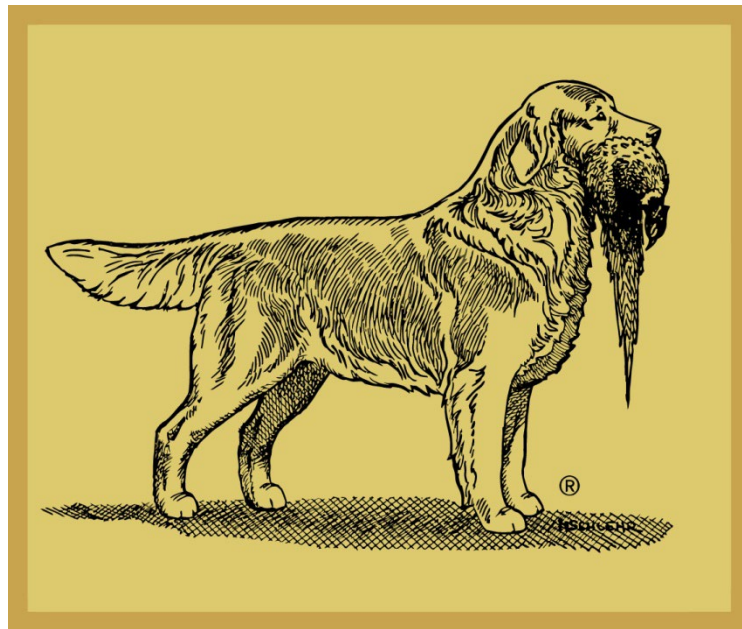
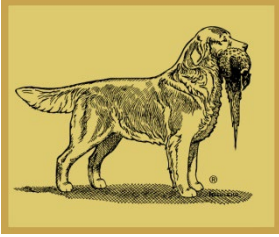


GRCA



REGIONAL SPECIALTY HANDBOOK

Last updated: 12 Nov 2022



GRCA REGIONAL SPECIALTY HANDBOOK

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It's long overdue, but we're finally able to offer our GRCA member clubs an updated and revised GRCA Regional Specialty Handbook

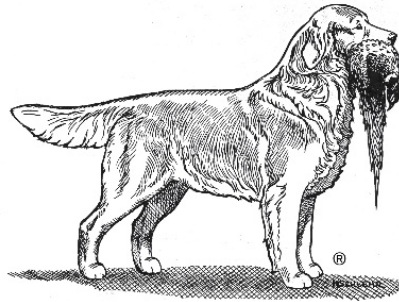
For those who will depend on this Handbook to guide them as they host future GRCA Regional Specialties, hats off to you and your clubs! Hosting a Regional is a tremendous undertaking, but it can also be extremely rewarding. If there are suggestions you'd like to make to improve either the Handbook or the Regional Specialty itself, please contact a member of the GRCA National Specialty Committee at NSC@grca.org .

We'd like to acknowledge those who tread this path before us, specifically Barbara Branstad (July 1995 version) and Ron & Kemah Plusk (July 2006 version).

Revised by
Karen Arbuthnot & Pat Flanagan

With input from members of the
GRCA National Specialty Committee
Sharon Shilkoff, Chair

November 2022



2. INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THE REGIONAL SPECIALTY

- To showcase all aspects of the Golden Retriever
- To provide an opportunity to those individuals seeking a GRCA Triathlon award
- To award specific GRCA Regional Specialty trophies

The Golden Retriever Club of America® offers three Regional Specialties each year--one each in the Eastern, Central and Western regions. The purpose of holding Regional Specialties is to draw Golden Fanciers from the Region together and to allow people who might not be able to attend a National Specialty in any given year the opportunity to attend a premier Golden event. As such, a Regional Specialty is bigger than a local independent specialty, but considerably smaller and less labor-intensive than the GRCA National Specialty.

Ideally, a member GRCA club which has been hosting their own independent specialties and WC/WCX tests **but doesn't have the manpower or resources to have hosted a National Specialty**, would be well-suited to host a Regional Specialty. Another case would be a member GRCA club which has not held its own independent specialty and is therefore not yet "licensed" by AKC. For this club, the Regional Specialty could be a first step because it is held in the name of the GRCA using the GRCA "license" and with GRCA assistance provided. If a club has hosted a National in the past, hosting a Regional Specialty can be a means of offering a premier event on a smaller scale.

If your club has been holding independent specialties for a few years, much of what you will read on the following pages will only be a reminder of what needs to be done. The most important aspect of this handbook is to lay out what is *required* to hold a Regional Specialty and what makes it different from an independent specialty. Should questions arise, never hesitate to contact the National Specialty Committee at NSC@grca.org to get direction. The chair to this committee is listed on the GRCA website www.grca.org or can be found in the front directory section of the *GR News*.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

- The ultimate decision authority rests with the GRCA Board of Directors after submission of a club's application to the appropriate GRCA Regional Vice President.
- All GRCA Regional Specialty events are for **Golden Retrievers only**. No other breeds may be entered.
- The following AKC events are **required** to be held at GRCA Regional Specialties:
 - Specialty Show (Conformation and Junior Showmanship)
 - Obedience Trial
 - WC and WCX Tests
- Any Regional Specialty profit or loss will be split between GRCA and the host club on a 20%-80% basis. Any money advanced by GRCA for deposits or payments will be reimbursed in full by the host club. The final financial report must be submitted to the GRCA Treasurer within 90 days of the event.

3. BECOMING A REGIONAL SPECIALTY HOST CLUB

THE BID

The main point to remember is that a Regional Specialty is a **GRCA event**. Once a local Member Club has decided to host a GRCA Regional Specialty, they must submit a request to their Regional Vice-President. This can be done in a simple email format which is then forwarded to the Board for approval. This request should include all pertinent information including the dates, events being offered and site locations. Following is an example of such a request:

Please accept this email as a letter of intent from the Garden State Golden Retriever Club (NJ) to host the 2018 Eastern Regional. The GSGRC was founded in 1968. 2018 will be our 50th Anniversary and we would like to do something special.

The tentative schedule would be:

Thursday 9/6/18:	Eastern Regional - Conformation & Juniors, Obedience & Rally Trials, Puppy/Veteran/Gun Dog Sweeps, CCA (still to be decided)
Friday 9/7/18:	GSGRC Designated Specialty with Tuxedo Park KC
Saturday 9/8/18:	GSGRC Designated Specialty including Puppy/Veteran/Gun Dog Sweeps with Somerset Hills KC
Sunday 9/9/18:	Eastern Regional WC/WCX Tests

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday will be held at North Branch Park in Bridgewater, NJ. The WC/WCX will be held at Assunpink Wildlife Management Area in Robbinsville, NJ.

IMPLEMENTATION

All AKC event applications for any Regional Specialty event a club plans to hold must be sent to the GRCA Secretary.

This includes the specialty show and obedience trial as well as any other optional AKC events the host club has decided to hold like sweepstakes, rally trial, agility trial, etc. Copies of signed contracts from all judges must also be submitted with the application paperwork. The GRCA Secretary signs the forms and submits them to AKC along with the appropriate event fees.

Applications and Judges Panels are due to AKC 18 weeks prior to the closing date.

Allow plenty of lead time for review, signing and sending to AKC.

Applications for any GRCA event such as the WC/WCX or Certificate of Conformation Assessment (CCA)

Should be submitted directly to the appropriate chairman as found on the GRCA website www.grca.org and do not have to be reviewed or signed by the GRCA Secretary.

In summary, a Regional Specialty is required to hold a specialty show (conformation) including junior showmanship competition, an obedience trial, a Working Certificate (WC) and Working Certificate Excellent (WCX). All other events are at the host club's option and depend upon the interest, experience, venue and availability of workers. Optional events include (but are not limited to): Sweepstakes (Puppies, Veterans and/or Gundogs), Rally, Agility, CCA, tracking tests, scent tests, and hunt tests.

MANPOWER

1. **General Chair.** The selection of a General Chairman is the most important decision a host club will make in deciding whether to host a Regional Specialty. The Chairman will set the tone for the Regional and will determine its success. The Chairman should be experienced in running dog show events, have good communication and organizational skills, and be experienced with making sure all details are handled.

2. **Number of People.** As with any successful specialty your core group of event chairs for the various events and their assistants are needed to commit to this event.

FACILITIES

1. **Show Site.** Regional specialties vary in size from about 150 dogs to nearly 400 entries. Generally, Eastern Regional specialties are the largest. In most cases a facility, either indoors or outdoors, which has space for two (2) large 50' x 60' conformation rings, a 40'x 50' obedience ring, spectators, show secretary's table, vendors, etc. will be sufficient. In the Eastern region--or where large entries are anticipated--additional rings should be planned for. When deciding on the site that can be used for a Regional, another possibility is to consider the potential of holding the Regional the day before or after an all-breed show or independent specialty. Many clubs also hold their independent specialty on a day preceding or following a Regional Specialty. Please note that a Regional Specialty cannot be held in conjunction with an all-breed show (i.e., on the same day).

2. **WC/WCX Grounds.** Adequate grounds are necessary for setting up the WC/WCX tests in accordance with the GRCA Guidelines. (These can be found on the GRCA website at: <https://tinyurl.com/bd95z7fu>) These tests should be held within a reasonable distance of the show site.

3. **Contracts/Agreements for Sites.** It is highly recommended that any and all contracts involving grounds for any event be provided to GRCA for review by the Legal Resource Committee prior to being signed. This will help to assure that the host club is not suddenly responsible for costs that were not anticipated.

4. **Equipment.** If your club is not hiring a show superintendent, you will be responsible for the ring equipment. Ring gating--or some means of defining the rings--matting, tables, chairs, tents, or obedience equipment may have to be acquired.

REGIONAL DATES

1. A Regional Specialty may be held any time during the year--except it can't conflict with the National Specialty. Keep in mind that the WC/WCX cannot be held in some parts of the country during certain times of the year. It is also not necessary to have the WC/WCX on the day immediately before or after the conformation/obedience portion of the Regional. For example, if the Regional is scheduled with an all-breed show, it is often necessary to hold conformation and obedience on Thursday. This might necessitate the scheduling of the WC/WCX on Saturday.

2. It is the responsibility of the appropriate Regional Vice President to avoid any conflicts in dates with other Regionals. The Regional Vice Presidents should check with each other when considering dates for a Regional specialty.

FINANCES

1. **Checking Account.** A separate checking account must be established by the Host Club for their Regional Specialty. This should **not** bear the name or initials of the Golden Retriever Club of America® (GRCA). A good example might be: "*Western Regional Specialty 2025*".

2. GRCA Contributions.

- Approved Host Clubs may request a loan of up to \$3,000 from GRCA upon written request to the GRCA Treasurer one (1) year in advance of the date of the Regional Specialty. This loan is repayable 90 days after the event.
- GRCA will donate \$2,500 to the Regional Specialty Host Club one (1) year in advance of the date of the event. This donation includes \$1,200 from the region's member clubs' annual GRCA membership fee (\$100). The Host Club may request this donation from the GRCA Treasurer once their event is officially approved by GRCA. This donation is to be used at the discretion of the Host Club. *This lump sum donation replaces the previous GRCA financial aid policy which was given for specific line items like trophies, printing, clean-up, and educational programs.*
- GRCA will pay all costs associated with publishing Regional Specialty pre-show coverage (up to two pages) and after show results, reports and coverage in the *GR News*, to include color photos for awards, qualifiers and candid.
- GRCA will pay all AKC event application fees.

3. **Financial Report.** The Host Club is required to submit a detailed financial report to the GRCA Treasurer no later than 90 days after the conclusion of the event. A check for 20% of any profit realized, or request for 20% reimbursement of any loss sustained, is also to be submitted at this time. (*Resolution NS19-80*)

4. Insurance. Many show sites require proof of insurance. Contact the GRCA Treasurer with the contact information for where the proof of insurance should be sent to. GRCA insurance covers GRCA *only!* Host clubs need to carry their own insurance as well.

4. GRCA POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

GRCA COMMUNICATIONS

Contact information for all GRCA officials is listed on the GRCA website www.grca.org or can be found in the front directory section of the *GR News*.

1. GRCA Regional Vice President. This person is the link with the GRCA Board of Directors. Keep this individual apprised as to the progress and feel free to ask for advice or assistance.

2. GRCA Secretary. Once GRCA approves the regional dates for your club and the AKC has closed all paperwork for the previous year's Regional Specialty (if there was one held), the Host Club can complete the AKC application paperwork. These forms can be accessed on the AKC website. The completed AKC Event Applications are then sent to the GRCA Secretary who signs them and forwards them to AKC along with payment for the application fees. AKC approval will be forwarded to the show secretary or superintendent and the GRCA Secretary. Although it is the show secretary or superintendent's responsibility to keep the Host Club apprised of AKC reports and instructions, the GRCA Secretary will send copies to the Regional Chairman. In addition, the GRCA Secretary will forward to the Host Club all actions of the Board pertinent to hosting a Regional.

3. GRCA Treasurer. Contact the GRCA Treasurer for financial aid and proof of insurance. If you're hosting an independent specialty along with the Regional, the Host Club is responsible for proof of insurance for the independent specialty event. A financial statement must also be submitted to the Treasurer at the conclusion of the Regional.

4. GRCA Membership Administrator. Contact the GRCA Membership Administrator for a Region-specific data file of GRCA members if you would like to send out the premium list electronically. Mailing labels can also be obtained from the GRCA Membership Administrator should you decide to mail out premium lists instead of emailing them.

5. GRCA Trophy Curator. All regions have regional trophies for accomplishments at each regional specialty. (*See Page 17*) It is up to the Trophy Curator to contact the Regional Specialty Chairman to inform them about the requirements for the Regional Trophies.

6. GRCA National Specialty Committee. This Committee was formerly known as the Specialty Advisory Committee. It was originally established to provide guidance and assistance to local clubs hosting either National or Regional Specialties. The NSC's new role is the overall planning of the National Specialty as GRCA moves from a local club-hosted National to a GRCA-hosted National. Nevertheless, they are still the point of contact for questions and assistance on Regional Specialties.

REGIONAL SPECIALTY EXPECTATIONS

1. GRCA Membership Requirements. AKC requires that key positions must be held by a member of the show or trial giving club. Since this is a GRCA event, the key chairmen must be GRCA members. This includes the Show Chairman, the Obedience Chairman and the Chairman of any other AKC event being held. In addition, AKC stipulates that a hearing committee should consist of at least five (5) individuals listed in the premium list as members of the Event Committee. All committee members must be members of the event giving club (GRCA). The GRCA Secretary will verify GRCA membership when applications are submitted for signature.

2. Budget. The single most important preparatory consideration for a host club. Proper financial planning can mean the difference between a reasonable profit and a large loss on a Regional Specialty. When planning the budget, begin with the assumption that you wish to break even when all income and expenses have been accounted for. Experience has shown that it is best to use low estimates for income based on anticipated entries and high estimates for expected expenses.

3. Entry Restrictions. The host club must decide who can or cannot show a dog early on in the planning process. A good rule of thumb to follow is to exempt those individuals who have a great deal of contact with the judges such as the Show Chairman or the Hospitality Chairman. Whatever is decided on should be printed as a statement in the premium list.

4. Hospitality. A formal, sit-down banquet is certainly not required, but some sort of arranged hospitality will make your Regional something beyond an ordinary dog show. Your club may want to come up with something that allows participants a chance to mingle and meet in a relaxed, informal manner like a morning hospitality spread or an afternoon appetizer with snacks and refreshments. Some clubs have even offered a luncheon supported by ticket sales.

5. Additional Offerings. A Host Club has at its disposal many other options as incentive for people to attend. Health screening clinics, educational programs or seminars, and well-publicized raffles can all be a draw as well as bring in extra revenue.

5. GENERAL CHAIRMAN AND SPECIALTY COMMITTEES

General Chairman

General Considerations

The entire Regional Specialty is the responsibility of the General Chair although numerous jobs will be delegated. This is the person who holds the entire event together, who answers or finds the answers to all questions, who deals with GRCA and who enables the Specialty team to function. A General Chair should be selected before a club applies to GRCA to host the Regional.

Duties

- Appoint committee chairs for the other events such as Obedience, WC/WCX, hospitality, grounds chair and any other events that are planned.
- Select and hire judges, show sites, and sign contracts.
- Appoint a Chief Ring Steward who will be responsible for selecting ring stewards. Stewards should have previous stewarding experience. Two stewards should be allotted for each conformation ring. Two stewards can handle each obedience ring, although it is helpful to have three for Utility if there is a significant entry.
- Maintain contact with GRCA via Regional Vice President and/or Secretary.
- Prepare and proofread the premium list. The premium list must be sent to the GRCA Secretary for review and approval. Plan accordingly to assure that sufficient time is available to review prior to the deadline for submission to the show superintendent.
- In coordination with the Specialty Treasurer, prepare and submit the financial report.
- Prepare and submit reports, results, and pictures to the *GRNews* within 90 days of the conclusion of the event.
- Write thank you notes to judges, committee members etc.

Specialty Committees

If the club's resources allow, it is best to have separate individuals handle each of the different jobs (treasurer, conformation chair, obedience chair, WC/WCX chair, other event chairs, grounds, hospitality, trophies, catalog, fundraising, etc.). However, often these jobs are bundled to fit the available resources/workers.

Another way to lighten the load on your club is to enlist the help of other clubs. Other Golden Clubs, obedience, agility or field clubs have experience at organizing and running the necessary activities and can help run these for the Regional. However, be sure to delineate responsibility, profits and any other important aspects of this assistance early in the process.

Event Committee

An Event Committee with a minimum of five (5) club members is required for an AKC licensed point show.

- Committees must have a chair
- An individual may chair more than one committee
- Committee responsibilities may be combined, or others created as needed

The Event Committee has the authority to act in the name of the American Kennel Club to enforce AKC rules on the day of the event.

6. ADVERTISING, REPORTS AND PHOTOS FOR THE GRNEWS

Pre-Regional Advertising

The GRCA provides two (2) pages in the *GR News* free of charge to advertise the future event. A club may also elect to run two one-page ads in the *GR News*. All material must be submitted in typed format, double-spaced and packaged in the same envelope. It may not arrive from several different sources. Logo, artwork, maps, text, etc. must all arrive together - no exceptions.

Any host club for a Regional specialty may upgrade either or both of their two free pages of advertising in the *GR News* from black & white to color ads by paying the actual costs involved for the *GRNews* staff to upgrade such pages to color. Host clubs may consult with the Editor to determine actual costs in advance of submitting materials. (*Res 03-03*)

Post-Regional Report and Results for the GR News

GRCA will pay all costs associated with publishing Regional Specialty results, reports and coverage in the *GR News*, to include color photos for awards, qualifiers and candids.

When regional committees are formed, appoint someone to submit the report so that the Show Chair doesn't have this extra duty. It could easily be someone who doesn't have the time or ability to do another job for the show, but who has a computer and e-mail capability.

Where to Submit

The Reports are divided by region and are to be submitted to the appropriate coordinator.

- Western & Central Region Coordinator: **Sylvia Donahey** grnews@pacbell.net
- Eastern Region Coordinator: **Jennifer Workman** jzyjen@gmail.com

We are trying to become as close to paperless as possible. Therefore, if all the offered class results (Sweeps, Conformation, Juniors, Obedience, Rally) are available online we will no longer need a hard copy of the catalog. However, if the show superintendent is Rau Dog Shows, we will need a hard copy of the results.

Also be sure to include the results from the WC/WCX and any additional AKC event offered (i.e., Agility, Rally, Tracking). The general show chairman is welcome to write a brief report regarding the regional. **Judges for conformation and sweepstakes are encouraged to write a critique that will also be published.**

Pictures

The *GR News* Editor requests that all pictures be uploaded digitally to a shared cloud storage. (Dropbox is the preferred method). If the pictures are not clearly marked with the win/and or multiple JAMs, we ask that you identify the pictures. The pictures need to be high resolution (300 dpi). Low resolution or unidentified images will not be accepted.

Regional win photos that will be published in the *GR News* include:

- Best of Breed & Best of Opposite Sex
- Select Dog & Bitch
- Judges Award of Merit (JAMs)
- Winners Dog & Bitch (*obviously one of these will be Best of Winners and not require an additional photo*)
- Reserve Winners Dog & Bitch
- Best in Sweepstakes & Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes
- Best Veteran in Sweepstakes & Best Veteran of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes
- Best in Gun Dog Sweepstakes & Best of Opposite Sex in Gun Dog Sweepstakes
- Best Beginner Puppy & Best Beginner Puppy of Opposite Sex
- Best Puppy
- Best Veteran
- Stud Dog & Brood Bitch
- Highest Scoring Dog in Trial & High Combined
- Best Junior Handler & Best Reserve Junior Handler

Also, it is not mandatory, but if the first placement in each class had a picture taken, those may also be published in the *GR News*.

What to Include

When submitting a regional report, make sure the following items are in the email to the appropriate coordinator for your region:

1. The typed results in MS Word or a Text Editor for all the classes offered.
Don't forget Obedience and Rally placement scores, first through fourth place, and don't forget Junior Showmanship placements.
2. A link to the marked catalog.
3. A link to the photographs.

Show Results

Don't forget to put the number competing in each class. Type show results with the dog's registered name all in UPPERCASE LETTERS and only the owner's last name in upper/lower case type. When a dog is co-owned by two people with the same last name, list the last name only once. If a dog is co-owned by people with different last names, separate with a slash, no spaces.

GOLDIES SMILING BOB – Smith

HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU – Douglas/Jones/Brown

Typing the results in the correct format will save everyone a lot of time. Here is a link to a template to use in submitting your club's Regional specialty report: [GR News Specialty Report Guidelines](#)

Material should be submitted within (8) eight weeks after completion of your show. The *GR News* deadline for specialty reports is always the 15th of the uneven months. Remember that your exhibitors will be anxiously awaiting their results in the *GR News*.

7. CATALOG

General Considerations

The catalog for a Regional Specialty is certainly not on the scale of that for a National Specialty, but it is nevertheless an important record of the event, and care should be taken to make it accurate, readable and attractive. Most clubs use the services of a Show Superintendent or show secretary for entries, premium list publication and distribution, as well as catalog publication. Each has different capabilities when it comes to what printing service and catalog they can produce. Some may only be able to print black & white ads. Check that the fee they charge to print full page ads versus the revenue from catalog ad sales makes it a worthwhile venture.

Catalog Advertising Chair

If the Host Club decides to encourage soliciting for catalog ads, a Catalog Chair should be appointed. This person must set and adhere to established deadlines, both for the club and for others. If the show secretary or superintendent does not print the catalog, the Catalog Chair will have to take bids from local printers and arrange for delivery. The bulk of the Catalog Chair's work is obviously done prior to the show, so this is a good job for a qualified individual who would also like to show. The Catalog Chair is also responsible for the sale of the catalogs, although this duty may be delegated.

If the Regional Host Club is soliciting advertisements for the show catalog, GRCA will place a full-page ad (at no cost to GRCA) in the Regional Specialty catalog. This is the responsibility of the GRCA Secretary who should be contacted for this support.

Catalog Content

The Show Superintendent or show secretary will have a standard template in place for the catalog, just like they do for the premium list. The first few catalog pages repeat pertinent parts of the premium list, the judges, the committee members, the officers of both GRCA and the host club, and the certification page.

All advertising must comply with GRCA advertising policy as published in the *GR News* and stated on the GRCA Website at: <https://www.grca.org/about-grca/club-magazine-golden-retriever-news/grnews-advertising-policy/>

Advertisers should send their copy and check to the Catalog Chair. The Chair should check the ad for completeness, accuracy, and conformance to advertising policy, then forward the ads to the person doing the layout and typesetting. The advertising deadline may be set ahead of the closing date for entries, which will assure ample time for the ads to be processed.

Quantity to Print

It is the responsibility of the Show Chair to provide one catalog for the GRCA Archives, one for AKC, one for the show secretary/superintendent's records, and two for each conformation and obedience ring for the stewards' use. You should plan on printing about twenty percent over the number of entries. Each judge should also be given a catalog at the completion of the assignment.

A marked catalog must also be sent to the *GRNews* together with the Specialty report.

WC/WCX Catalog

Since this is a separate, non-AKC event, the Host Club will have to make sure a catalog with complete entry information is supplied to exhibitors. Some field entry services, like Entry Express, will arrange for this as part of their package deal. Otherwise, the WC Test Secretary may have to put together a very basic document to hand out at the tests.

8. HOSPITALITY

Hospitality for a Regional doesn't have to be as extensive as that provided for a National, but it's important to set this event apart and make it something other than "just another dog show." Little touches of hospitality can be done inexpensively and will be well received by those attending the Regional.

Hotels

Hotels should be located in reasonable proximity to the conformation/obedience site as well as the WC/WCX site.

RV Parking

A suitable place for RV parking should be available at the conformation/obedience site as well as the WC/WCX site. This information along with fees and who to contact for reservations should be listed in the premium list.

Responsibility to Hotels

To ensure that the hotel also has a pleasant experience with a dog group, be very certain that they understand that any abuse of their rooms, grounds or property will not be tolerated. Here are some suggestions which indicate commitment to the hotel:

- Limit the number of dogs per room to four, or whatever the hotel suggests.
- Dogs left unattended in rooms must be crated
- Dogs must be on lead in all hallways, elevators and hotel grounds.
- Make sure the exhibitors understand that the hotel is part of the show grounds and that hotel abuse falls under the purview of the Show Committee. Both AKC and GRCA will support this position. Print a notice to this effect in the premium list so that all exhibitors are aware of this policy.

Judges Hospitality

The Judges are an integral part of the Specialty and must be shown every consideration. Appoint someone to be in charge of Judges Hospitality, which includes transportation, meals, and general welfare. **This person should also be in charge of obtaining handheld tape recorders for the judges as this equipment is necessary for the mandatory critique.**

Judges and their stewards should be provided with a quality lunch served in a pleasant spot away from the ring. WC/WCX judges also need to have their needs met. A cooler full of the judge's preference of beverages is a welcome addition.

Keep in mind at all times that judging at a Regional Specialty is an honor and that the judges should be treated accordingly.

9. JUDGES

General Considerations

Judges who have been licensed for at least five years, who have had experience with large entries, and who have had some Specialty judging experience are a good choice as a conformation judge at a Regional Specialty.

The selection of judges is entirely up to the host club. GRCA does not maintain a list of preferred judges nor does the Board of Directors have to approve a proposed slate. Host clubs are required to mail a written contract to each judge seven (7) days after extending the invitation. A copy of this signed contract is to be sent to the GRCA Secretary along with the completed AKC event application paperwork. The AKC Application for Show/Trial will not be submitted to AKC without this signed contract on file. Any change of judge by either party is to be approved by the GRCA Board.

Expenses

Expenses usually include round trip airfare from home to the nearest airport, transportation to and from the airport, transportation to the hotel and show grounds (unless provided by the host club), lodging for the night before and after their assignment, and all meals. Decide whether or not to pay for a rental car.

Other assignments

The judge should be requested to not accept another Golden Retriever Specialty assignment six months to one year prior to the Regional. Obviously, this means that judge's selection should be handled very early in the planning of the event.

Other Requirements

A written critique is required from all GRCA Regional Specialty conformation judges (including sweepstakes). A detailed critique of the placements in each class is preferred over a general summary.

A tape recorder should be provided for each judge for them to record their thoughts while the dogs are still in the ring. Make sure the supplied recorder works before letting them make their comments. The tape is to aid the judge in the preparation of their written critique. It is not to be transcribed by the host club and printed verbatim.

All requirements and requests should be listed in the judge's contract which is then signed by both parties.

Number of Judges

A Regional usually needs only one conformation judge, but some regional specialties have gone to hiring two conformation judges due to the anticipated entry size. AKC limits a Specialty judge's assignment to 200 dogs per day.

Obedience judges are limited to 8 hours of judging per day. Keep the names of alternative judges in mind in case the entry is larger than anticipated or in the case the selected judge is unable to fulfill the assignment.

10. PHOTOGRAPHERS

It is the Host Club's responsibility to contract with a Show Photographer as soon as possible after receiving approval from GRCA. When contracting with the Show Photographer, be sure it is specified which photographs will be supplied free of charge to the host club or if any will need to be purchased.

The host club also needs to be in communication with the contracted show photographer in regard to equipment. For example, stanchion, backdrop, lighting are all items which need to be considered.

A photographer will also be needed to take pictures at field events like the WC/WCX. Generally speaking, pictures are a group photo(s) of those who passed the tests.

11. TROPHIES AND OTHER AWARDS

Selection

Although Regional Specialties are not as big an event as the National, they are nonetheless important, and victories should be represented by something significant. Trophies will consume a large portion of the budget and donations must be actively solicited to offset their cost. The trophies selected reflect both on the host club and on GRCA.

If the budget permits it, trophies should be offered for first place in all regular and non-regular conformation (excluding sweepstakes classes) and obedience classes. Please remember when deciding on trophies that you need to include the cost of ribbons and trophies in your budget for this expense. The winners of the Junior Showmanship competition should also receive trophies.

In addition to the class placements, the following trophies should also be offered: Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Best of Winners, Winners Dog, Reserve Winners Dog,

Winners Bitch, Reserve Winners Bitch, Select Dog, Select Bitch, High in Trial and High Combined. Additional special conformation and obedience trophies may be offered at the host clubs' discretion, but are not mandatory.

Rosettes

Rosettes need to be ordered for all class placements as well as for the major award winners. A 14-inch, 3-streamer rosette is appropriate for class placements; use 16-inch or longer streamers for the major winners. The [AKC Show Manual](#) as well as the AKC rule book "[Rules Applying to Dog Shows](#)" specifies the appropriate color for all regular and non-regular classes.

Rosettes must display the GRCA logo and can be ordered through the Show Superintendent or from an outside source, like [Hodges Badge Company, Inc.](#) Hodges Badge Co. and most show superintendents have the GRCA logo on file, but permission from a GRCA club officer may be required to use it.

Judges' Award of Merit (JAM)

The Judges' Award of Merit policy was established by Resolution NS19-85. The following wording must be published in the Regional Specialty premium list.

"Awards of Merit may be awarded to those Golden Retrievers competing in Best of Breed competition that are not awarded Best of Breed, Best of Winners, Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed, Select Dog or Select Bitch. The maximum number of Awards of Merit will be 10% of the total number of entries in the Best of Breed class at the time entries close (rounded up to the next whole number). Non-regular class winners and move-ups will not be included in this calculation but are eligible for awards."

WC/WCX Trophies

Since this is a non-competitive event, trophies are not appropriate. Some sort of memento for completion and/or participation is always appreciated. Bird bands have been used in the past and are an inexpensive item.

GRCA Regional Trophies

Awarded annually at Regional Specialties. The GRCA Trophy Curator is responsible for these trophies and the paperwork that accompanies them. The Trophy Curator contact information can be found on the GRCA website www.grca.org or in the front directory of the *GR News*.

Since 2007, the trophies are no longer awarded at the Regional itself if it occurs *prior* to the National, but will be awarded at that year's National Specialty along with the other GRCA trophies. However, should the Regional occur *after* the National for that year, the presentation will occur at the Regional.

The host club is responsible for listing the trophy in the catalog (not in the premium list) and for notifying the Trophy Curator of the name of the winner of the Best of Breed, or other pertinent classes. The Trophy Curator will take care of verifying GRCA membership and will handle the required paperwork and deposits.

Central Region



CH BRUWIN'S GEAUXLDEN BUDDY MEMORIAL TROPHY Donated in 2000

This is presented annually to the Golden Retriever awarded Best of Breed at the Central Regional Specialty whose owners(s) are members in good standing of the Golden Retriever Club of America.

Eastern Region

RALPH WORREST MEMORIAL TROPHY Donated in 1968

This trophy is presented annually to the breeder of the Golden Retriever dog or bitch awarded Best of Winners at the Eastern Regional Specialty and who are members in good standing of the Golden Retriever Club of America.



CH WOCHICA'S WINDSONG CHALLENGE TROPHY – Donated in 1974

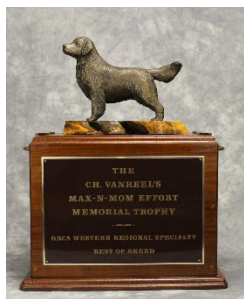
This trophy is presented annually to the owner(s) of the Golden Retriever awarded Best of Opposite Sex, at the Eastern Regional Specialty and whose owner(s) are members in good standing of the Golden Retriever Club of America.

THE CH MISTY MORN'S SUNSET, CD, TD WC TROPHY Donated in 1976

This is presented annually to the winner of the Stud Dog Class at the Eastern Regional Specialty whose owner is a member in good standing of GRCA at the time of the show. If the dog is co-owned, all owners must be GRCA members.



Western Region



THE CH VANREEL'S MAX-N-MOM EFFORT MEMORIAL TROPHY Donated in 1995

This trophy is presented annually to the Golden Retriever awarded Best of Breed at the Western Regional Specialty whose owners(s) are members in good standing of the Golden Retriever Club of America.

TRIATHLON AWARD



In recognition of the versatility of the Golden Retriever, and to encourage owners to showcase that versatility by participating in multiple areas of competition at National and Regional specialty events, the Golden Retriever Club of America has established a “**Triathlon Award**” for dogs which meet the following criteria:

An individual dog/bitch must qualify in each of three categories at the same National or Regional Specialty:

- **Conformation:** must place in a regular, non-regular, sweepstakes, veteran sweepstakes, or gun dog sweepstakes class; or receive a Judges Award of Merit in Best of Breed competition; or obtain passing scores from at least two evaluators at the CCA test. Note: Multiple dog classes such as Stud Dog, Brood Bitch or Brace do not qualify.
- **Field:** must pass either the WC or WCX test; or pass any level in a hunt test; or place or receive a Judges Award of Merit in any stake in a field trial.
- **Performance:** must pass a tracking test; or obtain a qualifying score in any individual regular or non-regular obedience, agility or rally class. Note: Multiple dog classes such as Brace or Team do not qualify.

The complete Triathlon Rules and Application process can be found on the GRCA website at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/mvza57am>

12. WORKING CERTIFICATE & WORKING CERTIFICATE EXCELLENT



Specific guidelines for holding these tests are detailed in the GRCA WC/WCX Rules and Regulations which can be found on the GRCA website, along with the application form and other valuable information.

Click on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/bd95z7fu>

13. OPTIONAL EVENTS

CCA—CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMATION ASSESSMENT

Although an optional event, it has become extremely popular to offer a CCA at Regional and independent specialties. If the Host Club has the resources and desire to hold a CCA, complete information, including the CCA Program rules, guidelines, and application process can be found on the GRCA website.

Click on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/yckjxb2d>



PARADE OF TITLEHOLDERS

General Considerations

The Parade is a non-competitive event and is not mandatory at Regional Specialties. Entries are generally fairly small so the Parade can be easily scheduled in a day's events.

Requirements

GRCA has set the qualifications for the Parade at a Regional Specialty. The **minimum** title needed to qualify as an entrant for the Parade of Titleholders is one of the following: CH, UD, FC, AFC, MH, QAA***, MX, MXJ, MXP, MJP, TDX, VST, RAE. GRCA imposes no limits on the number of entries but does mandate the Parade be limited to dogs that are able to enter the ring under their own power. (See Res 14-26 in the Appendix.)

Order

The entries may be set up youngest to oldest and honors those dogs of advanced years and many titles.

SWEEPSTAKES

Although considered an optional event, Sweepstakes competition has been held at most National and Regional Specialties for many years. No sweepstakes judge or any person residing in the judge's household is permitted to exhibit or act as agent at the event. No dog owned by the judge or any member of the judge's household is eligible to be entered at the event. Complete and current sweepstakes guidelines, including the required wording that must be printed in the Regional Specialty premium list, can be found on the GRCA website at this link: [Sweepstakes Guidelines](#)

The guidelines are mandatory for Sweepstakes held at GRCA National and Regional Specialties.

Gundog Sweepstakes

If this optional event is offered, GRCA guidelines (see *Res NS17-48*) stipulate that "Gundog Sweepstakes are open to any purebred Golden Retriever with an AKC Hunting title, ** or *** designation earned in an AKC Field Trial. Entrants need not be entered in any other class or at the regular entry fee. AKC and CKC Champions of Record and spayed and/or neutered dogs are eligible for this competition."

Please refer to the Resolution Index in the Appendix of this handbook for complete wording.

APPENDIX

GRCA RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING REGIONAL SPECIALTY POLICIES

*(The most current Resolution takes precedence over earlier established policies.)
Resolutions listed in order by most recent to oldest*

NS19-85 Approved updating and clarifying the GRCA policy concerning awarding Judges Awards of Merit (JAMs) at GRCA National and Regional Specialties to read:

“Awards of Merit may be awarded to those Golden Retrievers competing in Best of Breed competition that are not awarded Best of Breed, Best of Winners, Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed, Select Dog or Select Bitch. The maximum number of Awards of Merit will be 10% of the total number of entries in the Best of Breed class at the time entries close (rounded up to the next whole number). Non-regular class winners and move-ups will not be included in this calculation but are eligible for awards.” Effective date January 1, 2020.

NS19-80 Adopted revised Funding Policy for future National and Regional Specialties to become effective with the 2021 National Specialty:

Regional Specialties

The loan wording amount has been updated to allow an approved Regional Specialty Host Club to borrow up to \$3,000 from GRCA upon written request one (1) year in advance of the date of the Regional Specialty and repayable 90 days after the event.

GRCA shall donate \$2,500.00 to the Regional Specialty Host Club one (1) year in advance of the date of the event. This donation includes \$1,200 from the region’s member Clubs’ annual assessment fee (\$100). The Host Club may request this donation after their event is officially approved by GRCA. This donation is to be used at the discretion of the Host Club.

GRCA shall pay all costs associated with publishing Regional Specialty results, reports and coverage in the GR News, to include color photos for awards, qualifiers and candids.

The Host Club shall submit a detailed financial report to the GRCA Treasurer not later than 90 days after the conclusion of the event. A check for 20% of any profit realized or request for 20% reimbursement of any loss sustained shall also be submitted at this time.

NS17-48 Adopted official class description for the Gun Dog Sweepstakes as follows:

GUN DOG SWEEPSTAKES

HANDLER: Anyone can show any dog in this competition.

ELIGIBILITY: Any purebred Golden Retriever with an AKC Hunting title, ** (Derby placement or JAM or 3rd or 4th placement or JAM in Qualifying) or *** (Qualified All-Age dog) designation earned in an AKC Field Trial. Entrants need not be entered in any other class or at the regular entry fee. AKC Champions of Record and spayed and/or neutered dogs are eligible for this competition.

CLASS DIVISIONS:

Class divisions shall be the same for dogs and bitches.

Junior Hunter – For dogs that have earned the AKC Junior Hunter Title

Senior Hunter – For dogs that have earned the AKC Senior Hunter Title

Master Hunter – For dogs that have earned the AKC Master Hunter Title

** – For dogs that have earned ** from AKC field trials

*** – For dogs that have earned *** from AKC field trials

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

16-75 *Rescind Res. MY05-41.* Eliminates date of August 1 for application to host a Regional Specialty.

14-26 Clarifying that if a host club wishes to have a Parade of Titleholders at a National or Regional Specialty, the minimum title needed to qualify is one of the following: CH, UD, FC, AFC, MH, QAA***, MX, MXJ, MXP, MJP, TDX, VST, RAE.

14-03 GRCA will verify with AKC breeder and ownership records on the day of closing for dogs entered in any Sweepstakes competition, unless the published rules state anyone may show any entry, at all Regional and National specialties; and GRCA will enter into a contract with AKC to verify ownership records of Sweepstakes entries at a cost not to exceed \$500 a year; and class placements and/or prizes received by an owner/exhibitor/handler found to be in violation of the GRCA Sweepstakes Guidelines. will be rescinded by GRCA.

10-56 Established guidelines for coordinating the AKC Grand Championship program with the awarding of Judge's Awards of Merit at GRCA National and Regional Specialties.

10-43 Established that GRCA member owned dogs will be given priority entry into CCA events at all future National and Regional Specialties. Recommended that CCA events held by member clubs use the same procedure.

08-01 Authorized use of electronic premium lists for GRCA National and Regional Specialties. Adopted procedures.

- 07-73** The presentation of the Regional Trophies will occur at the National Specialty if the Regional occurs prior to the National for that year, and at the Regional itself if the Regional occurs after the National for that year.
- MY 06-20** Established National and Regional Financial Task Force to develop standardized template to be used for financial statements from future Regional and National host clubs.
- MY 05-41** Established policy that if no host club for a regional specialty has been found by the preceding August, the regional specialty for the following year will not be held. **Rescinded by Res 16-75.**
- 04-56** All host clubs for GRCA Regional or National Specialties will submit the show premium to the GRCA Secretary and the Chairman of the Specialty Advisory Committee for proofreading prior to the submission of said premium list for printing.
- 04-49** Golden Retrievers who have achieved All-age Qualified (***) status will be permitted to enter Parade of Titleholders at National and Regional Specialties.
- 03-118** **Rescinded Res. 03-02**, Judges' contracts for National and Regional Specialties, and substituted new requirements:

Host clubs are required to mail written contract to each judge seven days after extending invitation. Judges are to sign and date copy of written contract to host club within 14 days of receipt. Copy of signed contract to be filed with GRCA Secretary. Judging Panel not to be submitted to AKC without signed contract on file with GRCA. Any change of judge by any party to be approved by GRCA Board. National and Regional Handbooks to be updated to reflect this change. Effective January 2004.
- 03-107** Any GRCA member club hosting a GRCA Regional, or National Specialty may upgrade all of their free pages of show results for such Specialty in the GR News from black and white to color by paying the actual costs involved for the GR News staff to upgrade such pages to color. If any venues are published in color, all must be. Host clubs will consult with the Editor of the GR News to determine the actual costs in advance of submitting materials.
- MY 03-08** AKC judges and provisional judges will be allowed to attend Judges' Education seminars at GRCA Regional and National Specialties at no cost. All materials and handouts will also be free. Other attendees will be required to pay appropriate admissions and/or material costs set forth by the club or organization hosting the seminar. Rescinded by 05-47.
- 03-03** Any host club for a Regional specialty may upgrade either or both of their two free pages of advertising for such specialty in the GR News from black & white to color by paying the actual costs involved for the GRNews staff to upgrade such pages to color. Host clubs will consult with the Editor to determine actual costs in advance of submitting materials.

- 03-02** Host clubs for Regional and National Specialties are required to provide the GRCA Secretary with an acceptance letter/contract signed by both the authorized host club representative and the prospective judge for all events (including sweepstakes, field, obedience, agility, etc.). The Judges Panel application will not be submitted to AKC until copies of signed acceptance letters are provided to the Secretary. Judging assignments cannot be changed without providing justification that is acceptable to a majority of the GRCA Board members. To become effective 1/1/04. **Rescinded by Res. 03-118**
- NS 02-86** The interim Educational Programs Committee will be responsible for educational programs at the National Specialty, educational programs at the GRCA Regional Specialties, and parent club AKC judges' conformation seminars throughout the year, and the committee will not develop any new material until the work of the Educational Programs Task Force is complete.
- 01-52** Beginning with 2002 Dues, an annual surcharge of \$70.00 will be assessed each GRCA member club in addition to the club's dues, and that these funds will be used to support the three Regional Specialties, with these funds being in addition to other funding available from GRCA.
- 99-36** Approved the acceptance of the Ch. Bruwin's GeauxIden Buddy Memorial Trophy to be awarded to a GRCA member in good standing whose Golden Retriever wins Best of Breed at the Central Regional Specialty.
- 99-21** Approved provisions for official GRCA policy for conducting business with third parties; instructed that these provisions be added to the National and Regional Specialty Handbooks and immediately disseminated to all host clubs.
- 98-04** Mandated that all financial reports from Regional and National Specialties are due to the GRCA Treasurer no later than 90 days after the event and established fines of \$2.00 per day for late reports. Delinquent payments Will result in clubs becoming ineligible to renew their membership in GRCA and they will lose their ability to hold independent specialties.
- 95-07** Approved establishment and acceptance of the Ch. VanReel's Max-N-Mom Effort Memorial Trophy, to be awarded to the Best of Breed winner at the GRCA Western Regional, beginning in 1995, under the terms of the Trophy Regulations.
- MY94-18** All clubs hosting GRCA Regional or National Specialties are required to offer Jr. Showmanship classes; member clubs are encouraged to offer JS classes as of part of their independent specialties.
- NS 93-34** Approved an increase in the amount of the loan available to those clubs hosting a Regional Specialty to \$3,000.
- MY 91-22** Approved a donation of \$150 to hosts of Regional specialties for educational program. Educational programs remain optional at Regionals.
- MY 91-19** Approved Vice Presidents or Directors responsible for organizing regional delegates' meetings at regional specialties. The VP is to attend or appoint a

Director to attend the Regional. Will be reimbursed for airfare. VP is responsible for organizing a delegates meeting and reporting the results to the Board.

- NS 89-9** Approved fining system for late financial reports for any event hosted in the name of GRCA.
- NS 88-16** Remove the requirement of a conformation Team Class for GRCA National and Regional Specialties. (This class is now optional for any specialty.)
- NS 88-15** Approve the requirement of the Veteran Conformation Classes at GRCA National Specialty shows to be: Veterans, 8 years and under 10 years, a class for dogs and a class for bitches; and Veterans, 10 years and older, a class for dogs and a class for bitches. (This schedule is optional for GRCA Regional Specialties and local Golden club specialties.)
- NS 88-14** Approved the addition of a required conformation class for both GRCA National and Regional Specialty Shows to be known as Hunting Retriever Class, one for dogs and one for bitches. [Requirements to be a Senior or Master Hunter title.]
- 88-1** Approved a combined financial report for GRCA National and Regional Specialties.
- NS 86-15** Approved that the National and all Regional Specialties be held as a separate event and not in conjunction with an all-breed show.
- NS 86-11** Approved the "*Guidelines for Menacing Dog Incidents*" as mandatory for all GRCA events.
- 83-4** Established that a critique by the judge(s) of the National and Regionals be submitted within 30 days after the event. (Judges should be provided with a tape recorder.)