



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LTD

**Rules for the conduct of  
Sled Sport Events**

(Effective from 1st January 2015)

**Approved by the Australian  
National Kennel Council  
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**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the  
Australian National Kennel Council Ltd**

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## CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL RULES

### 1. Officials

- 1.1 **General** - Judges, or other necessary officials must be an ANKC recognised official where required and otherwise a member of an ANKC member body and appointed by the affiliate conducting the fixture.
- 1.2 **Race/Weightpull/Hike Marshalls** - are appointed by and reports to the affiliate hosting the event, and has overall charge of the event and responsibility for the event from the time it starts through to its completion. All other officials report directly to the Marshall and are responsible to the Marshall in all matters. The Marshall has the authority to cancel or stop the event under extenuating circumstances, weather or trail conditions etc.
- 1.3 **Eligibility** – To be eligible to fulfil the duties of the Marshall the member must be recognised and approved by the member body and have been a financial member of an ANKC member body for no less than 8 continuous years, have no less than 5 years experience competing in sledding events, and have experience as an official for no less than 10 sledding events for that particular discipline.
- 1.4 **Responsibility** - If for any reason the Marshall believes a competitor should not start in a heat/event they must provide a reason and the reason must be substantiated at any subsequent appeal through the member body. The Marshall must be experienced, capable and responsible in the sport of dog sledding. The Marshall will chair the competitors meeting, officials meeting and protest committee. The Race Marshall shall be responsible for determining which other officials, other than the mandatory Time Recorders, will be required for the event. The Marshall shall also be responsible for the weighing in of dogs and equipment as required and for the provision of first aid facilities appropriate for the event.
- 1.5 **Time Recorder** - is responsible for the recording of the time made by all teams during the event. They may have an assistant known as an assistant recorder. The Time Recorder is responsible to the Marshall. It is their responsibility to use proper and adequate equipment for this purpose. The Time Recorder shall act on the protest committee. The Time Recorder must record commencement times from the Start line and completion times at the Finish Line of all competitors, The Time Recorder must be a current member of an ANKC Member Body.
- 1.6 **Chief Steward (Racing)**- shall report and be responsible to the Race Marshall. They shall be in charge of the judges, the dog marker and their assistants. The Chief Steward shall deal directly with all drivers and will receive any protests or complaints. Chief Steward shall be in charge of starting and finish line, and remain at this position during all heats of the race. Chief Steward will examine teams at the start and finish and has power to disqualify dogs unfit to run in their opinion.

- 1.7 Trail Steward (Racing)** - shall report directly to the Race Marshall and is responsible for laying out, preparation of, and marking the race trail. They should be familiar with the requirements of a race trail suitable for dog teams, to do their utmost to prepare a trail that will not have dangerous corners, road crossings, etc. that can be hazardous to dogs and driver. The Trail Steward is responsible for the race trail during the race, and placing the Spotters at locations as may be required. The Trail Steward must be on the protest committee.
- 1.8 Team** - A team shall consist of a driver and a minimum of 1 dog
- 1.9 Spotter (Racing)** - is a person located at corner or intersection of trail, responsible for directing teams in corrections and reporting any incorrect occupants to Trail Steward.
- 1.10 Marker and Marker's Assistant (Racing)** - will be responsible for placing an identifying mark on each dog participating in each event at the conclusion of the event to ensure the dog is not able to be entered in another event without sufficient rest time between events
- 1.11 Chute Handler (Weightpull)** - are appointed by the club holding the event. Each event must have 2 Chute Handlers, 1 to manage the rear of the trolley, 1 to manage the front of the trolley. Only the Chute Handlers are to load weights on the trolley, at the direction of the Weight Pull Marshall.
- 1.12 Chute Marshall (Racing)** – is appointed by the club holding the event. The role of the Chute Marshall is to control the start chute to ensure the rig stays behind the start line in accordance with 3.5a and to report and false starts to the Race Marshall.
- 1.13 Protest Committee** - shall consist of Marshall, Chief Steward, Trail Steward/Chute Handler, and Time Recorder to settle all disputes, complaints and protests, they will forward all relevant information onto the ANKC Member body with a recommendation to impose any penalties or disqualifications. All members of the protest committee must be full members of the ANKC member body sanctioning the event.
- 2. Entries**
- 2.1 Requirement** - An entry must be submitted on a form approved by the member body sanctioning the event. And must as a minimum clearly identify the competitors ANKC member number, the dogs full pedigree name and ANKC registration number and a declaration that the competitor accepts the event will be held under the Constitution and Rules of the ANKC and member body sanctioning the event
- 2.2 Pedigree Registration** – All dogs entered in Sled Sport events must registered with the ANKC. Others dogs may participate at the discretion of the member body but shall not be entitled to be awarded ANKC titles.



### **3. Medications and Drug Testing**

**3.1 General** - All dogs shall be presented free of gazetted stimulants and depressants. Analgesics, prescriptive and non-prescriptive, Anti-inflammatory agents including, but not limited to, corticosteroids, anti- prostaglandins and salicylates, Anti-anxiety agents, Anabolic steroids, Diet pills. Any substance that may affect the performance of the dog is prohibited. Any state, federal or territory restricted substance is prohibited.

**3.2 Drug Testing** - If an organisation intends to test for prohibited drugs, it shall use approved drug testing procedures and shall declare so on the entry form.

**3.3 Specimens** - Whenever a specimen is requested for testing, the owner or driver shall be present (or his/her representative) and shall declare in writing to the sampling official all medications administered to the dog(s) within 72 hours preceding the start of the event.

**3.4 Failure to Provide** - If an owner or driver refuses to allow a sample to be collected from a dog, that team shall be disqualified from the event and reported to the ANKC member body hosting the event

**3.5 Positive Specimen** - If any dog in a team shows a positive test of a prohibited drug, that team is subject to disqualification, the decision to be made following a hearing and reported to the ANKC member body hosting the event

## CHAPTER 2 – SLED RACING

### 1. Entries

1.1 All entries must be provided in accordance with Chapter 1 Section 2 of these rules

### 1.2 Drivers

- a. All drivers must be members of an ANKC member body as detailed in the rules of the member body.
- b. The driver starting a team in the first heat of a race shall drive that team throughout the race, except that a change in driver can only be made as the result of illness or injury to the authorised driver and must have the approval of the Race Marshall.

### 1.3 Drivers Age

- a. Drivers must be a minimum of sixteen (16) years of age to compete in races, unless stated otherwise on the entry form for special classes (i.e. mini pee-wee up to 7 years of age, pee-wee 8 - 11 years of age and junior 12 - 15 years of age which will be run at the discretion of the affiliate hosting the event Mini peewee and peewee class drivers must be accompanied by an adult who shall not assist the team in motion except to maintain stability. Junior class drivers do not require adult assistance. In addition, Mini Pee-Wee, Pee-Wee and Junior classes may only run a 1-dog team.

### 1.4 Disqualification

- a. Any driver disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race. This includes the team entered with the driver on the approved entry form.
- b. Drivers disqualified from a heat for animal abuse shall not be eligible for further participation in any class that is part of that event and must be reported to the member body for investigation and further action as necessary under the rules of the member body.

### 1.5 Team Disqualification

- a. The Race Marshall may disallow entry of any team or dog for the following reasons:
  - 1.5.1 Any team or dog coming to the start line which, in the opinion of the Race Marshall, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail will not be allowed to compete
  - 1.5.2 Any team or dog not starting in the first heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- b. Any team or dog disqualified in any heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race
- c. The Race Marshall may disqualify any team or dog during or immediately following the event for the following reasons:
  - 1) If the wellbeing of a dog or dogs on the team has been jeopardised, or if continuing in the event is deemed to put the wellbeing of the dog or dogs at jeopardy.
  - 2) If a violation of the rules has occurred (subject to Protest Committee validation).
- d. Any dog that displays aggression to another dog or handler will be reported and dealt with in accordance with the member bodies rules on aggressive dogs.

## **1.6 Entry Limitations**

- a. Any dog or team shall not start more than one race in a three (3) hour period or start in two (2) consecutive classes.
- b. The minimum age of competing dogs shall be twelve (12) months. This age must be attained no later than the day before the race.
- c. Excursion events: all dogs on the team must have completed at least one race event in an acceptable time to be eligible to participate in an excursion event.

## **1.7 Identification**

- a. In races of more than one heat, each dog shall be marked for identification prior to the start of the first heat of the race, except where microchip identification is used.
- b. Dogs dropped from teams after the first heat of the race with more than two (2) heats, shall be marked a second time to indicate their disqualification from the team, except where microchip identification is used.
- c. Dogs may be identified where applicable by microchip with the aid of a microchip reader.

## **1.8 Size of Teams**

- a. A Limited Eight-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than eight (8) dogs, and not less than five (5) dogs.
- b. A Limited Six-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than six (6) dogs, and not less than four (4) dogs
- c. A Limited Four-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than four (4) dogs, and not less than three (3) dogs.
- d. A Limited Three-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than three (3) dogs, and not less than two (2) dogs.
- e. A Limited Two-Dog Class Team shall consist of two (2) dogs.
- f. A Limited One-Dog Class Team shall consist of one (1) dog
- g. After the first heat and each ensuing heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to minimums.

## **1.9 Temperature**

- a. If the temperature reaches 15 degrees Celsius at any time prior to or during the race, the classes not yet run shall be suspended. In the event of such suspension, if the site temperature falls below 15 degrees C. for at least one (1) hour in duration then such classes may be resumed at the discretion of the Race Marshall.
- b. If, at the discretion of the Race Marshall, the humidity has reached a high that would be detrimental to the health of the dogs, the classes not yet run shall be cancelled for that day.

## **1.10 Distance**

- a. **Sprint Race Events:** The recommended distance for each race shall be 2-4 kilometres per dog as designated by the class in which the team is entered, i.e. for the one dog class the trail will be between 2 and 4 km, for the two dog class the trail will be between 4 and 8 kilometres, etc.

- b. **Maxi Race Events:** The recommended distance for each race shall be 3.5 - 7 kilometres per dog as designated by the class in which the team is entered.
- c. **Excursion Events\*:** The recommended distance for each event shall be a minimum of 16 kilometres irrespective of team size.  
**N.B. for events advertised as “endurance/freight runs” this rule does not apply.**

## **2 Equipment**

### **2.1 Inspection**

- a. Drivers, teams, and equipment shall be available for inspection in the vehicle holding area at least ten (10) minutes before their scheduled time of departure.
- b. A team in harness shall not be required to stand for inspection longer than six (6) minutes before the time of departure.
- c. Inspection shall take place in an area that does not interfere with teams in the start or finish chutes.
- d. A team shall be available for inspection after each heat at the request of the Race Marshall.
- e. All equipment is subject to the approval of the Race Marshall.

### **2.2 Harnesses and Lines**

- a. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
- b. All dogs shall be fastened to the gang line by a neck line and tug line with the exception of the leader which shall be harnessed in the team by a tug line. Dual leaders shall be connected by a neck line.
- c. A snub line may be carried on the gig but it shall not be used in any manner other than to ties down and hold the gig.
- d. An adequate bungy mechanism shall be incorporated into the gang line.

### **2.3 Wheeled Gigs**

- a. Shall have a platform and be equipped with a dog bag capable of safety restraining a struggling dog and if necessary, covering a severely injured or dead dog. This shall be reported to the Spotter immediately and a vehicle brought to safely remove the dog.
- b. Are not to be used for one (1) dog class but may be used for two (2) dog class and must be used for class sizes of more than two (2) dogs i.e. three (3) dog and above
- c. May have three or four wheels but shall be capable of being driven and controlled by a single driver.
- d. Shall have an adequate locking brake system.
- e. Shall be equipped with a manual steering mechanism.
- f. Shall not exceed one hundred and sixty four centimetres (164cm) overall width.
- g. May be motorized but used with the understanding that the motor will not be used under the agreement of entry.
- h. The use of a motorized gig will be stated by the entrant on the entry form.

**2.4 Push Bikes** and other Chain Driven Conveyances Are not to be used.

**2.5 Scooters**

- a. Shall have a platform suitable for standing on.
- b. Shall have two (2) wheels only and be able to be controlled by a single driver.
- c. Shall have an adequate braking system.
- d. May be used for one (1) dog and two (2) dog classes only.

**2.6 Other Equipment**

- a. A muzzle or any collar that can be hooked as a full choke shall be prohibited.
- b. A racing number for each driver shall be provided. The driver shall display this number on his/her person throughout the race, when receiving awards and for official photographs.
- c. The use of a signal whip is prohibited.
- d. All drivers must wear a safety helmet it must be compliant to AS/NZS 2063 Bicycle Helmets.
- e. For night races an adequate headlamp must be worn and/or suitable bike lamp attached to the scooter or gig. Dynamo powered bike lamps are prohibited.
- f. All drivers shall carry side cutters capable of cutting through gang lines, tug lines, necklines or harnesses.

**3. Starting Procedures**

**3.1 Start Draw**

- a. The starting positions for the first heat of a race shall be determined by a draw held prior to the race at a designated time and place.
- b. Unless otherwise advertised, the owner, driver or designated proxy of each team shall draw their own starting position. In their absence, the starting position shall be drawn by the Race Marshall or his/her representative. The Affiliate hosting the event may stand as designated proxy if the draw is advertised as a "pre race draw".
- c. The order of the draw shall not be changed, either by addition or substitution. Late entries shall be added in order of receipt.

**3.2 Single Start Race**

- a. The first days starting positions shall be determined by the draw with Number 1 starting first, Number 2 starting second, etc.
- b. The second days starting position shall be determined by the first day's times, with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.
- c. In races of more than two (2) heats; .the total elapsed time of the previous heats shall determine the starting positions, with the fastest team leaving first, the second fastest team leaving second, etc.

- d. Or, at the option of the Affiliate hosting the event the elapsed time of the previous single heat shall determine the starting positions with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.
- e. If the optional start (d. above) is to apply to the race, all entrants shall be notified prior to making entry, stating to which classes it shall apply.

**3.3 Reverse Grid Start** – May be used by a Race committee on the second and subsequent days of an event. In the Reverse Grid Start the starting position is determined by the previous days times, with the slowest team starting first, the second slowest team starting second, etc.

**3.4 Dual Start Race**

- a. The first day's starting positions shall be determined by the draw with Numbers 1 and 2 starting together first, Numbers 3 and 4 starting together second, etc.
- b. The second day's starting positions shall be determined by the first day's times. The finishing list will be divided into two groups, with the fastest in the faster group starting with the fastest team in the slower group, followed by the second fastest teams in each group, etc.
- c. In races of more than two (2) heats, the total elapsed time of the previous heats will determine the grouping and the starting positions, with the fastest teams in each group starting first, etc.
- d. If option b. (under "single start race") is to apply to a race of more than two (2) heats, the elapsed time of the previous single heat shall determine the groupings and starting positions, with the fastest teams in each group starting first, etc.

**3.5 Equal Times**

- a. If the total elapsed time of two teams is identical, the order of start for those teams shall be the reverse order in which they started in the preceding heat.
- b. Teams with equal times for the entire race, shall be awarded the higher finishing position.
- c. The purse for the tied place and the next lower place(s) shall be combined and divided equally among those teams tied for that place.

**3.6 Starting Point and Time**

- a. The deflector bumper of the gig or front axle of the scooter shall determine the starting point of the team.
- b. A team which fails to be in its starting position at its scheduled starting time will be declared a "late starting team".
- c. A late starting team shall not be allowed to start until after the last team entered in its class has started and after the prescribed starting interval, trail timing shall commence at the originally scheduled time of departure for that team
- d. A late starting team shall not interfere with any other team.
- e. If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall start in their originally scheduled starting order.

- f. If a team is late to the starting line for its second scheduled time of departure for any one heat, that team shall be disqualified.
- g. A team not clearing the Starting Chute (minimum distance 30 meters) prior to the scheduled start of the next team may be disqualified.
- h. The minimum start increment shall be thirty (30) seconds.

### **3.7 Assistance in the Starting Chute**

- a. Unless otherwise specified by the Race Marshall prior to the start of the first heat of the event;
  - 2.6.1 Any amount or type of assistance is allowed to a team prior to the actual starting time.
  - 2.6.2 Once a teams starting time has commenced, only the chute marshal designated to assist may help in the chute.
  - 2.6.3 In the event of a tangle or a dog fight, unlimited help is allowed.
- b. Once a team is beyond the starting chute area in an official start, all Trail Rules apply.

## **4 Trail Rules**

### **4.1 Following the Trail**

- a. A team and driver shall run the entire course as established by the race organiser.
- b. If a team leaves the trail, the driver shall return the team to the point at which they left the trail.
- c. The trail shall be followed as marked.
  - 1) "RIGHT TURN" shall be indicated by a red marker on the right side of the trail as near as practicable to the turn.
  - 2) "LEFT TURN" shall be indicated by a red marker on the left side of the trail as near as practicable to the turn.
  - 3) After a turn has been completed a blue marker shall indicate the "CORRECT TRAIL"
  - 4) "STRAIGHT AHEAD" shall be indicated by blue markers
  - 5) "CAUTION" shall be indicated by yellow or orange markers on both sides of the trail.
  - 6) "END CHUTE" markers shall be placed at the end of the starting chute (minimum length 30 metres) on both sides of the trail.
  - 7) A "D kilometre" marker shall be placed one half (D) kilometre from the finish line to indicate the start of the "NO RIGHT OF WAY ZONE" unless trail conditions indicate otherwise. The trail within the "NO RIGHT OF WAY ZONE" should be a least three (3) metres wide and aligned so that an overtaking team may pass freely on the run.

### **4.2 Driving a Team**

- a. A driver may ride, scoot or run as wished.
- b. Any driver accepting a ride during a race on any other vehicle other than his/her own scooter/gig shall be disqualified.
- c. A driver shall not interfere with a competing team.
- d. All dogs starting a heat shall complete the entire course, either hitched in the team or carried on the gig (for two dog teams and above using a gig).

- e. A dog becoming unfit after departure shall be carried on the gig (for two dog teams and above using a gig one dog teams can use other drivers/Marshalls to get assistance).
- f. Where a dog is seriously injured or ill “d and e” do not apply and the driver is to gain assistance from the nearest official to have the dog returned to the marshalling area to gain immediate veterinary assistance.
- g. Carrying a passenger at any time during the race shall be prohibited unless;
  - 1) Called for in the conditions of the race.
  - 2) Giving a ride to a driver in an emergency situation.

#### **4.3 Assistance on the Trail**

- a. All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorised by the Race Marshall.
- b. Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other in any manner authorised by the Race Marshall.
- c. Handler and spectator assistance shall be limited to holding the gig/scooter, except in the case of a loose team, or a team so unmanageable as to create a clear and present danger to themselves, other teams or persons.
- d. No one shall assist a team by wilfully pacing it.

#### **4.4 Loose Team**

- a. The driver shall overtake a loose team or dog(s) on foot.
- b. A loose team or dog may resume the trail without penalty provided the team/dog has completed the entire trail and the driver has received only authorised outside assistance.
- c. Authorised outside assistance is limited to holding a loose team or dog once it has been stopped.
- d. Any person(s) may (and is/are encouraged to) stop and hold a loose team or dog(s).

#### **4.5 Right of Way**

- a. In dual start, the team with the lead dog farthest ahead at the end of the chute barrier shall have right of way.
- b. When teams are passing on a single trail:
  - 1) The team travelling down hill shall have right of way.
  - 2) On level terrain the Race Marshall shall determine and announce, prior to the start of the race, whether income or outgoing team has right of way.
  - 3) In the one half (D) kilometre “NO RIGHT OF WAY ZONE” no team shall have right of way over a finishing team.

#### **4.6 Passing**

- a. When one team driver intends to pass another team, the passing driver will call “TRAIL” when the lead dog(s) come within fifteen (15) metres of the gig/scooter of the team to be overtaken.
- b. The overtaken team driver shall make way for the passing team by moving to one side of the trail, by slowing his/her team or stopping and keeping the team from moving forward if requested by the overtaking team driver.



- c. If the passing team becomes tangled or bunched up in the course of a pass, to allow time to untangle and tighten lines, that team's driver **may request the overtaken team to remain stopped for up to one (1) minute in classes involving eight (8) or more dogs**, one half minute in all other classes.
- d. Once a team has been passed, that team shall not re-pass so long as the driver in front is making an effort to keep his/her team moving forward until;
  - 1) In limited classes of more than two (2) dogs, after no less than one (1) minute or four hundred (400) meters.
  - 2) In limited classes involving two (2) dogs or less, after no less than a half a minute or two hundred (200) meters.
  - 3) At any lesser interval when both drivers are in agreement.

#### **4.7 Exceptions**

- a. After a pass has been completed, a team that has been passed need not hold his/her team while the other driver;
  - 1) Repairs gear or
  - 2) Unhooks and transfers a dog or dogs from one position in the team to another position in the team (loading a dog in the gig constitutes changing a dog's position in the team) .or
  - 3) Goes off the race trail before the above mentioned distance or time interval has elapsed.
- b. A driver coming upon two or more teams stopped together, may pass all such teams. The stopped team drivers shall make every effort to clear the trail for the moving team(s).
- c. Teams following each other shall maintain an interval of not less than one (1) team length, except when passing or in the "NO RIGHT OF WAY ZONE".
- d. When a team is overtaken in the "NO RIGHT OF WAY ZONE", that team does not have to stop and yield the trail.
- e. No driver shall interfere with a competing team.

#### **4.8 Finish**

- a. A team shall have finished the heat when the first dog on the team crosses the finish line.
- b. If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of its driver, that team shall have finished when the driver reaches the finish line.
- c. When a dual starting chute is used as a finishing chute, a team may return on either trail.

### **5 Conduct**

#### **5.1 Responsibility and Sportsmanship**

- a. All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handler, and themselves whenever in the race area or on the trail.
- b. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshall determines that driver, handler or team conduct any time in the race area or on the trail is detrimental to the sport/race, that team shall be disqualified.

**5.2 Abuse of Dogs** with or without implement or any behaviour which constitutes cruelty shall be prohibited and a driver, handler or any other person reported for such actions shall be dealt with immediately by the Race Marshall and the matter reported to the member body

## **6 Rules Violations**

### **6.1 Reports by Race Officials**

- a. Race officials shall report overt rule violations to the Race Marshall verbally, in person or by radio, immediately or directly following the heat in which the violation occurred.
- b. The Race Marshall shall act, at his/her discretion, on any overt violations witnessed and reported by race officials.

### **6.2 Reports by Race Competitors or others**

- a. Competitors or others wishing to report an alleged violation of the rules by another competitor shall notify the Race Marshall immediately following the heat in which the incident occurred. Notification may initially be verbal.
- b. All verbal driver reports shall be followed with a written report, given to the Race Marshall within one (1) hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred.

### **6.3 Protests and Hearings**

- a. Any driver implicated in a report of an alleged violation of the rules may request a hearing before the Protest Committee.
- b. Said hearing shall be granted by the Race Marshall.
- c. Hearings shall be held in private in the presence of the Protest Committee.

### **6.4 Disciplinary Action**

- a. For violation of any Race Rule, the Race Marshall shall either issue a verbal warning to the driver, disqualify the driver and team from the race, or impose a time penalty.
- b. No other disciplinary action shall be imposed.
- c. Decisions shall be announced as promptly as practical but no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of any ensuing heat(s).
- d. Any disciplinary action following the final heat of the race shall be acted upon prior to the awards ceremony.
- e. In the case of drug testing, the above time schedule does not apply to allow for laboratory findings and hearings, should the latter become necessary.
- f. The decisions of the Race Marshall shall be enacted on the day of the event, but may be subject to appeal through the member body.

## 7. Titles

### 7.1 Titles

- a. Eligible dogs competing in Sled Race events shall be able to compete for the following titles which can be applied for and entered on the dog's Pedigree once the qualification is gained and application made to the applicant's member body and the appropriate fee paid:
  - 1) Working Team Dog (WTD)
  - 2) Working Team Dog Excellence (WTDX).
  - 3) Working Lead Dog (WLD)
  - 4) Working Lead Dog Excellence (WLDX).

## 8. Qualification

### 8.1 Working Team Dog (WTD)

8.1.1 To qualify for the WTD title a dog must meet 1 of the following requirements:

- a. Vehicle may be snow sled, wheeled cart or wheeled scooter
- b. Dogs do not have to run on same team each time

8.1.2. Title may be achieved by one of the following methods:

#### a. Method 1 – Racing

- 1) The dog must qualify in three different races, in any class, or combination of classes.
- 2) The minimum number of teams competing in a class must be 3.
- 3) Races must be held under the ANKC and by an affiliate of an ANKC member body.
- 4) In the event of a multi heat race, an individual heat may qualify as a race where it meets the requirements of a qualification. Only 1 heat per race event may count as a qualifier, or the race as a whole may be classed as a qualifier.
- 5) The following applies to qualifying Races and/or Heats:
  - i. The team must complete the race in an average speed per kilometre in accordance with the breed average speed as listed at Appendix A.
  - ii. **Sprint Race Events:** The recommended distance for each race shall be 2-4 kilometres per dog as designated by the class in which the team is entered, i.e. for the one dog class the trail will be between 2 and 4 km, for the two dog class the trail will be between 4 and 8 kilometres, etc.
  - iii. **Maxi Race Events:** The recommended distance for each race shall be 3.5 - 7 kilometres per dog as designated by the class in which the team is entered.
  - iv. **Excursion Events\*:** The distance for each event shall be a minimum of 16 kilometres irrespective of team size.  
\*nb - for events advertised as "endurance/freight runs" this rule does not apply.

v. **Endurance/Freight:** Required distances will be determined by the class in which the dog is running. Required distances will be between 2 and 4 kilometres for each dog on the team with a minimum of 4.8 kilometres required. The freight class shall be a minimum of 8 kilometres with a minimum of 20 kilograms for dog on the team added to the weight of the sled/gig, *not including the weight of the driver*.

**b. Method 2 – Racing**

- a. Dog must accumulate a minimum of 40 race kilometres. The dog must have completed the course in all races considered. Races must be a minimum of 8 kilometres if a freight race. Distances of Method 1 apply.
- b. The dog must complete all races in an acceptable amount of time as determined by the Committee – see Addendum.
- c. All events must be certified by *the Race Marshall*.

**c. Method 3 - Excursion**

- 1) Dog must accumulate a minimum of 65 sledding excursion kilometres. Dog or dogs must pull vehicle a minimum of 16 kilometres per excursion. *The Race Marshall* must sign the form to be sent to the Committee verifying proof of distances and dog or dog competing.

**d. Method 4 - Combination racing and Excursion**

- 1) One or two 16 kilometre or longer races may count towards the total of 65 excursion kilometres. Race events must comply with the requirements of Method 8.1.2 a & b..

**8.2 Working Team Dog Excellence (WTDX)**

8.2.1 To qualify for the WTD title a dog must meet the following requirements:

- a. Dogs may run on any size team and need not run on the same team for each event. Sledding may be Alaskan style or Nordic style (single file team pulling a pulk).
- b. Total distance for all applicants shall be 300 kilometres, which shall not include race kilometres. And must;
  - 1) Events must be a minimum of 75 kilometres made up no less than 3 consecutive heats of no less than 25 continues kilometres conducted over no more than 3 days.
  - 2) The team must complete the event in an average speed per kilometre of no less than 10 kilometres per hour, or 8 kilometres per hour if competing as a freight team, in which case the team must carry a minimum of 20 kilograms for each dog on the team not including the driver

**8.3 Working Lead Dog (WLD)**

8.3.1 In order to qualify, the following requirements must be met:

- a. The dog must run single lead on a team consisting of 3 dogs minimum.
- b. Lead dog requirements are identical to those for working team dog.
- c. Dog does not have to lead the same team each time to qualify.
- d. Dog must run on the leading team if 2 or more teams are travelling together.

8.3.2 At the completion of the Event, the Club conducting the Race shall issue a certificate signed by the Race Marshall to each dog who have successfully qualified for a leg.

#### **8.4 Working Lead Dog Excellence (WLDX)**

8.4.1 In order to qualify, the following requirements must be met:

- a. The dog must run single lead on a team consisting of 3 dogs minimum.
- b. Lead dog excellence requirements are identical to those for working team dog excellence.
- c. Dog does not have to lead the same team each time to qualify.
- d. Dog must run on the leading team if 2 or more teams are travelling together.

8.4.2 At the completion of the Event, the Club conducting the Race shall issue a certificate signed by the Race Marshall to each dog who have successfully qualified for a leg.

8.4.3 Dogs may run on any size team and need not run on the same team for each event. Sledding may be Alaskan style or Nordic style (single file team pulling a pulk).

8.4.4 Total distance for all applicants shall be 300 kilometres, which shall not include race kilometres.

- a. Events must be a minimum of 75 kilometres made up no less than 3 consecutive heats of no less than 25 continues kilometres conducted over no more than 3 days.
- b. The team must complete the event in an average speed per kilometre of no less than 10 kilometres per hour, or 8 kilometres per hour if competing as a freight team, in which case the team must carry a minimum of 20 kilograms for each dog on the team not including the driver.

## CHAPTER 3 – BACKPACKING/HIKING

### 1. Eligibility

- 1.1 **Age** – All dogs entered in Backpacking/Hiking events are to be eighteen (18) months of age or older. The date of birth shall be calculated on the first day of competition.
- 1.2 **Size** – All medium to large breeds may compete in Backpacking/Hiking events.

### 2. Exclusions

- 2.1 **Brachycephalic** breeds are prohibited from competing in Backpacking/Hiking events due to potential breathing problems during strenuous exercise.

### 3. Entries

#### 3.1 Hikers

- a. All Hikers must be members of an ANKC member body as detailed in the rules of the member body.
- b. All entries must be provided in accordance with Chapter 1 Section 2 of these rules
- c. Entries shall be accepted by the affiliate conducting the event prior to or on the day of the event and must be accompanied by the advertised entry fee and a fully and correctly completed entry form. It is the responsibility of the hiker to ensure all details submitted on the entry form are correct.

#### 3.2 Age

Hikers must be a minimum of sixteen (16) years of age to compete in events.

### 4. Equipment

#### 4.1 Inspection

- a. Each competing dog must be fitted with a correct canine back pack.
- b. The Hike Marshal or their representative is to inspect the equipment and ensure sufficient provisions are made for the hike.

### 5. Fitness

- 5.1 It is the sole responsibility of the hiker to ensure that they and the dog is fit to hike, and to monitor the dog to ensure it remains physically able to complete the hike.
- 5.2 Where the Hike Marshal considers either the Hiker or Dog are not physically capable to complete the hike then they may disqualify them from the event and request a doctors certificate or veterinary certificate be provided prior to further entries being accepted for future events

### 6. Temperature

- 6.1 Hikes must not be commenced or conducted at any time the forecast or actual temperature exceeds 25 degrees Celsius.

## **7. Titles**

### **7.1 Working Pack Dog (WPD)**

To earn the "WPD" title the following requirements must be met:

- a. Dog must carry a daily initial weight equal to a minimum of 30% of the dog's weight. This weight shall not decrease except by normal consumption of items such as food or water.
- b. Pack trips must be on natural terrain such as hiking trails or cross country.
- c. Dog must pack a minimum of 64 kilometres. Each trip must be a minimum of 16 kilometres per day.
- d. Elevation gain may be substituted for kilometres in the following manner: 305 metres of elevation is equivalent to 1.6 kilometres of flat terrain. Elevation gain will be figured as the difference between the highest and lowest points of the trip.
- e. Packing requirements shall be spread out over a minimum of 2 trips.

### **7.2 Working Pack Dog Excellence (WPDX)**

To earn the "WPDX" title the following requirements must be met:

- a. Dog must be a minimum of 24 months of age.
- b. The dog's weight and the weight of his pack must be verified by appointed Hike Marshall prior to the start of the trip. The dog shall carry an initial load of at least 30% of his body weight. The weight carried shall not decrease except by normal consumption of items such as food or water.
- c. Pack trips must incorporate some backcountry trails with the dogs and hikers carrying equipment necessary to be self sufficient for the trip. Backcountry is a remote area, inaccessible and unsuited to vehicular traffic at the time of the trip, where support and aid is not generally available. Campouts will be necessary due to the distance requirements. Campouts may take place in the backcountry, at trailheads, roadside campgrounds and the like but not at commercial campgrounds or established accommodation. Suitable locations for pack trips are *State* Forests, parks, hiking and undeveloped natural terrain.
- d. A total of 193 kilometres shall be completed in 1 to 3 trips.
- e. Each trip shall be a minimum of 64 kilometres with an average of 16 kilometres per day on travelling days under normal conditions such as maintained trails and normal weather conditions. Day trips from the base camp must adhere to the weight requirements unless the applicant does not wish to include those kilometres in the trip total.
- f. Because some trips will take place in mountainous terrain, each 305 metres of elevation gain may be substituted for 1.6 kilometres of the total kilometres requirement.

### **7.3 Validation**

At the completion of the event, the Club conducting the event shall issue a certificate signed by the Hike Marshall to those dogs who have successfully qualified for a leg for either WPD or WPDX as appropriate.

## CHAPTER 4 – WEIGHT PULL

### 1 Eligibility

- 1.1 **Age** - All events shall be restricted to dogs eighteen months of age and over. The age of a dog shall be computed from its date of birth to the date on which the Competition commences.
- 1.2 **Size** - Medium to large and giant breeds shall be permitted to compete in Weight pull Competitions in all States/Territories of Australia.
- 1.3 **Bitches** - shall not be permitted to compete whilst in oestrus.

### 2 Entries

#### 2.1 Handlers

- a. All handlers must be members of an ANKC member body as detailed in the rules of the member body.
- d. All entries must be provided in accordance with Chapter 1 Section 2 of these rules
- e. Entries shall be accepted by the affiliate conducting the event prior to or on the day of the event and must be accompanied by the advertised entry fee and a fully and correctly completed entry form. It is the responsibility of the hiker to ensure all details submitted on the entry form are correct.

#### 2.2 Age

Handlers must be a minimum of sixteen (16) years of age to compete in events.

### 3 Equipment

#### 3.1 Harness

All dogs must be use a correctly fitting harness complete with spreader bar.

#### 3.2 Weights

All Weights shall be dead weights and it is recommended weights be no more than twenty kilos.

#### 3.3 Trolley

- a. The weight of the competition Trolley shall be known and calculated into the overall weight pulled.
- b. The trolley shall have 4 wheels for stability or where the event is conducted on snow the wheels may be replaced with skids.

### 4 Temperature

Competition will cease when the temperature reaches 20 Degrees Celsius or in accordance with the relevant member bodies heat policy which ever is the lesser. Where the event is held in an indoor air-conditioned venue, this rule shall not apply.



## **5 Weight Classes**

### **5.1 Classes**

- a. All dogs shall be weighed prior to commencement of the Competition and their weight recorded.
- b. Dogs will be entered in weight classes as follows:-
  - (1) 15 - < 27 kilo class;
  - (2) 27 - < 36 kg class;
  - (3) 36 - <45 kg class; and
  - (4) 45 kilo and over class.

**5.2 Novice** - Each weight class can have an additional class for novice dogs. A novice dog is a dog that has competed in 3 or less competitions.

## **6. Surface**

### **6.1 Natural**

A natural surface is deemed to be a level surface of sand, grass or other naturally occurring material which is in its normal condition and not artificially compacted. The surface may be raked to ensure evenness of the ground

### **6.2 Artificial**

An artificial surface is an area which has been levelled and compacted by artificial means or has been covered with a material to make it harder. Examples of artificial surfaces include but are not limited to concrete, asphalt, timber and compacted rubble.

### **6.3 Snow**

Snow is deemed to be snow or sleet and is to be of sufficient depth to sustain the weight of the dog and trolley. Weightpull is not to be conducted on ice due to the welfare of the dog.

## **7. Chute**

All competition chutes must be no less than 3 meters wide, provide a pull distance of 5 meters, with sufficient area before the commencement of the pull distance to accommodate the trolley, a Chute Handler and trolley loading, and sufficient distance at the end of the pull distance to accommodate the handler and trolley run off.

## **8. Chute Marking**

The chute must be marked with a start line, a finish line and a handler line. The lines must not present a risk to the officials or dog and must be sufficiently marked so as not to move during the event

## **9. Weight Increment**

9.1 Incremental weight increases shall be a minimum of 20kilo and not more than 100kilo.

9.2 Weight increments shall remain the consistent during the conduct of the event.

9.3 The weight increments shall be determined by the affiliate conducting the event and shall be included on the schedule submitted to the member body.

## 10. Competition

- 10.1 **Handler** - Once the dog is connected to the trolley, the dogs lead must be removed, and the handler must either proceed to and remain behind the handler line, or retreat to and remain in a position behind and to one side of trolley.
- 10.2 **Commands** - The handler is not permitted to hold any object, use bait, or any item to attract or encourage the dog other than voice commands. The handler must not physically touch the dog once the pull has commenced, until the pull has been completed, unless timing has been temporarily suspended to allow the handler to resolve a tangle..
- 10.3 **Time** - Once the handler has signalled the commencement of the pull, timing commences and the dog has sixty seconds in which to get the trolley moving. If at the conclusion of that sixty seconds the dog is pulling and the trolley is moving forwards the dog can continue to pull and so long as the trolley is in continuous forwards motion until crossing the finish line this shall be a qualifying pull.
- 10.4 **Non Qualifying** - If the trolley is stationary at the completion of sixty seconds, this will be a non qualifying pull.
- 10.5 **Attempts** - Each dog will be entitled to two attempts at each weight increment up to 500 kilos on natural surfaces and 800 kilos on artificial surfaces. Thereafter there will be only one attempt at each weight. Failure to register a successful pull in either of these attempts signals the removal of the dog from the competition.
- 10.6 **Suspension of Timing** - Once the handler has signalled the commencement of the pull, timing can only be temporarily suspended on two occasions to resolve tangles. A tangle shall be called in the event the dog becomes tangled in the harness of the tow line in such a way it can not safely proceed without likelihood of injury, or of the dog retreats in the chute behind the trolley to the point the tow line becomes taunt.
- 10.7 **Tangles** - In the event of a tangle, timing will be temporarily suspended until the harness and towline are restored, the trolley re-positioned at the start line, and the dog re positioned ready to recommence. Timing shall recommence at the handlers signal. No extra time shall be allowed.
- 10.8 **Non Qualifying (Tangles)** - In the event of a dog experiencing two tangles in any pull attempt, that attempt shall be at an end, this will be a non qualifying pull.
- 10.9 **Calling a Tangle** - Tangle can be called by either a handler, a Chute handler, timer or judge.
- 10.10 **Chute Handler** - During each pull attempt, there must be a Chute handler at the rear of the trolley to ensure safe braking at the conclusion of the attempt. There may be a Chute handler to assist with hooking up the dog. There must be a timer who shall commence timing upon the handlers signal, and who shall record all times.
- 10.11 **First Weight** - The first weight offered to pull shall be the empty trolley. Thereafter weights shall increase as specified at Clause 9
- 10.12 **Commencement weight** - Handlers can nominate at which weight their dog will enter the competition.
- 10.13 **Passing Up** - Once a dog has entered the competition and successfully pulled the nominated weight, handlers can pass up to three weight increment increases but must then compete in the fourth increment.

- 10.14 **Competition End** - The competition shall continue until all dogs entered have failed or withdrawn.
- 10.15 **Certificates** - At the conclusion of each competition, every dog who has qualified for a WWPD/X Certification shall receive a Title certificate detailing the following:
- a. The dogs full name and ANKC registration number;.
  - b. Owners Name and ANKC member bodies membership number;
  - c. Affiliate holding the event;
  - d. Date of the event;
  - e. Weight to Weight Ratio;
  - f. Pull Time
  - g. Surface; and
  - h. The Weightpull Marshall's name and signature
- 10.16 **Placing** - Placing shall be awarded from first to third in each class based on the highest weight pulled, and then weight to weight ratios. In the event two or more dogs have achieved the same weight to weight ratio, placing will be determined by quickest pull time.

## 11. Disqualifications

- 11.1 **Jumping/Bouncing** – A dog may be disqualified from a pull at the Weightpull Marshall's discretion after 1 warning where the dog jumping with all four feet off the ground in an effort to move the trolley.
- 11.2 **Aggression** – Any dog which shows aggression is to be disqualified from the event and the matter is to be reported and handled in accordance with the relevant member bodies aggressive dog rules.

## 12. Titles

- 12.1 **Certificates** - All dogs registered with the ANKC entered shall receive Title Certificates as described at 10.15 upon qualification.
- 12.2 **Qualification** - Once a dog has qualified sufficient times as detailed at 15 or 16 a title application to use the letters WWPD or WWPDX as appropriate shall be lodged with the members ANKC Member Body.
- 12.3 **Working Weight Pull Dog (WWPD)** – In order to qualify for the title of WWPD a dog must have achieved the following criteria
- a. Must have 4 qualifying certificates as described at 10.15 from 4 separate events. detailing
  - b. Over a distance of no less than 5M on a natural/snow surface pull a weight of at least 8 times it's own weight; or
  - c. Over a distance of no less than 5M on an artificial surface pull a weight of at least 12 times it's own weight and in less than 1 minute.
- 12.4 **Working Weight Pull Dog Excellent (WWPDX)** In order to qualify for the title of WWPDX a dog must have achieved the following criteria
- a. Must have 8 qualifying certificates as described at 10.15 from 8 separate events. detailing
  - b. Over a distance of no less than 5M on a natural/snow surface pull a weight

- of at least 16 times it's own weight and in less than 1 minute; or
- c. Over a distance of no less than 5M on an artificial surface pull a weight as described at sub paragraph 1) – 4) and in less than 1 minute:
- 1) 15-<27 Kilo Class – 23 times it's own weight;
  - 2) 27-<36 Kilo Class – 23 times it's own weight;
  - 3) 36-<45 Kilo Class – 21 times it's own weight; and
  - 4) 45Kilo and over class – 19 times it's own weight.

**APPENDIX A  
to Sled Racing**

**BREED AVERAGE SPEED**

The following table details the required speeds for specific breeds to attain WTD and WTDX titles:

**Race 10 Kilometres per hour or Excursion/Freight/Excellence events 8 kilometres per:**

Airedale  
American Staffordshire Terrier  
Bull Terrier  
Field Spaniel  
Romagno Water Dog  
Bloodhound  
Deerhound  
Finnish Spitz  
Irish Wolfhound  
Norwegian Elkhound  
Otterhound  
Bouvier Des Flandes  
Norwegian Buhunds  
Polish Lowland Sheepdog  
Akita  
Bernese Mountain Dog  
Leonberger  
Portuguese Water Dog  
Rottweiler  
Samoyed  
Schnauzer  
Schnauzer Giant  
Eurasier  
Great Dane  
Keeshond

**Race 14 Kilometres per hour or Excursion/Freight/Excellence events 11 kilometres per hour**

Bracco Italiano  
Brittany  
Chesapeake Bay Retriever  
Curley Coat Retriever  
Flatcoat Retriever  
Golden Retriever  
Irish Water Spaniel  
Italian Spinone  
Labrador Retriever  
Larger Munsterlander  
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever  
Welsh Springer Spaniel  
Fox Hound  
Hamiltonstovare Harrier  
Rhodesian Ridgeback  
Australian Cattle dog  
Australian Kelpie  
Australian Shepherd Australian Stumpy Tailed Cattle dog  
Bearded Collie  
Belgian Shepherds (all varieties)  
Bergamasco Shepherd  
Border Collie  
Briard  
Collie Rough  
Collie Smooth  
Dutch Shepherd  
German Shepherd Dog  
White Swiss Shepherd Dog  
Alaskan Malamute  
Canadian Eskimo Dog  
Doberman  
Poodle Standard  
Canaan Dog

**Race: 18 Kilometres per hour or Excursion/Freight/Excellence events 15 kilometres per hour**

Setters (all varieties)  
Pointers (all varieties)  
Hungarian Vizsla Hungarian Vizsla / Wire Haired  
Weimaraner/ Wire Haired  
Afghan hound  
Azawakh  
Bluetick Coonhound  
Borzo  
Greyhound  
Ibizan  
Pharaoh Hound  
Saluki  
Sloughi  
Whippet  
Siberian Husky  
Dalmatian