

Northwest Dog Judges Study Group, Inc.

Constitution and Bylaws

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this club shall be Northwest Dog Judges Study Group, Inc. (NWDJSG).

Section 2. The purpose of this club shall be to further the education of dog judges and prospective judges by holding meetings, seminars and other educational programs.

Section 3. The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donation to the club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual,

Section 4. The members of the club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out these objects.

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 .Eligibility There shall be three types of membership open to approved judges who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club or other canine registry and who subscribe to the purpose of this club.

A. Regular Members. Regular Membership shall be open to persons who are approved as a regular judge or provisional judge in at least one breed or event by their governing body.

B. Emeritus Judge Members. Emeritus Membership shall be open to persons who are of emeritus status with the American Kennel Group or other canine registry. Emeritus members enjoy all the privileges of Regular Membership but pay no dues.

C. Associate Members. Associate Membership shall be open to persons residing outside Northwest Dog Judges Study Group, , Inc.'s service area, which is considered to be within 200 miles of Portland, Oregon, who are approved as regular or provisional judges by their governing body. Associate membership does not grant voting privileges,

Section 2. Dues. Membership dues shall be set by the Board of Directors, and ratified by the membership, and are to be payable on or before the first day of April each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of February, the Treasurer shall notify members of dues owing for the ensuing year

Section 3. Election to Membership. Each prospective member shall submit a membership request on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the Northwest Dog Judges Study Group, Inc. bylaws. Applications for Regular Membership shall include the recommendation of two Regular Members in good standing who are members of Northwest Dog Judges Study Group, Inc. for two years or more. Applicants shall submit dues payment for the current year with the application. The Board of Directors will set prorating of dues for applicants. All applications are to be filed with the Membership Chairman. Each application is to be read at the first meeting of the Group following its receipt. At the next Group meeting, the application will be read and voted upon by secret ballot. Affirmative votes of 4/5 of the members present and voting at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant. Applicants who have been rejected by the Group may not reapply until after one year after such rejection,

Section 4. Termination of Membership. Membership may be terminated:

- A. By resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the Group upon written notice to the Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the Group. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the club and they become incurred on the first day of April of each year.
- B. By Lapsing. A membership will be considered lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid for thirty (30) days after the first day of April of each year. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- C. By expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these Bylaws,
- D. By failure to achieve regular judging status. A provisional or associate membership may be terminated if a member's provisional status is revoked by his or her governing body without him or her being granted regular status in at least one breed or event. No refund of dues will be made.

Section 5. Voting rights Each Regular or Emeritus Member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Group at which he/she is present except as stipulated in Article IV section 2 and 3. Proxy voting or absentee balloting will not be permitted at any Group meeting or election.

Article II. MEETINGS AND VOTING

Section 1. Club Meetings. A minimum of 6 meetings per year shall be held at a time and place as provided by the Board of Directors. Written notice of each such meeting will be mailed at the direction of the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be three (3) voting members.

Section II. Special Meetings. Special Meetings maybe called by the President or by a majority of the members of the Board. Written notice of each such meeting will be mailed at the direction of the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business may be transacted thereat.

Section III. Board of Directors Meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as necessary. At Board of Directors meetings, the order of business shall be as the President directs. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 5 days prior to the date of the meeting unless stated at the previous regular, special or board meeting or via telephone notice by the Presiding Officer (President). The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

Section IV. Order of Business, At the regular meetings of the Group the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting permit, shall be as follows:

- Roll Call;
- Minutes of the previous meeting;
- Report of the Treasurer, the Secretary and the President
- Report of Committees
- Election of Officers (at Annual Meeting);
- Unfinished Business;
- New Business;
- Election of new members
- Adjournment

ARTICLE III. DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. General Management. The general business of the Group shall be in the hands of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Board of Directors The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three non-officer members, who shall be nominated from the floor and elected at the Annual Meeting.. All members of the Board of Directors shall be members in good standing. All members of the Board of Directors shall serve until their successors are elected at the club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV section 2 and 3. All members of the Board of Directors shall enjoy equal voting privileges.

Section 3. Officers, The Group's officers shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers shall serve in their respective capacities with regard to the Group and Group meetings, and also with regard to the Board and Board meetings.

A. The President shall preside at all meeting of the Group and of the Board, and shall have duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these Bylaws.

B. The Vice President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the

President in case of the President's absence, incapacity or death,

- C. The Secretary shall keep record of all meetings of the club and of the Board and of all matter of which a record shall be order by the Club. The secretary shall keep a complete and accurate roll of the membership, and have available who has attended and therefore are "voting members" together with their addresses and phone numbers.
- D. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Group. The Treasurer shall deposit all money in a banking institution designated by the Board, and approved by the membership. The Treasurer's books shall be open at all times for inspection by the Board and he or she shall report at every meeting of the Board the condition of the Group's finances and every item of receipt and payment. At general membership, meeting the Treasurer shall make a brief report giving the conditions of the club's finances.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors or among the club officers during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of all the then members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy or at a special board meeting called for that purpose; except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President and the resulting vacancy of the Vice President shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV. THE CLUB YEAR. ANNUAL MEETING. ELECTIONS

Section 1. Club Year. The Group's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of April and end on the last day of March. The Group's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting and shall continue through the election at the next annual meeting.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of April at which officers and directors shall be elected from those among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this article. They shall take office immediately upon conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within thirty (30) days after the election.

Section 3. Elections,

- A. Nominations shall be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. No person may be nominated who is not in good standing.
- B. Nominations may be made at the Annual Meeting by any member eligible to vote, in attendance, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his or her name is proposed. If the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the

proposed candidate signifying his or her willingness to be a candidate. No person may be elected to more than one position. Nomination and subsequent election will begin with the office of President, followed by nomination and election of the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three directors in that order. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected

- C. Members must have attended two previous meetings during the previous fiscal year to be eligible to vote for officers and directors at the annual meeting.

Article V. Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees. The President may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the club. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special projects committees may be appointed to serve on special projects.

Section 2 Termination of Standing Committees. Any committee appointment may be terminated by the President upon written notice to the appointee, and the President may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

ARTICLE VI. DISCIPLINE

Section 1 American Kennel Club Suspension. Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club shall be automatically suspended from the privileges of this club for a like period of time.

Section 2. Charges. Any member may prefer charges against another member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the club. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$25.00 that may be forfeited if the Board of Directors following a hearing does not sustain such charges. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at the first Board meeting. The Board of Directors shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Group. If the Board of Directors considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interest of the club it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board of Directors entertains jurisdiction of the charges it shall fix a date for a hearing by the board not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if he wishes.

Section 3. Board Hearing The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly.

Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board of Directors may, by majority vote of those present, suspend the defendant from all privileges of the club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. If the board of Directors deems the punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such a case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his fellow members at the ensuing Group meeting which considers the Board of Directors recommendations. Immediately after the Board of Directors has reached a decision, its finding shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary who, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the Board of Director's decision and penalty, if any.

Section 4. Expulsion. Expulsion of a member from the Group may be accomplished only at a meeting of the club following a Board of Directors hearing, and the Board of Directors recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or a special meeting of the Group to be held within sixty (60) day, but not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the Board of Directors recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his or her own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at that meeting. The President shall read the charges and the board of Directors' finding and recommendation, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to appear on his own behalf if he or she wishes. The meeting shall then vote by secret ballot the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board of Directors suspension shall stand.

Article VII. AMENDMENTS.

Section 1. Amendment Adoption. The constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, providing there is a quorum. Each member shall be notified in writing at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting that the proposed amendments are to be considered.

ARTICLE VIII. ITEMS NOT COVERED

Section 1. Items not covered. Anything not covered in these Bylaws shall be discussed and voted on at a regular meeting. A majority of those present and voting shall decide.

Article IX. DISSOLUTION.

Section 1. Dissolution. The club may be dissolved at any time by written consent of not less than two-thirds of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the club, other than for purposes of reorganization, whether voluntary or involuntary or by the operation of law. None of the property of the club nor any proceeds thereof, nor any asset of the club shall be distributed to any member of the club. After payment of the debts of the club, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs selected by the Board of Directors.