

Constitution of the German Shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa

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Section 1 General

1.1 Name, Domicilium, Area

Name: German Shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa
Domicilium: As determined from time to time by the Executive Committee
Area: Southern Africa

1.2 Legal Status

The Federation shall be a legal persona with perpetual succession capable of owning and securing movable and immovable property in its own name and of suing and being sued in its own name

1.3 Liability

Participation in all Federation events and activities is at own risk and no person shall have any claim for damages against the Federation for any reason whatsoever.

The Federation accepts no liability towards any consequences of, loss to, or damage suffered by any person, dog, owner or handler as a direct, indirect or incidental result of having participated in Federation activities, irrespective of whether the consequence, loss or damage occurred as a result of the negligent, official or any other action of whatever nature of any Federation member, Federation official, any other participant or any member of the public.

1.4 Indemnity

All office bearers and members of the Federation shall be indemnified by the Federation in respect of any legal liability incurred while acting on behalf of the Federation, provided they acted in accordance with directives given or decisions in terms of this constitution.

Section 2 Object

- 2.1 The Object of the German Shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa, hereinafter referred to as “the Federation”, is to direct, supervise and promote the breeding and training of well-developed German Shepherd Dogs that are registered on the Breed Register, and that are suitable as household pets, dogs which will defend their owner’s body and property, service dogs, rescue dogs and guide dogs for the blind.

- 2.2 The Federation endeavours to promote a system as close as possible to the country of origin, Germany, in the context of our South African environment.
- 2.3 It is the policy of the Federation that, while ensuring that the quality of the German Shepherd Dog breed in South Africa is maintained, growth and participation in all aspects of our breed are maximised while at the same time promoting recreation and social activities.
- 2.4 To provide a safe and fun environment for families and children.
- 2.5 To promote the German Shepherd Dog as a healthy family protection dog.

Section 3 Activities

- 3.1 Acceptance of the breed standard as determined by the Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) in Germany through the World Union of German Shepherd Dog Organizations (WUSV).
- 3.2 The fulfilment of all the activities as specified in the various ordinances and attachments to this constitution.
- 3.3 Undertaking and supporting scientific research regarding diseases, breeding, rearing and the keeping of German Shepherd Dogs.
- 3.4 Maintaining affiliation to (WUSV).

Section 4 Powers

- 4.1 Accept and administer subscriptions, donations, legacies, bequests and other payments made to the Federation for any purpose.
- 4.2 Borrow and raise any money by means of a loan or bank overdraft and in security for such loans pledge or mortgage any movable or immovable property or securities.
- 4.3 Appeal, advertise or solicit for any subscriptions and donations in money or property of any kind from any source.
- 4.4 Purchase, dispose of, rent, lease or hire movable or immovable property as well as goods and services required for the effective conduct of the Federation's affairs, or for the advancement of the interests of the Federation's members.
- 4.5 Levy subscriptions, compulsory insurance contributions and other monetary contributions as may be deemed necessary from time to time for the better conduct of the Federation's affairs.
- 4.6 Lend money in the interest of the Federation to any persons or bodies against security.
- 4.7 Invest the Federation's money in income bearing securities.

- 4.8 Institute and defend any legal proceedings.
- 4.9 Delegate powers to agents to act on behalf of the Federation and to engage any professional assistance if required.
- 4.10 Generally perform all acts as may be necessary or conducive for the attainment of the Federation's object.
- 4.11 No profits or gains may be distributed to any private person or juristic person and the funds available for investment may only be invested with registered financial institutions as defined in section 1 of the Financial Institutions (Investment of Funds) Act, 1984, and in securities listed on a stock exchange as defined in the Stock Exchanges Control Act, 1985 (Act No. 1 of 1985).

Section 5 Disciplinary Powers

- 5.1 The Federation has the right, in order to protect its object and to maintain its order, to take disciplinary action against any person that contravened its rules, regulations and bylaws as set out in this constitution, the various schedules attached to this constitution and that form part of this constitution, as well as the various Ordinances and Manuals officially adopted by the Federation, whilst the person was subject thereto.
- 5.2 Termination of membership for any reason whatsoever shall not curtail the rights of the Federation to institute, conduct and conclude disciplinary proceedings in respect of a person who was a member at the time of the contravention of the rules provided proceedings are instituted within three years of an alleged contravention.
- 5.3 The nature and implementation of disciplinary action is set forth in Schedule I, forming part of this constitution.

Section 6 Membership

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 Any bona fide breeder, owner or friend of the German Shepherd Dog breed may become a member.
- 6.1.2 No discrimination against applicants for membership, or against members, may be made on grounds of race, sex, colour, creed or religion.
- 6.1.3 All classes of members are subject to all requirements of this constitution, its ordinances and attachments and all the rules and regulations of the Federation.
- 6.1.4 The Council, or body to whom the Council has delegated the authority thereto, may in its sole discretion, and irrespective of any rules and regulations to the

contrary, waive any requirement or grant any dispensation, to *bona fide* physically disabled members of the Federation on the following conditions:

- a) The person must be competent to execute all requirements a position or office demands;
- b) The granting of the exemption will not cause or lead to a lowering of the standards of the Federation in any way;
- c) The person must be physically unable to qualify for the position or office due to a physical disability.
- d) The person may be subjected to special additional requirements to the normal rules and regulations if it is deemed that such requirements are necessary.

6.1.5 A membership will be deemed as “active” in a Club if the member complies with at least the following:

- a) The member must reside within 150 km of the Club;
- b) The member must have nominated the Club as his/her first Club;
- c) The member must regularly participate in the activities of the Club in preference to any other Club the member may belong to.

6.1.6 A membership will be deemed as eligible for clubs voting rights if the member is 16 years of age or older.

6.2 Ordinary Members

6.2.1 Family Members

A member’s spouse and dependants under the age of 18 years, may enrol under a family membership at a reduced rate. Dependents under the age of 18 that are part of a family membership shall have the same rights as Junior members

6.2.2 Junior Members

Applicants for membership that are under the age of 18 years, and who are not part of a family membership, may enrol as Junior members at a reduced rate.

6.2.3 Student Members

Applicants for membership that are bona fide full-time students at a recognized secondary or tertiary institution, and who are not part of a family membership, may enrol as Student Members at a reduced rate.

6.2.4 Pensioner Members

Applicants for membership that are over the age of 60 years and are bona fide pensioners, may enrol as Pensioner Members at a reduced rate

6.2.5 Day Members

Applicants may enrol for temporary membership as Day Members for a specified period and event, and will not be granted any other rights or privileges as contained in the Constitution of the GSD Federation of South Africa, other than participation in the event concerned. Any person banned from the Federation is precluded from applying for temporary membership and applicants that are currently members of other recognized authorities must provide proof of such membership and their good standing within that organization. Applications will only be considered for handlers during Endurance Tests, Breed Shows and Breed Surveys. Applicants are precluded from entering their own dogs. Noncompliance with the rules and regulations of the Federation may lead to Disciplinary Action.

6.3 Corporate Members

- 6.3.1 Corporations, legal bodies, authorities and organizations may join the Federation as corporations, but must appoint one representative.
- 6.3.2 Employees of corporate members wishing to join a Local Club or participate in Federation activities with privately owned dogs must join the Federation as ordinary members.
- 6.3.3 Membership fees will be determined according to the size of the dog unit.

6.4 Life Members

- 6.4.1 Members who have given special service to the German Shepherd Dog or who have maintained an unbroken membership for 20 years and have shown special loyalty and positive contribution to the Federation may be awarded honorary life membership by the Council on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
- 6.4.2 A member who has been a member of the Federation for at least five years may be invited by the Council to become a life member at a fee equivalent to ten times the fee for a single membership. Such invitation will be based on recommendations submitted by Local Clubs via the National Administrator. Each recommendation must be accompanied by full *curriculum vitae* of the proposed life member.

6.5 International Members

- 6.5.1 Persons not resident in South Africa may join as International Members. This would entitle them to utilise the structures of the Federation while in South Africa, with the exception of matters related to the breeding of German Shepherd Dogs, which must be done through their organizations in their country of residence and under the rules and regulations of their country of residence. A surcharge on membership may be levied to cover additional costs of sending such members the magazine and relevant correspondence.
- 6.5.2 Residents of Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini, Namibia and other NEPAD countries may join as ordinary members.

- 6.5.3 The Executive Committee may allow any resident of an African country which does not have a recognised canine authority to join as an ordinary member, but may set special conditions thereto and may levy surcharges to cover additional expenses that may be incurred in order to provide services to such a member.
- 6.5.4 The Federation is bound to uphold disciplinary rulings of all WUSV member organizations and expulsion of a person by another WUSV member shall be upheld by the Federation and such a person shall not be eligible for Federation membership while such an expulsion is in force. The membership of a person who is already a Federation member when expelled by another WUSV organization shall be terminated accordingly.
- 6.5.5 If the Federation expels a member, it may demand the expulsion of that member from any other WUSV member by furnishing full particulars relating to the member's expulsion to the recipient organization.
- 6.5.6 The Federation shall have the right to expel or to refuse membership of any applicant that has been expelled by any other canine related authority.

6.6 Acquisition and Acceptance of Membership

- 6.6.1 Application for new memberships and renewals of existing memberships must be submitted on the prescribed form to the National Administration who will publish all new members in either the subsequent magazine or on the Federation's website.
- 6.6.2 The act of application is binding and, unless otherwise provided in this constitution, will oblige payment of the membership fee for one year.
- 6.6.3 Official Federation Club secretaries may accept membership applications and renewals of membership on behalf of the Federation, but must forward such applications to the National Administration within 14 days of having received the application.
- 6.6.4 Acceptance for new membership applications takes place when accepted by the National Administration.
- 6.6.5 If application for membership was made through an official Federation Club, the applicant may enjoy all privileges afforded to full members within the local Club through which the application was made until such time as the applicant and the Club concerned is notified by the National Administration should it happen that the application is refused by the Federation in terms of this constitution.
- 6.6.6 All new membership applications must be referred to the National Administrator for endorsement on a monthly basis. The National Administrator may, at his/her sole discretion, cancel the membership of the applicant giving full reasons thereto. Cancellation must be within sixty days of the application having been accepted by the National Administration. In such cases the membership fee will be refunded.
- 6.6.7 If objections to new applications are received within 14 days of the member's name having been published in the magazine or on the Federation's website, the

objections must be referred to the National Administrator who may, at his/her sole discretion, cancel the membership of the applicant, in which case the membership fee will be refunded.

- 6.6.8 Any applicant who has had an application for membership refused in terms of the above may lodge an appeal to the full Executive Committee for review.

6.7 Loss of Membership

Termination of membership occurs as a result of death, resignation, removal from members' list or through disciplinary action. On the day of termination of membership all rights of membership cease, however remaining obligations e.g. outstanding payments, remain in force.

6.7.1 Resignation

Resignation must be in writing, signed by the member and submitted to the National Administration and shall only be effective upon receipt thereof by the National Administration.

6.7.2 Removal from the members list

Persons refusing to pay membership fees or not renewing their membership within the prescribed time limits shall be removed from the membership list. The effective date of the loss of membership for this reason shall be the date on which the Administration removes the member from the membership list.

6.7.3 Expulsion

- a) A member may be expelled as a result of disciplinary action in terms of this constitution.
- b) If the membership of any member within a family membership is terminated or suspended in terms of the Federation's disciplinary rules, the entire family membership will be terminated or suspended accordingly. Individual members within the affected family membership may reapply as individuals to be instated as ordinary members.

6.8 Rights of the Member

- 6.8.1 All members, unless otherwise stated in this constitution, have equal rights, but have no claim on the Federation's assets.
- 6.8.2 Only members over 18 years old have the right to vote and be elected to office.
- 6.8.3 Each member is entitled to request assistance regarding all questions relating to breeding, training and caring for the German Shepherd Dog.
- 6.8.4 Each member is entitled to use all institutions created by the Federation unless otherwise specified or limited by this constitution.
- 6.8.5 Facilities belonging to a Local Club are only available to Local Club members and guests invited by the Local Club.

6.9 Obligations of the Member

- 6.9.1 By payment of the membership fee the member accepts the constitution as well as the policies and procedures of the Federation and accepts the decisions made by the Federation and its bodies in terms of the constitution and the bylaws, rules and regulations of the constitution together with the schedules and ordinances attached thereto.
- 6.9.2 Members are obliged to:
- a) Follow the aims of the Federation.
 - b) Have their dogs registered in the Breed or Identification registers for German Shepherd Dogs maintained by the Federation and to closely observe procedures for maintenance of the Breed register.
 - c) Recognise only Federation, WUSV and SV recognised awards and to support only Federation recognised events.
 - d) Promptly meet payments due.
 - e) Inform the National Administration of a change of address.
- 6.9.3 Entry to Federation events and participation in any of its activities by non-members is reserved. Any person, company or institution not acting in the interests of the Federation may be banned from attending Federation activities.
- 6.9.4 Any person that takes up membership of another organisation, including KUSA, while under sanction of a Federation disciplinary and continues with activities which are in contravention either with this sanction and/or Federation rules and regulations, is automatically barred from attending and/or participating in Federation events. Any subsequent application for membership shall be subject to approval by the Executive.
- 6.9.5 No Federation member resident in South Africa may register, whether ownership is whole or part, a German Shepherd Dog with any registering authority or organisation in South Africa other than the Federation, without the permission of the Executive Committee.

Section 7 Membership Fees

7.1 Annual Fee

- 7.1.1 Fees payable are to be established each year by the National Administrator and approved by the Council.
- 7.1.2 The current amount payable and the payment terms will be published.
- 7.1.3 A special entry fee may be required of new members.

7.2 Renewal of Membership

- 7.2.1 Fees for renewal of membership are due each year on the last day of the Calendar month in which the member first joined the Federation. For example, if a member first joins the Federation in the month of June, renewal of membership shall be due on the 30th day of June for all subsequent years.
- 7.2.2 The member shall be deemed to have refused payment and will be removed from the list of members If renewal fees remain unpaid for more than 60 days after due date.
- 7.2.3 Applications for renewal received more than 60 days after which renewal was due, will be treated as new members and the relevant new members' entry fee will be charged.
- 7.3.4 Membership and entry fees must accompany all new applications for membership.

Section 8 Organization of the Federation

8.1 Local Clubs

- 8.1.1 Members are encouraged to belong to Local Clubs that are established, amongst others, to facilitate the exchange of mutual experience amongst members and the sharing of advice on breeding, rearing and training of German Shepherd Dogs; provide facilities for the training of German Shepherd Dogs; stage Breed Shows, Breed Surveys and training events.
- 8.1.2 Local Clubs are affiliated to the Federation and follow the aims of the Federation. Such affiliation is subject to the approval of the Council and shall be granted in accordance with the rules and regulations relating to new Local Clubs, which form part of this constitution (Schedule III).

8.2 Management Structure

- Council
- Executive Committee
- National Breed Committee
- National Training Committee
- National Sport Committee
- National Administration

8.3 Council

- 8.3.1 The Council is the highest authority of the Federation and shall have the final responsibility of all decisions taken in terms of this constitution. The Council also

shall have the power to review, alter or amend any decision taken by any official in terms of this constitution.

8.3.2 The Council consists of the:

- Elected members of the Executive Committee
- Chairpersons of the Local Clubs
- Chairperson of the Breed Judges Committee
- Chairperson of the Training Test Judges Committee
- Chairperson of the National Sport Committee
- Chairperson of the GSD Care Fund Committee
- National Administrator

8.3.3 Federation members with special knowledge or experience in breeding, training or administration may, upon the recommendation of the Council, be appointed as honorary members of the Council in an advisory capacity with no voting powers.

8.3.4 Voting

- a) Elected members of the Executive Committee: one (1) vote each,
- b) Chairpersons of Local Clubs with voting rights present: one (1) vote each,
- c) Chairperson of the Breed Judges Committee: one (1) vote should the person not already be entitled to vote in another capacity,
- d) Chairperson of the Training Test Judges Committee: one (1) vote should the person not already be entitled to vote in another capacity,
- e) Chairperson of the National Sport Committee: one (1) vote,
- f) Chairperson of the GSD Care Fund Committee: no vote,
- g) National Administrator: one (1) vote.

8.3.5 The National Administrator, when required, shall call the Council members to a meeting when instructed thereto by the Executive Committee.

8.4 Executive Committee

8.4.1 The Executive Committee consists of the National President, the National Vice-President, the National Breed Supervisor, the National Training Supervisor, the Executive Member for Finance, the Executive without Portfolio and the National Administrator.

8.4.2 The election of the both the National President and National Vice President should not take place in the same year.

8.4.3 The Executive without Portfolio shall be elected in the same year as the National President and shall be responsible for the management and overseeing of projects delegated to him by the Executive from time to time.

8.4.4 The Executive Member for Finance shall be elected in the same year as the National Vice President and shall be responsible for financial oversight of the organisation including budget planning and financial reporting.

- 8.4.5 The electorate shall be all Federation affiliated Clubs with voting rights at the time of the election, and each Club shall have one vote to be cast by its authorised representative.
- 8.4.6 The National Breed Supervisor is the permanent chairperson of the National Breed Committee and is elected by that committee.
- 8.4.7 The National Training Supervisor is the permanent chairperson of the National Training Committee and is elected by that committee.
- 8.4.8 The National Administrator is appointed by the elected members of the Executive Committee who decides upon his/her remuneration.
- 8.4.9 The Executive Committee is responsible for the overall management of the Federation on a day-to-day basis.
- 8.4.10 The duties of the Executive Committee include *inter alia* the implementation of the decisions of the Council, the representation of the Federation in all legal or similarly important matters, the administration of the Federation's finances, the management of the various policy committees, convening of national meetings and the appointment of legal representatives.
- 8.4.11 The Executive Committee shall by unanimous decision, in exceptional cases and only when the immediate circumstances thereto demand urgent action in order to ensure the orderly function of the Federation, have the power to temporarily override rules and regulations of the Federation. All such decisions shall be subject to review by the Council.
- 8.4.12 The Executive Committee has the right, on behalf of the National Administration, to refuse to accept certificates, blood for DNA analysis, X-rays, tattoos, microchips or any form of certification or documentation normally provided by veterinarians or veterinarian practices should they prove themselves unwilling to support the systems and rules and regulations of the German Shepherd Dog Federation.
- 8.4.13 The Executive Committee's interpretation of a term or clause contained in the constitution shall be binding, should a dispute arise.
- 8.4.14 The President may award a "President's Award" to individuals or members who have made an outstanding contribution to the Federation or to the German Shepherd Dog.
- 8.4.15 The Executive Committee will attempt to resolve disputes by means of negotiation and may appoint suitable representatives to manage the negotiation process.

8.5 National Administration

- 8.5.1 The National Administration is the responsibility of the National Administrator under the supervision of the Executive Committee, to whom the National Administrator reports.

- 8.5.2 The National Administrator shall have the authority to authorise all financial matters related to the day to day running of the Federation, but may not authorise capital expenditure or bind the Federation to any contractual obligation without the Executive Committee having authorised him/her thereto.
- 8.5.3 The National Administration is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the Federation and must provide *inter alia* for the following functions:
- a) Secretarial support of Executive Committee members
 - b) Magazine and /or Website
 - c) Promotional material
 - d) Public Relations
 - e) Maintenance of the Breed, Identification and Breed Survey registers
 - f) Recordkeeping of show gradings and training qualifications
 - g) Issuing of pedigree certificates
 - h) Informing members of decisions and procedures
 - i) Maintenance of membership records
 - j) Collection of fees
- 8.5.4 The necessary staff appointments and the salaries pertaining thereto shall be the responsibility of the National Administrator subject to endorsement by the Executive Committee.
- 8.5.5 The National Administrator (or a suitably qualified person that he/she has delegated thereto), provided that he/she is satisfied that the *de facto* situation will not be altered and that no other dogs or persons may be disadvantaged thereby, and that all rules and regulations of the Federation will be ultimately satisfied, may by special dispensation allow participation of dogs in an event even though physical proof of eligibility for entry may not be on hand. Should it later transpire that he/she has been misled or that a dog or person has gained qualifications of awards that that person or dog was not entitled to, such awards shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be taken.

8.6 National Breed Committee

- 8.6.1 The National Breed Committee is responsible for matters related to breeding, Breed Surveys, Breed Shows, Breed Survey Helpers and Tattooists.
- 8.6.2 The National Breed Committee consists of:
- a) Local Club Breed Supervisors
 - b) National Breed Supervisor
 - c) Vice-National Breed Supervisor
 - d) Chairperson of the Breed Judges Committee
- 8.6.3 The National Breed Supervisor and Vice-National Breed supervisor are the permanent Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, respectively, of the National Breed Committee. The election of the both the National Breed Supervisor and Vice-National Breed Supervisor should not take place in the same year.

- a) It is recognized that the officials of the Federation are employed in other full-time professional occupations and therefore attend to the matters of the Federation in their spare time. In order to ensure that the functions of the National Breed Supervisor are adequately attended to the position can be shared by two people where there is agreement by the parties concerned to share the functions.
- b) The position of National Breed Supervisor will only have one vote. Where the position is shared, both parties must stand for election as an entity. If the parties cannot agree when casting their vote, the vote shall be recorded as an abstention. Both parties will be entitled to participate in meetings.
- c) By prior agreement between the parties one of the parties will be nominated to be the chairperson at meetings of the National Breed Committee. Should one of the parties resign, the shared position shall be deemed to have resigned.
- d) The sharing of responsibilities will be by mutual agreement between the parties concerned.

8.6.4 Voting

- a) Election of the National Breed Supervisor – each Local Club shall have one vote which shall be cast by its representative.
- b) Election of the Vice-National Breed Supervisor – each Local Club shall have one vote which shall be cast by its representative.
- c) Voting on issues
 - National Breed Supervisor: one (1) vote.
 - Breed Supervisors of Local Clubs with voting rights: one (1) vote each.
 - Breed Judges Committee chairperson: one (1) vote.

8.6.5 Voting rights of representatives are further individually qualified and subjected to standards specified in the Breed Ordinance.

8.6.6 All Breed Judges shall have the right to attend meetings of the National Breed Committee as guests. They shall be entitled to participate in discussions, but shall have no vote.

8.6.7 The National Administrator or a person delegated by the National Administrator shall attend meetings of the National Breed Committee, but shall have no vote.

8.6.8 Federation members with special knowledge or experience in breeding and breed matters may, upon the recommendation of the National Breed Committee, be appointed as honorary members of the National Breed Committee in an advisory capacity with no voting powers.

8.6.9 A meeting of the National Breed Committee must be held:

- a) When called by the National Breed Supervisor or
- b) If more than half the members with voting rights submit a fully motivated and written request to the National Administrator or
- c) When the Council has decided thereto.

8.7 National Training Committee

- 8.7.1 The National Training Committee is responsible for matters related to the training of German Shepherd Dogs in the Federation and the training and development of trainers.
- 8.7.2 The Committee consists of the:
- a) Local Club Training Supervisors
 - b) National Training Supervisor
 - c) Vice-National Breed Supervisor
 - d) Chairperson of the Training Test Judges Committee
 - e) Chairperson of the National Sport Committee
- 8.7.3 The National Training Supervisor and Vice-National Training supervisor are the permanent Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, respectively, of the National Training Committee. The election of the both the National Training Supervisor and Vice-National Training Supervisor should not take place in the same year.
- 8.7.4 Voting
- a) Election of the National Training Supervisor – each Local Club shall have one vote which shall be cast by its representative.
 - b) Election of the Vice-National Training Supervisor – each Local Club shall have one vote which shall be cast by its representative.
 - c) Voting on issues
 - The National Training Supervisor: one (1) vote.
 - Training Supervisors of Local Clubs with voting rights: one (1) vote each.
 - Training Test Judges Committee chairperson: one (1) vote.
 - Chairperson of the National Sport Committee: one (1) vote.
- 8.7.5 Voting rights of representatives are further individually qualified and subjected to standards specified in the Training Ordinance.
- 8.7.6 All Training Judges shall have the right to attend meetings of the National Training Committee as guests. They shall be entitled to participate in discussions, but shall have no vote.
- 8.7.7 The National Administrator or a person delegated by the National Administrator shall attend meetings of the National Training Committee, but shall have no vote.
- 8.7.8 Federation members with special knowledge or experience in training and training matters may, upon the recommendation of the National Training Committee, be appointed as honorary members of the National Training Committee in an advisory capacity with no voting powers.
- 8.7.9 A meeting of the National Training Committee must be held:
- a) When called by the National Training Supervisor or
 - b) If more than half the members of the committee with voting rights submit a fully motivated and written request to the National Administrator or
 - c) When the Council has decided thereto.

8.8 Special Committees

The Council or any committee shall be empowered to appoint sub-committees to facilitate the better fulfilment of their tasks.

8.8.1 Breed Judges Committee

- a) The Breed Judges Committee consists of 3 senior Breed Judges elected by the Breed Judges Panel together with a chairperson elected in terms of paragraph (b) below.
- b) The chairperson of the Breed Judges Committee is appointed by the National Breed Committee from amongst the Senior Breed Judges.
- c) The functions of this committee are to identify potential judges, to scrutinise learner (aspirant) breed judges reports, to approve new learner (aspirant) breed judges, to appoint new judges to the Breed Judges Panel, to review existing judges on the Breed Judges Panel and to ensure that the National Administration is immediately notified of any changes to the judges or aspirant (learner) judges panels.
- d) It is the responsibility of the Breed Judges Committee to draft and maintain a set of Judges Directives in order to ensure a uniform application and interpretation of the rules by all Judges.

8.8.2 Training Test Judges Committee

- a) The Training Test Judges Committee consists of 3 senior Training Test Judges appointed by the Training Test Judges Panel together with a chairperson elected in terms of paragraph (b) below.
- b) The chairperson of the Training Test Judges Committee shall be appointed by the National Training Committee from amongst the Senior Training Test Judges.
- c) The function of this committee is to identify potential judges, to scrutinise learner (aspirant) training judges reports, to approve new learner (aspirant) training judges, to appoint new judges to the Training Test Judges Panel, to review existing judges on the Training Test Judges Panel and to ensure that the National Administration is immediately notified of any changes to the judges or aspirant (learner) judges panels.
- d) It is the responsibility of the Training Test Judges Committee to ensure uniform standards in judging and to ensure that all Training Test Judges remain up-to-date.

8.8.3 Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee consists of 3 senior members of the Federation appointed by the Executive Committee and is the highest authority charged to maintain discipline in the Federation. Disciplinary procedures are regulated in Schedule I.

8.8.4 GSD Care Fund Committee

- a) The GSD Care Fund Committee consists of a chairperson and two other members appointed by the Council.
- b) The National Vice-President is the permanent Chairperson and the fund's trustee, and in this capacity shall become a non-voting member of the Council.
- c) The trustee must submit an annual report to the Council regarding beneficiaries of the fund, with the proviso that private beneficiaries will remain confidential.
- d) The GSD Care Fund Committee will administer the fund which will receive monies from donations and levies determined by the Council. All monies shall be held in a trust account. The committee will consider applications from Federation members in genuine distress. Priority will be given to German Shepherd Dog welfare matters.

8.8.5 National Sport Committee

- a) The Council shall appoint four persons from amongst those who have represented the Federation at the WUSV Trials to function as the National Sport Committee, which shall organize all competitive sporting activities in the Federation in terms of the Sport Ordinance as well as seminars and training in respect thereof.
- b) The four members so appointed shall amongst themselves elect a chairman who shall represent the National Sport Committee on the Council as well as the National Training Committee.
- c) The term of an appointment shall be for two years.
- d) The National Sport Committee shall report to the Executive Committee which shall have the final approval of all expenditure, appointment of sponsors, foreign judges, judges not on the SV or Federation's Judges Panels and foreign officials that officiate in events organised under the jurisdiction of the National Sport Committee.

8.8.6 Constitutional Committee

- a) The Executive Committee elects 3 senior members of the Federation to evaluate proposed constitutional amendments and make recommendations thereto before the referral of such proposals to the Council for final decision.
- b) The Constitutional Committee has to ensure that the constitution and all its adjuncts remain simple and understandable to the layman and free of duplications and contradictions. The committee also has to ensure that constitutional amendments are kept to a minimum and are indeed necessary for the orderly running of the Federation and not merely trivial in nature.

8.8.7 Event Disciplinary Committee

An Event Disciplinary Committee of three members consisting of a member of the Executive Committee, the Show Manager and a member of the show holding body's organizing committee may be convened during shows as and where necessary.

8.8.8 Financial Committee

The Council appoints a Financial Committee of 3 members to review the Federation's financial statements before presentation to the Council.

Section 9 Meetings and Elections

9.1 Meetings

- 9.1.1 Meetings should only be held when a large number of matters, elections or constitutional revisions justify such a meeting.
- 9.1.2 Where possible all matters should be dealt with by correspondence.
- 9.1.3 A minimum of forty (40) days' notice must be given for any meeting of the Council, the National Breed Committee and the National Training Committees. Items for inclusion on an agenda of a meeting must be suitably motivated and submitted to the National Administration at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. The agenda will be compiled by the administration and sent to the members of the meeting at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
- 9.1.4 Any meeting has a quorum if at least half its members with voting rights are present or represented.
- 9.1.5 Should a permanent chairperson of any committee be unavailable; the meeting shall be presided over by the permanent vice-chairperson who shall have the same rights as the permanent chairperson for the duration of the meeting. If no permanent vice-chairperson is available, the meeting shall elect a presiding chairperson from those present.
- 9.1.6 The National President or his/her nominee is entitled to attend any meeting of any committee within the Federation and must be informed of all meetings upon request.
- 9.1.7 In the interest of direct communication with the members, the Council may from time to time, at its discretion, call national meetings of all members.
- 9.1.8 In the case of a tied vote with any meeting, the presiding chairperson shall have a casting vote.
- 9.1.9 No person shall be entitled to vote on any matters that exonerate them.

9.2 Elections and Appointments

- 9.2.1 The term of office to be served by the members of all committees, whether elected or appointed officials, is limited to two (2) years unless stipulated otherwise. Thereafter re-election or re-appointment is required for an additional term of office.
- 9.2.2 Election and appointment dates of all committee members to coincide with relevant meeting dates.
- 9.2.3 A representative of a Club with voting rights shall have the right to vote in an election irrespective of whether the representative in his/her personal capacity qualifies to vote on other issues placed before the meeting or not.
- 9.2.4 Each candidate for an election shall be duly nominated by one Club with voting rights and seconded by another Club with voting rights and all nominations, together with the written consent of the candidate to stand for the position, shall be submitted to the National Administrator not later than the date stipulated as the date whereby items have to be submitted for inclusion into the agenda for the meeting where the election is to take place.
- 9.2.5 If a Club nominates two parties to be elected jointly for the position of National Breed Supervisor, this together with the consent of the candidates, must be indicated on the nomination form.
- 9.2.6 If more than two nominations are received for a position and no candidate attracts more than 50% of the vote, a second round of voting shall be held between the two candidates who had received the most votes.
- 9.2.7 In the case of a tied vote in an election, a repeat vote shall take place from amongst delegates present. If another tie results, the presiding chairperson shall have the casting vote.
- 9.2.8 Should any principal position become vacant for any reason, the person in the vice position shall assume the principal position with all the responsibilities and powers of that position in an acting capacity until a new election can be called to fill the vacant position.
- 9.2.9 If an election is to be held by post, all nominations shall be forwarded to the National Administration at least thirty days before the election date, whereupon such nominations shall be circulated to the Clubs within seven days. Only votes received at the National Administration office by post, e-mail or fax before 12h00 on the date of the election shall be considered.
- 9.2.10 No candidate may be nominated for more than one principal position in a single election.
- 9.2.11 No person may hold more than one position on the Executive Committee.
- 9.2.12 No person may hold more than one vice-position to an Executive Committee portfolio.
- 9.2.13 No Executive Committee member may hold a vice position to an Executive Committee portfolio.

9.2.14 If any person is elected to another position and as a result is in conflict with the dictates of this paragraph, he/she shall immediately resign all former positions which may be in conflict with these regulations.

9.2.15 Any elected official shall immediately resign when a vote of no confidence is passed in him/her by simple majority of the members comprising of the body that elected him.

9.3 Minutes of Meetings

9.3.1 The National Administration shall be responsible for the recording of the decisions of all Council, Executive Committee, National Breed Committee and National Training Committee meetings.

9.3.2 The minutes of all meetings shall be distributed within thirty (30) days of the holding of such meeting to all members of the committee.

9.3.3 Any objection to the minutes of all Council, Executive Committee, National Breed and National Training Committee meetings must be supported by at least 51% of the members present and received by the National Administration within twenty-one (21) days of having been sent the minutes.

9.4 Postal Voting

9.4.1 Elections and constitutional changes by postal vote are acceptable.

9.4.2 A postal voting result shall be valid if more than fifty percent (50%) of the electorate had cast a vote.

9.5 Voting

9.5.1 Voting at all meetings will, unless otherwise specified, be by a simple majority of valid votes cast by those with voting rights present. An abstention shall be disregarded and shall not form part of the calculation of votes cast.

9.5.2 A simple majority shall be regarded as more than 50% of the valid votes cast.

9.5.3 A two-thirds majority shall be regarded as two thirds or more of the valid votes cast.

9.5.4 All voting in elections shall be publicly declared and no secret voting or voting by ballot shall be allowed.

9.6 Alternative Representation

9.6.1 Delegation of authority to attend meetings is acceptable provided:

- a) Such authority is given in writing.
- b) If it is a Club being represented, that the alternative representative is:
 - An active member of the Club
 - That the nominee has nominated the Club as his/her first Club in terms of Schedule II: Constitution of the Local Club and

- That the alternative representative does not reside more than 75 km from the Club being represented.
- 9.6.2 Voting powers of the alternative representative shall be in terms of the voting rights of the entity being represented.
- 9.6.3 Where special requirements regarding personal qualifications are set as a prerequisite for the right to vote, these requirements will also apply to the alternative representative.
- 9.6.4 In respect of national meetings, travelling subsidies and/or contributions of Local Clubs will be calculated as follows:

At the time a notice of each meeting is distributed, the Administration will calculate travelling costs for each Local Club Delegate based on the following:

- a) Delegates travelling by air: the cheapest air ticket available plus petrol costs of two return journeys to their nearest airport, at a rate of 1 litre/10km;
- b) Delegates travelling by car returning home at night: petrol costs of a return journey for each day of the meeting, at a rate of 1 litre/10km;
- c) Delegates travelling by car and staying over-night: petrol costs of one return journey to the place where they will over-night, at a rate of 1 litre/10km;
- d) Actual over-night costs will not be considered as visiting delegates are expected to stay with delegates nearby who will transport those delegates to the meeting;
- e) The Administration will directly reimburse persons assisting to transport visiting delegates to and from the port of arrival insofar as the costs are not included above;
- f) The costs of Executive Members eligible to attend the meeting which are not already covered by their position in a Local Club, will be reimbursed directly by the administration based on the same rates set out above.
- g) The costs of Executive Members eligible to attend the meeting which are already covered by their position in a Local Club, but who do have another Local Club member present as a Delegate, will not be reimbursed.
- h) All other persons entitled to attend the meeting will do so at their own costs.

After the meeting the subsidy or contribution as relevant to each Local Club Delegate is calculated as follows:

$x = a-(t/e)$ where:

x = Contribution/Subsidy applicable for each eligible Delegate

a = Incurred costs as calculated for each eligible Delegate

t = Total calculated costs of all eligible Delegates attending the meeting

e = Total number of Delegates eligible to attend the meeting

With the following provisos:

- a = 0 in terms of eligible Local Clubs that did not attend the meeting or only attended part of the meeting, which in practice means they will have to contribute to the costs of attending Delegates;
- Local Clubs with $x > 0$ will be reimbursed that amount, per eligible Delegate;
- Local Clubs with $x < 0$ will contribute that amount, per eligible Delegate.

Section 10 Financial Year and Accounts

- 10.1 The financial year shall be from 1 July to 30 June each year.
- 10.2 The National Administrator shall ensure that financial statements are prepared and submitted to a Financial Committee.
- 10.3 The financial statements, after review by the appointed Financial Committee and signed by the Executive Member for Finance and the National President or, in his/her absence, the National Vice-President, shall be presented to the Council for approval.
- 10.4 Any member of the council shall have the right to make an appointment with the President, and together with the President or his/her nominee, to inspect the finances, financial books and records, including any bank accounts, of the Federation.
- 10.5 All Clubs and Training Groups must have a dedicated bank account in the name of the Club or Training Group, from which they officially transact. No Club or Training Group may transact from a private individual's bank account except in special circumstances where in each and every case the committee has approved the specific transaction.
- 10.6 If financial or administrative impropriety is suspected, the Executive Committee has the right of access to a Club's books and bank account(s) and administration, to inspect same and take appropriate action on behalf of the Federation.
- 10.7 All Club e-mails created by the Federation and used by Clubs may be monitored and any Club Chairperson will have the right to request monitoring of the content of his Club's e-mails.
- 10.8 No cash intended for the Federation will be accepted at events that are not being run by the Federation Administration.

Section 11 Amendments to the Constitution

- 11.1 Proposals for amendment to the constitution or an adjunct thereto may be made by:
- a) The Executive Committee

- b) Any Council member
 - c) The National Breed Committee
 - d) The National Training Committee
 - e) Any Special Committee of the Federation
- 11.2 All proposals for amendment must be submitted to the National Administration in writing and must be fully motivated.
- 11.3 Upon receipt of a valid proposal for amendment, the National Administration shall refer the proposal to the Constitutional Committee to evaluate the proposal.
- 11.4 Should the Constitutional Committee wish to make any change to the proposal, it should consult with the proposers and attempt to come to an agreement with the proposers regarding a final draft.
- 11.5 After evaluating the proposed amendment, the Constitutional Committee shall submit the proposal to the Council together with a recommendation to accept or reject the proposal.
- 11.6 The Council may approve the proposed amendment by a two-thirds majority vote, may reject the proposal or, together with any recommendations it wishes to make, refer the proposal back to the Constitutional Committee for further evaluation.
- 11.7 If a two-thirds majority is not achieved in favour of the proposal, it shall mean that the proposal is rejected.
- 11.8 The Council may not alter a proposal in any way before approving it.
- 11.9 Irrespective of the above, a proposal submitted by the National Breed Committee or the National Training Committee, and which was originally approved by these committees by a two-thirds majority, shall be accepted by the Council unless at least two-thirds majority of the Council vote to reject the proposal.
- 11.10 Constitutional amendments affecting members shall only come into force and effect when published in the Federation's official magazine or the Federation's website. In all other cases the Council shall decide upon the implementation date.

Section 12 Dissolution of the Federation

- 12.1 A proposal to dissolve the Federation shall only be considered at a special meeting of the members convened for that purpose.
- 12.2 No proposal to dissolve the Federation shall be considered at such a meeting unless the members have been given 3 months' notice in writing of the meeting.
- 12.3 The meeting convened to consider the proposal to dissolve the Federation shall determine the allocation of any surplus assets after liquidation of the Federation's affairs. The surplus assets shall be donated to such Organizations with similar objectives as the Federation and which is itself exempt from income tax.
- 12.4 No proposal to dissolve the Federation shall be passed unless two-thirds majority vote in favour thereof.

Section 13 Attachments

- 13.1 The following schedules form part of this constitution and contain the rules and regulations of the Federation:
- Schedule I Disciplinary Rules.
 - Schedule II Constitution of the Local Club.
 - Schedule III Application for Affiliation as a Federation Club.
 - Schedule IV Foreign and Non-Member Competitors.
 - Schedule V Sponsorship of the Federation.
 - Schedule VI Registrations on Behalf of African Countries
- 13.2 The following documents also form part of this constitution and contain rules and regulations of the Federation, but must be ordered separately from the National Administration at the prescribed fee:
- Breed Ordinance
 - Breed Survey Manual
 - Show Ordinance
 - Training Ordinance
 - Judges Manual
 - Helpers' Manual
 - Sport Ordinance
 - Any other manuals approved by the Council

Schedule I **Disciplinary Rules**

1 Reasons for Disciplinary Action

- 1.1 Violation of the Constitution, policies and procedures, rules or directives of the Federation or its bodies.
- 1.2 Conduct of a member which is harmful, prejudicial or injurious to the object, interests, good order or character of the Federation or its bodies.
- 1.3 Fraudulent, dishonest or deceitful conduct in respect of the purchase or sale of dogs.
- 1.4 Intentional falsification of information relating to the registration, transfer of ownership, breeding, showing or training of dogs.
- 1.5 Dishonest or deceitful conduct during Shows, Tests or Breed Surveys.
- 1.6 Cruelty to animals.
- 1.7 Interference with a Federation sanctioned disciplinary enquiry.

2 Authorities

- Disciplinary Committee
- Council
- Local Club Committee
- Executive Committee
- National Breed Committee
- National Breed Supervisor
- National Training Committee
- National Administrator
- Event Disciplinary Committee
- Judge

3 Powers

3.1 The Disciplinary Committee may:

- 3.1.1 Issue a warning or a reprimand;
- 3.1.2 Temporarily or permanently bar a member from entering one or more Federation events;
- 3.1.3 Temporarily or permanently bar a member from breeding;
- 3.1.4 Disqualify a member from officiating at an event;
- 3.1.5 Impose a fine;
- 3.1.6 Temporarily or permanently suspend a member from holding an official position in the Federation;

- 3.1.7 Expel a member from the Federation;
- 3.1.8 Take any other appropriate action;
- 3.1.9 Take over the disciplinary proceedings of a Local Club committee, the Council, Executive Committee or National Administrator if it is deemed necessary.

3.2 The Council and Executive Committee may:

- 3.2.1 Issue a warning or a reprimand;
- 3.2.2 Temporarily bar a member from entering a Federation event;
- 3.2.3 Disqualify a member from officiating at an event;
- 3.2.4 Refer a complaint to another authority if deemed appropriate.
- 3.2.5 Appoint a mentor over an ordinary or new member that consistently breaches Federations rules and regulations or who persistently places the Federation in a negative light. The mentor shall have to power to take reasonable steps to rectify the situation and shall co-sign all related documentation.

3.3 Event Disciplinary Committee may:

- 3.3.1 Issue a warning or a reprimand to an exhibitor or member at a show;
- 3.3.2 Disqualify an exhibitor at a show for the remainder of the show;
- 3.3.3 Refer a complaint to another authority if deemed appropriate.

3.4 The Local Club Committee may:

- 3.4.1 Issue a warning or a reprimand to a member of the Local Club;
- 3.4.2 Temporarily or permanently bar a member of the Local Club from the use of the Local Club's facilities;
- 3.4.3 Refer a complaint to another authority if deemed appropriate.

3.5 National Breed Committee may:

- 3.5.1 Issue a warning or a reprimand;
- 3.5.2 Impose fines;
- 3.5.3 Revoke gradings and qualifications incorrectly awarded;
- 3.5.4 Issue breed bans or restrictions where empowered thereto by the Breed Ordinance.

3.6 National Training Committee and Sport Committee may:

- 3.6.1 Issue a warning or a reprimand;
- 3.6.2 Impose fines;
- 3.6.3 Revoke gradings and qualifications incorrectly awarded;

3.6.4 Issue bans or restrictions where empowered thereto by the Training or Sport Ordinances.

3.7 The National Breed supervisor may:

3.7.1 In conjunction with the National Administrator, appoint a mentor over a breeder that consistently breaches the minimum breeding requirement or who persistently places the Federation in a negative light through unacceptable practices related to the welfare of dogs and/or puppies in his or her care. The mentor shall have to power to take reasonable steps to rectify the situation and shall co-sign all related breeding documentation.

3.8 The National Administrator may:

3.8.1 Issue a warning or a reprimand in terms of administrative transgressions;

3.8.2 Impose fines specified by the Council or the National Breed Committee;

3.8.3 Refer a complaint to another authority if deemed appropriate;

3.8.4 Bar a member who is in arrears from participating in Federation events while the member is in arrears;

3.8.5 If pedigrees are being held back for any reason that is the fault of a member, publish a public warning on the web site stating the reasons therefore; provided the member has been given at least two weeks' notice of such action and had not remedied the situation.

3.8.6 Instruct a member who has been charged with a disciplinary offence to refrain from contact with any person involved with the complaint. This is to apply mutatis mutandis to any other person acting on behalf of the member.

3.9 Judges may:

3.9.1 Disqualify a handler and/or dog;

3.9.2 Withdraw a prize and/or placing;

3.9.3 Temporarily suspend a dog, owner and/or handler for the duration of a competition or show if the handler or owner refuses to follow the instructions of the judge or show manager;

3.9.4 Refer a complaint to another authority if deemed appropriate.

4 Procedures for Making a Complaint

4.1 A complaint may be made by the National Administrator or by the representative of a Local Club or by any member who is not under suspension or disqualification by the Federation.

4.2 A complaint may be made by an official of the Federation on behalf of non-members of the Federation.

- 4.3 A complaint to the Council, the Executive Committee, the National Breed Committee, the National Training Committee or to the National Administrator must be submitted to the National Administrator.
- 4.4 A complaint to a Local Club must be submitted to the secretary of the Local Club.
- 4.5 A complaint made to the Show Disciplinary Committee must be submitted to the show manager of the show concerned or to a member of the organising committee of that show.
- 4.6 Every complaint must be submitted in writing, setting forth full details of the alleged misconduct by the accused and supported by all statements and affidavits on which the complaint relies.
- 4.7 Unless otherwise specified, complaints shall be accompanied by a deposit, the amount of which shall be determined by the Council from time to time.
- 4.8 Complaints made by an official of the Federation on behalf of the Federation or non-members shall be exempt from paying a deposit.
- 4.9 When complaints against a member are clearly unfounded or do not concern the interests of the Federation, proceedings will not be instituted. The complaint and the accused must be informed in writing. In such cases the complainant will forfeit the deposit.
- 4.10 All members, in subscribing to the provisions of this constitution, irrevocably consent to the furnishing of confidential veterinary records to the Federation, either in their possession or in the possession of their veterinarians, for the purposes of any proceedings contemplated in terms of this Schedule.

5 Disciplinary Procedures

5.1 Disciplinary Committee

- 5.1.1 If proceedings are commenced, the National Administrator must inform the accused in detail and in writing of the complaint by registered mail or via email, provided that proof of delivery thereof is kept available, and request from the accused a written reply to the complaint, supported by all statements and affidavits on which the accused relies, to the National Administration of the Federation within 21 days from the day the complaint is delivered to the accused.
- 5.1.2 The accused must be informed that failure to respond within 21 days can nullify the right to defend.
- 5.1.3 Should an accused fail to collect a registered notification of a complaint within 10 working days after postage, the National Administrator, or any Federation member appointed by him, may deliver the complaint to the accused's address by hand or send it via email to the accused's e-mail address on file with the Federation. In this instance, the accused's reply must be in the possession of the National Administration within 11 days after the complaint was e-mailed or delivered. Should the accused refuse to accept the complaint delivered in this manner, the accused will automatically nullify the right to oppose the action.

- 5.1.4 The accused's reply will be made available to the complainant who shall be given 10 days to answer thereto, but the complainant may not alter the original complaint, may not make new allegations or present new evidence.
- 5.1.5 The Disciplinary Committee shall then be convened by the National Administrator to consider the matter and come to an appropriate decision.
- 5.1.6 The Disciplinary Committee shall have the right to obtain additional evidence it may require in any manner it deems fit.
- 5.1.7 The accused must be informed in writing of the verdict, the penalty imposed and the reasons therefore as soon as possible.
- 5.1.8 The outcome of all disciplinary proceedings shall be published in the magazine or the Federation's website.

5.2 Authorities other than the Disciplinary Committee

- 5.2.1 Complaints within the powers of the Local Club will be considered by the committee of the Local Club, the secretary of which shall be empowered to obtain statements, affidavits or evidence from any person who may have information relevant to the complaint.
- 5.2.2 Complaints that arise at a show may be adjudicated orally by the Events Disciplinary committee.

5.3 Regulations Pertaining to All Disciplinary Authorities

- 5.3.1 Authorities considering complaints must in all cases ensure that an accused has had sufficient opportunity to reply to an accusation.
- 5.3.2 An accused person who refuses to reply to a complaint after having been given sufficient opportunity to reply thereto shall forfeit the right to reply.
- 5.3.3 The authorities responsible will reach a verdict and decide on appropriate action by simple majority.
- 5.3.4 The accused must be informed in writing of the verdict, the penalty imposed and the reasons therefore as soon as possible.
- 5.3.5 Disciplinary authorities must avoid undue technicalities in deciding a matter and must strive to uncover the truth regarding the matter placed before them, and thereby ensure fairness to both sides of a complaint.

6 Appeal against Disciplinary Findings

- 6.1 Upon a finding of “guilty”, the accused or the complainant may appeal against the verdict and/or sentence by informing the National Administrator in writing within 30 days after the Disciplinary Committee had delivered its verdict together with a deposit of an amount periodically decided upon by the Council. The referring party must also include all the reasons upon which he believes the original verdict should be overturned.
- 6.2 The verdict returned by the Disciplinary Committee, together with the sentence imposed, shall remain in force while the appeal is being processed.
- 6.3 An Appeal Committee, consisting of two members of the Executive Committee that were not involved with the case, plus the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee that had decided the case, will then be constituted and must deliver a verdict, based on the documentation pertinent to the case, within 21 days of the appeal having been lodged.
- 6.4 Should there not be any member of the Executive Committee available, the President may appoint any senior official of the Federation to fill the position.
- 6.5 The Appeal Committee may uphold the verdict of the Disciplinary Committee or may recommend any other action as per section 3 of Schedule I of the Federation’s constitution. The decision of the Appeal Committee shall be binding and final.

7 Rights of the Accused

- 7.1 The deposit of the accused shall be refunded if the Appeal Committee sets aside the verdict of the Disciplinary Committee.
- 7.2 An accused shall not have the right to claim any damages or compensation of any nature against the Federation as a result of disciplinary action taken against him.
- 7.3 A sanction imposed by any of the bodies mentioned in these rules will remain in force for a period of 5 years from the date on which the sanction was imposed and if further transgressions occur within this period, may be used as aggravating circumstances.

Schedule II Local Club Constitution

1 Name, Domicilium, Area

- 1.1 Name: German Shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa (*Club*)
- 1.2 Domicilium: (Inserted by the Local Club)
- 1.3 Area (Inserted by the Local Club)

2 Object

The Object of the Local Club is the object of the Federation

3 Activities

To meet this object the following activities are to be undertaken:

- 3.1 Providing facilities for training of German Shepherd Dogs.
- 3.2 Holding Breed Shows, Breed Surveys and Training events.
- 3.3 Providing information on breeding, rearing and training of German Shepherd Dogs.
- 3.4 Encouraging the exchange of mutual experience amongst members, fostering friendly relations between members and building a good Club spirit.
- 3.5 Promoting the German Shepherd Dog.

4 Powers

In order to achieve its object, the Local Club is empowered to:

- 4.1 Accept subscriptions, donations, bequests, endowments and benefits of any nature for the Club from any source;
- 4.2 Invest the funds of the Local Club;
- 4.3 Buy, dispose of, rent, lease or hire movable property, goods and/or services required for the effective conduct of the Local Club's affairs, or for the advancement of the interests of the Local Club's members;
- 4.4 To generally perform all such acts as may be necessary to further the interests of the Local Club and the object for which it is formed;
- 4.5 To take such disciplinary action as may be necessary in terms of the Federation's constitution.

5 Membership

- 5.1 Only paid-up members of the Federation who are in good standing are eligible for membership of a Local Club.

- 5.2 Only life members of the Federation may be life members of a Local Club.
- 5.3 A corporate member joining the Local Club shall be deemed to be one member only irrespective of the number of employees training at the Local Club. Employees may, however, join the Local Club as individual members in their own right, provided they are also members of the Federation.
- 5.4 The committee shall have complete and absolute discretion to accept or refuse any application for membership without having to disclose any reason for its decision.

6 Membership Fees

- 6.1 The membership fees of the Local Club shall be as determined from time to time by the committee.

7 Management Committee

- 7.1 The management of the Local Club shall be vested in a committee of at least 5 members.
- 7.2 The committee must comprise of at least:
- Chairperson
 - Breed Supervisor
 - Training Supervisor
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
- 7.3 The incumbents for the posts of Chairperson, Breed Supervisor and Training Supervisor shall be directly elected by the members present at the AGM and may not be appointed by a committee.
- 7.4 The chairperson, secretary or treasurer may also be the Breed or Training Supervisor, in which case, the resulting open position on the committee shall be filled by a committee member with a responsibility to be determined by the committee.

8 Election of the Committee and Annual General Meeting

- 8.1 Election: The election of 50% of the committee takes place during every Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is held not later than the end of April every year.
- 8.2 The election of the Chairperson and the Training Supervisor shall not take place at the same Annual General Meeting as the election of the Breed Supervisor and the Secretary. Nor shall the election of a vice position take place at the same Annual General Meeting as that of the principal position.
- 8.3 Irrespective of whether a committee position is due for election or not, the full committee compliment must be confirmed and documented at every AGM.

- 8.4 Notice of Meeting: Notice of the meeting and the agenda must be sent to the members 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 8.5 Terms of Office: The committee is elected for a period of 2 years.
- 8.6 Members under the age of 18 years may not vote and are not eligible for election to the committee.
- 8.7 Vacancy: A vacancy on the committee due to e.g. the resignation of a member may be filled by a member co-opted by the committee until the next Annual General Meeting.
- 8.8 Reports: During the Annual General Meeting, the committee must report on the affairs of the Local Club for the past year and the financial position of the Local Club.
- 8.9 The names and addresses of committee members elected at an Annual General Meeting must be sent to the National Administration within 21 days after the meeting.

9 Special Meetings

- 9.1 If required by the committee or on the recommendation of half the members of the Local Club, Special Meetings may be held.
- 9.2 21 days' notice of the meeting must be given stating the reason for the meeting.
- 9.3 The National Administration must be advised of all Special General Meetings at least two weeks before such meetings are scheduled to take place. In the absence of such notification, no decision taken at the Special General Meeting will be binding.
- 9.4 Minutes of such meetings must be sent to the National Administration.

10 Voting

- 10.1 Voting at Annual General Meetings, Special General Meetings and Committee Meetings shall be by simple majority.
- 10.2 Members who are also members of another Federation Local Club, must nominate which is their first (main) Local Club and, although they may vote in both Local Clubs, may only be elected to the committee of their first Local Club.

11 General

- 11.1 The Local Clubs have no *locus standi*. Applicable to the Local Club is the Local Club Constitution which forms part of this Constitution (Schedule II). The Federation is not responsible for agreements made by the Local Clubs.
- 11.2 The Local Club must accept and abide by the constitution of the Federation.
- 11.3 In all matters not provided for, the constitution of the Federation will apply.

- 11.4 If a Local Club fails to operate in the interest of the German Shepherd Dog or the Federation, the Executive Committee, with the approval of the Council, is empowered to terminate the Local Club's affiliation to the Federation.
- 11.5 Local Clubs are granted affiliation in the terms and conditions of Schedule III of the Constitution and must adhere thereto.
- 11.6 Local Clubs shall pay an annual affiliation fee to be determined by the Council. Such affiliation fee shall be payable monthly or annually. Should an annual payment be made, the fee shall be payable by not later than the end of January each year.
- 11.7 A Local Club shall automatically be terminated by the Executive should the Local Club affiliation fees be in arrears for 2 or more years.
- 11.8 Local Clubs are obliged to provide the National Administration with a list of their current members every three months or when requested thereto.

12 Insurance

- 12.1 Local Clubs are obliged to contribute to an insurance policy which is taken out by the Federation and covers third party liability only.
- 12.2 The committee should cover themselves and the Local Club against material damage through fire, theft, third party liability etc.

13 Termination

- 13.1 Since all Federation Clubs form part of the Federation, a Federation Club cannot be disaffiliated from the Federation to form an independent entity or to affiliate to another body.
- 13.2 When a Local Club ceases to operate, all its assets will become the property of the Federation.
- 13.3 The Executive Committee will decide how these assets will be utilised in the best interest of the Federation.
- 13.4 When a Local Club is disaffiliated from the Federation for any reason whatsoever, the Local Club shall be deemed to have ceased to operate.

Schedule III Affiliation of a Federation Club

1 General

- 1.1 Any group of Federation members training their dogs together may apply to the Council for affiliation as an official Local Club of the Federation provided certain specific requirements are met.
- 1.2 Application will take place in two stages. At Stage One, affiliation will be granted without voting rights on the Council and National Committees of the Federation, and at Stage Two the Local Club may be granted voting rights.

2 Stage One – Affiliation

2.1 Application and Conditions

- 2.1.1 Application is made in writing to the National Administrator for submission to the Council and is accompanied by the prescribed affiliation fee. Should affiliation be refused, half of the affiliation fee will be refunded, the balance being retained as an administration charge.
- 2.1.2 The application must be submitted together with a full list of the names and addresses of all members and full details of the prospective committee members, with particular reference to their experience in the breeding, rearing, showing and training of German Shepherd Dogs.
- 2.1.3 The applicants must provide training classes for training events, Breed Surveys and Breed Shows and offer advice on the breeding and rearing of German Shepherd Dogs. Applicants however have the discretion to allow the family of Club members training Federation registered German Shepherd Dogs, to train other breeds belonging to that family.
- 2.1.4 The applicants must have a minimum of 10 training members who must all be members of the Federation and have nominated the new Local Club as their first (main) Local Club.
- 2.1.5 Upon application, the National Administrator should then, in consultation with the Executive, appoint a mentor (individual or Local Club) to assist the group in all relevant matters.

2.2 Mentor

- 2.2.1 The mentor shall guide the group in all aspects of their application and shall prepare a written report for attachment to the group's application.
- 2.2.2 The Council or any of its members shall have the right to query any matter regarding the application directly with the mentor and shall have the right to request the mentor to investigate any aspect of the Local Club related to the application and the group's affiliation to the Federation.

- 2.2.3 Upon the granting of Stage One affiliation, the appointed mentor shall continue to guide and assist the Local Club in all matters until Stage Two Affiliation is granted.
- 2.2.4 The mentor must be informed of all committee meetings and shall have the right to attend such meetings.
- 2.2.5 Upon the Local Club's application for Stage Two affiliation, the mentor shall again submit a written report together with a recommendation with the Local Club's application.
- 2.2.6 The mentor shall at any time, and in writing, report any matter they deem of significance to the National Administrator.
- 2.2.7 The Executive may for any reason and at any time change the mentor for another.

2.3 Rights and Obligations of a Stage One Affiliated Local Club

- 2.3.1 Stage One affiliated Local Clubs shall adopt and be subject to Schedule II, The Constitution of the Local Club.
- 2.3.2 The Local Club must abide by all ordinances and regulations formulated by the official bodies of the Federation.
- 2.3.3 Stage One affiliated Local Clubs shall have all the rights and obligations of Stage Two affiliate Local Clubs except the Local Club shall
 - a) Not have voting rights on the Council, National Breed Committee or the National Training Committee;
 - b) May not invite foreign judges to judge any of their events.

3 Stage Two – Voting Rights

3.1 Application and Conditions

- 3.1.1 A Local Club may apply to the Council for voting rights on the Council and the National Breed and National Training Committees one year after affiliation.
- 3.1.2 The Local Club's annual affiliation fee must have been paid and no other moneys may be owed by the Local Club to the Federation.
- 3.1.3 The Local Club must have held at least one official breed show and one recognised training event according to Federation's rules and regulations.
- 3.1.4 The application must be accompanied by a list of the committee members who represent the Local Club and detailed presentation of the credentials of each representative.
- 3.1.5 If the Council does not grant voting rights it is empowered to review that decision at any time thereafter.
- 3.1.6 Upon the granting of Stage Two affiliation, the Council shall have the right to extend the term of the mentor should it decide that the Local Club may still be in need of a mentor.

3.2 Rights and Obligations of a Stage Two Affiliated Local Club

- 3.2.1 The Local Club accepts Stage Two affiliation on the understanding that the Local Club will
- a) Hold a minimum of one official event per annum (Breed Show, Training event, Breed Survey or Endurance Test);
 - b) A Breed Show must be held at least every alternate year with at least 35 dogs presented in the show.
 - c) The Local Club must be officially represented at all meetings of the National Breed and National Training Committees as well as the Council at least every alternate meeting.
 - d) For the first three years after affiliation, the Local Club must maintain a minimum of 10 active members and thereafter a minimum of 20 active members.
- 3.2.2 If a Local Club fails to comply with the above, it will automatically lose its voting rights and may only apply for the reinstatement of voting rights after the Local Club has fulfilled its obligations.
- 3.2.3 The application for the reinstatement of voting rights must be submitted to the National Administration and will be decided upon by the Executive Committee.
- 3.2.4 Stage Two affiliated Local Clubs shall continue to be subject to Schedule II, The Constitution of the Local Club.
- 3.2.5 All Stage Two Local Clubs must abide by all the ordinances and regulations formulated by the official bodies of the Federation.

4 Recognised Training Groups

- 4.1 Groups of members training together may apply to be recognised as an official training group provided that:
- a) The group consists of at least five active members in good standing with the Federation,
 - b) The group agrees to adhere to all relevant rules and regulations of the Federation and follow the basic principles embodied in Schedule II, Constitution of a Local Club.
 - c) Only German Shepherd Dogs are trained by the training group and that all participants within the group will at all times be Federation members in good standing.
- 4.2 Application to be recognised as an official Federation training group, proving all requirements set out under this paragraph, is made to the National Administrator and acceptance will be decided upon by the Executive Committee of the Federation.
- 4.3 The Executive Committee of the Federation shall have the right to withdraw recognition of an official training group which is, in the opinion of the Executive

Committee, acting contrary to the spirit of Par 4, or against the interests of the Federation, without giving reason thereto.

- 4.4 Recognition or withdrawal of recognition by the Executive shall be reported to the Council each year.
- 4.5 Recognised Training Groups shall have the following privileges:
 - 4.5.1 Details of the group shall be published.
 - 4.5.2 A representative of the group may attend meetings of the National Training Committee, but shall have no vote.
 - 4.5.3 Recognised Training groups may hold Endurance Tests (IAD), Begleithund tests (BH-VT) and Internationale Gebrauchshunde Prüfungsordnung (IGP) tests, provided
 - a) Dates are approved through the official channels;
 - b) All relevant Federation rules and regulations are strictly adhered to;
 - c) All events are judged by Federation judges.
- 4.6 Training groups will be liable to pay an affiliation fee as set down by the Council.

5 Termination of Affiliation

- 5.1 The Council has the right to at any time terminate the affiliation of any Club that fails to maintain the conditions of affiliation, acts in defiance of the Federation's constitution or acts contrary to the best interests of the Federation.
- 5.2 Should the affiliation of a Club be terminated in terms of this schedule; the Club shall not be absolved of payment of any monies owed to the Federation and the Club shall not be entitled to any refund of any fees paid.

Schedule IV Foreign and Non-Member Competitors

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Persons who are not members of the Federation, and dogs that are not registered with the Federation, and which are subject to rules and regulations of their respective controlling authorities that conflict with the Federation's constitution, rules and regulations, may be allowed to enter Federation events under the conditions of this schedule.
- 1.2 Members of, and dogs registered with, the Federation or the SV are specifically excluded from these provisions and shall enter the events under the normal rules and regulations of the Federation.
- 1.3 No person who is not a member of the Federation may participate in any official Federation event governed by the Federation's constitution, rules and regulations unless allowed thereto in terms of this schedule.

2 Eligibility

- 2.1 Owners, handlers and dogs that belong to bona fide FCI and/or World Union of German Shepherd Dog Clubs (WUSV) affiliated organizations may enter official Federation events under the conditions specified in this schedule.
- 2.2 Notwithstanding paragraph 2.1, German Shepherd Dogs registered with the Kennel Union of South Africa (KUSA) and which are not registered with the Federation, and persons who are members of the Kennel Union of South Africa (KUSA) and who are not members of the Federation, may enter Federation events determined by the Council under the conditions specified in this schedule.
- 2.3 Competitors entering under this schedule may be required to provide additional information over and above that requested on the normal entry form before being allowed to participate in a Federation event. The complete entry shall remain subject to official closing dates.
- 2.4 Competitors entering under this schedule signify by their entry that they accept all the provisions of this schedule and will subject themselves to all relevant rules and regulation as well as the Federation's constitution while participating.

3 Proof of Affiliation

- 3.1 Owners, handlers and dogs eligible to enter Federation events under this schedule must, separately for each and every event, provide written proof issued by their respective controlling authorities that clearly state that they are members/registered with the authority and in good standing with that authority.

4 Liability

- 4.1 The Federation accepts no liability that awards achieved in Federation events will be recognised by other controlling authorities.
- 4.2 The Federation's liability to provide proof of awards is limited to the normal liability specified in the constitution, rules and regulations concerned with the events entered.
- 4.3 The Federation shall not be bound to keep record of qualifications and awards gained in terms of this schedule.

5 Compliance to Rules

- 5.1 Entries in terms of this schedule shall be subject to all the Federation's rules and regulations, including prerequisites, associated with the event or activity entered.
- 5.2 Where minimum requirements are a prerequisite, any entries in terms of this schedule shall, separately for each and every event, be required to provide original proof that the entry complies with the stipulated requirements.
- 5.3 The onus to obtain the necessary rules and regulations and the compliance thereto shall be with the owner or handler of the dogs entered.
- 5.4 The Federation shall not have any obligation to recognise awards and gradings allocated or recognised in terms of this schedule should the handler, owner or dog eventually join the Federation in terms of the Federation's constitution, rules and regulations.

Schedule V Sponsorship of the Federation

1 National Events

- 1.1 No Federation member or Club may wear an item of clothing that displays a sponsor's brand name in opposition to that of the main sponsor at a national event or handle or exhibit a dog while wearing such an item of clothing, unless:
- a) Such brand name is smaller than 75 mm in height and
 - b) The item of clothing also contains the name of a bona fide kennel, stud dog or Club that is being sponsored.
- 1.2 No Federation member may display a banner, umbrella or gazebo containing a brand name in opposition to that of the main sponsor at a national event unless:
- a) Such brand name is smaller than 75 mm in height and
 - b) That either a bona fide kennel name or dog that is being sponsored appears on the banner, umbrella or gazebo.
- 1.3 No Club may display a banner, umbrella or gazebo containing a brand name in opposition to that of the main sponsor at a national event unless the brand name and lettering does not exceed 75 mm in height and the Club may not display more than one such banner together with two gazebos or two umbrellas.
- 1.4 No kennel or member may set up more than two gazebos or two umbrellas bearing an opposition sponsor's brand name or logo.

2 Club Events

- 2.1 No Federation member or Club may perform any act that may embarrass a sponsor or jeopardise the possibility of the sponsoring of future Federation events.
- 2.2 No person handling or exhibiting a dog may wear a number-bib other than the official bib supplied with the agreement of the sponsor(s) of the event.

Schedule VI Registrations on Behalf of African Countries

1 General

- 1.1 The German shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa (Federation) has been authorized by the World Union of German Shepherd Dog Associations (WUSV) to issue pedigrees on behalf of African countries that do not have a registering authority recognized by the WUSV.
- 1.2 Each pedigree will prominently carry the name of the country the breeder resides in together with the inscription: *“Issued under the auspices of the German Shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa”*.
- 1.3 Special regulations may be promulgated under this schedule for specific countries.
- 1.4 Only dogs that are identifiable and with parents already registered by a recognized registering authority will be eligible for registration.

2 Recognition of Pedigrees

- 2.1 All pedigrees issued under this schedule will carry the statement *“Conforms to the minimum requirements for recognition by all WUSV organizations”* in addition to the WUSV logo and will be recognized by all WUSV organizations world-wide.
- 2.2 The dogs concerned will be allowed to participate in all events staged by WUSV member organizations with the proviso that certain authorities may require additional requirements before accepting the dog for breeding. To this end all pedigrees will carry the statement: *“Special regulations based on a specific country’s breeding rules may apply before the dog may be bred from”*.
- 2.3 It is specifically recorded that 2.1 and 2.2 is in accordance with the WUSV constitution.
- 2.4 Dogs bred under this schedule that fulfil all the minimum requirements of the Federation and which are imported into South Africa, must have their pedigrees appropriately endorsed by the Federation before they may be bred from with the statement: *“Cleared to breed in the German Shepherd Dog Federation of South Africa”*.

3 Membership Requirements

- 3.1 Breeders residing in African countries where there is no recognized registering authority must join the Federation as Ordinary Members in terms of the Constitution, but are exempt from the minimum breeding requirements of the Federation as well as certain rules and regulations of the Federation as specified in this schedule.
- 3.2 A kennel name must be registered with the Federation.

4 Breeding Requirements

- 4.1 The intention of this schedule is to develop organizations in Africa that may eventually become fully fledged members of the WUSV in their own right with standards at least equivalent to that of the Federation.
- 4.2 It is acknowledged that there are many WUSV organizations that do not have minimum requirements of any kind and that minimum requirements in such countries have to be implemented step-by-step.
- 4.3 Where pedigrees are issued that do not comply with the minimum standards of the Federation, the Federation may not allow such dogs to breed within the Federation itself unless specifically authorized thereto by the National Breed Committee.
- 4.4 As far as is possible, the Federation will provide the same services to breeders breeding under this schedule as it provides its own resident members and endorse the pedigrees issued under this schedule with qualifications and gradings (e.g. Hip Dysplasia and DNA) accordingly.
- 4.5 As an initial step, the Federation will try to ensure that all dogs in respect of which pedigrees are issued, will be identifiable according to a Federation recognised identification system Where no suitable persons have been trained, the services of approved Veterinary professionals in the countries concerned will be utilized to identify the dogs.
- 4.6 Dogs bred under this schedule and which conform all to the minimum requirements of the Federation will be fully accepted for breeding within the Federation and have their pedigrees endorsed accordingly.
- 4.7 Hip Dysplasia evaluations will only be recognized by the Federation if evaluated under an SV recognized system or within the Federation system.
- 4.8 DNA profiles will be recognized by the Federation if recognized by the SV and/or ISAG.
- 4.9 Notwithstanding the above, the National Administrator must endeavour to ensure where possible that breeding takes place within the rules and regulations of the Federation.

5 Judges and Tattooists

- 5.1 The Breed Judges Committee is empowered to identify and train suitable individuals in the African countries concerned that may grant "G" gradings to dogs on an individual basis. Where it is unavoidable that such an individual may have to grade a dog belonging to him or herself, the action must take place in the presence of a veterinary professional or another individual identified as appropriate by the Chairperson of the Breed Judges Committee. In such cases the second person present must be provided with a list of disqualifying faults and certify that the animal concerned was free of such faults.

- 5.2 Gradings issued in terms of 5.1 shall be recognized by the Federation as the acceptable minimum grading of the parents of a dog in the pedigree. The Federation will however require a grading given by a judge recognized by the Federation to the dog itself, before the dog may be bred from in the Federation.
- 5.3 Federation judges may travel to any country qualifying in terms of this schedule and allocate gradings on an individual basis up to "V" (Excellent). Where such gradings are issued, a report thereof together with a full description of each dog concerned must be forwarded to the Federation by the judge concerned.
- 5.4 Suitable individuals in the African countries concerned may be trained as tattooists under the auspices of the National Administrator. Where it is unavoidable that such an individual may have to provide a dog belonging to him or herself with recognised identification, the action must take place in the presence of a veterinary professional or another individual identified as appropriate by the National Administrator, who must countersign the report.
- 5.5 Individuals recognized as tattooists under this schedule or an appropriate veterinary professional shall be empowered to take and forward DNA samples to the Federation for processing under the Federation system.

6 Specific Exemptions

- 6.1 Federation stud dogs may be used on bitches owned by African breeders who will register the resultant litter under this schedule.
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