

USCA Regional Guidelines: Southwest Region

ARTICLE I – The Southwest Region

The Southwest Region (SWR) is a division of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USCA). The SWR operates as a non-profit regional entity within USCA.

The SWR includes clubs located in:

- Arizona
- Southern California (zip codes 900-935)
- Southern Nevada (Clark County)

Regional boundaries may only be altered under the following circumstances:

- Request by the Regional Director.
- Request by a majority of full member clubs in the region.
- Decision by the USCA Executive Board after reviewing the region's needs.

All changes to regional boundaries require approval by the USCA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II – Regional Leadership and Roles

Section 1: Regional Officers

Each region is represented by:

- A Regional Director (RD).
- An Assistant Regional Director (ARD).
- A Regional Breed Warden (RBW).
- A Secretary.
- A Treasurer.
- A Regional Training Director.

These six officers collectively form the Southwest Regional Board, which oversees regional operations and decisions.

Section 2: Number and Voting Rights

The SWR will have one RD, one ARD, and one RBW.

- The RD serves on the USCA Board of Directors and has voting rights.
- The RBW advises on breeding matters but does not vote on the USCA Board.

Section 3: Duties of the Regional Director

The RD performs the following duties:

- Represents the SWR in USCA affairs.

- Assists with the development of new clubs in the SWR.
- Approves trial dates for all clubs in the SWR.
- Forwards requests for USCA judges to the Director of Judges.
- Performs other duties as needed, as directed by USCA.

Section 4: Duties of the Regional Breed Warden

The RBW performs the following duties:

- Promotes the development of Breed Wardens and microchippers in the SWR.
- Supervises and trains local Breed Wardens, who report to the RBW.
- Dispenses and collects breeding paperwork and compiles regional breeding statistics.
- Maintains records of breeding activity and presents findings and recommendations at regional meetings.
- Acts as the Local Breed Warden when none is available.

Section 5: Territory of Officers

The RD and RBW have authority only within the SWR boundaries. Under exceptional circumstances, the USCA President may assign temporary authority to a SWR officer for duties outside the region.

Section 6: Eligibility for Office

Candidates for RD, ARD, or RBW must:

- Be full members of USCA in good standing.
- Have significant experience in training or breeding for Schutzhund/IGP.
- Reside in the SWR or actively participate in a full member SWR club.
- Be at least 21 years old and not under disciplinary action.
- Individuals with felony convictions are ineligible to serve.

Section 7: Nomination and Election

The nomination and election process is as follows:

- Candidates may be nominated by a Delegate from a full member SWR club. Nominations must be seconded.
- Write-in votes are permitted.
- Officers are elected for two-year terms during odd-numbered years.
- Elections may occur at regional meetings or via mail ballots, provided:
 - All full member clubs are notified in writing at least 30 days before the election.
 - Results are reported to the USCA Secretary within 10 days of the election.
- A majority of votes cast by full member clubs in good standing is required for election.

Section 8: Assistant Regional Director

The ARD supports the RD and assumes the RD's responsibilities if the RD resigns or is incapacitated. If the ARD position becomes vacant, an election must be held within 45 days to fill the position. The ARD may represent the RD at meetings and vote in the RD's absence.

ARTICLE III – Regional Events and Activities

The SWR oversees the following:

- Regional IGP Championships.

- Regional Breed Evaluations and Breed Surveys.
- Regional Educational Seminars and Workshops.

Clubs must:

- Receive RD approval for all events.
- Notify other SWR clubs of planned events in advance.

ARTICLE IV – Discipline and Appeals

The RD has authority to discipline clubs or individuals for non-compliance with USCA Bylaws or SWR guidelines. Appeals to RD decisions may be submitted to the USCA Secretary within 60 days. The USCA Executive Board may review appeals and sustain, modify, or overturn decisions.

ARTICLE V – Amendments to Guidelines

Amendments require approval by a two-thirds vote at a regional meeting.

Written notice of proposed amendments must be sent to all member clubs 30 days before the vote.