



# German Shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa

PO Box 50222  
Hercules  
0300

Tel +27 12 376-2583

Fax +27 12 376-2459

E-mail: info@g sdfederation.co.za

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## Directives to Breed Judges

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*The following directives to judges were compiled by the Breed Judges Committee of the German Shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa and are based on the rules and regulations of the Federation.*

*These directives do not contain all the rules and regulations of the Federation and are merely intended to interpret and standardise certain aspects of the rules and judging procedures which may appear to be conflicting.*

*All judges judging in the Federation must adhere to these directives. Where these directives conflict with directives previously issued, the older directives are replaced with these directives.*

### A. General

1. The Federation follows the lead of the country of origin, i.e. Germany. However, because of the large distances and the small number of clubs, it is necessary to make certain allowances in South Africa. The Federation has taken care that such allowances will not disadvantage the breed in South Africa.
2. Other than differences specified below, the system of showing and judging in the Federation is the same as prescribed by the Deutsche Schäferhund Verein (SV) in Germany. Anatomical faults such as missing teeth etc. are judged exactly as in Germany and disqualifying faults are the same.
3. However, from time to time the situation may arise that new rules accepted in Germany may not as yet have been implemented in South Africa. In such cases judges must judge according to the rules currently in force in South Africa.

### B. All shows other than the National Show

#### 1. Documentation

- a) The show catalogue is compiled by the Federation administration and not by the show holding club as in Germany. Data is taken straight from the Federation's database and, with the exception of recent

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Executive President Frikkie van Kraayenburg  
Vice President Alan Biesman-Simons

National Training Supervisor Greg Lotter  
National Administrator Sonia van Kraayenburg  
National Breed Supervisor Chris Thompson & Marem vd Heide

changes in a dog's particulars that have not as yet been recorded by the administration, for example a Breed Survey or a change of ownership done just before a show, can be regarded as correct unless the owner or handler provides proof to the contrary.

- b) Judges may therefore use the catalogue to verify particulars such as tattoo numbers, HD gradings, age etc. If there are recent changes, it is the competitor's responsibility to inform the judge thereof and to provide the necessary proof.
- c) At shows where the Federation has not compiled the catalogue, judges must correlate minimum requirements such as HD gradings and tattoo numbers from original or certified documentation, normally the dog's pedigree or Training Record Book. No document of which the dog's tattoo number is not an integral part, for example a veterinary certificate where the tattoo number has clearly been added in afterwards, may be accepted as proof of a requirement.
- d) If a required document is not present when required, the judge may accept a written declaration from a competitor that the relevant proof exists and must note this in his judge's Book for later verification. False declarations will be dealt with in terms of the Federation's disciplinary code.
- e) In the event of a dog recently surveyed, the official Federation compiled catalogue may not reflect a dog's breed survey and the certificate may not have been issued. In such cases the (blue) receipt issued to dogs at the time of the survey may be accepted as proof of a valid survey.

## **2. Tattoo Numbers**

- a) The tattoo numbers of all dogs must be checked
- b) If a tattoo number is not legible, it must be reported in the Judges' Book and recommenced for re-tattooing
- c) If a dog is presented in the ring with a different tattoo number to that of the dog listed in the catalogue, the tattoo number of the dog actually presented in the ring must be noted in the Judges' book. The office must be requested to issue a Grading Card with the correct details and sign same pp the officiating judge together with the Federation's official stamp.

## **3. Teeth**

- a) The accepted proof that teeth faults are due to trauma are as follows:

- i) Breed Survey: In the case of breed surveyed dogs the official survey certificate **must** be accepted as proof that the tooth was there originally.
  - ii) Official endorsement on the back of the pedigree.
  - iii) The official Federation certification in the training test record book serves as proof that missing teeth were there and certifies the correctness of the bite.
- b) Veterinary certificates regarding **missing teeth** are only accepted in the ring if
  - i) The certificate clearly stipulates that the vet personally had removed the tooth,
  - ii) The date of the certificate is not older than 30 days.
- c) Veterinary certificates regarding bite problems, missing teeth that a vet has not personally extracted and other teeth distortions that may be hereditary are **not** accepted in the ring.
- d) The teeth of dogs and bitches breed surveyed in Class 1 must be accepted as acceptable for a "V" grading and should not be rechecked at shows other than for the open classes at the National Show. The breed survey is accepted as correct in the event of a dispute and all judges must accept the survey.
- e) The teeth of all dogs and bitches breed surveyed Class 2 must be checked in the classes for dogs over 2 years of age. This is because Class 2 dogs may have certain missing teeth that may preclude the dogs from being awarded a "V" grading.
- f) Unusual aspects that may influence a dog's placing, for example teeth faults, should, however, be noted in the judge's book.

#### 4. Qualification for "V" Grading

##### **Notes:**

- i) *Schutzhund 1 is NOT a requirement for a "V" grading to be awarded*
- ii) *Dogs and bitches over the age of 3.5 years without a bred survey **can**, unlike Germany, be graded "V"*

##### **To qualify for a "V" grading in the open classes:**

- a) All dogs and bitches must be at least two years of age and entered in the open class

- b) All dogs and bitches must be in possession of a recognised Hip Dysplasia (HD) grading ("a stamp") at least equivalent to the Federation's gradings of A+, A0 or A- or the SV's gradings of "Normal", "Fast Normal" or "Noch Zugelassen".

**Notes:-**

*Proof of HD status must be presented at the ring on the demand of the judge and is only acceptable from the following sources:*

- i) The official catalogue if the catalogue has been compiled by the Federation office or*
- ii) The dog's pedigree if endorsed by the Federation or the SV or*
- iii) An original certificate signed by one of the Federation's official HD evaluators: either Prof CJ Roos or Dr K de Cramer.*

**5. Placing the top dogs in the Open classes other than the National show**

- a) Judges should strive to place only dogs and bitches that are **Breed Surveyed** in the top group. (generally 1st to 3rd, but even further down in the case of large, strong classes).
- b) In the event of **male dogs** of equal quality, a dog with a SchH title may be placed over a dog without an equivalent title. No male dog may be discriminated against if he is not in possession of a SchH2 or SchH3.
- c) Bitches may not be discriminated against for not having a SchH or equivalent working qualification.
- d) As a rule of thumb, and to prevent an unworthy animal reaching a high place purely because it has the necessary qualifications, no dog should be moved up more than three to four places on the grounds of its qualifications.
- e) A decision to place a non-surveyed animal in the top places over animals that are surveyed should be exceptional and should not be taken lightly.

**6. Dealing with the VA(SA) grading in shows outside the National Show:**

- a) Dogs that have never before been graded VA(SA) may, subject to paragraph 6(d) below, be placed over VA(SA) dogs clearly not deserving of a high place. Judges should, however, choose the point at which a non-VA(SA) dog is put over a VA(SA) dog at such a juncture

where it is obvious to the spectators as to why such a change is made. The reason should also be clearly conveyed during the critiques after the class.

- b) The convention in Germany whereby non VA dogs are almost never placed over VA dogs is not applicable in South Africa. This is because the number of dogs being imported into South Africa makes this rule impractical. **In all shows final placement should therefore, except where specifically excluded in terms of these directives, be on merit.**
- c) When VA(SA) dogs are presented in obvious bad condition, judges should recommend to the owners that they be withdrawn. This will prevent situations arising where VA(SA) dogs are beaten by non-VA(SA) dogs.
- d) When considering the placement of a non-VA(SA) over a VA(SA), the decision to put a non-VA(SA) dog over a VA(SA) dog should not be taken lightly.
- e) **Only non-VA(SA) dogs that possess the minimum qualifications for the VA(SA) grading may be placed over a VA(SA) dog.** Judges must also recheck the teeth of such dogs to make sure that teeth faults are not the reason why the dog does not have a VA(SA) grading.
- f) When deciding to place a non-VA(SA) dog over a VA(SA) dog, special consideration should be given to V(NBS) gradings awarded at the National Show as all dogs had to pass the protection work to achieve this grading.
- g) Judges must be informed which the VA(SA) dogs are at the latest at the start of the class in which such dogs are entered.

## 7. Height

- a) There is no definite directive from the SV in the treatment of dogs breed surveyed Class 2 as a result of size. Accordingly, there has been confusion with some judges ignoring the measurement and awarding "V" gradings to dogs technically oversized while others downgrade the dogs. In addition, the SV is considering removing the class distinction based on size.
- b) Accordingly, with regard to size only, judges must treat all dogs the same whether they are breed surveyed class 1 or 2. Effectively this means that dogs breed surveyed class 2 with regard to size may be graded "V". No dog should be faulted for size merely because he is surveyed Class 2.

- c) In Germany oversized dogs are still being bred with. This means that even medium sized dogs imported into South Africa carry the genes for over-size. Unlike Germany, the small numbers of good dogs in South Africa means that the discrimination against size will have a far more severe effect, as the elimination of one good dog may reduce the number of good stud dogs by as much as 10%.
- d) South Africa needs much more time to alter the size of dogs. Once the problem of size is solved in Germany and the dogs being imported into South Africa carry the genes for correct size, the problem will automatically be resolved in South Africa. **Judges are therefore requested not to penalise big dogs (68 cm and over) more than 1 or 2 places unless the size is a clear disadvantage to the dog in movement.**

## 8. Colour

Colour problems are more serious in males than in bitches. While we should be striving for good saddles and masks, for the present, the faulting of a lack of a black saddle or mask in males should be in context of the overall quality and construction of the dog and guidance can be taken from the position and grading of similar dogs in the preceding National Show.

## 9. Gun Steadiness

When a dog fails a gun-sure test, the dog should be given the option to withdraw from the ring. The dog, however, must still be graded and the grading noted on the grading card and in the judges book.

## 10. Critiques

- a) Detailed verbal critiques must be given at the end of the class for each dog. Judges are not required to write critiques on each dog.
- b) To allow communication and maximum uniformity in judging, all local judges must be invited into the ring for a discussion before the public critiques are given.

## 11. Illegal Tampering

- a) Judges suspecting illegal tampering with dogs such as dying, surgical support of ears or trimmed Long Coats should not discriminate against the dogs in the ring unless they are absolutely sure of the offence, but should inform the Judge's Advisor or the Show Manager for further investigation.
- b) Where dogs appear to have been dyed, the Judges Advisor or Show Manager must take a hair sample and seal same in an envelope or plastic bag containing the date, tattoo number and name of the dog and forward the sample to the Federation office for analysis and further appropriate action. Upon proof of illegal tampering, action will be taken against the guilty parties through the disciplinary procedures of the Federation.

## C. Additional requirements for the National Show

### 1. Gradings

- a) V gradings awarded at the National Breed Show where a dog has passed the protection Dog Test are donated as V(NBS) and VA gradings as VA(SA).
- b) To be awarded a VA(SA) grading both males and bitches must be Breed Surveyed.
- c) It is further **recommended** (not required) that males be in possession of at least a Schutzhund1 (or equivalent) working qualification to being graded "VA(SA). This is NOT a requirement for bitches and bitches not in possession of a Schutzhund qualification may not be discriminated against. No male dog may be discriminated against if he is not in possession of a SchH2 or SchH3.

### 2. Protection Work

- a) Protection Work at the National Show is executed as per the rules for the Breed Survey.
- b) It is **not** required for dogs or bitches to walk at heel up to the first hide or to release or "aus" during the protection work. Dogs or bitches not releasing on command or after the attack has ceased will be given the notation "Dog does not release" while dogs and bitches that release will receive the notation "Dog releases".

c) Bitches

- i. To be awarded a V(NBS) grading, bitches have to participate in a full courage test and obtain a "TSB" rating of at least "Present".
- ii. Bitches graded "TSB" "Present" will be placed at the back of the V(NBS) group.
- iii. To be awarded a VA(SA) grading, bitches have to participate in a full courage test and obtain a "TSB" rating of "pronounced".

d) Males

- i. To be awarded a V(NBS) or a VA(SA) grading, males have to participate in a full courage test and obtain a "TSB" rating of "pronounced".
- ii. Males rated "TSB" "present" may not be graded higher than "SG".

- e) Dogs and bitches that fail the protection work are allowed to withdraw, but will be listed "Man-work Failed – Withdrawn".

### 3. Kennel Groups

- a) There are five animals per group.
- b) Puppies 6 to 12 months old are also allowed in the group.
- c) The group is judged according to SV rules.
- d) All handlers of dogs must display the catalogue number of the dogs they are handling.
- e) Tattoo Numbers of all dogs must be checked and compared against the catalogue number.

### 4. Progeny groups

- a) Progeny groups are judged as follows: groups are first divided into three groups according to quality. The dogs in **the first group only** are then also placed in order of merit, namely 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc.
- b) In the Open Class for males the judge should afford the same consideration to progeny groups as would be the case in Germany with regard to the awarding of VA(SA) gradings. One exception exists: dogs recently imported, and which have therefore not had the chance to produce progeny, should be regarded in the same manner as young

dogs in a similar position are regarded in Germany. **Overall the best dog must win.**

- c) All handlers of dogs must display the catalogue number of the dogs they are handling.

## **5. Teeth**

- a) Before awarded a "VA(SA)" grading, the judges must personally recheck all dogs due to be graded "VA(SA)".
- b) Teeth faults due to trauma and certified according to the rules and regulations of the Federation (ref Section B par 3 above) are not discriminated against when awarding the VA(SA) grading.

## **6. Critiques**

Detailed written critiques are required in respect of each dog, the progeny classes and the kennel groups for publication in the Federation's magazine.

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## D. Breed Surveys

1. The Breed Survey system is as per the Federation's rules and regulations, which are, with the exceptions listed below, in essence exactly the same as in Germany. However, rules newly changed in Germany may not as yet have been implemented in South Africa. In such cases judging is as per the rules currently in force in South Africa.
  2. A Schutzhund or equivalent working qualification is **NOT** required as a prerequisite.
  3. All other prerequisites required in Germany are enforced. These are:
    - a) A show grading of at least "G" (good),
    - b) A valid HD stamp
    - c) An endurance test (ad),
    - d) Dogs and bitches must be at least 18 months old.
    - e) All males (not bitches) must have passed the Begleithund (BH) test.
    - f) All dogs and bitches must have been DNA profiled.
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