

The Constitution



GSDBA

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The Constitution of the German Shepherd Dog Breeders Association (GSDBA)

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the German Shepherd Dog Breeders Association (GSDBA), inspired by our shared love for the German Shepherd breed and our dedication to its preservation, hereby establish this comprehensive constitution. Acknowledging the specific challenges and opportunities associated with canine activities in Nigeria and recognising our affiliation with the Canine Owners and Breeders Association (COBA), Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI), and World Union of German Shepherd Clubs (WUSV), this constitution delineates the principles and regulations governing our organisation.

Article I: Name and Affiliation

- I.1 The name of this organisation shall be the German Shepherd Dog Breeders Association (GSDBA).
- I.2 GSDBA is affiliated with the Canine Owners and Breeders Association (COBA), and the National Kennel Club in Nigeria, and is recognised by the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) and the World Union of German Shepherd Clubs (WUSV).
- I.3 GSDBA is registered as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Nigeria.
- I.4 GSDBA Board is the Breed Council.

Article II: Objectives

- II.1 To promote the responsible breeding, welfare, and well-being of German Shepherds in Nigeria, considering the unique environmental, social, and economic factors of the region.
- II.2 To uphold and enhance the breed standards as defined by WUSV and FCI, integrating local considerations where applicable.
- II.3 To foster collaboration and mutual support among GSDBA members, COBA, and other relevant national and international canine organisations.
- II.4 To conduct educational programmes and awareness campaigns tailored to the specific needs of the Nigerian community, encouraging responsible dog ownership and breed preservation.
- II.5 To facilitate training sessions for members, handlers, and judges, ensuring a high level of competence and expertise within the GSDBA community.
- II.6 To manage the financial resources of the organisation transparently and efficiently, ensuring the sustainability of GSDBA activities.
- II.7 To promote interest in, and facilitate the development and improvement of, the German Shepherd Dog breed throughout Nigeria.
- II.8 To foster understanding and appreciation among owners and the general public regarding the outstanding characteristics and usefulness of the breed.
- II.9 To strive for the elimination of, or controls on the inferior GSD importation or unethical keeping, and breeding of German Shepherd Dogs in Nigeria.

- II.10 To encourage the establishment and growth of OG and LG clubs and similar organisations dedicated to the advancement of the German Shepherd Dog and the welfare of owners, while promoting their affiliation with the Association as constituent bodies.
- II.11 To establish a national body capable of representing the breed's interests nationally and acting on behalf of the Constituent Bodies, either collectively or individually.
- II.12 To seek recognition from the National Kennel in Nigeria (i.e., The Canine Owner and Breeders Association – COBA) and, upon recognition, abide by the Rules, Regulations, and Constitution enforced by the COBA.
- II.13 The association is a charity hence, it is a non-profit making Association.

Article III: Membership and Eligibility

- III.1 Membership in GSDBA is open to individuals, kennels, and organisations actively engaged in the breeding, training, and exhibition of German Shepherds in Nigeria.
- III.2 Members must adhere to the ethical guidelines and standards set forth by GSDBA, WUSV, FCI and COBA.
- III.3 Membership fees and other financial obligations shall be determined by the GSDBA Board and communicated to the members annually.

Section 1: Membership

There shall be three (3) types of membership in an unlimited number.

- a) **Regular Membership:** Eligibility requires a person to be eighteen (18) years of age or older, in good standing with the COBA, and shall subscribe to the Objects of the Association. Upon acceptance, members must abide by the Association's By-Laws, the Association's Membership Code of Conduct, and the rules and regulations of the COBA. Regular Membership due is set at N20,000 naira per annum.
- b) **Breeder Membership:** Eligibility requires a person to be a breeder and subscribe to the Objects of the Association and will have all the rights as a Regular Member. In addition, the Breeder member can register only one Kennel Name associated with its name and is allowed to birth notify litters. The breeder who is named as the main kennel owner is eligible to serve on committees. Breeder Membership due is set at N50,000 naira per annum.
- c) **Lifetime Membership:** Regular members with forty (40) consecutive years of membership qualify. Lifetime members are exempt from paying dues but are eligible to vote and hold office.

Section 2: Membership Dues

- a) Member dues must be paid in advance, due on or before the first day of January each year, Starting from January 1st, 2024. The Association's annual dues shall be set by the GSDBA Board. Members with unpaid dues for the current year shall not be entitled to vote on any Association business.

Section 3: Application for and Election to Membership from 2024

- a) **Membership Application:** Applicants shall complete the form provided by GSDBA agreeing to abide by the Association's By-Laws and the rules of the COBA. Prospective members must submit payment for the Association's current year's dues with their application to the Membership Chairperson. The application form requires

endorsement by two GSDBA members. The names of applicants will be published in The German Shepherd Dog Review (“Review”) after application receipt. Applicants will be notified upon application receipt. Within sixty (60) days of Review publication, applicants will receive a letter granting all Association privileges unless objections are filed. Written objections must be submitted within thirty (30) days from publication. In the case of an objection, the application will be put on hold for prompt investigation by the Membership Chairperson. A report will be submitted to the Board within forty-five (45) days for their consideration at the next scheduled Board meeting.

- b) Board Vote: If objections arise, a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the executives present at a Board meeting will be required for membership approval. Voting on membership applications shall be conducted in a secret online poll.

Section 4: Benefits, Activities and Events for GSDBA Members

1. GSDBA Breeders Support:

- a) GSDBA Breeders are the foundation of the ecosystem and, thus responsible for breeding and raising quality dogs. GSDBA members must contribute to the gene pool, uphold breed standards, and focus on improving the breed's health and temperament. The GSDBA will assist members in achieving this goal.
- b) GSDBA will provide a network of GSDBA members with SV/FCI breeders around the world.
- c) GSDBA will work to ensure transparency in dealing with members across the country and also pass on arranged discounts/preferred rates to its members.

2. GSDBA-certified and or approved Veterinarians across the country

- a) GSDBA-certified and or approved Veterinarians will play a crucial role in the care and health maintenance of dogs. Active members will get discounted/preferred rates on provided medical care, vaccinations, advice on breeding-related health concerns, and help with genetic health testing.
- b) GSDBA members now have access at a discounted/preferred rate for HD/ED testing as well as DNA profile diagnostics.
- c) GSDBA Health Clinics: GSDBA will organise health clinics offering discounted veterinary services, vaccinations, microchipping, and GSD breed-specific health screenings for members in different regions of the country.

3. Nutritionists Consultations

- a) Nutritionists specialise in creating balanced diets for dogs. As GSD are the greater all-rounder GSDBA members will get advice on proper nutrition, feeding schedules, supplements, and specific dietary requirements for different life stages and health conditions.
- b) GSDBA will facilitate GSD Nutritionists to provide routine Webinars and consultancy for GSDBA members.

4. Food Suppliers for GSDBA Members

- a) A variety of dog foods, catering to different dietary needs, such as puppy food, adult maintenance, senior diets, and specialised nutrition for health issues at preferred rates to active GSDBA Members.

- b) Supplier of livestock, Eggs/ Chicken parts / Rabbit for GSDBA members for additional protein at a preferred rate.

5. Healthcare Suppliers

- a) Many suppliers offer a range of health-related products such as supplements, medications, grooming products, flea and tick preventatives, shampoos, and other healthcare essentials at a preferred rate for active GSDBA members.
- b) GSDBA members will benefit from the distributorship of specialist healthcare for its members.

6. Trainers and Behaviourists:

- a) Trainers and behaviourists provide training and behavioural support to ensure the dogs are well-behaved, socialised, and trained for specific roles like working, service, or show for GSDBA active members.
- b) GSDBA members will have access to recommended trainers for all SV training requirements for shows and trials at discounted/preferred rates by recommended trainers.

7. Local, Regional, National and International Shows/Events

- a) GSDBA members will have access to all SV, COBA/FCI and GSDBA Speciality shows.
- b) Conformation Shows: GSDBA will organise and allow GSDBA members to participate in conformation shows to evaluate GSDs against the breed standard, promoting healthy and well-structured dogs.
- c) Obedience Trials: GSDBA will arrange obedience trials and competitions to showcase the intelligence, training and discipline of GSDs where GSDBA members can participate.
- d) Working Dog Events: GSDBA will host working dog events like agility trials, herding tests, protection work demonstrations, and tracking trials to highlight the breed's versatility which GSDBA members can participate.
- e) Collaborative Events: Collaborate with other dog breed clubs, animal shelters, and local businesses to host joint events, raising awareness about GSDs and promoting positive interactions.
- f) Junior Handler Events: GSDBA will organise events specifically for junior handlers to encourage the next generation's involvement in dog showing and responsible dog ownership.
- g) Community Outreach Programs: GSDBA will engage in community outreach by participating in local events, fairs, and schools to educate the public about GSDs and responsible pet ownership.
- h) Fun Events and Playdates: GSDBA will organise fun events like picnics, playdates, and dog-friendly outings to strengthen the bond between club members and their GSDs.

8. Judges in Training:

- a) Judges evaluate the dogs based on breed standards and performance criteria. GSDBA member who wishes to become GSD judges has a chance to become SV and or GSD FCI Judges.

9. GSDBA Operations:

- a) GSDBA members nominated into committees can move into management to oversee the administrative aspects, including registration of dogs, maintaining breed standards, organising events, supporting breed-specific initiatives, and voting for decisions.

10. Access to specific Pet Shops and Retailers:

- a) These pet shops and retailers provide pet supplies, accessories, grooming products, toys, and other essentials at a discounted/preferred rate for GSDBA members.

11. Online Communities and Forums:

- a) These online communities and forums serve as platforms for knowledge-sharing, discussions, and networking among breeders, trainers, veterinarians, and dog enthusiasts (i.e. All social media and OTT platforms). GSDBA members would have access to these platforms.

12. Educational Workshops & Breeder Seminars

- a) GSDBA will conduct workshops and seminars on GSD care, training techniques, canine health, and responsible breeding practices for GSDBA members.
- b) Breeder Seminars: GSDBA will host seminars for breeders focusing on advanced breeding techniques, genetic health testing, and ethical breeding practices to improve the breed's overall quality for its members.
- c) Breed-Specific Training Classes: GSDBA will offer breed-specific training classes focusing on GSD characteristics, temperament, and specialised training needs for its members.
- d) Canine First Aid Workshops: GSDBA will conduct canine first aid and CPR workshops to educate dog owners on essential emergency care techniques for their GSDs.

13. Responsible Ownership Campaigns:

- a) GSDBA will launch campaigns promoting responsible dog ownership, including proper training, socialisation, nutrition, and exercise for GSDs
- b) GSDBA will raise awareness about GSDs through campaigns, social media, and community events to dispel myths and promote understanding of the breed.

14. Rescue and Adoption Drives:

- a) GSDBA will collaborate with rescue organisations to organise adoption drives, foster programs, and fundraising events to support GSD rescue efforts.

15. Dog/Puppy Scheme Programs:

- a) Establish Dog/Puppy programs where well-trained SV GSDs are purchased for participating members or OG managed by GSDBA.

16. Pet insurance for GSDBA members:

- a) Health Coverage: Pet insurance typically covers veterinary expenses for accidents, illnesses, and injuries. For German Shepherd Dog owners, this coverage could be

invaluable given the breed's susceptibility to certain health issues like hip dysplasia, digestive problems, or skin conditions.

- b) **Financial Support:** It helps alleviate the financial burden of unexpected medical costs. Treatment for serious health conditions or injuries can be costly, and having insurance can help members afford necessary care without compromising their pet's well-being.
- c) **Choice of Care:** With the Pet insurance, scheme, members may have the flexibility to choose the best treatment options for their German Shepherd Dogs without worrying about high costs. This includes specialised treatments, surgeries, or medications.
- d) **Preventive Care:** Pet insurance plans offer coverage for preventive care such as vaccinations, annual check-ups, and routine care. Preventive measures are vital for maintaining the health and well-being of German Shepherd Dogs.
- e) **Peace of Mind:** Pet insurance provides peace of mind, ensuring that members can provide necessary medical care for their dogs without financial stress. Knowing they their coverage can encourage prompt medical attention when needed.
- f) **Tailored Plans:** Pet insurance companies offer customisable plans that allow members to tailor coverage to their specific needs, including coverage for genetic conditions common in German Shepherds.
- g) **Emergency Care:** German Shepherd Dogs can be prone to accidents due to their active nature. Insurance can cover emergency treatments, surgeries, or hospital stays resulting from accidents.
- h) **Long-Term Care:** For chronic conditions or ongoing treatments, Pet insurance can provide continuous coverage, ensuring that the German Shepherd Dog receives consistent care over time.
- i) **Supportive Services:** Pet insurance plans offer additional services like helplines, behavioural therapy coverage, or alternative therapies that may benefit German Shepherd Dogs.

20. A classified site/pages dedicated to the GSDBA members can offer various advantages:

- a) Members can have classified pages where GSDBA dogs are put on sale. The public will access, and breeders and buyers will abide by GSDBA terms and conditions.
- b) **Targeted Audience:** It provides a platform exclusively for GSDBA members, allowing them to connect with a niche audience interested in German Shepherd Dogs. This targeted approach increases the chances of reaching potential buyers, sellers, or individuals seeking specific information about the breed.
- c) **Facilitates Transactions:** Members can list puppies, dogs, or related items for sale or adoption, making it easier for them to reach a focused audience actively seeking German Shepherds. Likewise, potential buyers can find specific types of German Shepherd Dogs or related products more efficiently.
- d) **Networking and Collaboration:** It fosters a community spirit among GSDBA members by facilitating networking opportunities. Breeders, trainers, and enthusiasts can connect, share experiences, exchange knowledge, and collaborate on various aspects related to German Shepherd Dogs.
- e) **Information Sharing:** It serves as an information hub where members can share resources, articles, tips, and advice related to breeding, training, healthcare, grooming, or other topics specific to German Shepherds. This can be valuable for both seasoned breeders and newcomers to the breed.

- f) Promotion of Services: Members, such as breeders, trainers, or veterinarians affiliated with GSDBA, can promote their services or facilities exclusively to a targeted audience interested in German Shepherd Dogs.
- g) Showcasing Accredited Breeders: The site can feature listings of accredited breeders or kennels associated with GSDBA, providing credibility and trust to potential buyers looking for reputable sources.
- h) Enhanced Visibility: GSDBA members can gain increased visibility for their services or products within a specialised community, potentially attracting more interest and clientele.
- i) Centralised Platform: It serves as a centralised platform for all things related to German Shepherd Dogs within the GSDBA community, making it convenient for members to access information, resources, and opportunities in one place.

21. Privileges of Membership

- a) The right to representation at Association meetings and voting on all motions under consideration.
- b) The right to nominate candidates for any office within the Association.
- c) The opportunity for Constituent Bodies and their financial members to compete for prizes or trophies is offered by the Association.
- d) The entitlement to seek assistance, advice, or information related to German Shepherd Dogs from the Association.

Section 5: Governance and Board of Trustees Structure, The Breed Council, The Executives.

- 5.1 GSDBA shall be governed by the executives. The executives, comprising of appointed individuals and elected officials, hold the overarching responsibility for upholding the public trust, ensuring the association aligns with community needs, maintaining ethical practices, and meeting legal requirements. Serving as the governing body, the executives safeguard the best interests of stakeholders in all facets of management decisions and operational activities within the association.
- 5.2 The Board of Trustees shall comprise of three (3) members of the Association. All Board of Trustees must maintain continuous good standing membership during their service. They are the legal custodians of the association.
- 5.3 The Breed Council shall appoint the position of the President, Secretary and Treasurer. Eligibility for nominations requires at least one (1) term as an executive or other leadership position within the association.
- 5.4 The other officer(s) shall be elected by the general membership through a transparent and democratic process, with a term limit of five (5) years for each position. These elected positions include a Vice President, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, and additional members as necessary.
- 5.5 The officers shall meet regularly to discuss and decide upon matters concerning GSDBA operations, in adherence to the principles of accountability and inclusivity.
- 5.6 The officers shall act in the best interest of GSDBA, ensuring the organisation's objectives and values are upheld.
- 5.7 The Breed Council is a council of equals appointed by the Board of Trustees that oversees the advisory of the GSDBA.
- 5.8 There may be a Patron and a Grand Patron. Once appointed the Patron and or Grand Patron shall remain in office at the pleasure of the Association or until resignation.

Section 5b: Commission

A Commission is a formal body or group established to oversee a specific area or task within the breed club.

- a) OG Commission
- b) National Breed Commission
- c) Judges Commission

Section 5c: Committee

A Committee is also a group within the club but tends to be more operational or administrative. Committees are usually formed to handle specific ongoing tasks or functions.

- a) Shows & Trials Committee
- b) Ethics Committee
- c) Media Committee
- d) Welfare Committee

Section 6: Executives

1. There shall be a COBA Nominee appointed to the executive of the Association.
2. The Executives of the Association shall consist of the following appointed and elected positions:
 - a) President*
 - b) Vice President
 - c) Secretary*
 - d) Assistance Secretary
 - e) Treasurer *
 - f) Assistance Treasurer
 - g) COBA Nominee *
3. An officer may seek re-election at the end of their term.

Section 6a : Roles & Responsibilities of Executives

The Executive body shall manage and direct the Association's affairs between scheduled meetings in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Constitution.

- a) **President:** The President presides over all Association and Board meetings, holding duties typical of the office and those specified in the By-Laws. They are ex-officio members of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- b) **Vice President:** In the absence, incapacity, or death of the President, the Vice President assumes their duties and office in an acting capacity pending the appointment by the GSDBA Board.
- c) **Secretary:** Responsible for recording minutes of Association and Board meetings, providing copies to Board members as prescribed, and fulfilling other duties per the By-Laws or Board instructions. The Secretary also manages Association correspondence, notifies members and Executives of meetings and election results, maintains membership records, and fulfils other duties as stipulated.
- d) **Treasurer:** Requires a minimum of five (5) years of professional accounting or equivalent experience. Responsible for collecting the Association funds, depositing

them in an approved depository, managing expenditures authorised by the Board, and maintaining transparent financial records open to Board inspection. Reports Association finances at each meeting and provides a detailed annual financial report at the Annual Meeting. Manages membership records and may appoint a designee, subject to Board approval.

Section 7: Terms of Office

- 7.1 The tenure of the Executive of the Association is outlined as follows: The President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and the COBA Nominee shall serve a term of five (5) years. The Chairman of the National Breed Commission and Chairman of the Obedience Sub-Committee serve for two (2) years.
- During their tenure, any member of the Executive of the Association may nominate themselves for any vacant position but can only hold one elected position. Such nomination does not require an incumbent to resign from their current position. If unsuccessful in the election, the member continues to serve the remainder of their term. If elected to another position, the member automatically resigns from their previous position and continues to serve the remainder term of the new position.
- 7.2 Each candidate for office must be a financial member of GSDBA and an active member of the OG in the State or Territory where they reside. They must be proposed by an affiliate in the prescribed form, signed by the candidate, and delivered to the Secretary no later than 14 weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.3 If no written nominations are received as per Clause 7.1, oral nominations seconded orally by another delegate that complies with Clause 7.2 and consented to by the candidate may be made at the Annual General Meeting. An executive is eligible for re-election.
- 7.4 A Board of Trustees of the Association shall be appointed in accordance with the CAC.
- 7.5 No executive of the Association shall receive remuneration for their services. However, the Association may pay sums to any employee for clerical or other services rendered to the Association.
- 7.6 Each executive shall vacate their office under the following circumstances:
- a) Cease to be a financial member of the GSDBA or the OG in their State or Territory of residence.
 - b) Written resignation.
 - c) Bankruptcy, suspension of payment, agreement with creditors, or making an assignment for the benefit of creditors.
 - d) Absence from more than two consecutive Association meetings without the consent or ratification of the Association.
 - e) A resolution passed by a two-thirds majority vote at a duly convened GSDBA Board meeting declaring the office vacant in Section 8.
 - f) The OG they represent becomes unfinanceable.
 - g) Disqualification or suspension by the OG in their State or Territory of residence.
 - h) Convicted of any fraudulent or criminal offence in any country.

Vacancies, other than the President, Secretary and Treasurer may be temporarily filled by the Chairman of the National Breed Commission until the next Annual General Meeting. Temporary officers will have all the rights and privileges of elected officers and assume all responsibilities. If a vacancy occurs in the first year of the term, nominations will be called for an election at the next Annual General Meeting by secret ballot to elect an executive for the remainder term.

Section 8: Suspension of Executive

The GSDBA Board is empowered to review the performance of each of the executives at the end of each service year and suspend or dismiss any Executive if, in its opinion, such action is in the best interest of the Association. However, before suspension or dismissal, the Executive in question must be promptly notified of the decision and the reasons behind it. The Executive shall have the right to present their case to the Association regarding the actions taken against them.

Section 9: Vacancies.

Any vacancies occurring among the elected Executive positions. If no additional names, or an insufficient number of names, were on the ballot in addition to those elected, the vacancy or vacancies shall be filled by the GSDBA Board. In case of a tie vote for a place on the election ballot, the GSDBA Board shall break the tie.

- a) Executive positions that become vacant after the election shall be selected by the GSDBA Board. A person filling such vacancy shall serve the remaining term of the person so replaced. Executives, Commission and Committee Chairs shall turn over all Association records to their replacement within one (1) month to ensure the continuity of the position.
- b) Executives must notify the President or the Corresponding Secretary if unable to attend an Executive meeting. No Executive who has more than two (2) unexcused absences during his or her current term of office shall be eligible for election to a successive term.

Section 10: The Association Credentials.

Use of the Association stationery, past or present, or logos and insignia of the GSDBA, by any persons other than current executives and members of the GSDBA Board or anyone specifically authorised by the GSDBA Board, is prohibited. Also restricted is the use of such stationery for any purposes other than the official business of this Association.

Section 11: Security Bond

Any Executive, Association member, or other person handling substantial Association funds shall furnish a security bond in such amount as may be determined by the GSDBA Board the expense of such bond to be borne by the Association.

Section 12: Conflict of Interest Policy.

The Association has adopted a Conflict-of-Interest Policy affecting Executives and certain Commission or Committee Chairpersons under the requirement of provisions of the Nigeria Non-Profit statutes.

Section 13: Sub-Committees

- 13.1 The Association may establish committees as necessary to investigate particular matters and require them to report back to the Association.
- 13.2 The President and Secretary shall be considered ex-officio members of all committees.

Article IV: Relationship with COBA

- IV.1 GSDBA acknowledges COBA as the National Kennel Club in Nigeria, respecting its role as the custodian of the national canine studbook.
- IV.2 GSDBA will collaborate with COBA for the issuance of separate pedigree certificates for dogs belonging to the FCI and WUSV studbooks, ensuring adherence to international standards while accommodating local requirements.
- IV.3 GSDBA members participating in shows/events will comply with the regulations stipulated by COBA, respecting the integrity of the national canine community.

Article V: Shows and Events

- V.1 GSDBA will organise and participate in dog shows and events, aligning with the standards and guidelines specified by WUSV and FCI, while also considering the cultural and logistical aspects unique to Nigeria.
- V.2 GSDBA will encourage its members to participate in both national and international shows actively, showcasing the breed's excellence and quality, while promoting a positive image of Nigerian canine enthusiasts globally.

Article VI: Amendments

- VI.1 Amendments to this constitution can be proposed by any member in good standing, considering the evolving needs and challenges faced by the Nigerian canine community.
- VI.2 Proposed amendments will be discussed and voted upon by the membership, requiring a two-thirds majority for approval, ensuring collective decision-making and representation of diverse perspectives subject to final approval by the GSDBA Board.
- VI.3 The GSDBA Board reserves the right to waive any subscription, charge, or fee if deemed in the best interest of the Association's aims and objectives. However, such a waiver shall not impact the rights and privileges of the affected member.

Article VII: Finance

- VII.1 The Association's financial year shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December annually.
- VII.2 Annual subscriptions are due and payable in advance by 1 January each year.
- VII.3 Constituent Bodies failing to settle their annual subscriptions within two months from the due date shall be considered un-financed. They may forfeit all rights and privileges as a Constituent Body, subject to the Association's discretion **under clause in Article VI.3.**
- VII.4 The assets and income of the Association shall be utilized exclusively to further its objectives. No part shall be distributed, directly or indirectly, to its members except as genuine compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Association.

- VII.5 All funds belonging to the Association shall be deposited in a recognised bank account in the Association's name.
- VII.6 All expenditures shall be approved upon review by the Executives.
- VII.7 Account payable shall be made via cheque or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), requiring signatures from a member of the GSDBA Board and the following executives: President, Treasurer.

Article VIII: Auditor and Balance Sheet

- VIII.1 An Auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting and shall serve until the subsequent Annual General Meeting. The Auditor shall not be an Association Executive or a Public Officer of the Association. Moreover, any person with an interest in an Association transaction is ineligible for appointment as an Auditor. Their role involves auditing the Association's books and certifying the annual financial statement.
- VIII.2 Within one month after the preparation of the annual financial statement and balance sheet, the Public Officer of the Association shall submit a certified copy of these documents, verified by the Auditor, to the Registrar

Article IX: Register of Constituent Bodies

The Association shall maintain a register of Constituent Bodies.

Article X: Common Seal

- X.1 The common seal of the association shall remain in the custody of the secretary.

Article XI: Custody of Books

Subject to the CAMA Act 2020, the Regulations of CAC, and this constitution, the secretary shall be responsible for keeping all records, books, and other documents related to the association in their custody or under their control.

Article XII: Inspection of Books

The records, books, and other documents of the association shall be available for inspection, free of charge, by any member of the association at the GSDBA secretariat during working hours.

Article XIII: Annual General Meeting

Section 1: Annual General Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held in 1st October of each year. If possible. The time and location are to be designated by the Board. Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be mailed or sent by email, or in any manner prescribed by the laws of Nigeria, to members of the Association by the Secretary at least ninety (90) days before such meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be two-thirds of the membership in good standing :

- a) Confirmation of the minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- b) Consideration of membership applications.
- c) Receipt of the President's and Secretary's reports on the year's activities.

- d) Receipt of a report, balance sheet, and statement of accounts from the Treasurer for the preceding financial year, as well as an estimate of the current financial year's receipts and expenditures.
- e) Receipt of the Auditor's report.
- f) Receipt and consideration of written reports and financial statements from Constituent Bodies.
- g) Receipt and consideration of reports from any committees appointed by the Association.
- h) Election of officers of the Association herein, and the Auditor.
- i) Determination of the scale of annual subscriptions, charges, entrance, and other fees to be paid by Constituent Bodies in the succeeding financial year.
- j) Consideration of any other business for which notice has been given by a Constituent Body or the President not less than 14 weeks before the meeting.
- k) Consideration of any business for which notice has been given by the Chairperson of the National Breed Commission Meeting, Judges Committee Meeting, and Obedience Committee Meeting not less than fourteen (14) weeks before the meeting, restricted to formal motions carried at these committee meetings of The German Shepherd Dog Breeders Association (GSDBA) Nigeria; and
- l) Consideration of any other business submitted to the meeting.

Items not on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting, which have not been circulated to member associations for discussion and on which delegates are not mandated to vote, can only be added to the agenda if delegates decide to do so.

Decisions made at the Annual General Meeting on any such additional item shall not take effect unless confirmed by the member Association within 60 days of the AGM (or 30 were deemed appropriate).

Section 2: Order of Business

At the Annual Meeting, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

- (a) Roll Call
- (b) Minutes of Last Meeting
- (c) Report of President
- (d) Report of Secretaries
- (e) Membership Application Review
- (f) Report of Treasurer
- (g) Report of Committees
- (h) Election of Executives
- (i) Unfinished Business
- (j) New Business
- (k) Adjournment

Section 3: Special Meeting of the Association

A Special Meeting of the Association shall be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the GSDBA Board who are present at a meeting of the Board, or by a majority of the Board who vote for such meeting by mail and/or email, or in any manner prescribed by the laws of Nigeria.

- a) Special meetings of the Association called by the President or by a majority vote of the GSDBA Board shall be held within forty-five (45) days of such call.
- b) A Special Meeting of the Association shall be called by the Corresponding Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five hundred (500) members of the Association who are in good standing, such meeting to be held within forty-five (45) days of the receipt of the petition. All such meetings shall be held at a time and place designated by the Board. Notice of such meeting shall be delivered by mail and/or email, or in any manner prescribed by the laws of Nigeria, by the Corresponding Secretary to the membership at least fourteen (14) days, and no more than twenty-five (25) days, before the meeting. The notice of such meeting shall state the purpose or purposes of the meeting, and no other Association business may be transacted. The quorum for such a meeting is one hundred fifty (150) members of the Association in good standing.

Section 4: Regular Meeting

Regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the last full weekend of Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 and the day following the National Specialty Show. In the event of an emergency, the GSDBA Board may change the date of the meeting by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the GSDBA Board. Notice of the dates and locations of such meetings shall be delivered by mail and/or email, or any manner prescribed by the laws of Nigeria, by the Corresponding Secretary to each member of the GSDBA Board at least twenty (20) days before the date of the meeting. A quorum for all GSDBA Board Meetings shall be two-third (2/3) of GSDBA Board members.

Meetings are defined as gatherings where attendees see and/or hear each other. This includes meeting (in person) "physically" in the same room or conducting a meeting by video conference or teleconference (including disciplinary hearings) or by any method prescribed by the laws of Nigeria. Items voted on by any method other than in-person meetings must be confirmed in writing by the Corresponding Secretary within seven (7) days of such meeting. For GSDBA Board meetings to be conducted by email, video conference or teleconference (including disciplinary hearings).

1. Every GSDBA board member must be provided with the means to participate.
2. A procedure must be in place to verify the identity of the individuals participating to ensure that they are eligible board members.
3. A mechanism must be in place to verify that the eligible board members are "listening".
4. All GSDBA board members must agree to participate in this manner in writing.

Section 5: Quorum

At any Association meeting, a quorum shall consist of two-thirds of members in good standing.

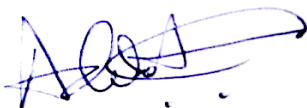
Article XIV: Withdrawal of Membership

A member may withdraw from the Association by providing a written notice of not less than six months to the Secretary. Upon withdrawal, the member forfeits all financial claims on the Association.


Article XV: Dissolution

- XV.1 In the event of dissolution, GSDBA assets shall be transferred to a registered animal welfare organisation in Nigeria, as decided by the majority vote of the members, emphasising our commitment to the broader welfare of animals in our community.
- XV.2 This section outlines the process for amending the By-Laws and the Standards of the German Shepherd Dog:
1. Approval Requirement: To ratify any proposed amendment, a favourable vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing, whose ballots are returned within the stipulated time, is necessary.
 2. Effective Date: Any amendment approved by the Association doesn't become effective until it's been approved by the Board of Trustees of COBA.

Adopted this day of Friday, 12th January 2024 by the GSDBA Breed Council and signed into effect by



Adebo Odusina
Chairman BOT, GSDBA



Olufemi Alabi
Secretary BOT, GSDBA



Omoniyi Eweete
Secretary BOT, COBA