

Ringside Mentor – Application Process

Scope

This document describes the application and approval process for a GSCA club member to become a Parent Club Approved Mentor (aka Ringside Mentor). As an approved mentor, they will be permitted to host ringside observations with an individual applying to AKC to become an approved judge for the breed.

AKC has detailed requirements regarding when and how ringside observations should be conducted including restrictions on event participation for the mentors themselves. All ringside mentors should be familiar with this [information](#).

Qualifications

To be considered for approval as a Ringside Mentor, an Applicant wanting to become approved as a mentor must meet the following qualifications:

1	Groomed, conditioned, and handled at least 5 giants to championships
2	Exhibits breed knowledge in discussions of the breed standard
3	Demonstrates knowledge of following and passes all associated AKC tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of the breed • Original function of the breed • Relationship between function and structure of breed • ABC's of Canine Anatomy Course for Judges • Giant Schnauzer Breed Exam
4	Understands breed specific judging procedures with preference given to applicants who have judged a Sweepstakes event at a GSCA specialty
5	Attended a GSCA sponsored seminar for Judge's Education
6	Member of GSCA for at least 15 years and in good standing <OR> An AKC licensed judge approved for the breed for at least 5 years and who has judged at least one major entry of giants is not required to be a GSCA member <OR> A handler who has shown giants (multiple) for at least 10 years and satisfies items 1-5 above is not required to be a GSCA member

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Ringside Mentor – Application Process, continued

Application Process

The following steps detail the activities necessary for an Applicant to be approved by GSCA as a Ringside Mentor:

Step	Activity	By
1	Notify chairperson of Judge's Education Committee (JEC) of interest in becoming a Ringside Mentor	Applicant
2	Complete application form and provide required documentation of eligibility to become mentor	Applicant
3	Arrange interview with Applicant to evaluate qualifications (at least two JEC members must participate in interview)	JEC
4	Forward application and recommendation of Judge's Education Committee to GSCA Board of Directors	JEC
5	Review application and recommendations from JEC and vote on whether to approve Applicant	GSCA Board
6	Notify Applicant of GSCA board decision regarding approval, and if not approved, provide feedback on the items Applicant needs to address to be reconsidered in the future	JEC
7	If Applicant is approved...	
	A Update list of GSCA approved mentors	JEC
	B Send updated list to AKC and to GSCA Webmaster for posting on respective websites	JEC
	C Retain copy of application form and mentoring agreement signed by Applicant	JEC

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Ringside Mentor – Application Process, continued

Approved Mentor List

The official list of Parent Club Approved Mentors (aka Ringside Mentors) is published on both the AKC and GSCA websites. It is the responsibility of the chairperson or a designated member of the Judge's Education Committee to keep both copies up to date.

Individuals added to the list prior to January 1, 2022 may not have fulfilled all the qualification criteria as required by this policy. But as these individuals were approved by the club, they will be grandfathered and are allowed to conduct Ringside Mentoring. Nonetheless, all Ringside Mentors are obligated to comply with the conditions set forth in the agreement section of the application form on the last page of this document.

Required Annual Review

The chairperson or a designated member of the Judge's Education Committee must review the list of approved mentors on an annual basis, no later than the end of the 1st quarter of each year. This review is necessary to ensure all previously approved mentors are still eligible considering various factors (resignation from club, lapsed membership, death, etc.).

If any changes are required, copies of the updated list of approved mentors should be sent to both AKC at judgingops@akc.org and the GSCA Webmaster.

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GSCA Document Management Information

Related Documents List related and supporting documents here, if applicable:

- [Approved Mentor List on AKC Website](#)
- [Approved Mentor List on GSCA Website](#)
- [Official Standard for the Giant Schnauzer](#)
- [AKC Ringside Observation Criterion and Form](#)
- [ABC's of Canine Anatomy Course for Judges](#)
- [Giant Schnauzer Breed Exam](#)

Ownership This document is owned and maintained by the **Judge's Education Committee**.

Review This document should be reviewed periodically as indicated below and revised if changes are necessary:

- Annually
- Biannually
- Upon change in committee chair

Change Approval Any substantive changes to the intent or requirements described in this document must be approved by the following:

- Committee/Chairman
- Board of Directors

Revision History The last three revisions to this document are listed below:

Date	By	Changes
Aug 2023	Demchak/Reed	Clarified criteria
May 2023	CJ Reed	Converted format and added application form
Sep 2022	K Demchak	Created documents for criteria and process

Ringside Mentor – Application Form and Agreement

Applicant Name		Email			
Phone		Address			
City		State		ZIP	
Agreement	<p><i>If confirmed as a Parent Club Approved Mentor (Ringside Mentor), I will be always objective and adhere to the official standard for the giant schnauzer breed. I will not promote any dogs, bloodlines, or specific kennels – especially not my own. Nor will I disparage or endorse specific breeders or individual dogs. I understand that failure to fulfill the terms of this agreement could result in disciplinary actions ranging from removal from the list of approved mentors up to and including suspension from the club.</i></p>				
Signature				Date	

Information Below Reserved for Use by Judge's Education Committee

JEC Interview Participants		Date	
Applicant	Check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> GSCA Member <input type="checkbox"/> AKC Judge <input type="checkbox"/> Handler <input type="checkbox"/> Breeder		
Criteria 1	Groomed, conditioned, and handled at least 5 giants to championships	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Criteria 2	Exhibits breed knowledge in discussions of the breed standard	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Criteria 3	Demonstrates knowledge of following and passes all associated AKC tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of the breed Original function of the breed Relationship between function and structure of breed ABC's of Canine Anatomy Course for Judges Giant Schnauzer Breed Exam 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Criteria 4	Understands breed specific judging procedures	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Criteria 5	Judged a Sweepstakes event at a GSCA specialty	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Criteria 6	Attended a GSCA sponsored seminar for Judge's Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
GSCA Members	Member of club for at least 15 years and in good standing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
AKC Judges	Approved to judge breed for >= 5 years and has judged >=1 major entries	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Handlers	Shown giants (multiple) for >= 10 years and satisfies Criteria 1-6 above	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Recommendation from JEC	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant meets the requirements and JEC recommends their approval <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant does not meet requirements and/or JEC does not recommend approval		
Board Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Not approved	Date

A signed copy of the completed application and agreement must be kept electronically by the JEC