

BYLAWS of German American Hundesport

Article I. NAME OF CLUB

- (a) The name of this association is the **German American Hundesport** and shall be known as such.

Article II. Object of the Club

- (a) To train dogs for (i.e. **Schutzhund, HGH, etc.**)
- (b) Support activities and educational programs that demonstrate the advantages of training.
- (c) Support and organize trials, breed surveys, or conformation shows under the requirements the German Shepherd Dog Club of America-Working Dog Association, Inc. (GSDCA-WDA) and according to the rules of the Verband Fuer Das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH).
- (d) To preserve the German Shepherd Dog in accordance with the breed standard as a working dog; to promote humane training methods for the working dog; and to support responsible dog ownership and breeding practices.
- (e) Support the use of dogs by Law Enforcement Agencies and to promote the use of the Breed Standards for the German Shepherd Dog.
- (f) The promotion of working dogs for the sport of Schutzhund, police work, herding and search and rescue.
- (g) To interest and educate the public about Schutzhund, police, herding and search and rescue training.

Article III. Non-Profit Status

- (a) The German American Hundesport shall be conducted as a non-profit organization. All dues, levies and other income shall be disbursed to promote the objectives of this Club along with associated social activities.

Article IV. Membership

.1 The German American Hundesport Shall Consist of Two Types of Members

- (a) Active members – these members shall be entitled to vote, hold office, and benefit in all the advantages of this organization. All active members must also be members of GSDCA-WDA (German Shepherd Dog Club of America – Working Dogs Association.).
- (b) Honorary members – these members may be elected by the Board of Directors from those who have rendered valuable service to the Club or the police dog movement. They are not entitled to vote or hold office. Honorary members are not required to pay membership dues.

.2 Application for Membership

- (a) Applicant shall attend no more than six (6) calendar week's worth of training sessions as a non-member. At these sessions, the Training Director will evaluate the temperament of the applicant's dog. If a dog's temperament is not suitable for the sport of Schutzhund, the Training Director shall inform the applicant of this.
- (b) Applications for membership shall be made to the Secretary in writing upon forms provided at the first training session where the applicant brings their dog to be trained.
- (c) All membership applications, dogs, and handlers are subject to approval of the Training Director and two thirds (2/3) vote of acceptance by the Board of Directors.
- (d) The first year of membership shall be a probationary period. Probationary members can be expelled by a two thirds (2/3) vote to the Board of Directors. If a new member is expelled in the first six (6) months of his or her probationary period, the entire annual membership dues shall be refunded. If a new member is expelled in the second six (6) months of his or her probationary period, fifty percent (50%) of the annual membership dues shall be refunded.
- (e) The Board of Directors shall appoint honorary members.

.3 Resignation

- (a) Any member may resign at any time and may be deleted from the membership upon receipt of resignation, in writing, by the secretary.

.4 Suspension

- (b) Any member may be suspended by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors or automatically as provided for elsewhere.
- (c) Any member under suspension shall not be entitled to vote or participate in training sessions.
- (d) Any member under suspension for four (4) months shall be expelled from membership automatically.
- (e) Any member who does not renew their membership to GSDCA-WDA and this Club's secretary is notified by the GSDCA-WDA Treasurer of said fact, will have thirty (30) days in which to renew their GSDCA-WDA membership and provide the Club Secretary with a photocopy of that membership card with expiration date. Failure to renew GSDCA-WDA membership and provide proof of membership will result in suspension.

Article V. Dues and Special Levies

.1 Dues and Fees

- (a) New members will be assessed a one-time initiation fee of \$50.00 (fifty dollars).
- (b) The Individual Membership (one handler with up to Two (2) dogs) annual dues are \$200.00 (Two hundred dollars) per year and every January thereafter.
- (c) Family Membership (up to three handlers living in the same residence with up to three dogs total per family) annual dues are
- (d) \$300.00 (Three hundred dollars) per year and every January thereafter. Dues for each additional family member living at the

same address are \$75.00 (Seventy five dollars) per year and every January thereafter.

- (e) Membership dues are payable prior to the start of the year, before January 1. A photocopy of a current GSDCA-WDA membership card showing the expiration date shall be included when membership dues are paid. Members joining after July 1 are charged ½ (one half) of the annual dues.
- (f) Guest Fees: Non-members of The German American Hundesport interested in joining are required to attend 6 sessions as guest for a fee of \$15.00 per session. Guests who are preparing to enter a scheduled sanctioned trial of the Club may arrange with the Training Director for practice on the field in preparation for the trial. The Training Director and/or the President may arrange for the Club helper to be available for protection work at these practice sessions for a fee of \$15.00 (fifteen dollars) per session.
- (g) All members and volunteers must sign the Waiver of Liability Form before participating in The German American Hundesport events, as required by WDA. Forms are available on the WDA site on line, or from the Club Secretary. All active members must participate in at least one event per year, either as a volunteer for support activities such as meal provision, registration, etc., or as a participant in the event with one of their dogs.

.2 Special Levies

- (a) The membership may approve by a majority vote the collection of special equal levies against the membership to meet the expenses of The German American Hundesport.

.3 Non-payment of Dues or Special Levies

- (a) An active member, whose dues remain unpaid for one (1) month after the due date, shall be notified in writing by the Secretary/Treasurer. If said dues remain unpaid for another thirty (30) days, the membership shall be automatically suspended.

Article VI. Board of Directors

- (a) The control and management of the affairs of The German American Hundesport shall be vested in the Board of Directors, consisting of at least three (3) but not more than five (5) members.
- (b) The Board of Directors shall consist of:
 - 1. *President*
 - 2. *Vice President*
 - 3. *Secretary*
 - 4. *Treasurer*
 - 5. *Training Director*
- (c) Meetings for the Board of Directors shall be called by the President. Board meetings may precede or follow regular General Membership meetings.
- (d) Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the President or three Directors acting in concert.
- (e) A majority of the Directors in office being present shall constitute a quorum to conduct regular business. The Board shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur between elections except that of President.
- (f) The Secretary shall keep minutes of the Board meeting.
- (g) At least one General Membership meeting must be held per year.
- (h) The Board shall have general supervision over all disbursements of the Treasurer.
- (i) The Board shall have the power to appoint committees and assistant officers from among the membership.

Article VII. Officers and Their Responsibilities

- (a) **President.** The President shall preside at all meetings and act as the chief executive of the Club. He shall be a member of all committees. He shall officially greet visitors and control their location and movements at the training grounds while dogs are in

training. He shall also answer questions, offer explanations and in general, provide good relations for the interested public.

- (b) Vice President. The Vice President shall in the absence of the President, perform all duties of the President.
- (c) Secretary. The Secretary shall have charge of all correspondence; keep the records and roll of members, the minutes of meetings and Board meetings, and election results. The Secretary, with assistance as needed, is responsible for the preparation of the official registration for events; acquisition of supplies, trophies, and official forms for recording the events; official catalogs for the events; and, submission of all required forms and catalogs as prescribed by WDA for each event sponsored by the Club.
- (d) Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive, collect, and disburse all funds of the Club. Disbursements shall be made only be signed vouchers, which shall be kept as part of a permanent record system, which shall include an account book of receipts and disbursements. He shall render a formal statement regarding the Club funds annually and informally at all regular meetings.
- (e) Training Director. One shall be appointed for an indefinite term by the Board of Directors. He shall fulfill all requirements to maintain a satisfactory and successful training program. He shall be in charge of all Club activities during normal training hours. He shall be a member of the Club.
- (f) An officer may assume more than one responsibility if approved by a majority of the Board of Directors.

Article VIII. Election of Officers and Directors

- (a) The Officers and Directors shall be elected by the Active members in good standing at a general meeting of The German American Hundesport. All Officers and Directors shall assume office immediately after the election results are known. Each active member may vote for only one (1) nominee for each office.
- (b) Nominations for Officers and Directors shall be made by the Board of Directors at a general meeting. All nominations must be seconded. Nominees for Officers and Directors must be members in good standing for at least one year prior to the election.

- (c) Any active member whose membership fees or levies remain unpaid on election day shall be disqualified from voting or holding office.

Article IX. Parliamentary Authority

- (a) The current edition of Bylaws of The German American Hundesport shall govern this association in all parliamentary situations that are not covered in the law, or in these Constitution and Bylaws, or adopted rules. In case of conflict between the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws and the parliamentary provisions of “Bylaws of The German American Hundesport” the provisions of these Constitution and Bylaws shall prevail. **“The most recent Robert’s Rules of Orders, Revised shall govern parliamentary practice on all matters covered in these Bylaws.**

Article X. Meetings

- (a) The general membership meeting to conduct business shall be held in conjunction with the training sessions.

Article XI. Constitutional Amendments

- (a) The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended, altered or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active Board of Directors in good standing.
- (b) Any proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws shall be formally read at the Board of Directors meeting and shall appear in the minutes of that meeting.

Article XII. Training

- (a) It is the policy of The German American Hundesport that one (1) dog per person will be given priority over extra dogs. The training of extra dogs at any one session can be done only with the consent of the Training Director and must not interfere with the timely training of other dogs. Extra dogs (and non-member dogs) may be trained last in the session.
- (b) Extra dogs owned by Club members that are under six (6) months of age may be tied out during training sessions, or brought to

sessions for socialization, provided that such action does not interfere with the training of other dogs. Puppies may be worked briefly by a helper with the consent of the Training Director.

- (c) Prospective members and guests of members may attend any training session. They may not enter into training activities of the Club except by the consent of the presiding officer or Training Director, only after completing a Membership Application with Training Agreement & Understanding of Liability.
- (d) A member cannot participate in training sessions unless their membership dues are paid in full.