

The GSSCC Board of Directors is looking for feedback on the SV rule requiring trial participants to stay until the end of closing ceremonies. Under this rule, leaving prior to this could result in 'poor sportsmanship' being recorded in the participant's scorebook. A trial starts with the handing in of scorebooks and ends with receiving them back. At local, Regional or National events books, scorebooks will be given back to trial participants after closing ceremonies. The GSSCC follows SV rules unless there is a Canadian rule in place. This is the rule in place at this time. If the majority of members felt we should change/modify this rule, it could be done.

Some suggested changes/options could be:

- To remove this requirement all together.
- Leave the existing rule as is.
- Only remove the requirement from local trials and regional trials and require only the top 6 competitors to stay at the National.
- Leave the requirement for both Regional and National events.
- Leave the National requirement and let the Regions adopt their own rules.
- Exceptions made only to those who can substantiate a real requirement to leave early.

Here is some rationale to consider before sending your feedback:

1. Important to have high numbers in support of Sponsors. Sponsor agreements are negotiated with participant/audience attendance shared with Sponsor. Sponsors are present at closing ceremonies and present awards.
2. Host clubs endeavor to have dignitaries, VIP's, Mayors, TV, press etc at closing ceremonies. If trial participants leave beforehand, it reflects very poorly on the host club/committee and the GSSCC.
3. Judges from other countries will form an opinion on the GSSCC which they likely will share back in their home country. Poor attendance would not reflect well on the GSSCC.
4. For press reviews and to supporting family and friends and potential newcomers to the sport - how does it look if our own participants do not stay?
5. How would trial participants on the podium feel if/when those not on the podium leave and are not there to show support?
6. Events are planned well in advance and participants plan to be there for trial so why not at closing ceremonies?
7. Should this rule be applied to all Show Classes for which awards are presented at closing ceremonies?
8. Team Canada applicants should be expected and required to stay and present at closing ceremonies for Team Canada announcement.
9. What about flight accommodations for dogs when a lot of owners/dogs try to fly out at once?
10. Expenses staying through closing ceremonies could be more than an additional night at hotel.

So, I look forward to your member feedback so that the BOD can have some direction. Please take a few moments and voice your opinion, discuss it with other friends and members and let us know what you think, before people start to plan this coming years events.

Many thanks,
And in the mean time... Merry Christmas!!
Susan Mullins