



Western Australian Sleddog Sports Association Race Rules

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Western Australian Sleddog Sports Association Race Rules

1. Entry Rules

A. Eligibility

I. Entries

- a. An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the race, subject to any entry deadlines as determined by the event organising committee (EOC/ROG).
- b. Late entries are entries received after the closing date for entries, as established by the EOC/ROG. Late entries may also be accepted up until a date and time specified by the EOC/ROG.
- c. A race entry may be rejected for any just cause.
- d. Drivers must meet the minimum age requirement as directed by the EOC/ROG. (This shall be listed on the race entries)
- e. Any person convicted of animal abuse or neglect at a misdemeanor or greater level shall be prohibited from participating in any event/activity sanctioned by the Australian Sleddog Sports Association (ASSA).
- f. Any dog having raced in one class of a dryland race shall not be eligible to race in a second class on the same day except if in a junior, Pee Wee and mini Pee Wee class and approved by the race marshal.

II. Drivers

- a. The driver starting the team in the first heat of a race shall drive that team throughout the race, except when otherwise determined by the EOC/ROG.
- b. A change of driver can only be made as the result of illness or injury to the authorised entrant and must have the approval of the Race Marshal as well as supporting medical evidence, if necessary.
- c. Any driver disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- d. Drivers disqualified for animal abuse shall not be eligible for further participation in any class that is part of that event.

III. Dogs

- a. The Race Marshal may disallow entry of any team or dog for a just cause.
- b. Any team or dog coming to the start line, which in the opinion of the Race Marshal, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail, and shall be disqualified.
- c. Any team or dog not starting the first heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race, unless otherwise determined by the EOC/ROG prior to the start of the race.
- d. Any team or dog disqualified in any heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.

IV. Disease

- a. No dog or equipment shall be brought from a kennel where kennel cough, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, or any other contagious disease exists.
- b. If the EOC/ROG believes (with a majority vote) that a dog (or equipment) has come from a kennel infected with one of the above mentioned diseases, then the EOC/ROG may ask that the owner, all his/her dogs and all equipment be removed from the event site immediately. ASSA recommends that the EOC/ROG seek a veterinarian's opinion if a Veterinarian is at the race or training site.
- c. If a dog or item of equipment is requested to be removed from an event site, in every such case the EOC/ROG must report all the details of the incident to ASSA on completion of the event.



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V. Identification

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

VI. Size of a Team

- a. A limited 1-Dog Team shall consist of not more than 1 dog and not less than 1.
- b. A limited 2-Dog Team shall consist of not more than 2 dogs and not less than 2.
- c. A limited 3-Dog Team shall consist of not more than 3 dogs and not less than 3.
- d. A limited 4-Dog Team shall consist of not more than 4 dogs and not less than 3.
- e. A limited 6-Dog Team shall consist of not more than 6 dogs and not less than 4.
- f. After the first heat and each ensuing heat, a driver may elect to reduce the size of his/her team, subject to the minimums.

VII. Temperature

- a. If the temperature reaches 15 degrees Celsius at any time prior to or during the race, a decision will be made to either reschedule races not yet run for later in the day or to cancel them.
- b. If, at the discretion of the Race Marshal, the humidity has reached a level that would be detrimental to the health of the dogs, a decision will be made to either reschedule races not yet run for later in the day or to cancel them.

B. Medication

I. Prohibited Drugs

- a. All stimulants and depressants, analgesics, prescription and nonprescription. Anti-inflammatory agents including, but not limited to, corticosteroids, anti-prostaglandins and salicylate. Anti-anxiety agents,
- b. Anabolic steroids. Diet pills and any other substance that may affect the performance of the dog.
- c. Any state, Federal, or Provincial controlled or restricted substance is prohibited.
- d. A positive test for previously declared parasiticides will be allowed in the test for prohibited substances in sled dogs. It is incumbent upon the driver/owner to declare all foreign substances used in his/her dogs before testing occurs.

II. Canine Drug Testing

- a. Random drug testing procedures may be enforced by the EOC/ROG.
- b. If an organisation intends to test for drugs, it shall declare so on the entry form.
- c. Whenever a specimen is requested for testing, the owner/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 prior to the start of the event.
- d. If an owner/driver refuses to allow a sample to be collected from a dog, that team shall be disqualified from the event.
- e. If any dog in a team shows a positive test to a prohibited drug, that team is subject to disqualification, the decision to be made following a hearing of race officials.



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III. Drugs & Drivers

- a. Any driver who is or appears to be under the influence of alcohol or any prohibited drug shall not be permitted to run a team of dogs at any ASSA sanctioned Events.

C. Equipment

I. Inspection

- a. Drivers, teams and equipment shall be available for inspection, if requested by the Race Marshal, in the Assembly Area at least ten (10) minutes prior to 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 Marshal.
- e. All equipment is subject to the approval of the Race Marshal.

II. Harnesses & Lines

- a. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
- b. All dogs shall be fastened to the gangline by a neckline and tugline with the exception of a single Leader which shall be harnessed to the gangline by a tugline. Dual leaders shall be connected by a neckline.
- c. A snubline may be carried but it shall not be used in any manner other than to tie down and hold the vehicle.
- d. An adequate shock absorption mechanism (bungee) shall be incorporated into the gangline.

III. Wheeled Rigs

- a. Shall have a platform and be equipped with a bag capable of safely restraining a struggling dog and if necessary, covering an injured dog.
- b. May have 3 or more wheels but shall be capable of being driven and controlled by one driver.
- c. Shall be equipped with a manual steering system.
- d. Shall have a locking braking system.
- e. Shall not exceed one hundred and sixty four (164) cm's in overall width.
- f. Shall not be motorised.
- g. May be used for the two (2) dog class.
- h. Must be used when running three (3) or more dogs.
- i. May be used for the 1 dog class subject to the approval of the Race Marshal.

IV. Scooters, Bikes & Chain Driven Vehicles

- a. Forward motion is not to be provided by means of a chain.
- b. The chain of a bike (or other such chain driven vehicle) must be removed or immobilised so that it cannot be used to provide forward motion.
- c. Must be equipped with adequate braking systems.
- d. May be used for one (1) and two (2) dog classes only.



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V. Other Equipment

- a. A muzzle or any collar that can be hooked as a full choke is prohibited
- b. Standard Collars, Limited slip Collars and Muzzle's are allowed, (all items must be the variety that allows panting and drinking)
- c. A racing number for each driver shall be provided. The driver shall display this number at all times during the race. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- d. The use or carrying of signal whips is prohibited at all ASSA sanctioned events.
- e. All drivers must wear a safety helmet.
- f. For night events, an adequate headlamp and/or bike lamp must be used.
- g. All drivers must carry cutters capable of cutting through ganglines, tuglines, or harnesses.
- h. The competitor shall not be wearing shoes that could be dangerous to the dogs (i.e. metal spiked or metal studded shoes) Race Marshal shall have final say on this on the day of the race.

D. Finish & Disqualification (optional)

- I. A team may be disqualified from competing in subsequent heats if it's total elapsed time exceeds either 1.25 or times the average time of the three fastest teams in the same heat of the same class.
- II. All entrants shall be notified, prior to entry, if a time qualification factor is to be used, stating which factor and to which classes it will be applied.

2. Start & Finish Rules

A. Drawing

- I. The starting position for the first heat of a race shall be determined by a drawing held prior to the race at a designated time and place.
- II. The driver, owner or proxy of each team shall draw their own starting position. In their absence, the starting position shall be drawn by the Race Marshall or by his/her representative.
- III. The order of the draw shall not be changed wither by addition or substitution. Late entries shall be added in order or receipt.

B. Race Start

- I. The first day's starting positions shall be determined by the draw with #1 starting first, #2 starting second etc In races of more than two (2) heats,
 - a) The total elapsed time of all previous heats shall determine the starting positions, or
 - b) The elapsed time of the previous single heat shall determine the starting positions with the fastest starting first and so on.
 - c) If "b)" is used, entrants shall be notified prior to making entry stating to which classes it shall apply.
- II. The total elapsed time of all previous heats shall determine the starting positions, or
- III. The elapsed time of the previous single heat shall determine the starting positions with the fastest starting first and so on.
- IV. If "II" is used, entrants shall be notified prior to making entry stating to which classes it shall apply.



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C. Equal Times

- I. If the total elapsed time of two (2) teams is identical, the order of start for those teams shall be the reverse order in which they started the preceding heat.
- II. Teams with equal times for the entire race shall be awarded the higher finishing position.
- III. 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.

D. Starting Point & Time

- I. The front tire of the vehicle shall determine the starting point of the team.
- II. Trail time for all teams shall begin at the originally scheduled starting time of departure.
- III. A team which fails to be in the starting position at its scheduled starting time will be declared a "late starting team".
 - a) 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.
 - b) A late starting team shall not interfere with any other team.
 - c) If more than one (I) team is declared late, those teams shall start in their originally scheduled starting order
- IV. If any team is late for its second scheduled time of departure for any one heat, that team shall be disqualified.

E. Assistance in the Starting Chute

- I. A team not clearing the Starting Chute (minimum distance 30 meters) prior to the scheduled start of the next team may be disqualified.
- II. Unless otherwise stated by the Race Marshall prior to the start of the first heat of the event;
 - a) Any amount or type of assistance is allowed to a team prior to the actual starting time.
 - b) Once a team's starting time has commenced; only the chute judge or officials designated to assist may help in the chute.
 - c) In the event of a tangle or dog fight in a dual start, unlimited help is allowed.
- III. Once a team is beyond the starting chute area in an official start, all Trail Rules apply.

F. Finish

- I. A team shall have finished the heat when the nose of the first dog on that team crosses the finish line.
- II. If a loose team crosses the line ahead of the driver, that team shall have finished when the driver crosses the finish line.

3. Trail Rules



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A. Following the Trail

- I. A team and driver shall run the entire prescribed course. The course shall be of a suitable surface, avoiding such surfaces as concrete, bitumen and sharp rock gravel, except for necessary road crossings.
- II. If a team leaves the trail, the driver must return the team to the point at which they left the trail.
- III. The trail shall be followed as marked;
 - a) "Right Turn" shall be indicated by a RED marker on the right side of the trail.
 - b) "Left Turn" shall be indicated by a RED marker on the left side of the trail.
 - c) "Straight Ahead"/"Correct Trail" shall be indicated by BLUE markers.
 - d) "Caution" shall be marked by YELLOW markers
 - e) "Extended Caution" will be marked by TWO YELLOW markers on the same pole at the beginning of the of the caution area. At the end of an extended caution there shall be a yellow marker with a diagonal red or black cross.
 - f) "End of Chute" (minimum 30 meters) shall be indicated by markers on both sides of the trail.
 - g) "1/2km" marker shall be placed 500m from the finish line to indicate the start of the "no-right-of-way zone" unless trail conditions dictate otherwise. The trail within this "zone" should be at least 3 meters wide and aligned so that an overtaking team may pass freely on the run.
- IV. Where inexperienced races are in attendance directional arrows can also be used in conjunction with the above

B. Driving a Team

- I. A driver may ride, run or scoot as wished.
- II. Any driver accepting a ride on any vehicle other than his/her own shall be disqualified.
- III. A driver shall not interfere with any other competing team.
- IV. All dogs starting a heat shall complete the entire course, either harnessed in the team or carried in the gig.
- V. A dog becoming unfit after departure shall be carried on the gig.
- VI. Dogs finishing a heat riding in the rig bag will be eligible to compete in subsequent heats of the race if approved to do so by the Race Marshal and or race vet.
- VII. The Competitor shall not pace its dog/s by running ahead
- VIII. Carrying a passenger at any time during the race shall be prohibited except when;
 - a) Called for in the conditions of the race.
 - b) Giving a ride to a driver in an emergency situation.



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C. Assistance on the Trail

- I. All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorised by the Race Marshal.
- II. Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other in any manner authorised by the Race Marshall.
- III. 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 where any assistance may be provided.
- IV. No one shall willfully pace a team.

D. Loose Teams and Dogs

- I. A loose team or dog(s) shall not interfere or delay another team. II. The driver shall overtake a loose team or dog(s) on foot.
- II. A loose team or dog(s) may resume the trail without penalty provided the team/dog(s) has completed the entire trail and the driver has received only authorised assistance, i.e.:
 - a) Authorised outside assistance in limited to holding a loose team or dog(s) once it has been stopped.
 - b) Any qualified person(s) may, and is indeed encouraged to, stop and hold a loose team or dog(s).

E. Right Of Way

- I. In a dual start, the team with the lead dog farthest ahead at the end of the start chute shall have right of way.
- II. When teams are passing in opposite directions on a single trail;
- III. The team traveling downhill shall have right of way.
- IV. On level terrain, the Race Marshall shall determine and announce, prior to the start of the race, whether the incoming or outgoing team has right of way.
- V. In the "no-right-of-way-zone", no team shall have right of way over a finishing team.

F. Passing

- I. During the overtaking Procedure the overtaken team shall make unimpeded way for the passing team. On the command "trail" the participant and the dog is obliged to hold the same side of the trail and slow down if required to allow a clean pass. On the command "stop" the overtaken team is obliged to stop moving forward. The command "stop" is only applicable in order to prevent dangerous situations.
- II. When a team's driver intends to pass another team, the passing team driver may request right of way when his/her lead dog(s) come within fifteen (15) meters of the rig/scooter of the overtaken team.
- III. The team being overtaken shall make way for the team passing by steering the rig/scooter to one side of the trail and/or slowing his/her team and/or, if requested to by the passing team's driver, stopping and keeping the team from moving forward.
- IV. If the passing team becomes tangled or bunched up in the course of the passing maneuver, to allow time to untangle and/or tighten lines, the passing 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 and one half (1/2) minute in all other classes.



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- V. 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;
 - a) In limited classes involving more than two (2) dogs, after no less than one (1) minute or four hundred (400) meters.
 - b) In limited classes involving two (2) dogs or less, after no less than one half (1/2) minute or two hundred meters.
 - c) Or at any lesser interval when both drivers are in agreement.

- VI. EXCEPTION After a pass has been completed, a team that has been passed need not hold his/her team while the other driver;
 - a) repairs equipment or,
 - b) unhooks and transfers a dog or dogs from one position in the team to another position in the team or,
 - c) goes off the race trail before the above mentioned distance or time interval has elapsed. Loading a dog in the gig constitutes changing a dog's position in the team.

- VII. A driver coming upon two (2) or more teams stopped together may pass all such teams.

- VIII. All stopped teams and drivers shall make every effort to clear the trail for the moving team(s).

- IX. Teams following each other shall maintain an interval of not less than one (1) team length except when passing and in the "no-right-of-way-zone".

- X. No driver shall interfere with another competing team.

G. Conduct

- I. Responsibility & Sportsmanship
 - a) All musher's shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, handlers and themselves at all times while during the WASSA sanctioned event.
 - b) Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail.
 - c) If a Race Marshal deems that a driver, handler, or teams conduct, at any time during the duration of the race, event, that team shall be disqualified.

- II. Treatment Of Dogs And People
 - a) Any abuse of a dog or person, verbal or physical with or without an implement, is strictly prohibited at sanctioned events.
 - b) Any conduct which is in any way detrimental to the sport of Sleddog racing in Australia or harms or
 - c) Abuses a dog or person while in the event area or on the trail may result in suspension or ban from future WASSA sanctioned events.



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H. Rule Violations

- I. Reports By Race Officials
 - a) Race officials shall report overt rule violation(s) to the Race Marshall verbally, in person or by radio, immediately or directly following the heat in which the violation(s) occurred.
 - b) The Race Marshall shall act, at his/her discretion, on any overt violation(s) witnessed and reported by the race officials.
- II. Reports By Competitors
 - a) Drivers wishing to report alleged violation(s) of the rules by another competitor shall notify the Race Marshall immediately following the heat in which the violation(s) occurred. Notification may be verbal.
 - b) All verbal driver reports shall be followed by a written report given to the Race Marshall within one (1) hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation(s) occurred.
 - c) A protest lodgment fee of \$20.00 shall accompany a written protest, to be refunded if the protest is upheld.
 - d) A copy of any/all written protests will be submitted to ASSA in the race report along with Responses/outcomes by the race Martial and Race committee - these written protests may be viewed by the public by written request.
- III. Protests & Hearings
 - a) Any drivers implicated in a report of an alleged violation(s) of the rules shall be approached by the Race Marshall prior to any decision being made.
 - b) Any driver implicated in a report of an alleged violation(s) of the rules may request a hearing before the Race Marshall, if Section 3-C-I is not fulfilled.
 - c) Requested hearings shall be granted by the Race Marshall.
 - d) Hearings shall be held in private.
 - e) The Race Marshall may request meetings with any person(s), in private, that he/she deems important to the original hearing.
- IV. All protests, warnings etc. will be noted and submitted to ASSA along with the Race Report (See ASSA Race Sanctioning Requirements).

I. Disciplinary Action

- I. For violation(s) of any race rule, the Race Marshall shall issue a verbal warning to the driver and if deemed necessary by the Race Marshal a time penalty or disqualification may be imposed upon the driver.
- II. Decisions shall be announced as quickly as practical but no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of any ensuing heats.
- III. Any disciplinary action following the final heat of the race shall be acted upon prior to the awards ceremony.
- IV. In the case of drug testing, the above time schedule does not apply to allow for laboratory findings and hearings, should the later become necessary.
- V. Intentional early starting shall be grounds for disqualification.
- VI. The decisions of the Race Marshall shall be final.