

USA BYLAWS AMENDMENTS 2009

(These amendments prohibit USA members residing in the United States from being members of, or being affiliated with, competing German Shepherd Dog organizations in the United States. Membership in more than one U.S.-based German Shepherd Dog club presents a conflict of interest when making decisions that affect USA.)

1. **Article IV, Section 2. (Individual Membership/Rules for Individual Membership)** – Submitted by Johannes Grewe

Add:

- e. USA members may not be members of, or be affiliated with, any competing German Shepherd Dog organization in the United States.

2. **Article III.4. (Performance and Breeding Regulations)** – Submitted by Johannes Grewe

Delete:

4. USA Judges may not be governing members or judges of competing U.S. German Shepherd Dog organizations.

3. **Article V, Section 2. (Club Membership/Relationship Between USA and Local Clubs)** – Submitted by Johannes Grewe

From:

- c. Member clubs shall not be members of other Schutzhund type organizations. Individual members of the club, however, may be members of other organizations.

To:

- c. Member clubs may not be members of, or be affiliated with, any competing German Shepherd Dog organization in the United States.

(This amendment allows well established and experienced clubs affiliated with other AWDF member clubs to become full-member USA clubs without being required to hold an affiliation trial.)

4. **Article V, Section 1.b. (Club Membership/Full Member Clubs)** – Submitted by Nia Cottrell

From:

- (ii) Being admitted directly into the United Schutzhund Clubs of America with full member club rank. Only clubs of exceptional qualification may bypass the affiliated club stage and be admitted directly into USA as a full member club.

To:

- (ii) Established clubs that are or have been affiliated with other American Working Dog Federation (AWDF) clubs may be admitted directly as full member clubs, without the requirement of an affiliation trial, if such clubs have operated continuously for the five (5) years prior to seeking USA affiliation and have conducted at least four trials during that five-year period.

(This amendment allows clubs to host a USA-sanctioned event in lieu of a trial to meet the requirements for maintaining full-member status.)

5. **Article V, Section 1.b. (Club Membership/Levels of Club Membership/Full Member Clubs)** – Submitted by Craig Groh

From:

- (v) Each full member club shall hold at least one (1) sanctioned USA Schutzhund trial or HGH Herding Dog Trial per calendar year beginning January 1 of the year after the year in which the club is granted full member status. The Regional Director shall approve any waiver of this requirement, provided the club's dues and membership list are current. The Regional Director will advise all the clubs in the region of the proposed waiver and the reasons thereof. Failure to comply with this provision will reduce the club to affiliated status for at least one (1) year. The affiliated club shall meet all the requirements once again to become a full member club.

To:

- (v) Each full member club shall hold at least one (1) *USA-sanctioned event* per calendar year beginning January 1 of the year after the year in which the club is granted full member status. The Regional Director shall approve any waiver of this requirement, provided the club's dues and membership list are current. The Regional Director will advise all the clubs in the region of the proposed waiver and the reasons thereof. Failure to comply with this provision will reduce the club to affiliated status for at least one (1) year. The affiliated club shall meet all the requirements once again to become a full member club.

(This bylaw becomes obsolete upon the adoption amendment #4 above regarding direct admission as a full-member club.)

6. Article V, Section 1.c. (Club Membership/Full Member Clubs) – Submitted by Nia Cottrell

Delete:

- c. To be admitted directly to USA as a full member club, the club must:
- (i) Complete the requirements as outlined in this article, Section 1, Part a, Items (i) through (vii).
 - (ii) Be recommended by a Regional Director.
 - (iii) Demonstrate satisfactory performance in the training of dogs in the sport by conducting a practice trial, which was judged by some person who has been approved by the Board of Directors and is not a member of the club.
 - (iv) Be approved by the Regional Director. The Regional Director is to submit to the Executive Board and the club a letter of approval or disapproval, which must be accompanied by:
 - A list of club members, including the club officers.
 - A complete set of score sheets from the practice trial.
 - (v) In the event that the Regional Director does not approve the full member status of the club, then the club may appeal to the Executive Board, which has the authority to override the decision of the Regional Director.

(This amendment will conform to proposed amendments #4 and #6 concerning direct admission.)

7. Article V, Section 1.d. (Club Membership/Full Member Clubs) – Submitted by Nia Cottrell

From:

- d. Upgrading of affiliated clubs to full member club status:
An affiliated club may be upgraded to full member club status when it has met the requirements outlined in this article, Section 1, Part c, Items (i) through (iv).

To:

- d. An affiliated club may be upgraded to full member club status when it has met the following requirements:
- (i) Demonstrate satisfactory performance in the training of dogs by conducting an affiliation trial, which was judged by an approved individual who is not a member of the club.
 - (ii) Be approved by the Regional Director. The Regional Director is to submit to the USA Office and the club a letter of approval or disapproval, which must be accompanied by:
 1. A list of club members, including the club officers.
 2. A complete set of score sheets from the affiliation trial.

(This amendment clarifies the requirement that club membership lists include the list of officers.)

8. Article V, Section 2. (Club Membership/Relationship Between USA and Local Clubs) – Submitted by Sara Wallick

From:

- d. A complete and current membership list including full addresses must be included with the club's annual dues. This information will be sent to the USA Office for verification. Clubs that fail to submit both annual dues and membership lists will not be granted trial authorizations by the Regional Director. Should club lists and dues not be submitted by the due date, any previously approved trial authorizations will be recalled. Trial authorizations will be restored when dues and membership lists are submitted and approved.

To:

- d. A complete and current membership list, including full addresses *and a list of the club officers*, must be included with the club's annual dues. This information will be sent to the USA Office for verification. Clubs that fail to submit both annual dues and membership lists will not be granted trial authorizations by the Regional Director. Should club *membership* lists and dues not be submitted by the due date, any previously approved trial authorizations will be recalled. Trial authorizations will be restored when dues and membership lists are submitted and approved.

(This amendment requires that all club dues shall be payable by June 1.)

9. **Article V, Section 2. (Club Membership/Relationship Between USA and Local Clubs)** – Submitted by Sean O’Kane

Add:

- e. Club dues shall be paid annually by June 1, with dues prorated for the year the club joins USA.

(This amendment addresses clubs that become arrears in their USA dues and remain so for several months in some instances, yet may continue to participate in the same manner as clubs in good standing.)

10. **Article V, Section 2. (Club Membership/Relationship Between USA and Clubs)** – Submitted by Sean O’Kane and Nia Cottrell

Add:

- f. Clubs whose dues are more than sixty (60) days in arrears shall not be clubs in good standing and shall be dropped from full club membership in USA. Any event authorizations for clubs in arrears for dues shall be null and void.
- (i) Any club trials conducted while a club is not in good standing due to non-payment of dues shall not be USA-sanctioned events, and any titles obtained at such trials shall be null and void.
- (ii) Only clubs in good standing may vote in regional and/or national meetings. Clubs in arrears for dues are not in good standing and shall not vote in regional or national meetings.

(This amendment clarifies an ambiguity in the bylaws that can be interpreted to mean that a valid election cannot take place at a regional meeting unless all the clubs in good standing in the region are in attendance.)

11. **Article VI, Section 6.e. (Regions, Regional Directors, Regional Breed Wardens/Nomination and Election)** – Submitted by Nia Cottrell

From:

- e. To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast by the full member clubs in good standing in that particular region.

To:

- e. To be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast by the full member clubs in good standing in that particular region who are in attendance at the regional meeting, *or* by the majority of votes cast by full member clubs in good standing in a mail ballot election.

(This amendment reduces the voting time allowed on Executive Board ballots.)

12. **Article VII, Section 2.f. (Boards of Directors/Executive Board of Directors/Voting)** – Submitted by Sara Wallick

From:

- (iii) In lieu of calling a special meeting, members of the Executive Board of Directors may be polled by mail or electronic communication ballot. Two (2) weeks shall be allowed for the return of ballots before closing the vote. Complete and factual information on the subject(s) to be voted on must be supplied with each ballot. Voting by telephone on mail ballots is prohibited.

To:

- (iii) In lieu of calling a special meeting, members of the Executive Board of Directors may be polled by mail or electronic communication ballot. **One (1)** week shall be allowed for the return of ballots before closing the vote. Complete and factual information on the subject(s) to be voted on must be supplied with each ballot. Voting by telephone on mail ballots is prohibited.

(These amendments reduce the Executive Board from the current 21 members to 20 members.)

13. Article VII, Section 2.a. (Boards of Directors/Executive Board of Directors/Definition) – Submitted by Sara Wallick

From:

- a. The Executive Board of Directors shall consist of all elected USA Officers, Regional Directors, and of not fewer than four (4) and not more than five (5) representatives from the membership at large.

To:

- a. The Executive Board of Directors shall consist of all elected USA Officers, Regional Directors, and **four (4)** representatives from the membership who shall be known as Directors at Large.

14. Article VII, Section 2.b. (Boards of Directors/Executive Board of Directors/Definition) – Submitted by Sara Wallick

From:

- b. The General Board of Directors shall elect from the list of full members of USA not fewer than four (4) and not more than five (5) persons, who are not USA officers, to be members of the Executive Board of Directors. They shall be known as Directors at Large. They shall serve a two (2) year term and shall be elected in even numbered years. The number of Directors at Large to be elected shall be that number, either four (4) or five (5) that when added to the number of USA officers and Regional Directors equals an odd number. The election for Directors at Large shall be by plurality.

To:

- b. The General Board of Directors shall elect from the membership **four (4)** persons, who are not USA officers, to be members of the Executive Board of Directors. They shall be known as Directors at Large. They shall serve a two (2) year term and shall be elected in even numbered years. The election for Directors at Large shall be by plurality.

(This amendment allows the President to appoint an interim officer to fill a vacancy until the Executive Board has conducted an election.)

15. Article VIII, Section 6.a. (Offices of the Association/Executive Board of Directors/Vacancies) – Submitted by Sara Wallick

From:

- a. If the office of Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Judges, National Breed Warden or Director(s) at Large should be vacated for any reason, or if the incumbent becomes incapacitated and cannot or is unwilling to perform the duties of office, the Executive Board shall elect a replacement. For the purposes of these bylaws incapacitation shall mean illness or death.

To:

- a. If the office of Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Judges, National Breed Warden or Director(s) at Large should be vacated for any reason, or if the incumbent becomes incapacitated and cannot or is unwilling to perform the duties of office, the Executive Board shall elect a replacement. For the purposes of these bylaws incapacitation shall mean illness or death. ***The President has the authority to appoint an interim officer until the Executive Board has conducted an election.***