

NATIONAL SPECIALTY SHOW, FUTURITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. Introduction

- A. The following rules shall apply for all GDCA National Specialty Shows, Futurities, and Top 20 Invitational Shows. Such rules may be amended, or additional rules incorporated, at any time by the GDCA BOD.
- B. The GDCA National Specialty, Futurity, and Top 20 Invitational Show rules must be adhered to. In the event of noncompliance, the GDCA BOD reserves the right to withdraw show approval at any time.
- C. The GDCA BOD shall have final approval of all plans and publicity relating to a National Specialty, Futurity, and Top 20 Invitational Shows.
- D. The GDCA, for administrative purposes, currently consists of six Divisions that roughly represent the various geographic parts of the United States. They are: Western Division, Mid-West Division, Central Division, South-Central Division, North-East Division, and South-East Division.
 - 1. Western Division Clubs – Chair: Mike Boa
 - a. GDC of Las Vegas
 - b. GDC of Northern California
 - c. GDC of California
 - d. GDC of San Diego
 - e. GDC of Arizona
 - f. GDC of Tucson
 - g. GDC of Hawaii
 - h. GDC of Western Washington
 - i. Willamette Valley GDC
 - j. Monterey Bay GDC
 - k. GDC of Mat-Su Alaska
 - l. GDC of Inland Northwest
 - 2. Mid-West Division Clubs – Chair: Joy Lobato
 - a. GDC of Des Moines
 - b. GDC of Greater Denver
 - c. GDC of Greater Kansas City
 - d. GDC of Greater St. Louis
 - e. Heart of Minnesota GDC
 - 3. Central Division Clubs – Chair:
 - a. Lake Shore GDC
 - b. GDC of Michigan
 - c. GDC of Cleveland
 - d. GDC of Milwaukee
 - e. Hoosier GDC
 - f. Heart of Illinois GDC
 - g. Heart of Ohio GDC
 - h. Illini GDC

- i. Greater Cincinnati GDC
- j. Wolverine GDC

4. South-Central Division Clubs – Chair: Joyce Rowe

- a. Alamo GDC
- b. GDC of El Paso
- c. GDC of Greater Dallas
- d. GDC of Greater Houston
- e. GDC of Louisiana
- f. Heart of Texas GDC
- g. GDC of Oklahoma

5. North-East Division Clubs – Chair: Louis Bond

- a. GDC of Central Pennsylvania
- b. GDC of Pennsylvania
- c. GDC of Western Pennsylvania
- d. GDC of Western New York
- e. GDC of Raritan Valley
- f. GDC of New England
- g. GDC of Maryland
- h. GDC of Metropolitan Washington
- i. GDC of Leigh Valley
- j. GDC of Oxford [1]
- k. GDC of Northern New Jersey

6. South-East Division Clubs – Chair: Wanda Hepler

- a. GDC of the Mid South
- b. GDC of Central North Carolina
- c. GDC of Mid Florida
- d. GDC of North Central Florida

E. Each GDCA Affiliate Club must be a member of a show-giving Division, and must participate in some aspect of the National Specialty hosted by its Division. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, which may include denial of approval of that Affiliate Club's specialty.

F. National Specialties shall rotate on a predictable schedule so that all members will know in the future in what area of the country the National will be held. A rotation of the National Specialty show site, with each Division hosting the National once every six years, commenced in 2002. The current rotation is as follows: 2017: Western; 2018: Mid-West; 2019: North East; 2020: Central; 2021: South-East; 2022: South-Central. [2] And changes to this rotation would have to be approved by the GDCA BOD. [3] It is the Division Chairperson's responsibility to see that his/her Division is prepared to host at the designated year. No individual club may apply to host the National.

II. Organization

A. National Specialty Committee - The National Specialty Coordinator and Divisional Chairpersons shall constitute the National Specialty Committee.

- B. Division Chairperson – The Division Chairperson is considered a standing appointment. Divisional Chairpersons must be members of the GDCA. A Divisional Chairperson's replacement is to be selected by the Division Affiliate Clubs Representatives. The GDCA Board of Directors must approve each Division Chairperson. It is strongly recommended that the Division Chair be at least a 36-month term for continuity purposes. This position will oversee all aspects of their Division's National Specialty.
- C. National Specialty Coordinator - The National Specialty Coordinator is appointed by the GDCA Board of Directors, and serves as the liaison between the Board and Divisions. The National Specialty Coordinator shall distribute the Rules and Regulations, and all subsequent changes or additions to the Divisional Chairperson, Show Chairs and GDCA Website. This position shall assist and guide each Division as necessary.
- D. National Trophy Coordinator - Duties of this position shall consist of being the liaison with the Division Trophy Chairman, the ordering of the trophies and the transportation of the trophies to and from the National Specialty. [3a]
- E. Divisional Committee
1. The Divisional Committee shall consist of the Divisional Chairperson and two (2) Club Representatives from each Affiliate Clubs in the Division.
 2. Each Affiliate Club of the GDCA shall appoint two (2) of their members to represent their club on the Divisional Committee to serve directly under the Divisional Chairperson. These appointments shall be considered standing appointments. Changes in appointments are to be made as necessary, but not subject to yearly change.
 3. Divisional Club Representatives should be prepared to attend meetings regarding policy and decisions pertaining to the National Specialty.
 4. In the event a Divisional Representative is unable to represent his/her club at a scheduled Division meeting, the Affiliate Club may send a substitute, provided that the Secretary of that Affiliate Club gives notification, in writing, to the Divisional Chairperson and the National Specialty Coordinator, of the name of the substitute and at which meeting the substitution will be made. The substitute must be a current member in good standing of that Divisional Representative's particular Affiliate Club.
 5. The Board of Directors of the Affiliate Clubs must give approval in writing for the Club Representatives to act on behalf of the club in all aspects of the Specialty. Copies of such written approval shall be sent to the GDCA Corresponding Secretary, the National Specialty Coordinator, and the Divisional Chairperson. Only when the majority of Affiliates in the Division grants such approval will the proposal be submitted to the Parent Club for final approval.

III. Show Committee

- A. To comply with AKC regulations, at least five members of the Show committee must be GDCA members, as well as Affiliate Club Members.
- B. Show Chairperson - The Show Chairperson shall be elected by the Hosting Divisional Committee by a two-thirds vote of all members of that Committee and must be a member of the GDCA. The GDCA Board of Directors must approve the Show Chairperson. It is strongly recommended that the Division Chairperson not be the Show Chairperson, unless illness or emergency requires the Division Chairperson to

take over the Show Chairperson's duties.

- C. Division Secretary - The Secretary shall be elected by the Hosting Division Committee by a two-thirds vote of all members of that Committee and approved by the GDCA Board of Directors. One of the Duties of the Division Secretary shall be to notify all Committee members, in writing, of the actions taken and decisions made at any Divisional Committee meeting, as well as advising of the next meeting date and location. Copies of the actions taken and decisions made at any Divisional Committee meeting shall be sent to the National Specialty Coordinator and the Corresponding Secretary of GDCA.
- D. Division Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be elected by the Hosting Division Committee by a two-thirds vote of all members of that Committee and approved by the GDCA Board of Directors and shall be duly bonded (Bonding cost shall be a National Specialty expense). The duties of the Treasurer shall be as follows: 1) To handle all Division related financial transactions incurred by the National Specialty (also see Finances), 2) To process in a timely manner [64] all incoming monies related to the National Specialty, 3) To process in a timely manner [64] all accounts payable related to the National Specialty, and 4) To provide on a monthly basis (within 2 weeks of the last day of the month) a standardized financial report to the GDCA Treasurer, Division Chairman, Show Chairman, and National Specialty Coordinator. [4] It is strongly recommended that the Treasurer have a background in accounting or bookkeeping. The Division Treasurer shall use an automated accounting system. [124]

IV. National Specialty Details

- A. Title - The Show shall carry the title "Great Dane Club of America National Specialty Show, Futurity, and Top 20 Invitational." Each show must be of the same outstanding caliber as other GDCA Specialty Shows.
- B. Date - The dates for the National Specialty shall be the 41st, 42nd, and 43rd AKC show weeks. No new Affiliate Specialty will be approved that will conflict with the National Specialty, Futurity, and Top 20 Invitational unless approved by the GDCA Board.
- C. Show Site and Location - The Hosting Divisional Committee will choose the show site. The GDCA Board of Directors shall visit and inspect the chosen site not later than twenty-seven (27) months prior to the National Specialty. [5] The GDCA Board is to have final approval of the site selected by the divisions for the National Specialty Show.[6] Prior to the submission of the Hosting Division's proposal the National Specialty Coordinator will inspect new proposed sites [113]. It is recommended that site hotels not have an abundance of other hotels in close proximity.
- D. Uniform Scheduling - May be modified by the Division upon approval of the GDCA BOD [33]. [Whenever possible Companion Event judging is never to conflict with conformation judging.](#) [35]
- Day 1 and/or 2 - Futurity (Top 20 Invitational)
 - Day 3 - Obedience - Education - Agility (Top 20 Invitational)
 - Day 4 - Dogs
 - Day 5 - Bitches
 - Day 6 - Intersex Competition
 - Junior Showmanship to be held either the first or the last day of regular class judging (Day 2/3 or 5/6). [34]

- E. Independent Specialties are only allowed **after** the National Specialty starting in 2011. The hosting club will be responsible for all costs of that specialty and will keep all profits. [160]

V. Show Proposal

- A. Between twenty-four (24) and eighteen (18) months prior to the date of the Show, a complete Host Division Show Proposal must be submitted to the GDCA BOD through the National Specialty Coordinator. [7] All activities or special events to be held under the umbrella of the National Specialty must be listed in this proposal, along with their appropriate budgetary requirements.

B. Proposal Contents [8]

1. Date
2. Location and description of facilities
3. Method of soliciting monies
4. Names of committee chairpersons
5. List of classes offered
6. Show schedule
7. Description of the financial agreement for profit sharing among clubs
8. List of clubs in the Divisions, and names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all representatives.
9. Copy of the Division's proposed contract with the hotel & venue where show will be held must be submitted to the GDCA BOD 30 days prior to requesting Board approval. Prior to being signed [9] the hotel contract must be reviewed by legal counsel, in the state where the show will be held [66]. This expense will be shared equally between the GDCA and the hosting Division[114].
10. Beginning April 24, 2010, All National Specialty Venue/Hotel Contracts shall include the following provisions: [141]

“Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement otherwise (between GDCA, a Division of GDCA for purposes of holding the annual National Specialty event), penalties assessed for late cancellation of venue by GDCA shall not apply under the following circumstances:

- a. The entity that owns the facility or venue where the National Specialty is to be held, seeks protection under any Chapter of the United States Bankruptcy Code, is placed into Receivership, for any reason, or is otherwise financially insolvent and unable to perform under the contract; and
- b. Due to local municipal or statewide breed-specific legislation changes, the Great Dane breed presence or participation in a dog show event is outlawed in the jurisdiction where the venue is located.

It is further agreed that the venue shall inform all Parties if any event described above occurs, no later than fourteen days after learning of such event.”

11. Name and address of the Division's proposed bank and names of those who will be authorized to sign on the account
12. Proposed financial report, including requested loan amount
13. Site plan

- C. After approval, an executed copy of the hotel contract, signed by the President of the GDCA, shall be on file with the GDCA Treasurer, Recording [67] Secretary and National Specialty Coordinator, Division Chair and any Board member requesting a copy. [125]
- D. The AKC Show Application shall be submitted by the Host Division Show Chairperson to the National Specialty Coordinator, for review by March 15th of the year of the Show. This will allow the application to be signed at (or before) the April Board Meeting. (Note, the AKC will not accept Show Applications more than thirteen (13) months in advance of the event.) Divisions shall not submit show applications to the AKC prior to review by the National Specialty Coordinator & Division Chair.
- E. After approval of the Division's Proposal the GDCA will provide the division with their seed money. See instructions under Finances below.

VI. Emergency Plan

- A. The Hosting Division will be required to complete its rotation in the event of an emergency, such as hurricane, earthquake, fire, natural disaster, etc. The Division must find an alternate site, even if it means a "bare bones" National in a city park. It must include Conformation, Futurity, Top Twenty, and Performance [68] judging. If possible, a banquet facility for an Awards Night should be contracted. Every effort should be made to assist with travel arrangements and accommodations, but if necessary, the attendees could schedule these themselves. The Futurity eligibility date will remain as published. [11]
- B. In the event of such an occurrence the GDCA BOD must be notified as soon as the circumstances of the emergency are known. The Emergency Plan should be implemented. Such an Emergency Plan may also be subject to the jurisdiction of the AKC.

VII. Superintendent

- A. The Hosting Division must utilize the services of a professional Show Superintendent with an in-house printing facility. If the Superintendent will not be on the grounds, the Division must name a Division Show Secretary. It is the responsibility of the Show Hosting Division to put the services of a Show Superintendent out for bid and to accept the lowest bidder who offers a full range of services required.

VIII. Finances

- A. The GDCA will provide the Hosting Division with the funds necessary for the successful completion of the National Specialty. These funds are to be in the form of an interest-free loan, not to exceed \$5,000.00, if required [69]. The increase of this amount is flexible as deemed necessary by the GDCA Board of Directors.
- B. Such monies will be funded by the GDCA no earlier than 45 days after approval of the Division's proposal (providing the Division Account has been appropriately set up) but no later than twelve (12) months prior to the event.

- C. The Hosting Division's Treasurer shall open a bank account for the National Specialty using the GDCA's tax identification number. Three signatories are required to open the account, one of who must be the GDCA Treasurer. One signature only is required on each check. [12] The Division Treasurer will provide the GDCA Treasurer and National Specialty Coordinator and Division Chair [70] with a Monthly Standardized Division Report (See Specialty Treasurer) beginning one year prior to the event. The Division Treasurer shall also provide an asset and liability statement, a profit and loss statement and copies of bank statements, bank reconciliation and the check register. All loans and seed money will be reported as assets or liabilities. The GDCA Treasurer will forward the Division's monthly Treasurer report to the GDCA Board monthly. This report should include assets, profit and loss statement, bank reconciliation and check register. [13] These documents will be known as the Financial Report[128] . All supporting documentation must be kept by the Division Treasurer until the reconciliation of the final report at which time the material will be passed to the GDCA Treasurer. [14] The GDCA Treasurer will forward the monthly report to the GDCA BOD. [15]
- D. All monies received by the Division shall be deposited within fifteen (15) days of receipt. [16]
- E. On or before December 31st [71] of the year of the Specialty, the Show Chairperson shall send to the Treasurer of the GDCA a draft [72] Financial Report detailing all transactions.[129] The Show Chairperson shall certify that said report is complete and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge. A copy of the report shall be mailed simultaneously to the GDCA President, Corresponding Secretary and National Specialty Coordinator for review and discussion. Immediately upon receipt of the Division's Financial Report and prior to the following January 1, the GDCA Treasurer will provide the GDCA's outside auditor (as selected by the GDCA board) a copy of the completed report for review [130] as part of the GDCA annual audit. [18]
- F. Once the final report has been audited and approved by the GDCA Board of Directors, the Hosting Division will have 30 days to repay the loan to the parent club. In addition, the Division must provide a check for the entire National Specialty profit (a GDCA accounting stipulation required by the IRS). Once this is received and processed, the profits will be split per the financial allotment [73]. [131]
- G. Net profits resulting from the Show shall be returned to the participating Affiliate clubs, to be distributed as per their financial agreement. Losses, if any, shall be borne by all qualified [74] clubs in the division. [132] Losses, if any, shall be borne 50% by the GDCA and the remaining 50% borne by participating Affiliate Clubs [133]. At this time, the Specialty account will be closed. [20]
- H. The GDCA and the Hosting Division will extend the courtesy of room and board to each Judge and one guest (sharing the same room) from the day before his/her judging assignment through the night of the Awards Banquet. This includes all judges [134]. Judges will be provided a meal package [76]. Transportation will be limited to discounted Coach Airfare or current IRS mileage; whichever is less [77]. All expenses are to be pre-paid by the Judges and invoices and/or evidence of expenses submitted to the Division Treasurer for reimbursement. Fees and expenses of Performance Judges will be left to the discretion of the Division. [78]

VIV. Insurance

- A. The GDCA will provide insurance for the Specialty, naming the Hosting Division and the host site, if so required by the site, as additional insured parties. The Division Chairperson shall provide the GDCA Treasurer and Board of Directors the insurance requirements of the show site. [21]

X. Corporate Sponsors [79]

- A. The GDCA will appoint a National Specialty Corporate Sponsor Chairperson, whose duties shall be to enter into a dialogue with various commercial supporters. Such funds as are forthcoming will be deposited to the Hosting Division's bank account, to be used generally.

1. DIAMOND (\$10,000.00 or more)

- a) Booth space during the National Specialty up to 25' when possible
- b) Two pages of advertisement in the National Specialty Catalog & two catalogs
- c) A banner to be hung behind their corporate booth as well as listing on a banner to be hung in a prominent place during the show
- d) Recognition during the National Show at least four times a day and asking people to patronize them
- e) Four tickets to the Awards Dinner (Reserved Seating)
- f) Four tickets to the Top 20 Dinner & Event (Preferred Seating) & two catalogs
- g) Recognition as a Diamond sponsor of one of the evening events
During the National (needs to be worked out with each Division)

2. PLATINUM (\$5,000.00 -\$9,999.00)

- a) Booth space during the National Specialty up to 20' when possible
- b) A one page advertisement in the National Specialty Catalog & one catalog
- c) A banner to be hung behind their corporate booth as well as listing on a banner to be hung in a prominent place during the show
- d) Recognition during the National Show at least twice a day and asking people to patronize them
- e) Two tickets to the Awards Dinner (Reserved Seating)
- f) Two tickets to the Top 20 Dinner & Event (Preferred Seating) & one catalog
- g) Possible recognition as a sponsor of one of the evening events
During the National (needs to be worked out with each Division)

3. GOLD (\$2,500.00 - \$4,999.00)

- a) Booth space during the National Specialty up to 15' when possible
- b) A one page advertisement in the National Specialty Catalog & one catalog
- c) A banner to be hung behind their corporate booth as well as listing on a banner to be hung in a prominent place during the show
- d) Recognition during the National Show at least twice a day and Asking people to patronize them
- e) Two tickets to the Awards Dinner (Reserved Seating)
- f) Two tickets to the Top 20 Dinner & Event (Preferred Seating) & one catalog

4. SILVER (\$1,500.00 - \$2,499.00)
 - a) Booth space during the National Specialty up to 10' when possible
 - b) Recognition in the catalog (Listing on a page)
 - c) Listing on a banner to be displayed in a prominent place during the show
 - d) Two tickets to an Awards Dinner (Reserved Seating)

5. BRONZE (\$1,000.00) INDIVIDUALS ONLY
 - a) Recognition in the catalog (Listing on a page)
 - b) Two tickets to the Awards Dinner (Reserved Seating)
 - c) Listing on a banner to be displayed in a prominent place during the show.
 - d) Other incentives may be given at the discretion of the Division. [135]

B. Booth space for Diamond, Platinum, Gold and Silver sponsors may be modified based on the space available at a particular site. Changes to the spaces must be equitable based on the level of sponsorship.

C. Platinum, Gold and Silver sponsors will be the responsibility of the Corporate Sponsor Chairperson. Solicitation for Bronze sponsors will be the responsibility of the host Division.

D. Approx. 10-15 rooms should be set aside by the Division for Corporate Sponsors to reserve. [116]

XI. Judges

A. No exceptions may be made to the published requirements for judging the National Specialty. [31]

B. The Judges' Committee consists only of the Judges' Selection Chairman [153].

C. It shall be the responsibility of that Division Chairperson to notify, in writing, the Divisional Club Representatives of the judge selections.

D. Selection of judges shall be made as follows:

1. Division Chairman, Show Chairman, Division Secretary and Division Treasurer are not eligible to judge at their Division's National. This rule applies to Conformation as well as Obedience. [22]
2. The list of eligible judges will be listed in the GDCA Newsletter, with the request that each member and each Affiliate Club return their ballots naming four judges for conformation, and two for the Futurity. The ballots will be tabulated, and the top 10 [154] names for Specialty Judges, and the top 10 names for Futurity will be sent to the membership for the final vote. The ballots sent out to the Affiliate Clubs and the GDCA members are to be numbered. The Accountant will be provided with a list of names and corresponding numbers.
3. All Judge candidates in the National Judges' Selection shall include any and all those tied through the tenth position shall appear on the second ballot. In this instance, more than 10 names may appear on the second ballot. [158]

4. The Board's sitting Treasurer shall recommend to the Board the name of a CPA who will perform the annual GDCA Judges' Selection ballot submission, tabulation and annual National Specialty administrative review. [156]
 5. The CPA is to accept National Judges' ballots that are postmarked by the date on which they are due. [157]
 6. Ties for the final Judges' selection ballot shall be resolved by instructing the CPA to draw between the tied names. [159]
 7. Only GDCA members who are eligible to judge in the US will be listed in the Newsletter to be considered for judging at the National Specialty. [161]
- E. Eligibility requirements for conformation judges [23]
1. Must be approved by AKC to judge Great Danes.
 2. No provisional judges.
 3. Must agree to not judge Great Danes for at least six months prior to the GDCA National Specialty.
 4. There shall be no restriction preventing a judge from doing a different assignment on consecutive years at future GDCA National Specialties. Assignments may be repeated after four years.
- F. The GDCA Officers and BOD encourage the GDCA voters to consider the following when voting for national specialty judges [24]:
1. Each Judge should have judged at least three GDCA specialty shows and demonstrated a long time interest in the breed.
 2. Each Judge should have attended at least one GDCA National Specialty
- G. The judge receiving the highest number of votes will have their choice of judging Intersex, Dogs or Bitches. The judge with the second most votes will have their choice. Judge with the third most votes will have the remaining assignment.
- H. In the event of a tie vote for National Specialty Judges, the winner will be decided by a random draw by the CPA of the Hosting Division [80].
- I. The Hosting Division will select the Obedience, Agility, Rally [81] and Junior Showmanship Judges.
- J. Effective 2003, Judging assignments shall be as follows:
1. One Judge for Intersex, Brace, Team, Bred by Exhibitor (BBE), and Best Puppy [25]
 2. One Judge for regular Bitch classes, Brood Bitch, and Veteran Bitch [26]
 3. One Judge for regular Dog classes, Stud Dog, and Veteran Dog [27]
 4. One Judge for Obedience and/or Junior Showmanship, and/or Agility
- K. Last minute emergencies: illness, overdraw, etc., requiring judging changes or replacements, shall be dealt with by a committee consisting of the GDCA President, Division Chair and the current Judges' Committee Chairperson [82]. The order for selecting judges in an emergency situation will follow sequentially down the list of final judges until a replacement can be secured. If no judge is available from the list of final judges the Judges' Selection Committee will select a Judge according to the Rules and Regulations Applying to Dog Shows by the AKC. [83] The Judges' Selection Chair will ensure the list of final judges is in the possession of the Show Chair during the National Specialty. [84]
- L. Judges accepting assignments to judge the conformation classes at a National Specialty and Futurity shall not judge any other Great Danes for a period of six months prior to the show date. This rule will not be

waived under any circumstances. A judge cannot do the same assignment within 4 years - BOB, Dogs, Bitches. [29] Judges selected to judge Obedience, Junior Showmanship, and/or Agility must conform only to the AKC policy for time and distance.[30] The judges will be given a 45 day, deadline for returning of signed acceptance letters. This will be stated in the letter. Any judge not complying with this time constraint could be replaced, at the discretion of the Board.

XII. Classes

A. Regular Classes (The following regular classes will be offered for both dogs and bitches)

1. 6-9 months puppy, divided by color (Total of six classes)
2. 9-12 months puppy, divided by color (Total of six classes)
3. 12-15 months
4. 15-18 months
5. Amateur-Owner-Handler [85]
6. Bred-by-Exhibitor
7. American Bred
8. Open, all colors divided (Total of six classes)

B. Non-Regular Classes:

1. Veteran Dog, 6 and under 8
2. Veteran Dog, 8 and over
3. Veteran Bitch, 6 and under 8
4. Veteran Bitch 8 and over
5. Brace
6. Team
7. Stud Dog
8. Brood Bitch
9. Best Puppy
10. Best Bred-by-Exhibitor

C. Obedience Classes:

1. Novice A
2. Novice B
3. Utility A
4. Open A
5. Open B
6. Utility B
7. Non-regular obedience classes may be added to the proposal at the discretion of the Hosting Division.

D. Junior Showmanship:

1. Novice Junior
2. Novice Intermediate [85]
3. Novice Senior
4. Open Junior
5. Open Intermediate [85]
6. Open Senior

E. Agility - The Division is responsible for offering an AKC Agility Trial even if it must be at an alternate nearby site. [36]

1. The following classes will be offered:
 - a. Standard
 - b. Novice A
 - c. Novice B
 - d. Open
 - e. Excellent A
 - f. Excellent B

2. The following classes may be offered:
 - g. Jumpers with Weaves Novice A
 - h. Jumpers with Weaves Novice B
 - i. Jumpers with Weaves Open
 - j. Jumpers with Weaves Excellent A
 - k. Jumpers with Weaves Excellent B

F. Rally – The following classes may be offered:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Novice A | 4. Advanced B |
| 2. Novice B | 5. Excellent A |
| 3. Advanced A | 6. Excellent B |

XIII Trophies

A. Standardized trophies will be offered for the following:

1. Best of Breed
2. Award of Merit
3. Select Dog & Select Bitch
4. Best of Opposite Sex
5. Best of Winners
6. Winners Dog
7. Winners Bitch
8. Reserve Winners Dog
9. Reserve Winners Bitch
10. Best Puppy
11. Best Bred By Exhibitor
12. Best Junior Handler
13. High Scoring Dog in Trial
14. High Combined In Obedience
15. 1st – 4th in all Regular and Non-Regular Classes

M. Awards of Merit will be offered up to a maximum of 10% of the entry in the Best of Breed Class. A standard trophy shall be given. Dogs awarded BOB and BOS shall not receive an Award of Merit.

N. The method of trophy solicitation is to be at the discretion of the Host Division, with GDCA approval.

O. No challenge trophies will be accepted

P. The owner or co-owner of a dog may order an additional trophy within 60 [87] days of the end of the National in which the dog won the award. If trophy is ordered after 60 days, additional fees will apply. The trophy must be paid for at the time of the order.

Q.No other trophies or awards may be presented to any winner at the National. [88]

XIV. Persons Restricted from showing

A. The grid below indicates in which event(s) each Chairman or member of the same household can exhibit. [40]

	Div. Chair	Show Chair	Perf. Chair*	Futurity Chair	Top 20 Chair	Nat. Spec Coodrd	Show Secretary (if reqd)
Specialty	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Futurity	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Obedience	Yes	Yes	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Agility	Yes	Yes	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Rally	Yes	Yes	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Top 20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

*If involved in the selection of Judges for these events.

B. Other persons restricted from showing per AKC Rules.

C. Any person suspended by the AKC during the dates of the National Specialty. This restriction shall follow AKC guidelines. [142]

XV. Miscellaneous

A. Parades will be offered for Champions of Record, Companion Event Title Holders, and Veterans.

B. A detailed map to an after-hours veterinary hospital will be included in any hand-outs at the start of the event, e.g., "goodie bags," at the front desk of the hotel, in the rooms with the rules, and to RV's at check in, etc. The after-hours veterinarian is to be interviewed and the facility inspected at least three months in advance of the event.

C. Each Division shall have a designated van; driver and cell phone available 24 hours a day during a National Specialty to provide transportation to the after-hour Veterinary Facility [42]

D. Each Division will have a detailed plan for veterinary care during show hours. This plan is to be presented and approved by the National Specialty Coordinator with the Show Application and Premium List. [90]

E. Breeder education programs are to be offered.

- F. A service fee will be charged to cover returned checks. [91]
- G. Each National Specialty Committee shall pass along to the next National Specialty Committee the names of those persons who either presented NSF checks, or who still may owe outstanding amounts of money to the National Committee for any reason (entries, advertising, trophies, etc.). These people will be refused entries to, or participation in, any future National Specialty, Futurity, and Top 20 Invitational until cash or certified check settles the unpaid amounts.
- H. It shall be standard policy to refund entries on obedience bitches in season at the National Specialty. [This policy will be printed in the premium list.](#) [43]
- I. Publicity for the next GDCA National specialty may be distributed commencing the last day of the current National Specialty. [44] Publicity shall contain only information that has been approved by the GDCA BOD.
- J. No Catalog's will be sold at a discounted during the National. [115]
- K. Starting in 2013, the GDCA will opt in to award a 3 point major to RWD and RWB at the National Specialty. This is done on the AKC Show Application. [155]

XVI. Futurity

- A. The Futurity is an annual event sponsored by the GDCA and is exclusively for the competition of puppies between three months and eighteen months of age.
- B. The Futurity Chairperson [92] shall be appointed by the Hosting Division. Judges to be the responsibility of the GDCA. A Futurity Show Secretary, who will handle all Futurity Nominations, will be appointed by the GDCA.
- C. All funds from the Futurity raffle are to go into the GDCA Futurity Account. Standardized trophies will be awarded.
- D. Conditions
 1. The Futurity is open to member breeders (and members of their immediate families) in good standing of the GDCA or one of the Affiliated Clubs provided that all other requirements are met. Where the nominated bitch is co-owned, one co-owner must be a member of the GDCA or one of the Affiliated Clubs at the time of breeding.
 2. Bitches may be nominated at any time between the breeding and whelping dates. The exact date for the beginning and ending of nominations will be determined by the actual date of the Futurity or by the Futurity Committee.
 3. All dogs are made eligible for competition before they are born; however, it is only through the bitch that they are made eligible. Nominations of bitches must be made after the bitch is bred and before the bitch whelps. Only puppies whelped by nominated bitches after the date of nomination are eligible. The

date of the Post office cancellation stamp on the envelope will determine the date of nomination. A fee of \$10.00 shall accompany the nomination of each bitch.

4. Puppies from litters whelped by nominated bitches are eligible even though sold to a new owner between the whelping date and the date of the futurity. The new owner need not be a member of the GDCA or one of its Affiliated Clubs, providing the nomination of the bitch was made by a member breeder.
5. Upon verification of eligibility, the breeder will be sent a form on which to nominate individual puppies from the litter. A fee of \$7.50 is required for each puppy nominated from each litter nominated (there is no limit on the number of puppies nominated from any one litter). However, the nominations must be made before the litter is three months of age.
6. An additional fee of \$15.00 [93] will complete each individual nomination. This will be done on a separate nomination blank by the 3rd Friday in August [94], at which time all identifying information must be given (name of puppy, litter registration number or individual registration number, name of actual owner).
7. Puppies from three months of age, and under twelve months of age, shall be required to compete only against each other. Similarly, Juniors from twelve months of age, and under eighteen months of age, shall be required to compete only against each other. Puppies and Juniors shall compete only against each other, as provided in these Conditions.
8. In the event that a change must be made in the show date, then the original date shall be the one used in determining eligibility of nominees. Should the show date be set after the original date, then the age limit shall be increased to take care of the differences in time from the original date to the revised date, and the nominees affected shall still be eligible for competition in the Junior classes.
9. Nominations of bitches and nominations of puppies must be on official forms supplied by the Futurity Committee and must be accompanied by checks or money order made payable to: The Great Dane Club of America, Inc. They shall be forwarded to the Futurity Statistician.
10. Entry fees will be retained in the event a nominated bitch or puppy is found to be ineligible under the above conditions.
11. Best in futurity winner will be presented [95] at the beginning of the Top 20 event.

E. Multiple-Sired Litters

1. Effective with the 2003 National Specialty Show, the GDCA Futurity will be open to multiple-sired litters.[47]
2. With the First Nomination of the bitch, submit your Nomination Form indicating “Multiple-Sired Litter” thereon, giving the name of the Bitch and AKC #, as noted on the form. In addition, list the name(s) of the sires, with AKC #'s of each.
3. On the Second Nomination of the puppies (prior to 3 months of age), list the puppies to be nominated with sexes and colors of each, as usual.
4. Each (and every) Third Nomination of the puppies (for multiple-sired litters only) that will be entered in the Futurity (“the entry form”) must have the sire listed thereon and must be accompanied by the official AKC DNA proof of the sire. **NO ENTRY FORM FOR A MULTIPLE-SIRED LITTER WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE AKC DNA PROOF ATTACHED.**

5. It is the Breeder/Owner's responsibility to provide this proof.

F. Classes

1. Puppy classes will be divided according to age and sex as follows. Classes with 10 or more entries may also be divided into A, B, and C Divisions.
 - a. 3 - 5 Months
 - b. 5 - 7 Months
 - c. 7 - 9 Months
 - d. 9 - 12 Months
2. Only four (4) awards are given for each age group.
3. The winners of the Puppy Dog classes will compete against each other for Best Puppy Dog and Reserve Puppy Dog. The winners of the Puppy Bitch classes will compete against each other for Best Puppy Bitch and Reserve Puppy Bitch. The second place puppy dog/bitch from the class of the best in puppy dog/bitch shall be eligible for Reserve. [45] Best Puppy Dog will compete against Best Puppy Bitch for BEST PUPPY.
4. Junior classes will be divided according to age and sex as follows. Classes with 10 or more entries may also be divided into A, B, and C Divisions.
 - a. 12 - 15 Months
 - b. 15 - 18 Months
5. The winners of the Junior Dog classes will compete against each other for Best Junior Dog and Reserve Junior Dog. The winners of the Junior Bitch classes will compete against each other for Best Junior Bitch and Reserve Junior Bitch. The second place junior dog/bitch from the class of the best in junior dog/bitch shall be eligible for Reserve. [46] Best junior Dog will compete against Best Junior Bitch for BEST JUNIOR.
6. The Best Puppy will compete against the Best Junior and the winner will be designated BEST IN FUTURITY.

G. Eligibility requirements for futurity judges.

1. Must be a member of the GDCA or an Affiliate Club.
2. Must have been in the breed for at least eight years.
3. Must be the breeder of record of at least three litters of Great Danes.
4. Must be the breeder or owner of record of at least two Great Dane Champions.
5. AKC judges are eligible to judge Futurity and must meet requirements 1-4 listed above. [140]
6. Must agree not to judge Great Danes for at least six months prior to the GDCA National Specialty
7. Futurity judges can show in the Top 20 Competition only. [143]

H. Drawing is required [96] for futurity judging assignments.

1. The drawing for Futurity Judging assignment will normally take place at the Site Welcome Party with both Judges and Division Futurity Chairperson present. [48]
2. The judges shall draw their assignments in accordance with the following procedures and Judge the classes as listed in the following table
 - a. In a hat, put one slip for dogs (see slip # 1) and one slip for bitches (see slip # 2)

- b. Judges draw.
- c. In a hat, put one slip for Best Puppy (Intersex) (see slip # 3) and one slip for Best Junior (Intersex) (see slip # 4).
- d. Judges draw.
- e. In a hat, put one slip for Best in Futurity (see slip # 5) and one blank slip (see slip # 6).
- f. Judges draw.

	PRINT ON SLIPS	CLASS	RESULTS	CLASS	RESULTS
1	DOGS	3-5 5-7 7-9 9-12	BPD RES	12-15 15-18	BJD RES
2	BITCHES	3-5 5-7 7-9 9-12	BPB RES	12-15 15-18	BJB RES
3	BEST PUPPY (INTERSEX)	BPD BPB	BP		
4	BEST JUNIOR (INTERSEX)	BJD BJB	BJ		
5	BEST IN FUTURITY	BP BJ	BIF		
6	(THIS SLIP IS BLANK)				