GREAT DANE CLUB OF AMERICA TOP TWENTY RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. General

Purpose: To encourage the showing of Great Danes in conformation classes and to provide an educational experience for judges, exhibitors, breeders, and fanciers. This event will provide a celebration of those Great Danes with the most outstanding records. It will also provide incentive to strive for Great Danes that excel instructure, intelligence, type, and soundness. **This is an invitational event for the Great Danes that finish in the Top Twenty AKC breed standings for the previous year.**

The uniqueness of the event: The event offers all who attend a chance to view "The Cream of the Crop."

- Using the scale of points, each dog is evaluated according to how closely it conforms to the Breed Standard. This procedure is not available at any point show and allows the spectator the opportunity to evaluate the dogs, scoring them while they are being judged.
- The dogs are observed from a positive approach, individually. They are never to be fault judged.
- The event is educational, promoting discussion of the Standard and encouraging the exchange of ideas.

GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator: This position will be a standing position selected by the GDCA President. This position will enable smooth operations of all tasks that will be performed by the position. The GDCA TopTwenty Coordinator may not show in the Top Twenty or judge the Top Twenty. The GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator may choose a co-coordinator to assist with the event. The GDCA Top Twenty Co- Coordinator may not show in the Top Twenty or judge the Top Twenty.

The Coordinator will be responsible for:

1. Receiving the listing of qualified Great Danes from the Top Twenty Statistician and submitting this list to the GDCA President for review prior to notification of participants.

2. Updating of all Top Twenty forms:

- To identify the current Division Logo and Theme.
- Names and addresses of owners as required.
- Identify the name and address of the CPA selected by the GDCA and update the Top Twenty Judges Nomination form.

3. All forms must be returned to the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator except for the Judge's Nomination Form which will be returned to the designated CPA.

4. Preparing and sending the initial Top Twenty Notification packet to the primary owner(s) of record for each entrant identified in thereport submitted by the Top Twenty Statistician. An email will be sent to all owners notifying them of the Top Twenty Notification.

5. Working with the GDCA Division Top Twenty Liaison.

6. Working with the GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator to ensure a consistent event from year to year.

7. The catalog will be produced professionally. The catalogs will be delivered directly to the Top Twenty Coordinator to ensure confidentiality.

8. Ensure that there is a short training session for judges and handlers the afternoon before judging.

9. Select the entrant rosettes and the Top Twenty Winner rosette. Top Twenty rosettes will be purchased-from a purveyor approved by the GDCA Board of Directors.

10. Ensure that the judge's contract includes a statement letting them know that their comments and scores will be identified. The judges will be identified as: Judge #1 - AKC Multi-Breed Judge, Judge #2 - Great Dane Breeder Judge, and Judge #3 - Handler Judge.

Judges: A meeting will be held late in the afternoon on the day of the event in a discreet room within the Host hotel with the Judges,Stewards, Announcer, the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator, GDCA Division Top Twenty Liaison and the GDCA President. Dinner will be served at this meeting and those attending will have adequate time to return to their rooms and dress for the event. The Hosting Division will be responsible for this dinner.

During this meeting, instructions for the event and paperwork will be covered in depth and shall include:

- Reviewing of the score sheet.
- Ensure that no area is marked with a zero.
- Reviewing the procedure for correcting an error on their score sheet, by drawing a line through the error,redo and initial at the time of correction.
- Ring procedure will be discussed, and judging order confirmed as follows: Judge #1 First, Judge #2 Second and Judge #3 Third.
- Asking the Handler to examine the dog a second time if needed.
- Asking the Handler to move the dog a second time if needed.
- Reviewing the announcement of the Top Twenty with the Announcer.

Owners: A meeting will be held at a specified time and location during the afternoon of the Top Twenty competition. Owners of record as of December 31 of the year the contender qualified for Top Twenty will be required to attend this meeting which will be run by the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator. Any owner that was added after the qualifying year will not be allowed to attend this meeting. Seating arrangements for the event will be reviewed. The Announcer is requested to attend this meeting to review the correct pronunciations of owners', handlers', and entrants' names.

Handlers: A meeting will be held at a specific time and location other than the ring the afternoon of the Top Twenty competition. This meeting is for Handlers only; no others may attend. This meeting will be run by the GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator and instructions for the event will be reviewed in detail. Handlers will blind draw for competition order. Armbands will be handed out at this time. No dog's order may be changed for any reason. All dogs must compete in the order drawn. Handlers of bitches in season should notifythe Top 20 Committee so that the bitch may be held in an alternate area, when available, as to not disrupt other competitors. Any dog missing its assigned order will be deemed withdrawn from the competition.

GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator: This position will be a standing position selected by the GDCA President. This position will be responsible for the direction and production of the Top Twenty event,commencing 30 minutes prior to the event and through to its conclusion. The Top Twenty Production Coordinator will work directly with the Top Twenty Coordinator.

T**he Production Coordinator will be responsible for:**

1. Securing sound/lighting vendor for the event.

2. Sending out initial individual email to each qualifying dog's primary owner at least three months prior to the event (July) requesting a primary and secondary song choice. This personal song choice will be looped on a CD and will be played for the duration of individual competition of each dog. All music will be approved by the GDCA Top Twenty Production Committee.

3. Selecting the Announcer, Director, Chief Ring Steward, Ready Ring Steward, Inside Ring Steward and Scoresheet Runner. These individuals will comprise the Top Twenty Production Committee.

4. Directing the Pre-Top Twenty Handler's meeting held on the afternoon of the event at a separate locationfrom the show ring.

5. Developing and distributing a Production Schedule that includes Set-Up and Rehearsal responsibilities, dates, times, and locations.

6. Ensure that ballots and a ballot box, Award Plaque and rosette are in place for the GDCA Top Twenty People's Choice Award.

7. The GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator may not exhibit at the Top Twenty or judge the Top Twenty.

GDCA Division Top Twenty Liaison will be a member of the GDCA and shall be appointed by the GDCA President with the approval of the GDCA Board of Directors. It is highly recommended that the person who serves in this position has some experience with the Top Twenty or that they have had experience on the Top Twenty committee. The GDCA Division Top Twenty Liaison will work closely with the GDCA Top Twenty National Coordinator and GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator to ensure that the approved format for the event is followed.

- The GDCA Division Top Twenty Liaison may not show in the Top Twenty or judge the Top Twenty.
- The GDCA Division Top Twenty Liaison and the GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator will be responsible for setting up the show ring, seating, display of Top Twenty posters and decorations for the Top Twenty event.
- The GDCA Division Top Twenty Liaison will work closely with the Division Chair to coordinate volunteers for the event.
- The GDCA Division Top Twenty Liaison will work closely with the various GDCA Top Twenty Coordinators and the individual Division Chairs to ensure that rooms for judges, meetings, and dinners are secured as required.

Top Twenty Statistician: Shall be appointed by the GDCA President to compile monthly tabulations ~~a~~nd provide the final year-end report to the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator no later than March 31st. Standings are based on Breed Points only.

Top Twenty Tabulation Committee: This committee shall be made up of the GDCA President, Treasurer and a GDCA Board Member. In the event any member of the Tabulation Committee has a dog in the Top Twenty or is otherwise unable to tabulate, the Top Twenty National Coordinator at their discretion may substitute any of the following alternates as a tabulator: the GDCA 1st or 2nd Vice President or any former GDCA Treasurer. These volunteers will receive a complimentary Top 20 Dinner ticket.

Top Twenty Winner's Posters: All available Top Twenty Winner posters will be on display at the expense of the GDCA. The posters will be set up and displayed at the National on the day of the event by the Top Twenty Committee. Posters will be displayed in order of calendar year, when possible, with

the most recent Winner displayed closest to the event location. By participating in this event, Owner(s) shall release all rights to the GDCA for the use of the photos for display. Poster size and display may change based on GDCA Board decisions. The Posters shall remain in place from the day of the Top 20 Event through Best of Breed judging.

2. Information and Guidelines

Statistics and Eligibility: **I**n addition to being named among the final Top Twenty Danes for conformation, all owners of record must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club and the GDCA to meet final eligibility requirements.

Top Twenty Standings:

All dogs, including any and all ties through the 20th position will be invited. Death of a Top Twenty candidate will not change the standings.

- Previous Top Twenty winners will maintain their ranking if they qualify again but will not be eligible to compete. All Past Top Twenty Winners will be invited to participate in a Celebration to be held at the beginning of the event.
- If any exhibitor is deemed ineligible for competition in the Top Twenty Event, the rank of that competitor will stand and only the remaining dogs will compete.
- There will only be 20 dogs invited to the Top 20 except and ONLY in the event of a tie at #20. In the event of a tie at #20 both dogs at #20 will be invited.

For example:
1.
2. (tie)
2. (tie)
4
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13. (tie)
13. (tie)
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.

The rankings will be listed in this manner. In the event of a tie in the ranking, the number after the tie jumps ahead...it does not follow numerically.

Initial Notification of Top Twenty Finalist: Upon receipt of the Top Twenty Statistician's list of the Top Twenty contenders and after review of same list by the GDCA President, the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator will send out a packet via U.S. Postal Service or via email if all email addresses are known

to the primary owner(s) of the Top Twenty Finalists, advising them of their qualification for the event. This will be done approximately six months prior to the event. The packet will include the following forms:

GDCA Top Twenty Entry Profile Sheet
GDCA Top Twenty Entry Order Form (additional Rosettes, Pins and Catalogs).
GDCA Top Twenty Judge Nomination Form (Judges Selection ballot)
GDCA Top Twenty Rules Acknowledgement Form
GDCA Top Twenty Final Standings

Completed forms will be returned via mail or email to the address that appears on the bottom of each form. All owners **MUST** sign that they have read, understand and will comply with **ALL** Top Twenty Rules that are listed on the GDCA website.

Conduct of Invitees:

1. All Top Twenty Invitees are expected to behave in a manner that upholds the dignity of the Top Twenty Event. The GDCA uses the AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility as a guide when conflicts are brought to our attention. This also includes any derisive comments on social media regarding the upcoming Event or the committee. The GDCA and the Top Twenty Committee work very hard to organize this event and deserve to be treated accordingly.

2. Any conduct prejudicial to the sport of dogs as outlined in AKC Code of Sportsmanship and Civility can jeopardize your participation, and fees that you have previously paid will be forfeited. This measure will only be implemented after a determination of improper conduct by the GDCA Board of Directors.

Top Twenty Entry Packet: The completed packet must be returned within forty-five (45) days of initial notification from the date set by the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator, but no later than June 1st. The portion of the Entry packet to be returned to the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator via U. S. Postal Service or email consists of:

- Entry Fee (Check or through the National Store) **Checks MUST be via U. S. Postal Service.**
- Completed Entry Profile Sheet via U. S. Postal Service or email.
- Completed Entry Order Form via U. S. Postal Service or email.

2. The following items may be emailed to the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator:
   - Completed Entry Profile Sheet
   - Completed Entry Order Form
   - Photo (must be at a minimum of 300 DPI resolution)
   - Pedigree
   - Top Twenty Contender Bio/Accolades.

3. The entry fee entitles each entrant to:
   - Four (4) reserved Owners ringside seats. (Bistro Tables for purchase will be optional and in lieu of 4 reserved Owner's seats).
   - Two (2) reserved Breeders seats in the second row.
   - One (1) Top Twenty Rosette
   - One (1) Top Twenty Sterling Silver Pin

- A two-page catalog spread.
- One (1) Top Twenty Catalog

4. Additional items such as rosettes, pins, etc. may be ordered at the time of entry with a deadline of June 1st. Only AKC awarded titles may appear on GDCA Top 20 Rosettes. **NOTE: If an eligible Top Twenty dog is not entered, the dog's photo and pedigree will not be published in the catalog, nor will rosettes or pins be available for purchase.**

5. All Top Twenty completed forms will be destroyed within 60 days of the event.

Past Top Twenty Winners:

1. All Past Top Twenty Winners who qualify again for the Top 20 are not eligible to compete but are eligible to participate in the Past Winners Celebration. This Celebration is held prior to the actual Top 20 competition.
2. When a past Winner qualifies again for the Top 20, The Top 20 invitation/entry packet will be sent. By virtue of qualifying again, they will pay the same entry fee and receive all related seating, pin, rosette, catalog spread and one catalog.
3. Past Winners who plan on participating in the Past Winners Celebration will send a bio to the GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator via Email by September 1st for inclusion in the Top 20 script.

Second Notification to Top Twenty Finalists: All entrants will be notified by email or other agreed upon method by the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator providing information regarding the schedule of events for the Top Twenty, including but not limited to:

- Owner's/Entrant's Meeting
- Handler's Meeting

Individual Top Twenty Entrants and All Past Top Twenty Winners Music Request Email: The GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator shall send out an e-mail to all Top Twenty entrants' owners and owners of past Top Twenty winners approximately three (3) months (July) prior to the event. This email will invite the owners to select a primary and secondary choice of music to be played during their dogs' individual competition in the ring. Each dog's "own" song will be burned onto a CD that will be looped to ensure continuous play during individual competition. The GDCA Production Coordinator will be responsible for the production of all CD music for the event.
The following criteria apply:

- The song **cannot** have anything to do with the dog's registered name, call name or indicate where the dog is from.
- No songs may be mixed.
- All music will be reviewed for content, and all music selections are subject to the approval of the GDCATop Twenty Production Committee.
- If the Owners do not provide a special song for the entrant, the GDCA Top Twenty Production Committee will choose a song for them.
- Email time stamps will determine first choices when two or more entrants choose the same song.
- The Top Twenty Winner's "own" song will be retired but may be used by that dog in future past TopTwenty Winners Celebrations.

Prizes: The first owner of record of the winner of the Top Twenty event will receive the Top Twenty Trophyand a gold Top Twenty pin.

The Top Twenty participants and Winner, their handlers and breeders may order additional rosettes and sterling silver pins. Additional gold pins and trophies may be requested **ONLY** by the **OWNER** of the Top Twenty Winner up to the number of actual owners of record at the time of the event. The order form will be online, and items **must be ordered within 60 days of the event.** It will be the responsibility of the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator to verify the accuracy of the ownership of the entrants at the time of the event and then place the order.

Catalog: A catalog, professionally prepared exclusively for the Top Twenty Event, will be available for purchase just prior to the event. Catalog purchase at that time will be limited to one per customer but additionalcatalogs will be available for sale at the conclusion of the event. The cost to purchase the Catalog will be set bythe GDCA Board of Directors. Contents of the catalog will include a two-page spread highlighting each Finalistin the Top Twenty Event, a score sheet and judging material, a profile of each judge, a gallery of previous Top Twenty Winners and the GDCA Top Twenty People's Choice Award Ballot. The catalog will be delivered to theHost Hotel in care of the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator to ensure confidentiality.

Top Twenty Budget: A Top Twenty Budget will be developed by the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator and the GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator. Every attempt will be made to reuse items from the previous year to cover cost of the event.

3. Judges

Judges Selection: will be made by a majority vote of the owners of the Top Twenty finalists. In the event of multiple owners, each finalist will still only be granted one vote in the following categories:

- **Handler:** A Handler, past or present, with at least 10 years' experience.
- **Breeder:** An established Great Dane Breeder who has been breeding for at least 10 years and has bred 5 litters with 4 Champions from those litters OR an established Great Dane Breeder that is also an AKC Approved Judge of Great Danes.
- **Multi-Breed AKC Approved Judge**: An AKC Approved Judge of Great Danes with at least 10 other breeds in any Group.

A CPA will count the Top Twenty Judges Ballots. Ties for any Top Twenty judge will be resolved by instructing the CPA to draw between the tied names. The CPA will notify both the President of the GDCA and the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator of the results of the balloting. These results shall be held strictly in confidence.

Judges Nomination Form: Owners and co-owners of entrants shall decide together which judges to nominate.Only one Ballot per entrant will be accepted and it must be signed and submitted by the **primary owner or owner's agent.** The Judges Nomination Form will be completed with one name in each of the three categories and mailed to the CPA as listed at the bottom of the Judges Nomination Form. The form must be received within forty-five (45) days of the receipt of the packet on a date set by the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator. The owners & co-owners are those of record as of December 31st in the year the dog qualified.

Judges Selection from Judges Nomination Form: The CPA will forward the results of the balloting (in each category) to the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator so that eligibility may be confirmed. If the person with the highest number of votes is ineligible or unavailable, the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator will then move to the person with the second highest number of votes. This process will continue until

one judge is secured for each category. A tie will be resolved by instructing the CPA to draw between the tied names.

Individuals are ineligible to judge the Top 20 event if they are competing in the Top 20 and/or, if they are a breeder, owner, co-owner, or handler of *ANY* dogs competing in that year's event. (This includes any *"prior"* ownerships as well), or if they have judged the Top Twenty within a five (5) year period.

Additional Judging Criteria: A member of a judge's household or immediate family may not exhibit in the TopTwenty. All judges must be in good standing with the AKC as well as the GDCA or Affiliate Club.

Judges: Judges will be contacted by the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator to determine their acceptance of the assignment. The GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator will then email each judge a Top Twenty contract to be signed and returned.

Judges will be compensated as follows:

- Round trip economy airfare or mileage per the IRS rate whichever is less (neither to exceed $450.00).
- Rental car or Ride-share fee, if the venue is over 30 minutes from the airport.
- Parking if required.
- Accommodations
  - Hotel room at the Host Hotel will be provided from the night before judging to the morning after the event or (at the expense of the judge) through the end of the National, whichever is less.
  - If the judge is traveling via RV, the RV parking at the Host Hotel from the night before judging to the day after the event or (at the judge's expense) through the end of the judge's stay, whichever is less.
  - $75.00 for meals that are not provided by the GDCA and will include two (2) tickets for the judge and guest for the Closing Ceremony Dinner if they stay.

The GDCA Division Top Twenty Liaison shall arrange for rooms or RV parking at the Host Hotel and for ground transportation to and from the airport if required. The judges will be met by the Division Top Twenty Liaison and/or the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator upon arrival at the Host Hotel and will provide hospitality throughout the event.

Emergency Substitution of Top Twenty Judge:

1. In the event a previously invited Top 20 judge must cancel their assignment and the notification is received **at least two weeks prior to the event, t**he GDCA National Top Twenty Chairperson shall invite the person who has the second most votes in their category per the Owner's ballots.

2. In the event a previously invited Top 20 judge has to cancel their assignment **less than two weeks prior to the event**, the GDCA National Top 20 Coordinator, the GDCA Top 20 Production Coordinator and the GDCA President shall form the Committee that will select a replacement judge based on availability and location of the National, and also take into consideration the results of the Owner's ballots, as to not incur excessive expenses.

Stewards: The GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator will select the Chief Ring Steward, the Inside Ring Steward, and the Ready Ring Steward. Stewards will receive a catalog and dinner at the Judges Instructional meeting/dinner. The GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator will send a letter

to the steward acknowledging acceptance of the assignment. Stewards may not exhibit in the Top Twenty.

Announcer: The GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator will select the Announcer. The GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator will send a letter to the Announcer for acceptance of the assignment. The Announcer may not exhibit in the Top Twenty.

4. Procedures

Show Ring: The Top Twenty judging event will be held in the regular National Show Ring to provide consistency and comfort for the dogs. It is preferable that the entire show ring be fully matted. If during judging it becomes necessary for a handler change, the request for the change must be made by the handler in the ring. At this time the judges will be asked to return to their positions, the change will be made, and judging will continue.

Arm Band Numbers:

1. Three (3) digit numbered armbands will be provided by the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator with numbers ranging from 300-330.
2. The armband number will be assigned to the entrant by the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator as entries are received. The armband number will correspond to the pedigree page in the catalog.

2. Order of competition for the event will be determined by blind draw at the Handler's meeting held the afternoon of the event.

Admittance and Seating for the Top Twenty: There will be an admission fee for spectators who have not purchased Top Twenty dinner tickets. This fee will be determined by the GDCA Board of Directors.

Entrance to the Event: To maintain an element of excitement, all doors will be closed at 12:00 pm on the day of the event and remain secured until 45 minutes prior to the event. There will be no admittance prior to 30 minutes pre-event except for Production Crew, Owners/Breeders, Sponsors, VIPs, and those with special needs.

The GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator will recruit volunteers for the following positions. Each volunteer will receive complimentary admission to the event.

- Six (6) escorts to assist Owners, Breeders & Sponsors to their seats. This group will preferably enter a separate entrance when possible.
- Two (2) volunteers to sell Admission tickets.
- Three (3) volunteers at the door to collect Admission tickets.
- Two (2) volunteers to sell catalogs.

Seating

1. Bistro Table reservation forms shall be forwarded by the GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator to the Owner of record of each Top 20 entrant by July 1st. Once this round of reservations is completed, Bistro Tables will then be offered to the breeders of the Top 20 entrant, then to Diamond, Platinum, and Gold Sponsors.

2. Owners will be offered the opportunity to purchase a reserved ring-side Bistro Table for Four. These tables will come with bottle service: choice of wine, champagne, beer, or tea. The purchase price of these tables will

be determined by the GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator. In the event that the owners opt out of the table purchase, they will receive four (4) reserved ringside seats. Tickets for reserved seating will be made available to owners/breeders at the Owners Meeting. Breeders will receive two reserved second row seats.

3. Owners and breeders will be seated at least 15 minutes before the event is opened for general admission. If they are at the Top Twenty dinner, a member of the Committee will come to the ballroom and call for the Owners and breeders to follow them to their entrance for seating.

4. VIP Seating: A small area of 6 to 8 chairs for foreign dignitaries, guests, etc. will be provided ringside.

5. Diamond, Platinum, and Gold Sponsors will be seated after all other priority seating and before the general public. The National Sponsorship Chair will be given location of seats by the Top 20 Chairpersons. After the Owners and breeders are seated, a member of the Committee will return to the Top Twenty dinner and invite the Sponsors to come for seating with the The National Sponsorship Chair.

6. At this time, the Committee member will also ask that anyone with a disability or in need of assistance come to be seated as well. This will allow those with special needs to enter the event without having to wait for general admission.

Attire:

- **Owners, Handlers**: Dress is semi-formal to formal.
- **Spectators** will be asked to dress in a manner that shows respect for the Top Twenty dogs and their people. No shorts or tank-tops please.

GDCA Top Twenty People's Choice Award:

Commencing in 2019, this annual award gives spectators the chance to evaluate each of the Top Twenty finalists and make their choice for the best. The People's Choice Award Ballot will be included in each Top Twenty Catalog sold. By filling out the ballot and depositing their ballot in the "People's Choice Award" box, the ballots will be tabulated by the GDCA Top Twenty Tabulation Committee. The ballots and the results will be given to the Top Twenty Production Coordinator who will announce the winner. The winner of the People's Choice Award will be announced at the GDCA Auction. The winner shall receive the People's Choice Award plaque and Rosette.

Official Top Twenty Photos: Each Top Twenty Finalist will be asked to move to the photographers set up upon completion of their individual competition in order to avoid long wait at the completion of the event. Judges will be photoshopped into the photo and show photographer will be advised of same.

Rosettes and Pins: will be distributed by the GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator to the Owner or Handler after the dog has completed their individual examination.

Photography During the Event: No flash photography during the event.

Music: The GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator will be responsible for music that will be played 30 minutes prior to the event and at other times in addition to during actual judging. Each dog's own song will play continuously while they are being judged.

Public Education: The description of the judging procedure will be published in the Top Twenty Catalog and announced at the beginning of the event to help provide an understanding of the event.

Top Twenty Forms: A sample of the Judge's Score Sheet and Judging Procedure are included as attachments to these Rules and Regulations and will be posted on the GDCA website.

GDCA Top Twenty Production Committee: will be selected by the GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator.

1. Producer
2. Director
3. Announcer
4. Chief Ring Steward
5. Inside Ring Steward
6. Ready Ring Steward
7. Score sheet Runner

Equipment:

1.Sound/Lighting System
2. Judges Table and four chairs
3. Water/glasses on Judges Table
4. Clipboards (6)- numbered #1, #2 #3. 2 clipboards for each judge
5. Score sheets (to be ordered sensitive pressure Carbon Copy)
6. Ball Point Pens
7. Armbands
8. Rubber Bands
9. Hand Sanitizer
10. Kleenex
11. Candy/Mints for Judge Table
12. Large Manila Envelope
13. Large White Mailing Envelopes
14. Top Twenty Winner's Rosette and Winner's Pin
15. Duct Tape to mark the center of the ring

Scoring and Evaluation: Each participating Great Dane will be individually examined by each judge using the scale of points outlined on the Top Twenty Score Sheet.
The Score Sheet Runner will be selected by the GDCA Top Twenty Production Coordinator and will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that each judge has marked the arm band number on the score sheet.
- Ensure each point line has been marked.
- Ensure there are no Zero scores or blanks.
- Ensure no fractions or decimals are used in scoring.
- If any areas have been scratched out by the judge, that the judge initials the markings and correction.
- Tearing off the original copy of Score sheet and deliver directly to the Tabulation Committee.
- Return the duplicate to the judge.

No dog shall be awarded a Zero in any category. Score sheets will be tabulated by the Tabulation Committee. The Tabulation Committee will tabulate each dog's score in the following manner:

1. The scores for each dog form each of the three judges will be tabulated and totaled together to determine the"Total Aggregate Final Score."

2. In the event of a tie, the Tabulation Committee will determine the winner by reviewing the "Overall Impression Score". This score is each judge's first impression of the dog prior to examination and is based on a scale of 1 through 25, with 25 being the highest. The overall Impression Score will be the Total Aggregate Scoreof all three judge's individual impression scores.

3. The Great Dane with the highest "Total Aggregate Final Score" or in the event of a tie, the highest" Overall Impression Score" shall be declared the Winner. In the event that two dogs have identical Total Aggregate FinalScore" and identical "Overall Impression Score", there will be two (2) Top Twenty Winners.

4. The Tabulation Committee will be kept as secluded as possible to ensure privacy while they are tabulating score sheets. In the event of an evacuation during the Top Twenty Event, the GDCA Treasurer will be responsible for all score sheets. The Top Twenty will resume as soon as possible.

Tabulation of Scores and Score Sheets: The GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator will provide the Tabulation Committee with an envelope for each entrant with each dog's armband number and AKC name written on the front and provide one envelope marked "TOP TWENTY WINNER".

1. The Tabulation Committee, upon compilation of the Score Sheets, will initial their totals and will document the Total Aggregate Final Score and the Total Aggregate Overall Impression Score on the outside of the envelope with corresponding arm band number and will place the three judge's score sheets inside the envelope.After all tabulations have been completed there should be 20 packets or a number that corresponds with that event's entry. The packet marked with the highest "Total Aggregate Final Score" shall be declared the Top Twenty Winner. Ties will be broken as previously noted. The entrants packet declared the Winner will be placedin the envelope marked "TOP TWENTY WINNER" the remaining packets will be placed inside the manila envelope.

2. The Top Twenty Coordinator will give the entrant's sealed envelope to the Owner or Agent of each dog at the conclusion of the event. Entrant envelopes and their contents that are not picked up by the Owners by the close of the event will be destroyed.

3. A copy of their Score sheets will be provided to each judge.

4. The People's Choice Award ballots will be tabulated by the GDCA Tabulation Committee after the event to determine the winner. The results of this tabulation will be held by the GDCA President until the presentation of the award during the GDCA Auction.

5. **Posting of the Aggregate Scores:** The GDCA Top Twenty Coordinator shall post the aggregate scores of all Top Twenty participants for public display the morning after the event in the same area that the judging results for the National are posted.
This listing will include:

- National Ranking
- Registered Name of Top Twenty dog
- Owner(s) names
- Aggregate Final Score

Event/Script

1. Welcome
2. How the Top Twenty is Judged/People's Choice Award

3. No Flash Photography/Cell Phones on Mute
4. Introduction of Judges/ Stewards
5. Futurity Winner
6. Past Top Twenty Winners Individual Celebration (most recent winner goes first then rest in descending yearorder) 2018, 2017, 2016, etc.
7. Top Twenty Competition
8. Raffle during Tabulations
9. Announcement of Top Twenty Winner

PART 1- JUDGING PANEL INTRODUCTION
(Judges Entrance Music)
Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the_____(year) Annual GDCA Top Twenty Event. My name is _____and I will be the announcer for this evening's event.

The Great Danes competing here tonight do so by invitation of the GDCA Top Twenty Committee based on thenumber of Great Danes they defeated during_____(previous year) at AKC Sanctioned events in the US. They are the "Cream of the Crop" and__(number of dogs competing) of the Top 20 dogs invited this year are in competition here tonight.

The Top Twenty is judged based on a point system derived from the AKC standard. All dogs are judged in apositive manner and are judged against the Standard and not against each other. A score sheet is included in your catalog and you are invited to follow along. This event is considered an educational tool as it promotesdiscussion of the Standard and encourages the exchange of ideas.

Flash photography is not allowed and please place your cell phones on mute, Thank you.

Our judging panel this evening includes one AKC Licensed Multi-Breed judge, a Great Dane Breeder Judge and a Handler Judge.

Our in-Ring Steward for this evening is_____

Our Score Sheet Runner for this evening is_____

Our Multi Breed Judge for this evening is _____

Our Great Dane Breeder Judge this evening is _____

And our Handler Judge for this evening is _____

Welcome Judges! We are delighted that you will be judging our Top Twenty this evening!

Our Chief Ring Steward for this evening is _____

Our Ready Ring Steward for this evening is_____

(Pre-Selected Futurity Winner Music)

At this time we are delighted to present this year's Best in Futurity Winner _____ _____ state dog's registered name, Owner(s), Breeder(s), Handler
(Circle ring twice-then move to center of the ring and present)

PART 2- INTRODUCTION OF PAST WINNERS OF GDCA TOP TWENTY COMPETITION

In keeping with this spectacular evening's competition, each dog will be accompanied by a song personallyselected by the owners. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with great pride and pleasure that we now present _____ (number of past winners' present) PAST WINNERS of this prestigious event. Each of these dogs will be showcased by their Handlers.

(Music for this dog plays)
Ladies and Gentlemen, we now present the_____(most previous years) Top Twenty Winner
_____ AKC name and call name

Dog takes two loops around the ring and then proceeds to center of ring marked with tape in an "X"
Dog is presented-free bait or stack. Handler preference.
Major Win Accolades are read by the Announcer
Dog circles ring and exits.

This repeats for each Past Winner Present.

REGULAR TOP TWENTY STARTS NOW

PART 3 -JUDGING THE_____(current year) Top Twenty Competition

It's now time to begin this years' Top Twenty Competition
Do arm band numbers correspond to catalog page yes

The order in which the dogs will be presented tonight was determined at the Top Twenty Handlers meeting held this afternoon. Each handler selected at random, an unmarked sealed envelope that contained one number signifying their position in the competition tonight.

We want to involve each of you in tonight's judging process, so we have included in your catalog a People's Choice Award Ballot. Toward the end of the evening, we invite you to write in your choice for the Winner of this year's GDCA Top Twenty People's Choice Award and ballots may be turned in toward the end of the evening. The GDCA Top Twenty People's Choice Award Winner will be announced at the GDCA Auction
on_____(day of week) night.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's now time to begin this years' Top twenty competition. (The instructions for each dog will remain the same and will be repeated as needed)

(Rather than have 20 pages of repeated instructions for each dog, Production Crew will have a Contenders Sheet, follow the Show Position # for each dog. Once dog is shown, check off box and go to the next dog).

Ring Steward, may we have Great Dane #_____into the ring please. Handler, please circle the ring then go to the center of the ring and present your dog.

Handler, please stack your dog for examination.

Handler, please take your dog to the judge's station and move your dog down and back and then round the ring back to the judge's station and present your dog.

Thank you, Handler. Please circle the ring and exit.

(On to the Next dog on the Contender's Sheet until all dogs have been examined).

PART 4- RAFFLE/TABULATIONS/GET CONTENDERS READY
Raffle Music Plays

Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes the judging for our_____(current year) Top Twenty. Scores will now be tallied and checked for accuracy by the GDCA Tabulation Committee.

We will now collect your GDCA Top Twenty People's Choice Award Ballots located in your catalog. If you have not already done so, please complete your ballot now and hand it to one of the Top 20 staff as they circulate through theroom.

Don't forget that the Winner of the GDCA Top Twenty People's Choice Award will be announced at the GDCA Auction on____(day of week) night. Thank you very much for your vote.

Acknowledgement of Top Twenty contenders that were unable to attend the event.

Raffle Drawing Procedure
(Raffle Items will be awarded in the order listed.)

We have great raffle items tonight: good luck to all of you that purchased tickets. All money raised will support this and future Top Twenty events to showcase our beautiful Great Danes in the setting that they deserve! Thank you for your support of this event.

(Raffle tickets drawn and items delivered to winner in audience) Congratulations to the raffle winners and thanks again for your support.

PART 5- TOP TWENTY CONTENDERS BACK INTO THE RING
(Pre-selected Final Music)

Let's join together in congratulating all the competitors here this evening on qualifying for this event. Thank you again to our judges for their participation this evening. (Announce Judges names)

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome back to the ring, our_____(current year) Top Twenty Contenders!

(Each dog will enter ring individually, circle the ring and stop in line-up position. The dogs will return to the ring in the order that they were shown.)

Presenting (read AKC name and call name from Contenders sheet for each dog)

PART 6-ANNOUNCING THE WINNER AND FAREWELL

F*inal Presentation/Announcement of Winner Production notes and rules.*

1. At the conclusion of judging, all dogs will return to the ring, individually, in competition order, and will be introduced by their AKC name and call name by the Announcer.

2. In keeping with the Events festive theme, each dog in competition will be given a sash and medallion to wear in the ring for the final presentation photo opportunity. No sash or medallion will be mailed or awarded to any Top 20 dog that was not judged that evening as this is a special honor for those who are participating in person only.

3. After circling the ring once, all dogs will line up, side by side, facing the center of the ring as they await the announcement of the Winner.

4. All three judges will be escorted to the center of the ring and each will carry one item: the Gold pin, the Winner's rosette and the Top 20 trophy.

5. The Announcer will receive the envelope containing the name of the Winner from the GDCA President and will then proceed to announce the Winner. See Script below.....

Ladies and Gentlemen, Your_____(current year) Top Twenty Competitors!!

Inside Ring Steward escorts the 3 judges to the center of the ring

Top 20 Trophy- Breeder judge to award
Top 20 Rosette -Multi-breed judge to award
Top 20 Gold pin -Handler judge to award

We Have a Winner! May I have the envelope please?

AND THE WINNER OF THE_____(current year) GDCA TOP TWENTY IS_____(AKC Name and Call Name)

Handler receives awards.

Takes a Victory Lap.

We look forward to seeing all of you in _____ (Next Year). Good night everybody!

Revision
Feb 2026

GDCA TOP 20 Score Sheet

Armband #: _____ **First Impression Score (1-25): _____**

(First Impression score is based on your viewing the dog without examination and this score is used only in the event of a tie)

Judging and awarding points are based on individual examination in accordance with the AKC Standard. Points awarded must be whole numbers. Any corrections on the score sheet **must be initialed** by the judge before the scoresheet will be accepted.

	Maximum Points	Points Awarded
General Appearance: *(Correct proportions, outline, stature with regal elegance and substance)*	**25**	_____
Head: *(Muzzle, Skull, Proportion, Stop, Lip, Eye Color and Shape, Nose, Ears, and Bite)*	**15**	_____
Body: *(Neck and flow into shoulders, Topline, Croup, Chest, Rib, Loin, Tail set/Carriage, Squareness)*	**15**	_____
Forequarters/Hindquarters: *(Angulation Front & Rear, Upper Arm, Layback, True Front & Rear Standing, Feet, Stifles)*	**15**	_____
Gait: *(Front & Rear, Side Gait Reach and Drive)*	**15**	_____
Type & Temperament: *(Balanced combination of Head, Body Movement with Precision and Grace, Spirited, Courageous and Never Timid)*	**15**	_____
POSSIBLE POINTS:	**100**	_____ ***(tabulator only)***

Judge Number (1,2,3): _____ **Judge's Signature: _____**