



*Golden Retriever
Club of America®*

Sweepstakes Guidelines

The mission of the GRCA Sweepstakes is to provide a competition where breeders and owners can showcase their puppies and veterans. It was established to encourage owner/handlers to show their own dogs and to share the results of their breeding program, the potential of their young dogs and the longevity and structural soundness of their veterans with other breeders and exhibitors.

The following guidelines are mandatory for Sweepstakes held at GRCA National and Regional Specialties and are strongly recommended for local member club specialties.

TIME: Sweepstakes should be held so as not to conflict with the judging of the regular classes. This can be done by scheduling Sweepstakes for early morning before the regular classes begin, or the previous evening if suitable arrangements can be made and adequate time is available.

JUDGE: It is recommended that, as a first consideration, the judge be a qualified breeder of retrievers with at least 10 years' experience in their breed and have attended at least two obedience trials and two field events with water tests. If such a person is not available, a qualified breeder of sporting dogs or a person working toward AKC approval in the sporting breeds may be invited to judge. All sweepstakes judges must be given a copy of the sweepstakes rules prior to their assignment, preferably with their contract.

PREMIUM LIST INFORMATION: Detailed information for the premium list is included on the accompanying page in a form which needs only minor editing to be ready for submission to a superintendent or show secretary.

1. Clubs are given the option of offering ribbons or rosettes for individual class placements.
2. Add any trophies offered after the Ribbon/Rosette information.

ALTERNATIVES TO HOLDING SWEEPSTAKES: The holding of a Sweepstakes is optional to the host club. If the host club chooses not to offer a Sweepstakes, then it is recommended that, after the Winners Dog and Winners Bitch have been selected and before the Best of Breed Class begins, the winners of the Puppy Dog and Puppy Bitch classes (6-9 months and 9-12 months) be brought into the ring. From these four exhibits the awards of Best Puppy and Best of Opposite Sex to Best Puppy shall be made by the person scheduled to judge the Best of Breed class. The winners of the 12-18 Month classes are not eligible for this award as they are not puppies by AKC definition. Dark green rosettes shall be awarded to the Best Puppy and Best of Opposite Sex to Best Puppy. There shall be no prize money and the awarding of trophies is optional. The information and awards shall be included in the Premium List.

PREMIUM LIST INFORMATION:

ALL SWEEPSTAKES CLASSES INCLUDING VETERANS AND BEST IN SWEEPSTAKES

HANDLER: The handler of a Sweepstakes exhibit must be either the owner, co-owner, breeder or member of their immediate family as they are listed on file with the American Kennel Club as of the closing date for the show for which the Sweepstakes entry is being made. Immediate family is defined as husband, wife, mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter or legal domestic partner. Stepchildren and legal wards are also included in this definition. In-laws and grandchildren are not considered to be immediate family members. No other individual may take the entry into the ring during judging or check-in.

The following individuals are excluded from showing an exhibit in sweepstakes unless they are the sole owner registered with the AKC or co-own the entry with a member of their immediate family (as defined above) or a legal domestic partner:

1. Any individual listed as an agent on any dog in any regular or non-regular class at this or any other show in the previous two years.
2. Any individual with an Agent number including, but not limited to an AKC Registered Handler Number or Professional Handlers Association (PHA) number

To avoid confusion or question, it is recommended that a photocopy of the registration certificate be included with the entry for a co-owned exhibit.

Disabled or physically challenged handlers are encouraged to show their own dogs and every effort will be made to accommodate them.

Suggestions for show hosting club

1. Ensure the ring gate opening is wide enough for wheelchair access.
2. Ensure the ring and surrounding surfaces are as level and smooth as possible.
3. Place slower handler(s) at the end of the line or have provisions that will allow slower handlers to gait their dogs together
4. Allow someone else to assist an exhibitor (push wheelchair, hold crutches/canes), providing that person does not handle the dog.
5. Ensure judges and stewards are aware of hearing-impaired exhibitors before entering the ring, provide communication assistance if needed.
6. Allow the use of crutches, canes, or other mobility devices.
7. Handlers with limited mobility who are unable to gait their dog may use a runner for that portion only.
 - a. If possible, the runner should meet the handler requirements and be the owner, co-owner, breeder, or member of their immediate family.
 - b. If that is not possible, the runner may be an amateur friend or acquaintance
 - c. Under no circumstances would any professional handler be allowed to be a designated runner.
8. Be aware that other request may be made to accommodate disabilities; every effort should be made to honor those requests.

Suggestions for Exhibitors

1. The primary function of exhibiting the dog is the responsibility of the handler. Please be prepared that coordination of special accommodations may take extra time to be put into place.
2. AKC will issue a letter of disability for any handler who requests one. This should be carried with you and should prevent any concerns about the use of a runner or any other condition.

Best in Sweepstakes Classes. It is required that the same person who showed the dog to a first place in a Sweepstakes class will also show the dog in the Best in Sweeps class. However, if that person should have more than one dog in the Best in Sweepstakes class, someone else is permitted to show the additional winner. That person should meet the handler definitions above. Only in cases where there is not another owner, co-owner, breeder, co-breeder, or immediate family member available, should another person take the dog into the Best in Sweeps class. It is understood that there would be no financial benefit to that individual. Individuals who have an AKC Handler number, a PHA number or are listed as agent on any dog in the regular or non-regular classes may not show a sweepstakes entrant unless they are the sole owner registered with the AKC or co-own the entry with a member of their immediate family (as defined above) or a legal domestic partner.

PRIZE MONEY: Distribution of prize money will be by the following schedule of the percent of the entry fees in each class:

35%	Host club to cover expenses
20%	Best in Sweepstakes
15%	Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Sweepstakes
15%	First place in each class
7.5%	Second place in each class
5%	Third place in each class
2.5%	Fourth place in each class

SWEEPSTAKES

ELIGIBILITY: Any purebred Golden Retriever six months of age and under eighteen months of age and entered in any of the regular classes at the specialty show at which the Sweepstakes are held. Dogs which have completed the requirements for an AKC Championship (according to AKC records) prior to the closing date of the show at which the Sweepstakes are to be held are not eligible.

CLASS DIVISIONS: Class divisions shall be the same for dogs and bitches.

6 months and under 9 months
9 months and under 12 months
12 months and under 15 months
15 months and under 18 months

After the completion of the individual class judging, each of the eight class winners shall be brought back to the ring for the selection of Best in Sweepstakes and Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Sweepstakes.

ROSETTE OR RIBBON PRIZES:

Best in Sweepstakes	Pink and Green
Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Sweepstakes	Lavender
First place in each class	Rose
Second in each class	Brown
Third in each class	Light Green
Fourth in each class	Gray

VETERANS SWEEPSTAKES

ELIGIBILITY: Any purebred Golden Retriever over eight years of age which is individually registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC) or the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). Entrants need not be entered in any other class. AKC and CKC Champions of Record and spayed or neutered Golden Retrievers are eligible.

CLASS DIVISIONS: Class divisions shall be the same for dogs and bitches.

8 years and under 10 years
10 years and under 12 years
12 years and over

After the completion of the individual class judging, each of the six class winners shall be brought back to the ring for the awarding of Best in Veteran Sweepstakes and Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Veteran Sweepstakes.

ROSETTE OR RIBBON PRIZES:

Best Veteran in Sweepstakes	Pink and Green
Best of Opposite Sex to Best Veteran in Sweepstakes	Lavender
First place in each class	Rose
Second Place in each class	Brown
Third place in each class	Light Green
Fourth place in each class	Gray

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