to elect Members of the Council, who shall serve three years; one third of the number of the Councillors so elected shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election. The ballot shall take place at the Annual General Meeting.
14. The Councillors to retire in each year shall be those who have been longest in the office since the last election, but as between persons who became Councillors on the same date, those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot.
15. In the event of a vacancy arising on the Council by death, resignation, or expulsion of a Member, the Council shall fill the vacancy by co-opting, but a Member so co-opted shall retire at the next Annual General Meeting. A Member requires a minimum of twelve months Membership in order to qualify for co-option. If for any reason the Council are unable to

obtain a quorum (e.g. Council Membership having fallen to less than seven) Councillors shall have the power to hold a Council meeting for the purpose only of co-opting sufficient members to enable a quorate meeting to be held. In these circumstances the Council shall immediately call an Extraordinary General Meeting at which the co-opted Members shall first of all retire and an election held to fill the remaining vacancies on the Council.

16. Only fully paid up Members are eligible to nominate or be nominated for the Council and each nomination must be proposed and seconded by a Member and the consent of the nominee obtained in writing. Nominees for the Council must have been members for at least the preceding 12 months. All nominations to be received by the 1<sup>st</sup> February preceding the annual ballot.

17. Rules of the League may not be altered by the League except at an ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING or SPECIAL GEENERAL MEETING, notice of which includes details of the proposal to alter the Rules. Such alterations shall not be brought into force until The Kennel Club has been advised and has given its approval of the alterations. New Rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet The Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately and be included in the Society's Constitution with effect from the Society's annual meeting. No business shall be transacted at an Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those which in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting are urgent

#### **GENERAL MEETING**

18. The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held yearly to receive the accounts, the election of new Members of the Council. Such Members to take office from the date of the Annual General Meeting.

19. A General Meeting shall have the sole power to decide by a majority vote of those present, whether to hold a referendum of the League Members by a postal ballot. In such a case the wording of the Referendum question(s) will be decided by the General Meeting.

20. The Council may exercise all such powers of the League as are not by these rules and regulations required to be exercised by the League in General Meeting, but no Regulation made by the League in General Meeting shall invalidate any prior act of the Council which would have been valid if such Regulation had not been made, and without restricting the generality of the foregoing power to make necessary bye-laws and rescind the same; the power to refuse admissions of or to remove from the League or any of its exhibitions any persons deemed objectionable, whether a Member or not, but subject in the case of expulsion of a Member, to the provisions of Rule 43, and at its discretion to appoint or remove or suspend any Secretary, Manager, Clerk, Servant or other Official employed by the League. To appoint from time to time such Sub-Committees as they may think desirable, and to invest such Sub-Committees with such powers as they may think fit. Subject as aforesaid Council shall have power to deal with the funds and property of the League in its absolute discretion and to deal with and decide upon all matters arising in connection with the League not provided for in these Rules and Regulations, and in respect of which the decision of the Council shall be binding as if their decision was contained in these Rules and Regulations. To decide the value and nature of all prizes or other distinctions of merit offered for competition or otherwise in connection with any of the objects of the League or its work.

a) The Council may exercise such powers that are necessary to conduct the affairs of the League in a reasonable manner between General Meetings, such as the power of election of Members and the power to refuse admissions of or to remove from the League or any of its exhibitions any person deemed objectionable, whether a Member or not, but subject in the case of expulsion of a Member to the provisions of Rule 43 and at its discretion to appoint or remove or suspend any Secretary, Manager, Clerk, Servant or other Official employed by the

League. To appoint, from time to time such Sub-Committees as they may deem desirable, and, to determine the terms of reference for such Sub-Committees.

21. The Council shall annually elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among their body. The Chairman of the Council for the time being shall be *ipso facto* Chairman of the League. The Chairman shall retire annually as Chairman. *Voting for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be by secret ballot. The Chairman is entitled to his one vote as a Council Member only.* That in the case of resignation, removal or death of the serving Chairman, the Vice-Chairman takes over the office of Chairman for the remaining period of the year in question, thus allowing normal continuation of the League's affairs.

22. The quorum for a Meeting of the Council shall be 50% plus 1

23. The League must undertake to keep a minute book which must contain a full record of all business transacted at General Meetings and Committee Meetings, including a record of all Guarantees offered by the League any such minutes to be signed by a person purporting to be the Chairman of the meeting to which they relate or at which they are read and confirmed shall be received as *prima facie* evidence of the facts therein stated; and/to maintain a system of accounts showing a complete record of the income and expenditure of the League and a Balance Sheet. Such Minute Book, Accounts and Balance Sheet and also any other documents belonging to the League, are to be produced to The Kennel Club at any time when required. A copy of the annual Statement of Accounts for the last financial year which must be certified in accordance with the Rules of the League must be sent to all Members of the League except that provision may be made in the Rules of the League for the annual Statement of Accounts to be forwarded on request by a Member, otherwise, it will be available for inspection by Members at the Annual General Meeting and at times to be stipulated in the Rules.

23a). All League property, monies and account books etc. that shall be placed in the custody of a League Council Member or ordinary member that property shall remain the property of the League and shall be returned forthwith and not later than 10 days after the person ceased to be a Council Member or ordinary member of the League. In the event that the property is not or cannot be returned then the League will arrange collection. If any loss or damage should occur to any League property the keeper shall be held liable for any costs incurred. For any property to be released to a third party, Council Member or ordinary member, the signature of the Secretary and one other current Council Member shall be required and the recipient

24. A banking account shall be kept in the name of the League, into which all revenue shall be paid, and from which withdrawals shall only be made on the signature of two or more officers, one of whom shall be the Treasurer.

25. Seven days notice shall be given of the holding of any Meeting of the Council, except in the case of any emergency, when three days notice shall suffice.

26. There shall be no power to vote by proxy or to demand a poll at Meetings of the Council.

a) The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to The Kennel Club by the Secretary for the continuance of Registration and that by the 31<sup>st</sup> of July the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities will be forwarded to The Kennel Club. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform The Kennel Club of any change of Secretary which may occur during the course of the year.

b) The League must send a list of Members and their addresses, and those of Branch Members where appropriate, to The Kennel Club with their Annual Returns, and, if so requested, make an up to date list of Members available for inspection by The Kennel Club and Members of the Society.

### **DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES**

27. Any Member of the Council, who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without providing an explanation acceptable to the Council, shall thereby vacate his seat and be ineligible for re-election for 12 months. Council business is confidential and Members of Council should not discuss these matters outside of Council Meetings, unless otherwise agreed by the Council

### **MEETINGS OF THE LEAGUE**

28. General Meetings of the League shall be called by Resolution of the Council, and failing such resolution the same shall be called by the Secretary.

29. The Council shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the League (1) at their own discretion, (2) at the written request of *10% of the paid up membership by the time the meeting is requested*. Such requisition on each case must state the object of the meeting, and must be signed by the requisitionists and deposited at the Office of League, and may consist of several documents in like form which shall each be signed by one or more requisitionists. *No voting should be allowed on any matter that is not on the Agenda*. If the Council do not within twenty one days from the date of the requisition being deposited issue notices convening a Meeting the requisitionists or a majority of them may themselves convene the Meeting, but no Meeting so convened shall be held after three months from the date of such deposit.

30. Not less than fourteen clear days' notice shall be given in writing to the Members of a General Meeting. Such notice must contain all the relevant information concerning the meeting and business to be conducted and be published not less than fourteen clear days before the date of the meeting. No business other than that named in the notice shall be brought before a Special General Meeting.

31. Ten Members personally present shall be a quorum at a Meeting of the League.

32. The Chairman of the Council, and is absent the Vice-Chairman, shall preside at every Meeting of the League, but if at any Meeting of the League neither the Chairman of the Council nor the Vice-Chairman shall be present within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for holding the Meeting, or if they be unwilling to act as Chairman, the Meeting shall choose one of their number to act as Chairman of the Meeting.

### **ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT**

33. The Financial year of the League shall be the calendar year commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> January and ending on 31<sup>st</sup> December in each year.

34. The income and property of the League whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the League as set forth in these rules and regulations and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred howsoever by way of profit to the Members of the League, directly or indirectly by way of dividends bonus or otherwise provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any officers or employees of the League, or to any Member of the League or other person in return for services tendered to the League.

35. The Council shall cause proper books of accounts to be kept with respect to:

- a) All sums of money received and expended by the League and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure took place.
- b) All sales and purchases by the League and
- c) The assets and liabilities of the League.

Proper books shall not be deemed to be kept if there are not kept such books of accounts as necessary to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the League and to explain its transactions.

36. The books of accounts shall be kept at the office of the League or at such other place or places as the Council think fit, and shall be open to inspection by Members of the Council.

37. The Council shall cause proper accounts to be prepared and laid before each Annual General Meeting, such accounts to be in the form of an Income and Expenditure Account and a Balance Sheet and made up to the end of the financial year of the League immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting. All accounts laid before the Annual General Meeting shall be audited as hereinafter provided and accompanied by a report from the Council on the state and condition of the League during the period covered by such accounts. A copy of such report together with a copy of the audited accounts shall be sent to each Member who attended the previous A.G.M not less than 10 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting or can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

38. The League accounts will be certified annually and presented to the Members at the Annual General Meeting. NOTE: Certification of accounts must be carried out by one qualified Accountant or two unqualified individuals with accountancy experience.

a) The Council shall appoint an auditor and it shall be the duty of the auditor to examine the books and records of the League and to report to the Members as to whether:

i) The accounts are in agreement with the books and records,

ii) The Income and Expenditure Account gives a true and fair view of the surplus or deficit for the period covered, and

iii) The balance sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the League as at the date thereof.

#### **NOTICES**

39. A Notice may be served by the League upon any Member either personally or by posting the same in a prepaid envelope or wrapper addressed to such Member at his address.

Members who have no registered address other than the registered office of the League shall be deemed to be efficiently served with any Notice required to be given by the posting up. Any notice if served by post shall be deemed to have been served on the day on which it was posted and in proving such service it shall be sufficient to prove that the Notice was properly addressed and posted.

#### **DISPUTES**

40. The Kennel Club shall be the final Court of Appeal in all matters of dispute between the League and its Members, the League affairs and management, no matter in what manner arising. On a point of law legal opinion may be sought.

41. The League shall not join any Federation of Clubs or Societies.

42. Any Member who shall be suspended under The Kennel Club Rule A24j (4) and/or disqualified under The Kennel Club Rule A42j (8) shall ipso facto cease to be a Member of the Society for the duration of suspension and / or disqualification. If the conduct of any Member shall, in the opinion of the committee of the society, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the society, the committee of the society may, at a meeting, the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the Member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Society shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him. Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused Member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising him of the place, date and hour of the meeting that he may attend and offer an explanation. If at that Meeting a resolution to expel is passed by two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, his name shall be forthwith erased from the list of Members, and he shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a Member of the Society, except that he may within two calendar months from the date of such meeting appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as The Kennel Club may impose.

42a). The GSD League will not tolerate any form of bullying of its members, guests, judges or exhibitors. This club will treat all its members with respect and fairness

43. If the League expels any Member for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, Dog Shows or Trials or competitions, the society must report the manner in writing to The Kennel Club within seven days and supply all particulars required.

44. No business shall be transacted at an Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those which in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting are urgent.

45. All matters not provided for in these rules shall be determined by the Council until such time as the matter can be disposed of by a General Meeting of the League, but it shall not be necessary to call a General Meeting for the purpose unless deemed necessary by the Council.

46. If the League is wound up or ceased to be a registered society under the Kennel Club regulations, a final statement of audited accounts together with a record of any disposals of property, by the League, shall be sent to The Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as Officers of the League on the last return furnished to The Kennel Club, will be held responsible by The Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the League.

47. The Council will arrange for the disposal of any assets of the Society should it for any reason cease to exist to be divided equally between fully paid up Members of the League. The League Council will obtain from Donors of Challenge Cups or Trophies an acknowledgement that the gift is made outright to the Society.

48. The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the League in all cases relative to Canine or League matters.

#### 49. GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG LEAGUE OF GREAT BRITAIN - BRANCHES

1. Branches shall abide by the Rules and Regulations of the League and shall in all matters be subject to the ruling of the League Council.
2. Any member of the GSD League shall be a member of the Branch of his/her choice, and shall be entitled to receive notice of meetings.
3. The aims of the Branch shall be as those of the GSD League.
4. The Branch Committee consisting of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary together with Committee shall be elected annually in the same manner as the GSD League, and can be removed from Office by the League Council.
5. Any member, or Branch Officer or Committee Member, found (after full investigation by the GSD League Council) where the matter concerned has had an opportunity to represent him or herself to be acting against the interest of the Branch and/or the GSD League, may be removed from their position by the GSD League Council (subject to two-thirds majority of those present and voting) and may, at the discretion of the League Council, be prevented from holding future Office with the GSD League and its Branches.
6. Branches shall form their own Committees and generally conduct their own domestic affairs. Branches should not arrange events without the written consent of the GSD League Council.
7. The Treasurer shall keep accounts of the Branch finances, and forward a copy of the accounts to the GSD League Secretary after they have been approved by the Branch AGM.
8. The Branch Secretary must forward a copy of the Minutes of the Branch Committee Meetings to the GSD League Secretary. Branch AGM Minutes must also be forwarded to the GSD League Secretary.



9. A copy of the Branch Agendas must be sent to the GSD League Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting taking place.
10. All Branch funds should be deposited with banks in the name of the Branch, but should the Branch be dissolved for any reason, or otherwise cease to exist as a Branch, all cups, trophies, monies and other property of the Branch shall become the property of the GSD League absolutely.
11. Bank accounts held in the name of the Branch must have two signatures on all cheques.
12. The GSD League Council will not be held responsible for any liability whether financial or otherwise incurred by any Branch or Branches, and no Branch may be held responsible for any liability incurred by the GSD League Council.
13. Branch Secretaries must notify the GSD League Council by giving 14 days notice of the Branch AGM together with an Agenda, and must also provide a copy of their Branch's audited balance sheet.
14. A GSD League Council Member must be in attendance at all Branch AGM's, unless otherwise agreed that a nominated person should attend on their behalf.

50. GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG LEAGUE OF GREAT BRITAIN - WORKING DOG BRANCHES

The Working Dog Branches shall operate on the same basis as the Branches above in Rule 49, but shall be controlled by a single Working Dog Group Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and a Committee made up by an equal number of delegates from each Working Dog Branch.

This Working Dog Group shall also be responsible for organising its own Rules and Regulations which will need to be approved by the GSD League Council.

Each Working Dog Branch shall be titled as follows: GSD League Working Dog Branch (Name of Branch).

The Working Dog Group is entitled to send two representatives to the relevant part of the GSD League Council Meetings.

51. Group Affiliation - See attached Appendix a)