

NSDTRC (USA)

**Specialty Shows
Guidelines**

PART 1

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1. Introduction

The principle mission of the NSDTRC (USA) (hereinafter referred to as “NSDTRC (USA) or “the Club”) is to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever breed and to encourage sportsman-like competition at dog shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, hunt tests, agility trials and any other events in which the breed may participate. The NSDTRC (USA) is to encourage and promote quality in the responsible breeding of purebred Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers and to do all that is possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection. The NSDTRC(USA) achieves these purposes by holding activities to promote the exhibition of Tollers in all the dog sports and encourages owners to become ambassadors of the breed.

To this end the Club encourages each Club region to hold a Supported Entry in conjunction with an All-Breed Conformation show. The Club’s premier event is its National Specialty which is sponsored by each Club Region on a rotating basis. Members have requested the NSDTRC(USA hold Specialties in addition to Supported Entries and the National.

While Supported Entries are expected to draw only from within a Club Region, a Specialty is expected to attract breeders and exhibitors from within and without a Club Region by providing them an enhanced exhibitor experience in which to present their breeding stock and to see others’ breeding stock. There should be a focus on holding activities in addition to conformation that create the opportunities for quality interactions to happen and opportunities to find the fun. A Specialty is meant to create an opportunity for positive social interactions between Toller owners that are so vital to the development and preservation of the Breed.

A Specialty is much bigger than a Supported Entry and it is considerably smaller and less labor-intensive than the National Specialty. Generally, Specialties should be “upgrades” of well-established supported entries.

Specialties can also provide enhanced opportunities for the Judge’s Education Committee (JEC) to educate judges.

Only Specialty Clubs having met the requirements and sanctioned by the AKC may hold a Specialty of its breed at an All-breed or Group Club event. Therefore, the NSDTRC (USA) must give permission in writing for the club to hold a NSDTRC USA Specialty.

2. **What is a Specialty?**

A specialty show is a show given by a club or association formed for the improvement of any one breed of pure-bred dogs, at which championship points may be awarded to said breed. An understanding of the definitions of the different type of specialties is required in order to understand the applicable AKC rules, regulations and policies. Listed below are the several types of specialties AKC will allow a specialty club to hold, each being more specifically defined in the AKC Rules Pertaining to Dog Shows.

Designated Specialty: A specialty club may designate the regular breed judging at an all-breed or group show as its specialty show. The specialty clubs must submit an event application for the designated specialty. The specialty club does not submit a judges panel, the judge for the breed is submitted as part of the panel of the host club's show. The host club must provide permission to the specialty club to hold a designated specialty and that permission must be submitted to the AKC. The specialty club may offer sweepstakes and special attractions as part of their designated specialty. No limit on entries for the designated specialty is required. There is no limit on the number of designated specialties that may be held at a host club's show.

Concurrent Specialty: A specialty club may offer an **independent** specialty on the same date and at the same site as an all-breed or group show. Specialty clubs must submit an event application and a judges panel for the concurrent specialty. The host club must provide permission to the specialty club to hold a concurrent specialty and that permission must be submitted to the AKC. The specialty club may offer sweepstakes and special attractions as part of their concurrent specialty. There is a limit of one hundred (100) total entries per ring per judge per day for the concurrent specialty. The limit includes any entries in sweepstakes or special attractions held in conjunction with the concurrent specialty. There is a limit of one hundred (100) total entries per ring per judge per day for the breed judging in the host show. The limit includes any entries in sweepstakes or special attractions held in conjunction with the breed judging in the host show. The breed judging at either the all-breed show or the concurrent specialty may occur first, but the scheduling must accommodate Group judging. This includes regular judging, sweepstakes, and special attractions. The judging in the concurrent specialty must not be stopped to accommodate entries that are participating in other competition. If a conflict occurs, the exhibitor must choose which competition they want to participate in.

Evening Specialty: A specialty club may offer an evening specialty on the same date and at the same site as an all-breed or group show. Specialty clubs must submit an event application and a judges panel for the evening specialty. The host club must provide permission to the specialty club to hold an evening specialty and that permission must be submitted to the AKC. The specialty club may offer sweepstakes or special attractions as part of their evening specialty. There is a limit of fifty (50) total entries per ring, per judge for all AKC competitions, provided the rings are run concurrently for the evening specialty. Judging for the evening specialty cannot begin until thirty (30) minutes after

the completion of the best in show judging (or group judging at a group show) at the host club show.

Independent Specialty. A specialty club may offer an independent (stand alone) specialty. The Independent specialty box on the AKC show application should be checked if there is no all-breed or group club offering competition for the specialty's breed on the same date and at the same site. Specialty clubs must submit an event application and a judges panel for the independent specialty. Note: there are times that All-Breed clubs allow independent specialties on grounds they rented prior to the day of their show. In those cases, you need permission from the All-Breed host club to hold your independent specialty and the arrangement will be similar to a Concurrent specialty.

National Specialty Each AKC Breed Parent Specialty Club shall have one designated Parent Club National Specialty show per year. All others shall be termed a Parent Club Specialty show. This guidance document does not apply to the National Specialty.

For further reading see:

AKC Rules pertaining to dog shows Chapter 2
<https://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RREGS3.pdf>

AKC Dog show policies. There are policies that apply to Concurrent, Evening, and Specialty show. Here is the link to the list of policies pertaining to Dog Shows:
<https://www.akc.org/rules/policy-manual/policy-manual-shows/>

3. **Proposal to Hold a Specialty Format**

For Specialties other than a National Specialty, NSDTRC members may submit a proposal to the Secretary requesting Board approval to hold a NSDTRC Specialty. The proposal shall be in the format described in the Guidelines for Submitting Proposals to the NSDTRC (USA) Board.

Proposal Format: Electronic format, WORD or rtf format preferred. Times New Roman font in 12pt. Avoid special indents or other formatting.

Proposal Organization: All proposals should include the following sections – please use this checklist as you prepare your proposal:

- a. **Proposal Title.** The Proposal Title should read: “Proposal to hold a [Type] Specialty.”
- b. **Committee.**
 - i. **Chair.** State the name, address and contact information for the Specialty Committee and Club Specialty Committee Chair(s)
 - ii. **Committee Names.** Set for the names address and contact information of at least four (4) NSDTRC members that have committed to be on the show committee. All members of the Committee must be NSDTRC members. The committee chair, or at least one of the committee members will have been on the committee for a NSDTRC(USA) Supported Entry or Specialty committee in the past. If a member who has never served on a NSDTRC(USA) Supported Entry or Specialty committee wishes to apply to hold or chair a Specialty, they must demonstrate their competency in conformation and events planning in the proposal.
- c. **Proposal Justification.** This section should explain how the proposed specialty show meets the criteria to be a specialty instead of a supported entry.
 - i. **Location.** Set forth the proposed location, the history of prior Toller events at that location, and the reason why the location has been chosen by the Committee. When selecting a location for the show, keep in mind the following preferences. First preference should be given to a host club that has hosted Tollers before. Multi day cluster are preferred. Well established premium show- examples include Grey’s Lake, Kennel Club of Philadelphia, Louisville Cluster, New Castle etc. are preferred. Preferred that is the show is located in an area with a large Toller population (pet homes and performance homes) as demonstrated in AKC records. You can obtain this information from AKC or from club records.
 - ii. **History of the Event/General Interest.** Because a Specialty should not be held unless a large entry will be present, it is imperative that the

membership in the entire NSDTRC Region, and others be supportive of the application process and planning of the show in order to ascertain if there is enough interest and support for a Specialty. This should be ascertained prior to making an application. Although not required, it is encouraged to consider all-breed/group club shows that offer other activities in association with their conformation show because of the versatile nature of the Toller.

iii. Proximity to National Specialty: The location of the show and the time before or after the National will be taken into consideration by the Board when granting or denying the proposal. The application should state the number of days and the miles between the proposed Specialty and that year's National. **A specialty will not be granted if the show date is 30 days before or after the National.**

iv. Past Attendance.

(1) A Specialty show confers the honorific of BISS on Best of Breed and therefore the proposal should demonstrate a high concentration of Tollers in the proposed location to help ensure appropriate attendance. This information can be obtained from the Events Chair who obtains it from records of prior event and statistics from the AKC. States with sparse Toller populations should continue to hold Supported Entries until they build participation and population in the area.

(2) The proposal should explain why enhanced attendance is expected. For example, the proposal may include a chart of the past performance of the event.

(3) The proposal must demonstrate the events wishing to become specialties have a track record of 4-point majors in dogs and bitches for two (2) the last three (3) years prior to the proposed event.

(4) The committee can provide a survey of individual exhibitors that are likely to come to the show or a written plan that demonstrates that there will be at least 4 point majors in dogs and bitches if the host show is a new location.

d. Selection of Judges. Designated, Concurrent and many Independent Specialties are normally held in conjunction with all-breed shows or clusters for cost sharing purposes. The Specialty Show Committee is permitted to suggest to the All-Breed club that names of judges that are economically feasible and are appropriate for the breed rather. Other than location, the selection of the judge is critically important for the success of the event. If a judge is overused or recently awarded a best of breed to a committee member, local breeder, or local dog, that can

severely affect the entry at the show.

- i.** It is preferred you choose the judge rather than the host club. To get the judge of your choice, you will need to propose judge's names to the host club at least one or two years in advance. Between two and five years in advance is optimal.
- ii.** Suggestions to minimize expenses include using judges that only charge a "per dog" fee with no reimbursement for travel & lodging expenses, judges that will be in the area for other events and will judge for as reasonable a "Flat Fee," or judges that will be used on the panel of accompanying shows and will have not travel expenses associated with the Specialty.
- iii.** Our Club will have to pick up the expense of the judge if the host club cannot get the judge we want or they are not on the host club panel. In that case, you should negotiate a consideration on the payment per entry from the host club if we are paying for the judge. Example, if the host club will give you \$3.00 back per dog normally, if you pay for the judge ask to be given \$5.00 back per dog. Note: if you are hiring the judge the Host Club still does the contract with the judge. The only time you will have to directly contract with the judge is if it is an Independent or Concurrent Specialty.
- iv. Requirements for Judge Selection**

 - (1)** Your proposal to hold the Specialty must indicate whether you will have input on the selection of the judges or if you will be responsible for selection the judge at the proposed specialty.
 - (2)** When selecting a judge from a host club's panel, the judge should have previous experience judging a large entry (15 or more) of Tollers.
 - (3)** The judge chosen shall not have judged Tollers within 500 miles and within 6 months of the proposed event. The 6 month exclusion applies only to the breed judging not group judging. This requirement must be in the contract with the judge. (Host club must include the 6 month and 500 miles exclusion in their contract with the judge).
 - (4)** The Specialty Show Committee does not need to follow the membership nomination procedure used to pick judges for the NSDTRC national specialty.

- e. Amenities.** The proposal to hold a Speciality should indicate any amenities offered by the Host Club. Below is a list of typical amenities a Show Committee should expect or could negotiate.
- i.** Ring. If the specialty is being held as part of a Multi day cluster then ask for the same ring each day.
 - ii.** Ring time: Ask for a mid morning or later start time to allow for travel time to save members extra hotel expenses.
 - iii.** Grooming space. Ask for guaranteed reserved grooming area. Negotiate the amount of space for the entry you expect keeping in mind some dogs will choose to be located with a professional handler or in a multi breed area. The optimal amount of space per dog is 10 square feet per dog (includes the isle).
 - iv.** Electric Service: Check with the host club or venue if electric is available. There could be a charge for electric and if it there is you may want to offer reserved grooming space for a certain dollar amount to defray the cost and minimize duplication and expense.
 - v.** Group Parking. Many outdoor shows offer Specialties group parking, sometimes near the ring. Assumptions to use for parking space needed- assume 1 car per every two entries.
 - vi.** Tent. Many outdoor shows offer Specialties tents, tables, and chairs. There is usually an additional cost.
 - vii.** Rosettes and Ribbons. The proposal should indicate who will bear the cost for Ribbons and/or Rosettes. (See the NSDTRC Show manual for tips concerning the ordering to Rosettes.
 - viii.** Financial incentives. Many clubs will offer a rebate per entry in the Breed Competition.

- ix. **Catalog ad.** Many clubs offer a Free single page of advertising in the Catalog for Breed Club. This ad could be sold or auctioned to attendees.
 - f. **Sweeps and Non Regular Classes.** The proposal should specify if the Committee intends to offer Puppy Sweepstakes, Veteran Sweepstakes, and if any non-regular classes in Breed, which non-regular classes. The proposal should state whether they have permission from the All-Breed club to hold Sweeps, Veteran Sweeps, and non-regular classes.
 - g. **Financial Implications.** Specialty applications should demonstrate the event will be financially self-sufficient. The proposal should explain any financial incentives inuring to the benefit of the club and contain the plan to keep the event cost neutral to the club.
 - h. **Contracts.** The proposal must acknowledge that the Committee agrees to and will submit all contracts to the Board through the Treasurer and the Events Chair for review prior to signature.
 - i. **Accounting.** The proposal must acknowledge that the Committee will work with the Treasurer on a rolling basis in the format determined by the Treasurer to provide an accounting of the event.
4. **Specific Board Action Requested.** Conclude your proposal with a specific request for Board Action. Do you want the Board to approve a Designated Specialty to be held on ___date in conjunction with the XYZ All-Breed Club? Do you want the Board to approve a Independent Specialty to be held on ___date in conjunction with the XYZ All-Breed Club?
5. **Approval Process.**
 The proposal must be submitted to the Events Chair and Regional Director(s) 30 days prior to submission to the Board. If the proposed show location is in an AKC Division that spans two or more NSDTRC Regions, the proposal shall be submitted at least 30 days in advance to the Regional Directors for each Region comprising the AKC Division. For example, a show in Pennsylvania is in Club Region 7 but the AKC Division includes New York, which is in Club Region 1 so both Region 1 and Region 7 Directors should be provided an advance copy. This gives the Regional Directors and Events Chair the opportunity to help the Committee with the contents of their proposal and to advise the Committee of any direct conflicts with other events in the Regions effected.
- The proposal should state the date the application was submitted to the Regional Director and Events Chair and the date it was submitted to the Board.
 After 30 days notice to the Event Chair and Regional Director, the proposal should be submitted to the Club Secretary to be placed on the next Board Agenda.
6. **Deadlines for Submission of the Application.** In addition to the 30 days notice to the Events Chair and Regional Director(s) and allowing at least 30 days for the proposal to get on to a Board Agenda and be reviewed, the proposal to hold a Specialty must be

submitted well enough in advance of the event date to meet the AKC time lines for Show Events, as they may be amended from time to time. Currently, the AKC deadline for Show/Trial applications is 5 months in advance of the date.

Members are encouraged to plan Specialty shows at least two years in advance. Applications submitted less than 1 year from the date of the proposed Specialty show may not be approved given the amount of planning and advertising necessary to attract enough Tollers to the show and obtain appropriate input into the judge selection.

7. **Recurring Approval of a Specialty.** Approval to hold a Specialty in one year does not guarantee approval in the next year. If a Specialty does not demonstrate enhanced attendance and at least, the same requirements of 4-point majors in both sexes, then a Specialty may be declined and a Supported Entry approved instead.
8. **Board Action.** The approval or denial, or request for clarification of the proposal will be issued by the Secretary to the Committee Chair(s).
9. **Post Approval Reporting Requirements.**

- a. **Show Report**

A show report must be sent the Board within seven days of the specialty. If applicable, the show report must describe any event hearing or occurrence that might cause a complaint to the AKC or to the NSDTRC(USA).

A copy of the Premium and the pages of the Catalog (marked or unmarked) pertaining to Toller's must be sent to the Events Chair.

A copy of the Catalogue is to be sent to the Historian.

A copy of the Marked Catalogue is to be sent to the Records Chair to record the honorifics.

- b. **Accounting.** An accounting of the event shall be submitted to the Treasurer within 14 days of the event and finalized within 30 days of the event.

10. Conclusion

A Specialty is bigger than a Supported Entry and it is considerably smaller and less labor-intensive than the National Specialty. The representing Specialty shall protect and advance the interests of the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever breed and encourage sportsman-like competition at any event in which the breed participates and encourages owners and their dogs to become ambassadors of the breed through education and action.

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