

**New England Sled Dog Club, Inc.**

# **Racing Rules & Manual**



Amended September 2001

# Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
<b>Section I</b>	
Race Organization .....	2
<b>Section II</b>	
Senior Race Rules.....	8
<b>Section III</b>	
Junior Race Rules.....	21
<b>Section IV</b>	
Weight Pulling Rules.....	24
<b>Section V</b>	
Skijoring Rules.....	29
<b>Section VI</b>	
Miscellaneous Race Information.....	31
<b>Section VII</b>	
Trophies and Awards.....	36
<b>Section VIII</b>	
Point System.....	40

# **SECTION I –Race Organization**

## **Race Official Job Descriptions**

**Officers**

**Race Manager**

**Timers**

**Chief Judge**

**Assistant Judges**

**Trail Boss**

**Trail Officials**

## **PRESIDENT**

The President shall have the responsibility of appointing without prior approval substitute race officials the weekend of the race.

The President shall also have the responsibility of appointing other race personnel whose job classifications will not necessarily be defined herein.

For Club responsibilities refer to the Constitution and By-laws.

## **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

The First Vice President will be available for consultation during all phases of the planning of the race. Any questionable areas should have the First Vice President's personal approval.

The First Vice President shall before, during and after the race, keep tabs on all officials to see that they are functioning correctly. He/she should do so personally, or through reports of designated officials. If a job is not being done, he/she should correct the situation.

For Club responsibilities refer to the Constitution and By-laws.

## **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

The Second Vice President shall be responsible for maintaining the records of the driver trail coverage participation and acquiring the number of persons necessary to properly cover the trail.

For Club responsibilities refer to the Constitution and By-laws.

## **TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall be available at all races to make out all checks necessary to pay driver's prizes and officials' expenses.

For Club responsibilities refer to the Constitution and By-laws.

## **RACE MANAGER**

The Race Manager will be directly responsible to the First Vice President of the Club.

The Race Manager may adjust starting times for different classes and events to take place if the need arises during the race itself.

The Race Manager will be responsible for taking entries.

The Race Manager will be responsible for determining the starting order and for providing the Trail Officials with an accurate check list.

The Race Manager will be responsible for race numbers.

The Race Manager and/or his/her assignee will announce the race.

The Race Manager will be responsible for the Timers and all communications.

### **TIMERS**

The Timers will be directly responsible to the Race Manager.

The Timers may have an assistant who would be chosen by them and approved by the Race Manager.

The Timers will be responsible for the proper and adequate timing devices, and be completely familiar with their use.

The Timers are responsible for the calculating, recording and posting of the times for all teams in each heat.

The timers are responsible for calculating the qualification time for each heat of the race and notifying the Chief Judge of any ineligible drivers.

### **CHIEF JUDGE**

The Chief Judge will be directly responsible to the First Vice President and is responsible for the enforcement of all race rules.

The Chief Judge will be the final authority on any matter based upon the framework of the race and within the limits of the race rules.

The Chief Judge will be in charge of all judges.

The Chief Judge will make sure sled holders and flag people are available.

The Chief Judge will be in charge of the starting and finishing lines.

The Chief Judge should work directly with the Trail Boss regarding trail problems and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the setting of the Trail Officials.

The Chief Judge will check the trail with the Trail Boss to see that it is without undue hazards and that it is appropriately marked.

The Chief Judge will see that all Trail Officials will have proper supplies.

The Chief Judge will understand the duties of all Assistant Judges and officials.

The Chief Judge may give any or all of his power to an Assistant Judge or Judges.

The Chief Judge will call a Drivers' Meeting.

The Chief Judge has the right to inspect all dogs and equipment in the holding area, giving the driver time to correct a situation. Only under the most unusual circumstances should it be necessary to inspect a team already in the chute.

The Chief Judge will be in charge of picking out dogs for drug testing, if required.

The Chief Judge is the only person to authorize the change of a driver.

The Chief Judge may reduce the size of any or all teams if warranted.

The Chief Judge is responsible for conducting a clinic for each new and guest driver.

### **ASSISTANT JUDGES**

The Assistant Judges are responsible to the Chief Judge.

The Assistant Judges are responsible for duties listed under Trail Officials and others as assigned by the Chief Judge.

The Assistant Judges will direct proper personnel or spectators to keep the finish line open and unobstructed.

The Assistant Judges will be responsible to see that the area from the finish line to the staging area is open for all teams to return safely to their vehicles.

### **TRAIL BOSS**

The Trail Boss is directly responsible to the First Vice President.

The Trail Boss will be responsible for all Club trail equipment.

The Trail Boss will act as an advisor to the Race Manager and President in regard to the postponement, cancellation, or delay of the start of a race, due to bad weather conditions or trail problems beyond the control of the race giving organization.

The Trail Boss will make arrangements to inspect the trails prior to the race with the race sponsoring organization and **advise** what alternate work (if any) should be done to the trail to ensure the safety of the dogs and drivers.

The Trail Boss will be responsible for properly marking the trail.

The Trail Boss will review the trail on race day prior to the start of the racing, and advise the Race Manager, Chief Judge, and the race giving organization of any repairs necessary.

The Trail Boss will advise the Chief Judge of any hazardous areas, and be available to explain them at the Drivers' Meeting prior to the start of the race.

The Trail Boss will work directly with the Chief Judge and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President with regard to the assigning and placing of Trail Officials. He/she will, if possible, transport Trail Officials and other trail help when necessary to and from their stations.

The Trail Boss will check the trail after each heat to assure that all teams have cleared trail and to notify Trail Officials of the same.

The Trail Boss will be responsible for taking down the trail markers at the end of the race or assigning a responsible person to do so.

## **TRAIL OFFICIALS**

The Trail Officials must be familiar with the racing rules.

The Trail Officials stationed at the intersection of two or more trails should stand in or block the trail which is not to be taken. The Trail may also be blocked with brush, snowmobiles, or other barriers available. On corners, they should position themselves on the **OUTSIDE** of the turn so that the teams turn AWAY from them. Any sudden movements may scare the dogs and cause trouble.

Spectators must be kept out of the way and off the trail.

All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorized by the Chief Judge..

The Trail Officials should attempt to stop a team without a driver. His/her first duty is to get the loose team off the trail so as not to cause interference with another team. Once the team is off the trail, he/she should secure the sled, untangle the dogs if necessary, and calm them in a quiet voice.

The Trail Officials will be provided with an accurate checklist by the Race Manager before leaving the staging area.

The Trail Officials shall check off teams by bib number as they pass their checkpoint.

The Trail Officials should note any unusual happenings that occur at their checkpoint.

The Trail Officials should turn their checklist in to the Chief Judge upon their return to the staging area making him aware of any incidences at their checkpoint.



## **SECTION II - Senior Race Rules**

## **I. ELIGIBILITY**

### **A. ENTRIES**

1. An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the race, subject to the entry deadlines as determined by the Board of Directors.
2. The Race Manager may reject any entry for just cause.

### **B. DRIVERS**

1. The driver starting a team in the first heat of a race shall drive that team throughout the race.
2. A change in driver can only be made as a result of illness or injury to the authorized entrant and must have the prior approval of the Chief Judge
3. Any driver disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in that heat for the remainder of the race.
4. All drivers must be members in good standing of the Club.
5. All new drivers must attend a racing clinic administered by the Chief Judge or his assignee before being allowed to race in a NESDC race; this includes Junior drivers racing for the first time in a Senior class.
6. All new drivers must contact the Chief Judge before the start of the race to establish the fact that he/she is familiar with the NESDC racing rules. Failure to do so will result in a penalty as defined by the Chief Judge.
7. All drivers must pay all sums owed to the Club before being allowed to race.
8. Any Sportsman Driver who moves into the Professional Class may not move back into the Sportsman Class for the remainder of that racing season unless authorized by the Chief Judge.

### **C. Dogs**

1. The Chief Judge may disallow entry of any team or dog for just cause.
2. Any team or dog coming to the starting line, which, in the opinion of the Chief Judge, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail, shall be disqualified.

3. Any team or dog not starting the first heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.

#### **D. DISEASE**

1. No dog or equipment shall be brought from a kennel where Rabies, Distemper, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Parvo or other contagious disease exists.
2. If the Race Veterinarian diagnoses any dog present in the race area to have a contagious disease, that team shall be disqualified and shall immediately leave the race area.
3. All dogs participating in an NESDC race **must** have certificates of rabies inoculation, signed by a licensed veterinarian, or a letter of kennel inoculation signed by a veterinarian on his letter head stationary, stating that the entire kennel has been inoculated. Proof of inoculation, original or photocopy, **must** be furnished to the Club Secretary upon request.

#### **E. IDENTIFICATION**

In races of more than one heat, each dog may be marked for identification prior to the start of the first heat of the race.

#### **F. SIZE OF TEAM**

1. An Unlimited Class team shall consist of not less than eight (8) dogs in the first heat, and not less than six (6) dogs in any subsequent heat.
2. A Limited 8-Dog Class team shall consist of not more than eight (8) dogs and not less than six (6) dogs.
3. A 6-Dog Class team shall consist of not more than six (6) dogs and not less than four (4) dogs.
4. A Sportsman Class team shall consist of not more than six (6) dogs, and not less than four (4) dogs.
5. A 4-Dog Class team shall consist of not more than four (4) dogs, and not less than two (2) dogs.
6. After the first heat and each ensuing heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to the class minimums.
7. The Chief Judge may reduce the size of any team that he determines is too large for the designated driver or allow a smaller team in any class.

## **G. MEDICATIONS ADMINISTERED TO DOGS**

### **1. PROHIBITED DRUGS**

All Drug Enforcement Agency of U.S. controlled stimulants or depressants shall be prohibited.

### **2. DRUG TESTING**

- a. If the Club intends to test for illegal medications, it shall use ISDRA Drug Testing procedures and shall declare so on the entry form.
- b. Whenever a specimen is required 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 race.
- c. If an owner or driver refuses to allow a sample to be collected from a dog, that team shall be disqualified from the event.
- d. If any dog in a team shows a positive test of a prohibited medication, that team is subject to disqualification, the decision to be made following a hearing.

## **H. EQUIPMENT**

### **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 scheduled 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 Chief Judge.
- e. All equipment is subject to the approval of the Chief Judge.

### **2. HARNESSES AND LINES**

- a. All dogs shall be harnessed in single and double file.

- b. All dogs shall be fastened to a gangline by a neckline and a tugline with the exception of the leader(s) who shall be harnessed in the team by a tugline but may run with or without a neckline. However, in the case of trails with head-on passing during any portion of the trail, dual leaders shall be fastened to each other with a neckline.
- c. A snub line may be carried on the sled but it shall not be used in any manner other than to tie down and hold the sled.

### **3. SLEDS**

- a. A sled shall be capable of adequately carrying the driver and have a basket capable of carrying a dog.
- b. A sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brush bow and snow hook/snubline.
- c. A sled shall be equipped with an ISDRA compliant dog bag capable of safely restraining a struggling dog or covering a severely injured or dead dog.

### **4. OTHER EQUIPMENT**

- a. A muzzle or any collar that may be hooked as a full choke shall be prohibited.
- b. Whips (1 meter from butt end to popper) shall only be carried by Senior team drivers for the sole purpose of avoiding potential problems. The whip must be carried out of sight at all times. If a driver needs to use a whip, he/she must report its use to the Chief Judge or NESDC official upon completion of the class. The penalty for not reporting use of a whip to an appropriate official will result in disqualification for that race.
- c. A racing number for each driver shall be provided at the drivers' meeting prior to each heat. The driver shall display this number on his person throughout the heat. The number shall be returned to the race manager at the end of the heat.
- d. Dogs' feet may be properly protected with moccasins, booties, etc.

## **I. FINISH TIME DISQUALIFICATION**

A team shall be disqualified from competing in subsequent heats if its total time exceeds 1.50 times the average time of the five (5) fastest teams in the same heat of the same class, or unless suspended by the Officers or Board of Directors for a set time or race.

## **II. START – FINISH RULES**

### **A DRAWING**

1. The starting positions for the first heat of a race shall be determined by a drawing held prior to the race as determined by the Race Manager.
2. Late entries shall be added in order of receipt.

### **B. SINGLE START RACE**

1. The first day's starting order shall be determined by the draw with Number 1 starting first, Number 2 starting second, etc.
2. The second day's starting positions shall be determined by the first day's finish times, with the fastest team starting first, etc.
3. In the Sportsman Classes, the second days starting positions shall be the slowest out first.
4. In races of more than two heats, the total elapsed time of the previous heats shall determine the starting positions, with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest team leaving second, etc.
5. In races with classes of more than one heat per day, the first day's starting order shall be determined by the draw. The following day, the heats shall be reversed and the order of teams shall be the fastest first within each heat.

### **C. DUAL START RACES**

1. The first day's starting order shall be determined by the draw with numbers 1 & 2 starting together first, Numbers 3 & 4 starting together second, etc.
2. The second day's starting positions shall be determined by the first day's times. The first day's finish list will be divided into two (2) groups with the fastest team in the faster group starting with the fastest team in the slower group, followed by the second fastest in each group.

3. In races of more than two heats, the total elapsed time of the previous heats shall determine the groupings and starting positions.
4. In races with classes of more than one heat per day, the first day's starting order shall be determined by the draw. The following day, the heats shall be reversed and the order of teams shall be fastest first within each heat.

**D. EQUAL TIMES**

1. 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.
2. Teams with equal times for the entire race shall be awarded the higher finishing positions.
3. The purse for the tied place and the next lower place(s) shall be combined and divided equally among the teams tied for that place. The next place team shall be paid at next level down.

**E. STARTING POINT AND LINE**

1. The brush bow of the sled shall determine the starting point of the team.
2. A team that fails to be in the starting position at its scheduled starting time at the end of the countdown shall 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 team that has been declared late to the line shall be moved out of the way of other teams.
  - c. If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall start in their originally scheduled starting order after the last team in its class has started and after the prescribed starting order.
  - d. 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.
  - e. Late starting teams shall have their trail time increased by a penalty time factor as follows: three (3) minutes for an Open/8-Dog class driver, two (2) minutes for a 6-Dog Professional/Sportsman class driver and one (1) minute for a 4-Dog Professional/Sportsman class driver and for skijorers.

3. A team not clearing the Starting Chute (minimum 100 feet) prior to the start of the next team may be disqualified at the discretion of the Chief Judge.
4. No driver may carry a passenger in the sled to the starting line.

**F. ASSISTANCE IN STARTING CHUTE**

1. Assistance in the starting chute shall be allowed as needed to assist in clearing the chute.
3. Once a team is beyond the starting chute area in an official start, all trail rules apply.

**G. FINISH**

1. Team shall have finished the heat when the nose of the first dog crosses the finish line.
2. If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of the driver, that team shall have finished when the driver crosses the finish line.
3. When a dual starting chute is used as a finishing chute, a team may return on either trail.
4. Dog drivers, owners or any other persons are forbidden to assist a team by pacing. Calling a team from the side lines or finish line is also forbidden.
5. No driver may carry a passenger in the sled from the finish line.

**III. TRAIL RULES**

**A. FOLLOWING THE TRAIL**

1. A team and driver shall run the full course as established by the Trail Boss.
2. If a loose team leaves the trail, the driver shall return the team to the point at which it left the trail.
3. The trail will be marked as follows:
  - 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”** shall be indicated by blue or green markers.
- d. **“Caution”** shall be indicated by a yellow or orange marker.
- e. The end of the “Starting Chute” (Minimum of 100 feet) shall be indicated by markers on both sides of the trail.
- f. A **“1/2 mile”** marker shall be placed one-half mile from the finish line to indicate the **“No Right of Way”** zone.

## **B. DRIVING A TEAM**

- 1. A driver may ride, pedal or run as and when he/she wishes except that he/she must not run forward of the brush bow of the sled for the purpose of pacing the team.
- 2. In the event that a driver cannot quickly and safely recover his/her team, the driver must accept assistance, including a ride when available to recover his/her team. Failure to accept available assistance may result in disqualification of the driver of the loose team. The Chief Judge shall determine if a driver is to be disqualified. Drivers who receive a ride to recover a team will be assessed a time penalty of 20% of their total elapsed time of the heat in which they received a ride.
- 3. A driver shall not interfere with competing teams.
- 4. All dogs starting a heat shall complete the entire course, either hitched in the team or carried on the sled.
- 5. A dog becoming unfit after departure shall be carried on the sled.
- 6. Carrying a passenger at any time during the race shall be prohibited unless:
  - a. called for by conditions of the race.
  - b. giving a ride to a driver in an emergency situation.

## **B. ASSISTANCE ON THE TRAIL**

1. All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorized by the Chief Judge.
2. Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other in any manner in the context of good sportsmanship.
3. Handler or spectator assistance shall be limited to holding the sled, 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.
  - a. If the driver is present in a non emergency situation, help is limited to holding the sled.
  - b. If the driver is not present, the team should be stopped and held until the driver or race official claims the team.
4. No one shall assist a team by willfully pacing it. Calling a team from the sidelines or finish line is also prohibited.

**C. LOOSE TEAMS AND DOGS**

1. A loose team or dog shall not delay or interfere with another team.
2. The driver shall regain his/her loose team or dog by the quickest means available to insure the safety of the loose dog or team.
3. 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 authorized outside assistance.
  - a. Authorized outside assistance is limited to holding a loose team or dog, once it has been stopped.
  - b. Any person(s) may (and is encouraged to) stop and hold a loose team or dog.

**D. RIGHT OF WAY**

1. In a dual start, the team with the lead dog farthest ahead at the end of the divided chute shall have the right of way.
2. When teams are passing in opposite directions on a single trail:
  - a. the team traveling downhill shall have the right of way.

- b. on level terrain, the incoming team shall have the right of way.
- 3. In the ½ mile “No Right of Way” finish zone, no team shall have the right of way over the incoming team.

**E. PASSING**

- 1. When one team intends to pass another, the passing team driver may request the right of way when the lead dog(s) come within fifty (50) feet of the sled of the overtaken team.
- 2. The overtaken team shall make way for the passing team by moving to one side of the trail and by slowing or stopping if requested by the passing team driver.
- 3. Once the team has been passed, that team shall not repass until:
  - a. an interval whenever both drivers are in agreement.
  - b. the passed team must give the passing team enough distance to pull away cleanly.
- 4. If the passing team becomes tangled as a result of the pass, that team’s driver may require the overtaken team’s driver to stop.
- 5. A driver coming upon two or more teams stopped together, may pass all such teams. The stopped team drivers will make every effort to clear the trail for the moving team(s).
- 6. 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.
- 7. No team is required to give “Right of Way” when being repassed or within ½ mile of the finish line.

**F. USE OF TRAILS**

- 1. No dog team is to go out after the races for any reason during the course of the race.
- 2. No one is to use the race trails for training purposes from Wednesday prior to the race or after the race without the written permission of the Chief Judge and Trail Boss through midnight of the last day of the race.

**IV. CONDUCT**

**A. RESPONSIBILITY AND SPORTSMANSHIP**

1. All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handler(s) and themselves whenever in the race area or on the trail.
2. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Chief Judge determines that driver, handler(s), or team conduct at any time in the race area or on the trail is detrimental to the sport/race, that team shall be disqualified.
3. Any injury to a dog or dogs during the course of a day's race shall be reported by the driver to the Chief Judge.
4. Everyone must provide a sign for his/her own parking area and leave it between heats of the race. No signs shall be permitted before the start of the race. There will be space made for the Unlimited/8-dog drivers closest to the starting line.
5. All litter and dog droppings must be cleaned and removed from the holding area before leaving after each heat. Any failure to clean his/her area will result in a penalty to the driver.

**B. ABUSE OF DOGS** - Abuse of a dog, with or without an implement, shall be prohibited.

## **V. RULE VIOLATIONS**

### **A. REPORT BY OFFICIALS**

1. Race officials shall report rule violations to the Chief Judge verbally, in person or by radio, immediately or directly following the heat in which the violation.
2. The Chief Judge shall act, at his discretion, on any overt violations witnessed and reported by race officials.

### **B. REPORTS BY RACE CONTESTANTS**

1. Drivers wishing to report an alleged violation of the rules by another contestant shall notify the Race Manager or Chief Judge immediately following the heat in which the incident occurred.
2. All verbal driver reports shall be followed with a written report, given to the Chief Judge or Race Manager within one (1) hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred.

**C. PROTEST AND HEARINGS**

1. Any driver or race official implicated in a report of an alleged violation of the rules may make a protest and request a hearing before the Chief Judge and at least two (2) officers of the club.
2. Said hearing shall be granted by the Chief Judge and held at the earliest convenience of all parties.
3. .

**D. DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

1. For violation of any NESDC race rule, the Chief Judge shall either issue a verbal warning, impose an appropriate time penalty or disqualify the driver and team from the race.
2. Decisions shall be announced as promptly as practical but not later than two (2) hours prior to the start of any ensuing heat (s).
  - a. Any disciplinary action following the final heat of the race shall be acted upon prior to the awards ceremony.
  - b. In the case of drug testing, the above time schedule does not apply to allow for the laboratory findings and hearings, should the latter become necessary.
  - c. All teams will have any prize monies withheld pending a negative result.
3. The decision of the Chief Judge shall be final.

## **SECTION III**

### **Junior Race Rules**

**I. GENERAL - All Senior Race Rules will apply to Juniors where applicable.**

**II. DRIVERS**

- A. All drivers in races sponsored by the NESDC shall be members of the club. Each driver shall display a legible number assigned by the Race Manager.
- B. The age classifications are to be as follows:
  - 1. One-dog drivers: 5 years up to and including 12 years of age.
  - 2. Two/Three-dog drivers: 10 years and up to and including 16 years of age
  - 3. Any change in this rule is entirely up to the Chief Judge.
- C. A person having raced in the 2/3-dog class may not return to race in the one-dog class unless the Chief Judge questions the driver's ability. Any change must be made by the Chief Judge.
- D. Any Junior driver who participates in a NESDC Senior race may not race a Junior race again that season.
- E. A driver may ride, pedal or run as and when he/she wishes except that he/she must not run forward of the brush bow of the sled.
- F. All drivers shall clean their holding areas of all trash and dog droppings. This is to be removed from the area.
- G. Drivers who come to the starting line emotionally upset will **not** be allowed to race.

**III. DOGS AND EQUIPMENT**

- A. No dog that has been raced in a Senior professional team in the current year may be used by a Junior team.  
  
Any dog(s) from a Junior team will be allowed to run in the Senior Sportsman Class at a NESDC race by a Senior driver identifying self and dog(s) as such, in writing, to the Chief Judge prior to Saturday morning's Drivers Meeting. The dog(s) may return to race as part of a Junior team at the next race.
- B. No bitches in season will be allowed to race.
- C. Drivers of fighting dogs will be warned of the first offense. Repetition will result in barring these dogs from further races.

- D. All sleds will be equipped with a suitable brake, reliable gang lines, , driving bow, and an ISDRA compliant dog bag.
- E. All sleds will have a driving handle or driving bow no higher than the driver's shoulders.
- F. 2/3-Dog Juniors' snow hooks when in use, shall be no longer than 4 inches after the last stanchion of the sled.
- G. No whips will be allowed.
- H. No cap pistols or any artificial noisemaker will be used to urge a team on; drivers may clap their hands if they like.
- I. The 2/3-Dog class shall use the 1.5 time qualification rule of the Seniors.

#### **IV. AWARDS**

- A. Trophies/Ribbons shall be awarded as follows:
  - 1. One-Dog class – down five places and Participation Ribbons to all drivers.
  - 2. 2/3-Dog Class – down five places



# **SECTION IV – Weight Pulling Rules**

**Weight Pulling Judges**

**Job Descriptions**

## I. **WEIGHT PULLING RULES FOR SLEDGE AND WHEELED RIG**

### A. Scope

1. In order that weight pulling contests be duplicated and weights pulled can become meaningful, the following rules shall apply:
2. The competition shall be open to all dogs over 12 months of age. There shall be two (2) classes of one-dog teams divided as follows:

Class A – Dogs 65 pounds and over in weight

Class B – Dogs under 65 pounds in weight

### B. Surface

1. The surface for the sledge shall be level and of hard packed snow.
2. The surface for the wheeled rig shall be level and of the following composition:
  - a. Hot Top/tarred
  - b. Cement
  - c. Wood/plywood sheets under rig only
  - d. Gravel.

### C. Vehicle

1. The sledge shall be of known weight and be so constructed that the weight can be added incrementally.
2. The sledge shall be 2 feet wide, 5 feet long with wooden (soft wood) runners 2"X6", with a platform to support the weight increments.
3. The same sledge shall be used for all competitors. The tow line shall be 6 feet plus or minus 6 inches, with a heavy snap for attaching to the dog's harness.
4. The wheeled rig shall be of known weight and be so constructed that the weight can be added incrementally.

5. The wheeled rig may have either 3 or 4 wheels.
6. The wheeled rig shall be used for all competitors. The tow line shall be 6 feet plus or minus 6 inches with a heavy snap for attaching to the dog's harness.

D. Harness

1. The harness shall be made of any design and material that will not injure the dog. Each owner-driver shall furnish his own harness.

E. Driver and Commands

1. The driver may stand or move anywhere within the roped off area while commanding or coaxing the dog to pull.
2. The driver shall not use bait.
3. The driver shall not use a whip, strap, or any physical means to get the dog to pull.

E. Qualification

1. The dogs shall be weighed before qualifications start by a person selected by the Race Committee before each contest.
2. Each dog entered in competition shall be required to pull the vehicle loaded to the qualifying weight 10 feet in 60 seconds in order to compete. If a dog has begun a continuous pull prior to his time running out, and the weight is still in motion when the 60 seconds has expired, he will be allowed to complete the pull over.
3. The timing shall be done by a timer appointed by the Club.
4. Qualifications begin at 9:30 Sunday morning and will be held open until 15 minutes before the contest begins.
5. If a dog has qualified twice in the same racing season, he does not have to qualify.
6. Sledge qualification weight for Class A shall be 400 pounds.
7. Sledge qualification weight for Class B shall be 300 pounds.
8. Wheeled rig qualification weight for Class A shall be 500 pounds.

9. Wheeled rig qualification weight for Class B shall be 400 pounds.

F. Competition

1. Qualified entrants will be called to compete in the order that they qualified within their class.
2. Weight shall be added to the sledge or wheeled rig in increments with each driver electing to either pull the added increments or pre-specify at what weight he shall start pulling.
3. In the event the dog is unable to pull the pre-specified weight, he is disqualified.
4. Each dog entered in competition shall be required to pull the vehicle 10 feet in 60 seconds. If a dog has begun a continuous pull prior to his time running out and the weight is still in motion when the 60 seconds have expired, he will be allowed to complete the pull over. The winner being the dog that pulls the most weight in the least amount of time in each class.
5. If a dog is tangles in his harness or lines, the Judge may declare a re-pull. A dog turning around and going back to the vehicle shall return to its original position, the clock reset, and will be at the end of that particular class with the full time allotted.
6. Any equipment failure shall stop the clock and the entrant may withdraw and re-pull at the end of his class with the full time allotted.

G. Entry Fee

1. The entry fee for each dog entered for the weight pulling contest shall be decided by the Board of Directors and announced prior to each racing season.
2. Guests or members are requested to enter his dog on Sunday and no later than Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. prior to each pull, or pay a \$5.00 fine to the Treasurer before the pull

H. Prizes

1. There shall be ribbons, trophies, and/or cash prizes for the first, second and third place dogs in each class.
2. All weights pulled by all contestants shall be recorded in the Club records by the Secretary.

I. Other

1. Footholds for the dogs will not be allowed.
2. Handlers shall be allowed to assist drivers in hooking and releasing the dogs from the vehicle.
3. The weight pull area shall be roped off 15 feet wide and open at the end to provide a chute for the pull.
4. Dog food bags or other dead weight shall be used for weight.
5. The Race Manager will decide what time the contest begins.
6. For protest and disciplinary action refer to Section III, racing rules.

II. **WEIGHT PULLING JUDGE AND ASSISTANTS**

- A. The Judge for the weight pulling contest shall be elected by the Club.
- B. The two assistants shall be chosen by the weight pull judge himself.
- C. The Judge will:
  1. secure forms to record each dog's performance in duplicate, verify and list entrants with weight and class entered.
  2. see that each dog appears fit and equipped with an adequate harness.
  3. appoint stewards for returning sled to starting line and to help with crowd control.
  4. make sure that the sledge is not frozen down before each pull.
  5. enforce all rules – particularly regarding handling, baiting, etc. **No dogs** allowed in the area ahead of the starting line.
  6. record each dog's performance in duplicate on forms provided, turn in one copy to the Secretary and retain one copy.

## **SECTION V – Skijoring Rules**

## I Skijoring Rules

- A. **CLASS** – Skijoring classes shall be by category: three-dog, two-dog and one-dog.
- B. **TEAM SIZE** – Skijoring teams shall consist of a maximum of three(3) dogs and a minimum of one (1) dog.
- C. **EQUIPMENT** – Skijoring teams must be attached via harness and tow line to the skijorer's belt in a safe and secure manner, leaving the skijorer's hands free of the line. The line length shall be a minimum of seven (7) feet and a maximum of twelve (12) feet as measured from the skier's belt buckle to the snap on the dog's harness.

The minimum width of the skijoring belt across the back shall be three (3) inches. In the interest of safety, there must be a quick release device within arm's length of the skijorer.

All dogs must have a neckline attached, except for a dog run in single lead position.

- E. **STARTING** – The tips of the skijorer's skis shall determine the starting point of the team.
- F. **PASSING** – Skijorers need not come to a full stop, but must slow, yield the trail and give immediate right of way upon demand. Once a team has been passed, that team shall not repass except by mutual agreement of both drivers.
- E. **FINISHING** – The tips of the dog's nose shall determine the finish time of the team.

- II The Skijoring Class will be administered by the New England Sled dog Club, Inc. Senior Race Officials and run under the auspices of the New England Sled Dog Club, Inc. rules.

# **SECTION VI – Miscellaneous Information**

**Race Course Standards  
Race Staging/Holding Area  
Dog Marking  
Race Clinic Rules  
Starting Times  
Drivers' Meeting  
Purses and Fees**



## I RACE COURSE STANDARDS

- A. The start and finish line shall be clearly marked so there will be no doubt as to location.
- B. There shall be no sharp turns within the first ½ mile of the starting chute.
- C. The course shall be laid out so that there will be no head-on passing within one (1) mile of the starting line if possible.
- D. The trail shall be clearly marked with a minimum of 9-10" diameter markers.
  - 1. **Red Marker** – indicating turn coming up. These markers will be placed on the same side of the trail as the turn. The first marker to be 50-100 feet from the turn. The second marker shall be approximately 10 yards from turn. Red markers shall not be placed on gradual curves.
  - 2. **Green/Blue Marker** – indicates straight ahead. A blue marker may be placed 20-50 feet ahead of any questionable junction. This would clearly confirm the trail beyond the intersection. Blue Markers are “reassurance” to the drivers of the correctness of his/her course.
  - 3. **Bright Orange/Yellow Marker** – indicates “CAUTION, DANGER AHEAD”. There should be two signs, one on each side of the trail, 100 feet before the obstacle.
- E. Turns where trail officials are deemed not necessary shall be well brushed. Any questionable area should be brushed – such as both sides of an intersection if the trail is straight ahead.
- F. Bridges should have a straight trail 50 yards before and after, and shall have snow fence onto the bridge if necessary.
- G. Half (1/2) mile from finish zones shall be clearly marked.
- H. If dual starts are held, a barrier between the outgoing teams shall extend 100 yards from starting line.
- I. Width of trail should be a minimum of four (4) feet.
- J. Snow fencing or other ample barriers shall be set up at start-finish lines to hold spectators back. This shall be approximately 200 feet on each side of trail.
- K. Recommended class distances:  
  
Unlimited/Open Class – not less than 10 miles nor more than 15 miles.

Limited/8-dog Class – not less than 8 miles nor more than 11 miles.

6-Dog Professional – not less than 3 miles nor more than 8 miles.

6-Dog Sportsman – not less than 3 miles nor more than 8 miles.

4-Dog Professional – not less than 3 miles nor more than 4 miles.

4-Dog Sportsman – not less than 3 miles nor more than 4 miles.

3-Dog Junior – not less than 3 miles nor more than 4 miles.

1-Dog Junior – not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile nor more than 1 mile.

- L. It is suggested that NESDC trails per class be progressive, i.e., start with the minimum distance early in the season and build up to the maximum.
- M. The New England Sled Dog Club reserves the right to alter trail mileage due to unusual circumstances, i.e., weather, obstructions, safety.
- N. The Chief Judge has the authority to change the distance of a class due to unusual circumstances (i.e., weather, trail conditions) and for the safety of the dogs without affecting the mileage ruling of any class.

## **II RACE STAGING/HOLDING AREA**

- A. The parking for mushers will be separate from the spectator parking if possible. A special area closer to the starting line will be set up for Open and 8-Dog mushers. 6-Dog teams and down shall park further away.
- B. Provide a lane to starting chute wide enough to supply ample room for teams coming and going.
- C. There should be two people appointed by the sponsor to park vehicles per instructions from NESDC.
- D. Toilet facilities should be in the staging/holding area.

## **III DOG MARKING PROCEDURES**

When desired, dog marking will be done according to the following procedure:

- A. The Dog Marking Judges will be appointed and directly responsible to the Chief Judge.

- B. The Dog Marking Judges will obtain dog marking and recording materials.
- C. The Dog Marking Judges will mark the dogs at the end of the first heat according to a confidential plan.
- D. The Dog Marking Judges will, on following heats, re-check markings and record number of dogs leaving on a team.
- E. The Dog Marking Judges will check number and marking of dogs returning at the end of the following heats.
- F. The Dog Marking Judges will report any irregularities to the Chief Judge.

#### **IV RACE CLINIC RULES**

- A. In order to assure, to the best of the Club's ability, the safety of all dogs and drivers competing in NESDC races, it is necessary for the NESDC to establish and adhere to specific rules governing race eligibility and competence. The Drivers' Clinic will be utilized to determine such eligibility and competence for all new drivers.
- B. Capability: A potential driver will show his capability as a driver at a Club run Clinic. The Chief Judge or his assistant will attest to the driver's capability. In order to show his/her capability as a driver, each person must bring to the clinic the number of dogs required for the class, harnesses, gang lines, sled and tie out chain. Under the scrutiny of the Chief Judge or his assistant, the driver will show his ability to set out his dogs, rig his sled, harness his dogs, and with the help of a maximum of two handlers hitch his team to the sled.
- B. Schedule: One clinic will be held prior to the first race of each season or as needed to support new drivers during the racing season.

#### **V OFFICIAL STARTING TIMES -**

The official starting time and order is up to the decision of the Race Manager depending upon weather conditions, number of teams entered, etc.

#### **VI DRIVERS' MEETING**

- A. Each day of racing, a short meeting of the drivers will be held with the intent of explaining the trail and the assignment of number bibs for the day of racing. At this meeting, a large enough map of the trail shall be made available for all to use.

B. At a Drivers' Meeting, changes can be made by a 2/3 vote of those drivers in attendance. Any changes made are temporary for that race only. No permanent changes can be made to the racing rules. Drivers may vote on issues pertaining only to their class or division.

### **III PURSES AND FEES -**

Prior to the racing season, a breakdown of all purses and fees shall be available to all members.

# **SECTION VII - TROPHIES AND AWARDS**

**Challenge Trophies  
Sportsmanship Trophies  
Other Trophies  
Junior Trophies**

## CHALLENGE TROPHIES

- A. **Challenge Trophy** – awarded to the Unlimited team with the highest season standings. The trophy was donated by Fred Lovely, who was an ex-President. He retired the trophy after winning it three times and then re-donated it to the Club, never to be retired again.
- B. **8-Dog Challenge Trophy** – awarded to the Limited team with the highest season standing.
- C. **Robert Tilton, Sr. Challenge Trophy** – awarded to the 6-Dog Professional team with the highest season standing. This trophy was donated in memory of Robert L. Tilton, Sr. by family and friends.
- D. **Waldon Memorial Trophy** – awarded to the 6-Dog Sportsman team with the highest season standing.
- E. **Marlytuk Kennel Trophy** – awarded to the 4-Dog Sportsman team with the highest season standing. The trophy was donated by Peggy and Lyle Grant, both ex-presidents.

## II SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHIES

These trophies will be voted on by the drivers . at the completion of the racing season. Ballots will be sent with the notice of the Spring Meeting and must be returned by the Wednesday prior to the Spring Meeting. In the case of a tie, the trophy will be awarded to both winners.

- A. **Millie T. Remick Trophy** – awarded by the drivers to the drivers with the best sportsmanship in the Unlimited/8-Dog Limited Classes.
- B. **Gaines Trophy** – awarded by the drivers to the driver with the best sportsmanship in the 6-Dog Professional/Sportsman Classes.
- C. **Eva B. Seeley Trophy** – awarded by the drivers to the driver with the best Sportsmanship in the 4-Dog Professional/Sportsman Classes.

## III OTHER

- A. **Waldon Memorial Trophy** – at one time awarded to the fastest new team at Tamworth, NH in the Unlimited Class, this trophy is now a Challenge trophy for the Sportsman Class. Donated by Admiral Waldon's wife.
- B. **Snowbound Kennel Trophy** – awarded to the teenager with the highest season standing. Donated by Hubert and Laura O'Neil.

- C. Jonathan Allen Memorial Trophy** – was originally awarded to the ex-junior driver with the highest season standing in either Class A, B, or C. Donated by Beryl Allen in memory of her son, Jonathan, who started as a 1-Dogger and progressed to the Senior Class before his death. The trophy is now given to the fastest Open team at the Tamworth, NH race.
- D. Douglas Fairbanks Trophy** – awarded by the Race Manager and Chief Judge to the team determined to have made the most improvement over the precious year, Class A, B or C. The trophy was donated by his widow in his memory. He was very instrumental in organizing the NESDC Junior Club.
- E. Leonard Seppala Memorial Trophy** – was awarded to the Senior team with more than half registered Siberian Huskies for the fastest time at the Gardner, Massachusetts race. Donated by Neil Ayer of Hamilton, Massachusetts, whose uncle was associated with Seppala. This trophy has been retired.
- F. Club Memorial Trophy** – awarded by the Chief Judge, Race Manager, and President to the best behaved team, attendance of team, sportsmanship of driver in holding area and on the trail in Class A, B, C or Amateurs. Arranged by committee to honor ALL deceased dog owners. Donated by Dr. & Mrs. Roland Lombard, and is a bronze replica of Mrs. Lombard's original Malamute, Bench Champion lead dog.
- G. Arthur T. Linehan Memorial Trophy** - . This trophy will be awarded annually to the person that best represents by his/her efforts the true meaning of the term "handler". It will be voted on by the club membership prior to the Spring meeting. The person should not be a regular driver nor does he/she have to be a NESDC member. The person chosen should not necessarily be a handler for only one team, but may be someone who by his/her efforts has given their time to help any and all teams that need help in handler capacity. Donated by the friends of Arthur T. Linehan in his memory.
- H. Siberian Husky Fanciers of Vermont Trophy** – to be awarded to the team of 100% Siberian Huskies with the highest season standing.

**THE VERIFICATION OF WINNERS** – all said trophy/awards not specified in their description are determined by the Race Manager and President, Chief Judge or designees appointed by the President.

#### IV JUNIOR TROPHIES

- A. **Sis Leone Memorial Trophy** – awarded to a 3-Dog driver. Points are awarded for finishing position, attendance, sportsmanship. Donated by Ben Leone, former Chief Judge, in memory of his wife.
  - B. **Governor Walter Peterson Bowl** – (missing) awarded to the 3-Dog driver with the highest season standing. The season standings will be computed as is done for the Senior Trophies. Donated by Walter Peterson, former Governor of New Hampshire.
- Igloo Pak Kennel Trophy** – now replaces the Gov. Peterson Bowl. Donated by Dr. Roland and Mrs. Louise Lombard.
- C. **Kenuk Kennel Trophy** – awarded to the 3-Dog driver who has shown the most improvement from the previous racing season. Donated by the Wes Sylvester family in memory of Tiny of Mt. View.
  - D. **Jonathan Allen, Jr. Trophy** – was awarded to the 1-Dog driver with the fastest time at a race in the Monadnock region. Donated by Beryl Allen in memory of her son, Jonathan, who started as a 1-Dogger and progressed to the Seniors before his death.
  - E. **Jocamka Kennel Trophy** – awarded to the 1-Dog driver with the highest season standing. Donated by the John Brisebois family of New Hampshire.
  - F. **Nootka Kennel Trophy** – awarded to the 1-Dog Driver who, in the opinion of the Junior Officials, has shown the most improvement from the previous racing season. Donated by the Robert Heckman family of New Hampshire in memory of Nootka's Mingo of Beech Hill.



# **SECTION VIII - POINT SYSTEM**

The final weekend results (finish order) will be the basis of the Season's Standings calculations. Every weekend race will be counted.

Points Formula:

$$\{ 100 - [ ( 100 / x ) y ] \} + ( 100 / x )$$

x = Number of teams

y = Position finished

So if a team finishes second with five teams in the class:

$$\{ 100 - [ ( 100 / 5 ) 2 ] \} + ( 100 / 5 )$$

$$\{ 100 - [ ( 20 ) 2 ] \} + 20$$

$$( 100 - 40 ) + 20$$

60 + 20 + 80 points for that weekend of racing.

Points are earned only for races completed . Drivers disqualified on the first or second day of a race will receive no points for that weekend.

Sportsman and Junior teams will accumulate points for all races.

Drivers will receive the points, not the teams or the owner. If the entered driver is unable to drive his team one day of the race, he or she may have someone else drive the team and the entered driver will receive the points.