

**Western Australian Sleddog Sports Association**

**BY-LAWS**

**As at 16th September 2018**

**A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Agenda for an AGM Shall be:

**a.** Opening of Meeting

**b.** Apologies

**c.** Confirmation of Minutes of previous AGM and Business Arising

**d.** Presentation of Adoption of Presidents Report

**e.** Presentation and Adoption of Treasurer’s statement

**f.** Election of New Committee and appointment of Auditor

**g.** Vote of thanks to outgoing Committee

**h.** Determination of Annual Membership Fee

**i.** Notice of Motions

**j.** Urgent general business

**k.** Closure

**B. Disputes and Mediation**

**1.** The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these rules between:

**a.** A member and another member; or

**b.** A member and the Association; or

**c.** If the Association provides services to non-members, those non-members who receive services from the Association, and the Association.

**2.** The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and, if possible,

resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all of the parties.

**3.** If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting, or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must, within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.

**4.** The mediator must be:

**a.** A person chosen by agreement between the parties; or

**b.** In the absence of agreement:

**i.** In the case of a dispute between a member and another member, a person

appointed by the Committee of the Association;

**ii.** In the case of a dispute between a member or relevant non-member (as defined by sub-rule B.1.c.) and the Association, a person who is a mediator appointed to, or employed with, a not-for-profit organization.

**5.** A member of the Association can be a mediator.

**6.** The mediator cannot be a member who is a party to the dispute.

**7.** The parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to settle the dispute by mediation.

**8.** The mediator, in conducting the mediation, must:

**a.** Give the parties to the mediation process every opportunity to be heard;

**b.** Allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party;

and

**c.** Ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the dispute throughout the

mediation process.

**9.** The mediator must not determine the dispute.

**10.** The mediation must be confidential and without prejudice.

**11.** If the mediation process does not result in the dispute being resolved, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.

**C. General Club Rules**

**1.** **Temperature** (for the safety of all dogs at events):

**a.** Scheduled Training - Members will not be allowed to run their dogs at training if the

clubs temperature gauge states over 15 degrees. Committee may organise on lead

exercises so members can practice commands in lieu of being able to run the tracks.

**b.** Demo/Beginner Day Events - Dogs will only be permitted to run at these events at

temperatures exceeding 15 degrees at committee's discretion. Committee will take

into regard distances being run, overall weather and individual dogs in deciding what is suitable. If it is deemed too much of a risk for the dogs health then other alternatives will be organised (For example - DVD of past races for spectators to view, on lead demos).

**2.** **Training:**

**a.** Any Committee nominated training co-ordinator will be in charge at training events,

unless they are unavailable or have requested assistance. In these cases the

Committee will fill this position.

**b.** Members are to follow the direction and instructions given by the person/s filling this position at all training events.

**c.** Members are to walk dogs to and from the start area at training on lead and not run

the dogs between vehicles. This is to stop disagreements between dogs and also to

avoid injuries of people walking out from behind vehicles/trailers and getting cleaned

up by someone on a scooter/rig.

**d.** Teams of 3 or more dogs must only be run with a rig and not on a scooter.

**3.** **Insurance:**

**a.** Any non-members attending club training and also participating in training activities

on more than two separate weekends needs to pay the non-member insurance fee

for ASSA insurance purposes (2011: $5.00) for each additional club training they

attend/participate in.

**4.** **Safety:**

**a.** All members must have/use the following safety equipment while at ALL club events (including training) where they will be sledding with their dogs (spot checks will be carried out by Training Co-ordinator/Committee):

**i.** Helmet

**ii.** Lights (Scooter and/or Helmet) - if appropriate

**iii.** Cutters

**iv.** Fixed/Limited slip collar. No check chains, prong collars etc are allowed.

**5. Classes:**

**a. Touring Classes  
 i.** Junior Class – When the musher is between 10 years and 16years of age   
 at the beginning of the Race Season

**ii**. Novice Class – Any musher, having completed in less than 3 race events MUST enter in touring classes only.

**iii**. Veteran Class – For teams where ALL dogs are over the age of 7 years of age.

**iv**. Puppy Class – For dogs aged between 9 months and 18 months of age at the start of the racing season. Dogs beginning the season in Puppy can stay in Puppy for the duration of the season.

- Exceptions can be made on each class at the sitting committee’s discretion on application   
from the musher.

**b. Moving Classes**  
 **i.** Mushers wishing to move from Novice to Open MUST have participated,   
 without incident, in at least three touring class races in separate events.  
 - Exceptions can be made by the sitting committee’s discretion on   
 application. Capabilities must be demonstrated and witnessed by a   
 portion of the sitting committee members.

**ii.** Mushers wishing to move from Scooter to Rig classes MUST have   
completed one full season (or minimum of five races over the course of two seasons) in Open Scooter class prior to moving to Rig class

**c. Bikejoring**

i. Bikejoring passing rules will follow the same rules as scooter and rig classes as specified in ASSA rules 24.2

**6.** All members are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs at all club events and locations.

The exception to this is when competing in a sanctioned club race and are out on the track

with your dog/s under timing conditions. In all other instances members need to carry dog poo

bags (including on training runs), if a member does not have any then please approach a

Committee member who will find one for you.

**7.** Members must fill in any holes/excavation efforts created by their dogs so the area is left in a similar condition to when you arrived.

**8.** All members are to keep their dogs on lead and under control. This includes out on the track (when in harness but not on lead) and also around base/camp/training. Do not approach any other dogs that are unattended or tied up (I.e. on stake out lines) unless the owner has been spoken to and has given their permission.

**9.** All members with children need to ensure their children are safe and not disrupting

members/dogs. Examples are:

**a.** Children should not approach any strange dogs without their parents and parents

should ensure that the dog's owner/s have been asked before letting children

approach.

**b.** All children should not be allowed to play around any camp fires at club events for

safety reasons.

**c.** Children should be watched on any equipment that is at club event locations to

ensure no damage is done to the equipment or to the child or other children.

d. Parents are asked to be vigilant as all times at/during club events.

**10.** **Bitches in season** - The club requests that any members with a bitch in season inform   
the Committee before allowing the dog out of the car/trailer or around other dogs at all

events/training. This will not be a valid reason to stop the dog from running/training but

precautions will be put in place to reduce the disruption to other dogs as much as possible.

**11.** Any dog that is infected/thought to be infected with any contagious disease is not permitted at any club events.

**12.** All club events are smoke free except in the following circumstances:

**a.** At camps or events with buildings/structures, if event attendees are at least 40 metres away from building/structures entrances.

**b.** Training/Race events without buildings, if event attendees are at least 40 metres

away from main areas with other attendees.

**13.** If members are showing any signs of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol then they will not be allowed to work/sled with any dogs and may be asked to leave an event if

committee deem it safest/best for all involved.

**14.** It is the responsibility of members to ensure that young dogs are not worked too hard before they are physically strong enough. The club states that large breed dogs (Eg Alaskan

Malamutes) should be at least 12 months old, medium breed dogs (Siberian Husky), should

be at least 9 months old. With mixed breed dogs whose breeds are not exactly known and

rescue dogs whose age is not exactly known (or a combination of both of these) then

common sense should be used to guess the information and act appropriately.

**15.** Any member who damages or causes loss or breakage to any of the Club's

property/equipment or property/equipment in the club's care shall be made to replace/repair

as the Committee may direct.

**16.** Any complaints regarding unseemly conduct or harmful acts should be reported to a

Committee member.

**17.** The Committee has the authority to remove any member from a club organised event in the event of abusive or offensive behaviour.

**18.** The Committee has the authority to disallow a member from working/training their dog if they consider the dog to be too unfit or too sick/injured to participate safely.

**19.** The Committee has the authority to decide that a dog must be muzzled if deemed for the

safety of other members.

**20.** Race Rules should be adhered to as much as possible at all times when running dogs,

whether at a race or a training event, for the benefit of all members.

**21.** If members leave training/events early where teams are still training/ working out on the

tracks, then the following guidelines need to be followed:

**a.** If the member is approaching a team/s head on then the member must pull their

vehicle over to one side as far as possible, reduce/turn off lights and wait until the

team/s have passed before continuing.

**b.** If the member is approaching a team/s from behind then the member must not

overtake the team/s but follow at a distance so as not to interrupt the team/s training

(regardless of how slow/fast the team/s are progressing).

**c.** The above does not apply if the team/s stop and signal for the member to go past

(DO NOT overtake any team/s until they are stationery and when passing ensure its

at a slow pace to avoid any accidents if dogs suddenly move towards the vehicle).

**22.** If the Race Marshall is entered in a race heat, the president will be a substitute race marshall for that specific heat. If the President is not an option, then another substitute will be chosen.

**D. Membership**

1. **Awards**

**a.** Event Competitors can only accumulate points towards the Club’s end of year awards from the date they become a fully paid member of WASSA.

Any results made prior to this date will not be included in the end of year award point score system.

b. Members will be eligible for end of year WASSA awards upon participation in a minimum of three WASSA races in the one season. A members best three results for the year will be used for the calculation.

1. **Minutes –** Club committee meeting minutes will not be automatically sent to members. However they will be provided to members whom request it via email from the committee.