



Australian National Kennel Council Ltd ABN 77 151 544 679 trading as Dogs Australia

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

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National Kennel Council  
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**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the  
Australian National Kennel Council Limited**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page No.

## CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL RULES

<b>1. GENERAL</b>	
1.1 Disciplines.....	7
1.1 Officials.....	7
1.2 Judges.....	7
1.3 Eligibility.....	7
1.4 Responsibility.....	7
1.5 Time Recorder.....	7
1.6 Protest Committee.....	7
<b>2. ENTRIES</b>	
2.1 Requirement.....	8
2.2 ANKC Ltd Registrations.....	8
<b>3. MEDICATION and DRUG TESTING</b>	
3.1 General.....	8
3.2 Drug Testing.....	8
3.3 Specimens.....	8
3.4 Failure to Provide.....	8
3.5 Positive Specimen.....	8

## CHAPTER 2 – SLED RACING

<b>4. Officials</b>	
4.1 Race Judge.....	9
4.2 Chief Steward.....	9
4.3 Trail Steward.....	9
4.4 Team.....	9
4.5 Spotter.....	9
4.6 Markers and Markers Assistant.....	9
<b>5. Entries</b>	
5.1 Entries.....	9
5.2 Drivers.....	9
5.3 Drivers Age.....	9
5.4 Disqualification.....	10
5.5 Team Disqualification.....	10
5.6 Entry Limitations.....	10
5.7 Identification.....	10
5.8 Size of Teams.....	11
5.9 Temperature.....	11
5.10 Distance.....	11
<b>6. Equipment</b>	
6.1 Inspection.....	11
6.2 Harness and Lines.....	12
6.3 Wheeled Gigs.....	12
6.4 Push Bikes.....	12

6.5	Scooters .....	12
6.6	Other Equipment.....	12
<b>7.</b>	<b>Starting Procedure</b>	
7.1	Start Draw.....	13
7.2	Single Start Race.....	13
7.3	Reverse Grid Start .....	13
7.4	Duel Start Race .....	13
7.5	Equal Times.....	14
7.6	Starting Point and Time.....	14
7.7	Assistance in Start Chute.....	14
<b>8.</b>	<b>Trail Rules</b>	
8.1	Following the Trail.....	14
8.2	Driving a Team .....	15
8.3	Assistance on the Trail.....	15
8.4	Loose Team.....	15
8.5	Right of Way .....	16
8.6	Passing.....	16
8.7	Exemptions .....	16
8.8	Finish.....	17
<b>9.</b>	<b>Conduct</b>	
9.1	Responsibility and Sportsmanship .....	17
9.2	Abuse of Dogs .....	17
<b>10.</b>	<b>Rule Violations</b>	
10.1	Reports by Officials.....	17
10.2	Reports by Race Competitors or Others .....	17
10.3	Protests and Hearings .....	17
10.4	Disciplinary Action.....	17
<b>11.</b>	<b>Titles</b>	
11.1	Titles .....	18
<b>12</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	
12.1	Working Team Dog (WTD).....	18
12.2	Working Team Dog Advanced (WTDA) .....	19
12.3	Working Team Dog Excellence (WTDX) .....	21
12.4	Working Team Dog Master (WTDM) .....	22
12.5	Working Lead Dog (WLD).....	22
12.6	Working Lead Dog Advanced (WLDA).....	22
12.7	Working Lead Dog Excellence (WLDX).....	23
12.8	Working Lead Dog Master (WLDM) .....	23

### **CHAPTER 3 – BACKPACKING/HIKING**

<b>13.</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	
13.1	Age .....	24
13.2	Size .....	24

<b>14.</b>	<b>Exclusions</b>	
14.1	Brachycephalic Breeds .....	24
14.2	Achondroplastic Breeds .....	24
<b>15.</b>	<b>Entries</b>	
15.1	Hikers.....	24
15.2	Age .....	24
<b>16.</b>	<b>Officials and Equipment</b>	
<b>16.1</b>	<b>Officials</b>	
16.1.1	Trail guide/ Front of Pack Pacesetter.....	24
16.1.2	Designated End Pack Pacesetter .....	24
16.2	Equipment Required .....	25
16.3	Inspection of Equipment.....	25
<b>17.</b>	<b>Fitness</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>18.</b>	<b>Temperature</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>19.</b>	<b>Titles</b>	
19.1	Working Novice Pack Dog (WNPD) .....	26
19.2	Working Pack Dog (WPD).....	26
19.3	Working Pack Dog Excellence (WPDX) .....	27
19.4	Multiplier Suffixes.....	27
19.5	Validation.....	27
<b>CHAPTER 4 - WEIGHTPULL</b>		
<b>20.</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>	
20.1	Age .....	28
20.2	Size .....	28
20.3	Responsibility.....	28
20.4	Brachycephalic .....	28
20.5	Bitches.....	28
<b>21.</b>	<b>Entries</b>	
21.1	Handlers .....	28
21.2	Age .....	28
<b>22.</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	
22.1	Harness .....	28
22.2	Weighs.....	29
22.3	Trolley .....	29
<b>23.</b>	<b>Temperature</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>24.</b>	<b>Weight Classes</b>	
24.1	Classes.....	29
24.2	Novice .....	29

<b>25.</b>	<b>Surface</b>	
25.1	Natural .....	29
25.2	Artificial .....	29
25.3	Snow .....	29
<b>26.</b>	<b>Chute</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>27.</b>	<b>Chute Marking</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>28.</b>	<b>Weight Increments</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Competition</b>	
29.1	Handler .....	30
29.2	Commands .....	30
29.3	Time .....	30
29.4	Non Qualifying .....	30
29.5	Attempt .....	30
29.6	Suspension of Timing .....	30
29.7	Tangles.....	30
29.8	Non Qualifying (Tangles) .....	30
29.9	Calling of Tangle.....	31
29.10	Chute Handler.....	31
29.11	First Weight.....	31
29.12	Commencement Weight.....	31
29.13	Passing Up .....	31
29.14	Competition End .....	31
<b>30</b>	<b>Certificates</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Placing</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>32.</b>	<b>Disqualifications</b>	
32.1	Jumping/Bouncing .....	31
32.2	Aggression.....	31
<b>33.</b>	<b>Titles</b>	
33.1	Certification.....	31
33.2	Qualification .....	31
33.3	Working Weight Pull Dog (WWPD) .....	32
33.4	Working Weight Pull Dog Excellence (WWPDX).....	32
33.5	Working Weight Pull Dog Excellent (WWPDX).....	32
33.6	Working Weight Pull Dog Master (WWPDM).....	32
33.7	Versatile Working Weight Pull Dog (V.WWPD) .....	33
33.8	Multiplier Suffixes.....	33
<b>Annexes</b>		
<b>A.</b>	Breed Average Speed.....	<b>34</b>
<b>B.</b>	Temperature/Humidity Chart.....	<b>37</b>
<b>C.</b>	List of Permanently Banned Prohibited Substances.....	<b>39</b>

## CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL RULES

### 1. General

- 1.1 Disciplines** Sled Spots shall consist of 3 separate disciplines. Those being:
- Sled Racing;
  - Hiking/Backpacking; and
  - Weightpull.
- 1.2 Officials** - Judges, or other necessary officials must be an ANKC recognised official where required and o t h e r w i s e a member of an ANKC member body and appointed by the affiliate conducting the fixture.
- 1.3 Judges** - are appointed by and reports to the affiliate hosting the event, and have 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 Judge and are responsible to the Judge in all matters. The Judge has the authority to cancel or stop the event under extenuating circumstances, weather or trail conditions etc.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 Time Recorder** - is responsible for the recording of the time made by all competitors during the event. They may have an assistant known as an assistant recorder. The Time Recorder is responsible to the Judge. 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.
- 1.7 Protest Committee** - shall consist of Judge, 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. Entries can be submitted on an ANKC paper entry form or via an online entry provider selected by the Affiliate conducting the event.

**2.2 ANKC Ltd Registration** – All dogs entered in Sled Sport events must be registered with the ANKC. Other dogs may participate at the discretion of the affiliate conducting the event 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, 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. Annex C is a list of prohibited drugs

**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 of 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

### 4. Officials

- 4.1 Race Judge** – The judge must be an ANKC-recognized sled sports judge for the discipline of sledding. Will oversee all other officials, unless appointed to a Chief Steward. The Race Judge shall deal directly with all drivers and will receive any protests or complaints
- 4.2 Chief Steward** - shall report and be responsible to the Race Judge. They shall be in charge of stewards, 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 where in their opinion unfit to run they shall report to the Race Judge who has the authority to withdraw the dog.
- 4.3 Trail Steward** - shall report directly to the Race Judge 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.
- 4.4 Team** - A team shall consist of a driver and a minimum of 1 dog.
- 4.5 Spotter** - is a person located at corner or intersection of trail, responsible for directing teams in corrections and reporting any incorrect occupants to Trail Steward.
- 4.6 Marker and Marker's Assistant (Optional)** - 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.

### 5. Entries

- 5.1** All entries must be provided in accordance with Chapter 1 Section 2 of these rules.

### 5.2 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 for the remainder of the race, except in circumstances such as illness or injury after the first heat. In these circumstances, the Race Judge shall allow a driver swap for any subsequent.

### 5.3 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.

- b. Juniors are able to run a dog in the junior class or open class to qualify for titles as long as the dog is running the same distance and time as the adult classes as well as meeting all required criteria.
- c. Non-competitive classes (dogs in these classes not eligible for titles) may be offered at the discretion of the affiliate, where the following guidelines shall apply: Mini-Pee Wee open to drivers up to 7 years of age, Pee-Wee open to drivers from 8 to 11 years of age. All drivers under the age of 12 must be accompanied or assisted by an adult driver over 18 years of age.

#### **5.4 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.

#### **5.5 Team Disqualification**

- a. The Race Judge may disallow entry of any team or dog for the following reasons:
  - 5.5.1 Any team or dog coming to the start line which, in the opinion of the Race Judge, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail will not be allowed to compete
  - 5.5.2 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 Judge 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.

#### **5.6 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.

#### **5.7 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.

## 5.8 Size of Teams

- a. A Limited Eight-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than eight (8) dogs, and not less than six (6) 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. Bikejor/Cannicross Class Team shall consist of one (1) dog. (Rules to be reviewed 2024 and brought back to committee and ANKC Ltd)
- h. After the first heat and each ensuing heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to minimums.

## 5.9 Temperature

Listed at Annex B, to the rules is the ASSA Temperature Quick Reference Guide. ASSA has approved the use of this guide to be used for ANKC Ltd Sled Sport Events as part of its rules.

## 5.10 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.**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.
- b. **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.**

## 6 Equipment

### 6.1 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 and at the completion of a heat if requested by the Chief Steward.
- 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.

## **6.2 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 tie down and hold the gig.
- d. An adequate bungy mechanism shall be incorporated into the gang line with the exception of snow races.

## **6.3 Wheeled Gigs**

- a. May have a platform and be equipped with an adequately ventilated dog bag capable of safely 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.

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

## **6.5 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.

## **6.6 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.
- 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.

## **7 Starting Procedures**

### **7.1 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.

### **7.2 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.

**7.3 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.

### **7.4 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.

## **7.5 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.

## **7.6 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.
- i. If start chute is to be used as finishing chute as well must be set up as a dual chute.

## **7.7 Assistance in the Starting Chute**

- a. Unless otherwise specified by the Race Marshall prior to the start of the first heat of the event;
  - 7.7.1 Any amount or type of assistance is allowed to a team prior to the actual starting time.
  - 7.7.2 Once a teams starting time has commenced, only the chute marshal designated to assist may help in the chute.
  - 7.7.3 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.

## **8 Trail Rules**

### **8.1 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.

## **8.2 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). If using a gig equipped with a platform and ventilated sled bag.
- e. A dog becoming unfit after departure, seriously injured or ill, the driver is to gain assistance from the nearest official to have the dog returned to the marshalling area to gain immediate veterinary assistance and may be carried on the gig.
- f. 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.

## **8.3 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.

## **8.4 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).

### 8.5 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) In the one half (D) kilometre "NO RIGHT OF WAY ZONE" no team shall have right of way over a finishing team.

### 8.6 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 teams driver **may request the overtaken team to remained 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.

### 8.7 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".
- c. When a team is overtaken in the "NO RIGHT OF WAY ZONE", that team does not have to stop and yield the trail.
- d. No driver shall interfere with a competing team.



## **8.7 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.

## **9 Conduct**

### **9.1 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 Judge 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.

- 9.2 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 Judge and the matter reported to the member body

## **10 Rules Violations**

### **10.1 Reports by Race Officials**

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

### **10.2 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 Judge 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 Judge within one (1) hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred.

### **10.3 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 Judge.
- c. Hearings shall be held in private in the presence of the Protest Committee.

### **10.4 Disciplinary Action**

- a. For violation of any Race Rule, the Race Judge 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 Judge shall be enacted on the day of the event, but may be subject to appeal through the member body.

## 11. Titles

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 Advance (WTDA)
- 3) Working Team Dog Excellent (WTDX)
- 4) Working Team Dog Masters (WTDM)
- 5) Working Lead Dog (WLD)
- 6) Working Lead Dog Advance (WLDA)
- 7) Working Lead Dog Excellent (WLDX)
- 8) Working Lead Dog Masters (WLDM)

## 12. Qualification

### 12.1 Working Team Dog (WTD)

12.1.1 To qualify for the WTD title a dog must complete the full required distances; Kilometres cannot be "rounded up" to the next whole number.

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

- a. Method 1 – Racing
  - 1) The dog must qualify in a minimum of three different races, in any class, or combination of classes. Dogs do not have to run on same team each time. Vehicle may be snow sled, wheeled cart, or wheeled scooter. A dog must accumulate a minimum distance of 40 qualifying race kilometres. The dog must have completed the course in all races considered.
  - 2) Races must be held under the ANKC and by an affiliate of an ANKC member body.
  - 3) In the event of a multi heat race, an individual heat may qualify as 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.
  - 4) All events must be certified by the Race Judge
  - 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. The minimum distance required per heat in order to qualify as a leg is as

follows:

- 1) 1 dog minimum 1.6km per heat
- 2) 2 dog minimum 3.2km per heat
- 3) 3 dog minimum 3.2km per heat
- 4) 4 dog minimum 4.8km per heat
- 5) 6 dog minimum 4.8km per heat
- 6) 8 dog minimum 6.4km per heat

iii **Endurance 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. The minimum distance required per heat in order to qualify as a leg is as follows:

- 1) 1 dog minimum 3.5km per heat
- 2) 2 dog minimum 7 km per heat
- 3) 3 dog minimum 10 km per heat
- 4) 4 dog minimum 10km per heat
- 5) 6 dog minimum 16km per heat
- 6) 8 dog minimum 16km per heat

iv **Freight:** The freight class shall be a minimum of 8 kilometres with a minimum of 20 kilograms per dog on the team added to the weight of the sled/gig, *not including the weight of the driver.*

b. Method 2 - 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.

c. Method 3 - 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.

## 12.2 Working Team Dog Advanced (WTDA)

12.2.1 To qualify for the WTDA title a dog must meet the following requirements:

- a) Dogs must complete the full required distances; mileage cannot be “rounded up” to the next whole number
- b) Dogs must have completed the requirements for WTD before mileage can be counted towards WTDA

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

### a. Method 1 – Racing

- 1) The dog must qualify in a minimum of six different races, in any class, or combination of classes. Dogs do not have to run on same team each time. Vehicle may be snow sled, wheeled cart, or wheeled scooter. A dog must accumulate a minimum total distance of 80 qualifying race kilometres, inclusive of the minimum 40 qualifying race kilometres gained towards the WTD title. The dog must have completed the course in all races considered.

- 2) Races must be held under the ANKC and by an affiliate of an ANKC member body.
- 3) In the event of a multi heat race, an individual heat may qualify as 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.
- 4) All events must be certified by the Race Judge
- 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. The minimum distance required per heat in order to qualify as a leg is as follows:
    - 1) 1 dog minimum 1.6km per heat
    - 2) 2 dog minimum 3.2km per heat
    - 3) 3 dog minimum 3.2km per heat
    - 4) 4 dog minimum 4.8km per heat
    - 5) 6 dog minimum 4.8km per heat
    - 6) 8 dog minimum 6.4km per heat
  - iii. **Endurance 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. The minimum distance required per heat in order to qualify as a leg is as follows:
    - 1) 1 dog minimum 3.5km per heat
    - 2) 2 dog minimum 7 km per heat
    - 3) 3 dog minimum 10 km per heat
    - 4) 4 dog minimum 10km per heat
    - 5) 6 dog minimum 16km per heat
    - 6) 8 dog minimum 16km per heat
  - iv. **Freight:** 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 - Excursion**

- 1) Dog must accumulate a minimum of 130 sledding excursion kilometres, inclusive of the 65 sledding excursion kilometres gained towards the WTD title. Dog or dogs must pull vehicle a minimum of 16 kilometres per excursion. *The Race Judge* must sign the form to be sent to the Committee verifying proof of distances and dog or dog competing.

**c. Method 3 - Combination racing and Excursion**

- 1) One or two 16 kilometre or longer races may count towards the total of 130 excursion kilometres. Race events must comply with the requirements of Method 8.2.2 a & b.

### 12.3 Working Team Dog Excellent (WTDX)

12.3.1 To qualify for the WTDX title a dog must meet the following requirements:

- a) Dogs must complete the full required distances; mileage cannot be “rounded up” to the next whole number
- b) Dogs must have completed the requirements for WTDA before mileage can be counted towards WTDX”

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

#### a. Method 1 – Racing

- 1) The dog must qualify in a minimum of nine different races, in any class, or combination of classes. Dogs do not have to run on same team each time. Vehicle may be snow sled, wheeled cart, or wheeled scooter. A dog must accumulate a minimum distance of 120 qualifying race kilometres, inclusive of the 80 qualifying race kilometres gained towards the WTDA title. The dog must have completed the course in all races considered.
- 2) Races must be held under the ANKC and by an affiliate of an ANKC member body.
- 3) In the event of a multi heat race, an individual heat may qualify as 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. If an event is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances then an individual heat may count as a qualifier.
- 4) All events must be certified by the Race Judge
- 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. The minimum distance required per heat in order to qualify as a leg is as follows:
    - 1. 1 dog minimum 1.6km per heat
    - 2. 2 dog minimum 3.2km per heat
    - 3. 3 dog minimum 3.2km per heat
    - 4. 4 dog minimum 4.8km per heat
    - 5. 6 dog minimum 4.8km per heat
    - 6. 8 dog minimum 6.4km per heat
  - iii. **Endurance 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. The minimum distance required per heat in order to qualify as a leg is as follows:
    - 1) 1 dog minimum 3.5km per heat

- 2) 2 dog minimum 7 km per heat
- 3) 3 dog minimum 10 km per heat
- 4) 4 dog minimum 10km per heat
- 5) 6 dog minimum 16km per heat
- 6) 8 dog minimum 16km per heat

**iv. Freight:** 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 - Excursion**

1) Dog must accumulate a minimum of 195 sledding excursion kilometres, inclusive of the 130 excursion kilometres gained towards the WTDA title. Dog or dogs must pull vehicle a minimum of 16 kilometres per excursion. *The Race Judge* must sign the form to be sent to the Committee verifying proof of distances and dog or dog competing.

#### **c. Method 3 - Combination racing and Excursion**

- 1) One or two 16 kilometre or longer races may count towards the total of 195 excursion kilometres. Race events must comply with the requirements of Method 8.3.2 a & b.

### **12.4 Working Team Dog Master (WTDM)**

12.4.1 To qualify for the WTDM 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 continuous 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

### **12.5 Working Lead Dog (WLD)**

12.5.1 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.

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

### **12.6 Working Lead Dog Advanced (WLDA)**

12.6.1 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 advanced.
- 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.

12.6.2 At the completion of the Event, the Club conducting the Race shall issue a certificate

signed by the Race Judge to each dog who have successfully qualified for a leg.

### **12.7 Working Lead Dog Excellent (WLDX)**

12.7.1 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 excellent.
- 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.

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

### **12.8 Working Lead Dog Master (WLDM)**

12.8.1 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.

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

12.8.3 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).

12.8.4 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

### 13 Eligibility

#### 13.1 Age – All dogs entered in Backpacking/Hiking events are to be:

- a. eighteen (18) months of age or older to compete in events to the Working Pack Dog standard.
- b. Twenty four (24) months of age or older to compete in events to the Working Pack Dog Excellence (WPDx) standard.
- c. The age shall be calculated on the first day of competition.

#### 13.1 Size – All dogs over 10kg shall be permitted to compete in Backpacking/Hiking events in all states/territories of Australia.

### 14 Exclusions

#### 14.1 Brachycephalic breeds are prohibited from competing in Backing/Hiking events due to potential breathing problems during strenuous exercise.

#### 14.2 Achondroplastic breeds are prohibited from competing in Backpacking/Hiking events due to the risk of back injury.

### 15 Entries

#### 15.1 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 the event 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.
- d. Hikers may handle a maximum of 2 dogs at an event.

#### 15.2 Age

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

### 16 Officials and equipment

#### 16.1 Officials

**The following officials must be present at all ANKC Hike/Backpack events.**

##### 16.1.1 Trail guide/ Front of Pack Pacesetter

Responsible for guiding the direction, distance and maximum speed the pack travels.

They must travel at the front of the pack and maintain convoy procedures for safety.

This includes waiting at junctions until the group is accounted for to ensure the entire pack stays on the same path.

##### 16.1.2 Designated End Pack Pacesetter – responsible for maintaining the minimum speed of the pack.

They ensure no one is left behind or lost from the group.

If any exhibitor struggles to maintain the pace of the end of pack pace setter the judge should be notified so as they can make a call about the fitness of the specific team.



## **16.2 Equipment required**

- a. Each competing dog must be fitted with a correct canine back pack.
- b. If the dog is walked on a collar only flat collars and martingales/limited slip tools should be allowed. No halters or correction/full slip leads.
- c. Leads must be of fixed length, no longer than 3m.
- d. Each hiker must carry their personal water and food for the event as well as additional food and water for the dog.
- e. Each hiker must be provided with a marked map and must carry a compass.

## **16.3 Inspection of equipment**

- a. The hike Judge or a delegate is to inspect the equipment prior to commencement of the hike to ensure correct size, fit and weight of the backpack and that each hiker has adequate provisions for the hike.
- b. Each participating dog must be weighed by the Judge or a delegate at check-in of the trial to determine minimum starting pack weight.
- c. Each backpack must be weighted prior to the commencement of the hike and at the conclusion of the hike by the judge or a delegate to ensure compliance with minimum weight required at the start and completion of the hikes. The dog's weight, pack start weight and pack finish weight are to be recorded in a marked catalogue.
- d. Dog backpack's must weigh a minimum of 50% of the initial starting weight at the completion of the trip/event.

## **17 Fitness**

- 17.1 It is the sole responsibility of the hiker to ensure that they and the dog is fit to hike, are adequately prepared and physically capable of coping with the difficulty and distance of the trial and to monitor the dog to ensure it remains physically able to complete the hike.
- 17.2 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 doctor's certificate or veterinary certificate be provided prior to further entries being accepted for future events
- 17.3 At the discretion of the Judge or hiker a dog will be disqualified or fail if:
  - a. it lacks physical condition or
  - b. shows signs of undue stress or tiredness, or
  - c. becomes injured or unwell during the trial, or
  - d. is reluctant or refuses to walk, or
  - e. fails to maintain the set pace, complete the distance or continually lags behind the group.
- 17.4 All hikes shall be conducted in groups and all entrants must travel along with the ANKC judge or representative in a pack/line. At no time should competitors be permitted to go hiking alone unless separated from pack and the ANKC judge or representative must accompany the hike group for the entire hike.
- 17.5 The affiliate conducting the event must provide all hikers with a compass and a map marked with the hike trail, start and finish points. The map should be of adequate detail to allow hikers to navigate to the start/finish point should they be separated from the pack along the trail or become unable to complete the hike.

17.6 Hikers must walk at a minimum pace of 3 kilometres per hour OR remain in front of a designated end of pack pace-setter. The pace can be assessed by the judge on the day and adjusted if necessary to allow for terrain and weather

17.7 Rest stops – a minimum of 3 rest stops are to be taken at intervals throughout the hike. At every rest stop, hikers must hydrate their dogs, check for rubbing or injury to feet and check the fit of the backpack. Rest/water stops must be 10-20 minutes in duration, and include one Hiker meal stop of 30-45 minutes in duration.

## 18. Temperature

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

## 19. Titles

### 19.1 Working Novice Pack Dog (WNPD)

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

- a. Dog must carry a daily initial weight equal to a minimum of 15% 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.
- f. 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 **BY THE DOG**

### 19.2 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.
- f. 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 **BY THE DOG**

### 19.3 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 Judge or delegate 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 by the dog only.
- 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 must be a minimum of 64 kilometres with a total of 25 kilometres per day on travelling days under normal conditions such as maintained trails and normal weather conditions event will require a minimum of 10 hour layover after the first 25km. 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 kilometre's requirement.
- g. All dogs entered must supply a signed copy of a vet certificate stating dog is fit to compete and owner is sole person responsible for the welfare of the dog.

### 19.4 Multiplier Suffixes

Multiplier suffixes for ALL working pack dog titles may be awarded for multiples of 4 certificates gained. Eg 16 WPD qualifications is equal to WPD4.

Applications may be made for any multiplier suffix title without requiring applications for any predecessor suffixes i.e. an owner may apply directly for WPD5 without any requirement to apply and pay for WPD2, WPD3, WPD4

### 19.5 Validation

- a. At the completion of the event, the Club conducting the event shall issue a certificate signed by the Judge to those dogs who have successfully qualified for a leg for either WPD, WNPd or WPDX as appropriate.
- b. Affiliates must keep a copy of entrants' details along with dog weight, dog's pack starting weight, dog's pack finishing weight, and pass, fail, disqualification (including reason for disqualification) for every entrant in the trial

## **CHAPTER 4 – WEIGHT PULL**

### **20 Eligibility**

**20.1 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.

**20.2 Size** - Medium to large and giant breeds shall be permitted to compete in Weight pull Competitions in all States/Territories of Australia.

**20.3 Responsibility** - It is the responsibility of the owners to make sure their dogs are capable of pulling the initial weight of the cart or sled provided by the affiliate conducting the event.

**20.4 Brachycephalic** - breeds are prohibited from competing in Weight Pull events due to potential breathing problems during strenuous exercise

**20.5 Bitches** - shall not be permitted to compete whilst in oestrus.

### **21 Entries**

#### **21.1 Handlers**

- a. All handlers 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 owner to ensure all details submitted on the entry form are correct.

#### **21.2 Age**

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

### **22. Officials and Equipment**

**22.1 Chute Handler** - 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.

#### **22.2 Equipment**

##### **22.2.1 Harness**

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

### **22.2.2 Weights**

All Weights must be either pavers, sand bags, bricks, concrete blocks, metal bars, sleepers only no other item or person is to be used at any time it is also recommended weights be no more than 20kg due to WHS rules and risk of injury.

### **22.2.3 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.

## **23 Temperature**

Competition will cease when the temperature reaches 25 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.

## **24 Weight Classes**

### **24.1 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.

**24.2 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.

## **25. Surface**

### **25.1 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

### **25.2 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.

### **25.3 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.

## **26. 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.

## **27. 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

## **28. Weight Increment**

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

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

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

## **29 Competition**

29.1 **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.

29.2 **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..

29.3 **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.

29.4 **Non Qualifying** - If the trolley is stationary and has not crossed the finish line at the completion of sixty seconds, this will be a non qualifying pull.

29.5 **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.

29.6 **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.

29.7 **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.

29.8 **Non Qualifying (Tangles)** - In the event of a dog experiencing more than two tangles in any pull attempt, that attempt shall be at an end, this will be a non qualifying pull.

- 29.9 **Calling a Tangle** - Tangle can be called by either a handler, a Chute handler, timer or judge where there appears to be a tangle in either the line or the harness which could result in injury to the dog.
- 29.10 **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.
- 29.11 **First Weight** - The first weight offered to pull shall be the empty trolley. Thereafter weights shall increase as specified at Clause 9
- 29.12 **Commencement Weight** - Handlers can nominate at which weight their dog will enter the competition.
- 29.13 **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.
- 29.14 **Competition End** - The competition shall continue until all dogs entered have failed or withdrawn.
- 30. 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:
- The dogs full name and ANKC registration number;.
  - Owners Name and ANKC member bodies membership number;
  - Affiliate holding the event;
  - Date of the event;
  - Weight to Weight Ratio;
  - Pull Time
  - Surface; and
  - The Weightpull Judges name
- 31. 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.
- 32. Disqualifications**
- 32.1 Jumping/Bouncing/Charging** – A dog may be disqualified from a pull at the Weightpull Marshall's discretion after 1 warning where the dog employs a technique which includes charging or jumping off the ground in an effort to move the trolley in a manner likely to cause injury in the opinion of the Marshall.
- 32.2 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.
- 33. Titles**
- 33.1 Certificates** - All dogs registered with the ANKC entered shall receive Title Certificates as described at 30 upon qualification.
- 33.2 Qualification** - Once a dog has qualified sufficient times as detailed at 33 a title

application to use the letters WWPD or WWPDX as appropriate shall be lodged with the members ANKC Member Body.

**33.3 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.
- 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 within the time requirements as per rule 10.3 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 within the time requirements as per rule 10.3

**33.4 Working Weight Pull Dog Advance (WWPDA)** – In order to qualify for the title of WWPDA a dog must have achieved the following criteria

- a. Must have 6 qualifying certificates as described at 10.15 from 4 separate events.
- b. Over a distance of no less than 5M on a natural/snow surface pull a weight of at least **12 times** its own weight within the time requirements as per rule 10.3 or
- c. Over a distance of no less than 5M on an artificial surface pull a weight of at least **16 times** its own weight within the time requirements as per rule 10.3

**33.5 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.
- 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 the time as per rule 10.3 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 the time as per rule 10.3:
  - 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.

**33.6 Working Weight Pull Dog Master (WWPDM)** In order to qualify for the title of WWPDM a dog must have achieved the following criteria

- a. Must have 8 qualifying certificates as described at 10.15 from 8 separate events.
- b. Over a distance of no less than 5 metres on a natural/snow surface pull a weight of at least **24 times** its own weight and in the time as per rule 10.3 or
- c. Over a distance of no less than 5 metres on an artificial surface pull a weight as described at sub paragraph 1) – 4) and in the time as per rule 10.3:
  - 1) 15-<27 Kilo Class – 34 times its own weight;
  - 2) 27-<36 Kilo Class – 34 times its own weight;
  - 3) 36-<45 Kilo Class – 31 times its own weight; and
  - 4) 45Kilo and over class – 28 times its own weight.



**33.7 Versatile Working Weight Pull Dog (V.WWPD)** In order to qualify for the title of WWPD a dog must have achieved the following criteria:

- a) Achieved 4 qualifying passes on a Natural/snow surface, and
- b) Achieved 4 Qualifying Passes on an artificial surface.

**33.8 Multiplier suffixes** for ALL working weight pull dog titles may be awarded for multiples of **the stated level of** certificates gained for each level. Eg 16 WWPD qualifications is equal to WWPD4.

Applications may be made for any multiplier suffix title without requiring applications for any predecessor suffixes i.e. an owner may apply directly for WWPD5 without any requirement to apply and pay for WWPD2, WWPD3, WWPD4.

**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  
Associate/Sporting Register as determined by the Race Judge

**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  
Associate/Sporting Register as determined by the Race Judge

**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  
Associate/Sporting Register as determined by the Race Judge

**APPENDIX B**  
**to Sled Racing**  
**Temperature/Humidity Rules**  
Use approved by ASSA



**Race Rules**  
**TEMPERATURE - QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE**

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This document is to be used as a handy to use, reference guide for one of the most important dog welfare issues of our sport, Temperature.

The content is direct references from the ASSA Race Rules.

**Temperatures at Dryland races – Guidelines**

1. At dryland races there shall be a thermometer and a hygrometer in the starting area. They shall be easily visible and placed in the shade, at 50 centimetres (20 inches) above ground level.
2. The minimum and maximum temperatures and humidity shall be noted during the entire race.
3. Humidity effects actual temperature and the relationship between these two variables will be measured by Apparent Temperature. RGOs must use the Apparent Temperature Chart (in Appendix 1):
4. Given the minima and maxima, trail conditions and local circumstances these rules and Apparent Temperature Chart must be used to make decisions by the race giving organization and the race marshal for the well-being of the dogs.

**4.1. Scooter Bikejor and Rig Classes**

- 4.1.1. Dogs shall not be harnessed when the actual temperature exceeds 15°C or at or above 15°C apparent temperature as per the red shaded area of the Rig/Bikejor/Scooter section of the Apparent temperature chart.
- 4.1.2. It is recommended that distances are shortened when apparent temperature reaches between 10 – 14.5°C as per the yellow shaded area of the Rig/Bikejor/Scooter section of the Apparent temperature chart.
- 4.1.3. Full distances are recommended for all temperatures within the green shaded area of the Rig/Bikejor/Scooter section on the Apparent temperature chart.

**4.2. Canicross Class**

- 4.2.1. Dogs shall not be harnessed when the actual temperature exceeds 22°C or at or above 22°C apparent temperature as per the red shaded area of the Canicross section on the Apparent temperature chart.
- 4.2.2. It is recommended that distances are shortened when apparent temperature reaches between 18 – 21.5°C as per the yellow shaded area of the Canicross section of the Apparent temperature chart.
- 4.2.3. Full distances are recommended for all temperatures within the green shaded area of the Canicross section of the Apparent temperature chart.

- 4.3. Depending on the race trail (i.e. large section under the sun) or other facts, the Race Marshal may impose shorter distances or other measures if this is favouring the sports, even if the maximum temperatures above are not reached.



## Race Rules

### TEMPERATURE - QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

The Apparent Temperature chart shows the relationship between actual temperature and relative humidity. That is; the effect humidity has upon the actual temperature (it assumes the wind speed is 0).

To use this chart at a race:

1. Refer to your thermometer and record the temperature and humidity.
2. Along the x axis of the chart locate the temperature and on the y axis the humidity.
3. Record the corresponding Apparent Temperature.
4. Example 1: the race thermometer records the actual temperature to be 10°C and the humidity is 45%. The Apparent Temp is therefore 7.5°C (in the green zone) and it is recommended a heat can run full distance.
5. Example 2: actual temp is 16°C and humidity is 85%. Apparent Temperature is therefore 16.5°C Scooter Bikejor and Rig classes cannot be run.

		Actual Temperature Degrees Celcius																				
		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
Relative Humidity (%)	0	1	1	3	3	4	6	6	8	8	9	11	11	12	14	14	16	17	18			
	5	1	1	3	3	4	6	6.5	8	8.5	9.5	11	11.5	12.5	14	14.5	16	17	18			
	10	1	1.5	3	3.5	4.5	6	6.5	8	8.5	9.5	11.5	11.5	12.5	14.5	15	17	18	19			
	15	1	1.5	3.5	3.5	4.5	6.5	6.5	8.5	9	10	11.5	12	13	15	15	17	18	19			
	20	1.5	1.5	3.5	3.5	5	6.5	7	8.5	9	10	12	12.5	13.5	15	15.5	17	18	20			
	25	1.5	2	3.5	4	5	7	7	9	9.5	10.5	12	12.5	13.5	15.5	16	18	19	20			
	30	1.5	2	4	4	5	7	7.5	9	9.5	10.5	12.5	13.5	14	16	16.5	18	19	21			
	35	1.5	2	4	4.5	5.5	7	7.5	9.5	10	11	13	13.5	14.5	16.5	16.5	19	20	21			
	40	2	2.5	4	4.5	5.5	7.5	8	10	10	11.5	13	13.5	14.5	16.5	17	19	20	21			
	45	2	2.5	4.5	4.5	6	7.5	8	10	10.5	11.5	13.5	14	15	17	17.5	19	21	22			
	50	2.5	2.5	4.5	5	6	8	8.5	10	10.5	11.5	13.5	14	15.5	17.5	18	20	21	22			
	55	2.5	3	4.5	5	6	8	8.5	10.5	11	12	14	14.5	16	17.5	18	20	22	23			
	60	2.5	3	5	5.5	6.5	8	9	10.5	11	12.5	14.5	15	16	18	18.5	21	22	23			
	65	2.5	3	5	5.5	6.5	8.5	9	11	11.5	12.5	14.5	15	16.5	18.5	19	21	22	24			
	70	3	3.5	5	5.5	7	8.5	9	11	11.5	13	15	15.5	17	19	19.5	21	23	24			
	75	3	3.5	5.5	6	7	9	9.5	11.5	12	13	15	16	17	19	20	22	23	24			
	80	3	3.5	5.5	6	7	9	9.5	11.5	12	13.5	15.5	16	17.5	19.5	20	22	24	25			
	85	3.5	4	5.5	6	7.5	9.5	10	12	12.5	14	16	16.5	18	20	20.5	23	24	25			
	90	3.5	4	6	6.5	7.5	9.5	10	12	12.5	14	16	16.5	18	20	21	23	25	26			
	95	3.5	4	6	6.5	8	10	10.5	12.5	13	14.5	16.5	17	18.5	20.5	21.5	23	25	26			
	100	4	4.5	6	7	8	10	10.5	12.5	13.5	14.5	17	17.5	19	21	21.5	24	25	27			
		No Rig, Scooter or Bikejor Classes Beyond This Point																				
		No Canicross Beyond This Point																				

	Run Full Track Distance
	Shorten Track Distance
	Do Not Run Heat

## **APPENDIX C to Sled Sports**

### **List of Permanently Banned Prohibited Substances**

(To be reviewed by ANKC CHWC)

Prohibited substances are considered so concerning from a welfare or integrity point of view that they are deemed to have no place in the sport at all – these are called permanently banned prohibited substances.

Because these substances are so concerning for the integrity of the sport, participants are also not permitted to possess, acquire, attempt to acquire, administer or attempt to administer any permanently banned prohibited substances at any time.

Compliance with these rules may be enforced by state controlling bodies through all available means including regular kennel inspections, inspections of medications and treatment records, working with other regulatory bodies, and regular out of competition testing, as well as through routine race day sampling.

The following substances are deemed to be Permanently Banned Prohibited Substances and shall include a metabolite, isomer or artefact of any of the substances specified within.”

(i) Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents, including but not limited to erythropoietin (EPO), epoetin alfa, epoetin beta, epoetin delta, epoetin omega, novel erythropoiesis stimulating protein (NESP; darbepoietin alfa), and methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta (Mircera) and other continuous erythropoietin receptor activators.

(ii) Gonadotropins, including luteinising hormone (LH), follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) and equine chorionic gonadotropin (eCG; pregnant mare serum gonadotropin; PMSG).

(iii) Gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH; gonadorelin).

(iv) Corticotropins, including adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) and tetracosactrin (tetracosactide).

(v) Substances listed in Schedule 8 and Schedule 9 of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons contained in the Australian Poisons Standard, as amended from time to time.

(vi) Diacetylmorphine (heroin), benzoylmethylecgonine (cocaine), cannabinoids and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), gammahydroxybutyric acid (GHB) and its salts and amphetamines including amphetamine, methylamphetamine and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA).

(vii) Insulins and insulin-like growth factor-1.

(viii) Growth hormones and their releasing factors.

(ix) Selective receptor modulators including but not limited to selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMS), selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMS), selective opiate receptor modulators (SORMS) and selective glucocorticoid receptor agonists.

(x) Peroxisome proliferator activated receptor  $\delta$  (PPAR $\delta$ ) agonists, including but not limited to GW 1516.

(xi) AMPK activators, including but not limited to AICAR (5-amino-1-β Dribofuranosyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide).

(xii) Other agents that directly or indirectly affect or manipulate gene expression.

(xiii) Hypoxia inducible factor (HIF) stabilisers, including but not limited to cobalt and FG-4592, and hypoxia inducible factor (HIF) activators, including but not limited to argon and xenon.

(xiv) Agents modifying myostatin function, including but not limited to myostatin inhibitors.

(xv) Oxygen carriers including but not limited to perfluorochemicals, faproxiral and modified haemoglobin products.

(xvi) Thymosin beta.

(xvii) Venoms of any species or derivatives thereof.

(xviii) Synthetic proteins and peptides and synthetic analogues of endogenous proteins and peptides not registered for medical or veterinary use in Australia or New Zealand.

(xix) Any substance capable of disguising or making undetectable the administration or presence of any Permanently Banned Prohibited Substance.

(xx) Anabolic androgenic steroids excluding those that are defined as an exempted substance pursuant to GARI.

(xxi) Non-erythropoietic EPO-receptor agonists.

(xxii) Allosteric effectors of haemoglobin, including but not limited to ITPP (myo-inositol trispyrophosphate).

(xxiii) Haematopoietic growth factors, including but not limited to filgrastim.

(xxiv) Hydrocortisone (excluding registered topical preparations when administered topically).

### **Description of permanently banned prohibited substances**

A number of the substances within this list have been banned due to concerns regarding their integrity and/or animal welfare risks. They have the capability of affecting the behavior, condition or performance of a greyhound. Participants are advised they must never possess, acquire, attempt to acquire, administer or allow to be administered to any greyhound from birth until retirement, any substance included within this list.

(i) Erythropoiesis-stimulating agents can increase red blood cell production and prolong their life in circulation. This leads to an increased concentration of red blood cells in the racing greyhound, which leads to increased oxygen transporting capacity and reduces the effects of fatigue on the muscles. This can increase performance in racing. These substances all have serious welfare concerns as they have been linked to cardiac arrest, infarctions of vital organs and cerebral hemorrhage.



(ii) Gonadotropins (e.g. Chorulon) if administered will increase testosterone levels and may breach the  $5\beta$ -androstane- $3\alpha$ ,  $17\beta$ -diol ( $\beta\alpha\beta$ ) thresholds regardless of whether testing is conducted in or out of competition. Use in dogs may increase muscle mass, increase endurance and alter their behavior (aggression and chasing desire).

(iii) Gonadotropin releasing hormones (e.g. Fertagyl, Receptal, Ovuplant, Suprelorin) if administered will increase testosterone levels and may breach the  $5\beta$ -androstane- $3\alpha$ ,  $17\beta$ -diol ( $\beta\alpha\beta$ ) thresholds regardless of whether testing is conducted in or out of competition. Use in dogs may increase muscle mass, increase endurance and alter their behavior (aggression and chasing desire).

(iv) Corticotropins (e.g. Synacthen) if administered will increase the levels of naturally produced glucocorticoids which have anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving properties. Use during competition could inhibit sensation of muscle or joint pain and increase the fatigue threshold.

(v) Substances listed in Schedule 8 and Schedule 9 of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons contained in the Australian Poisons Standard are defined by the Australian Government as Controlled Drugs and Prohibited Substances and is regularly updated and the latest version can be viewed at <https://www.tga.gov.au/publication/poisons-standard-susmp>. These substances may have a performance enhancing or decreasing effect in the racing greyhound and may cause welfare concerns if administered. Possession of these substances is illegal without appropriate authority.

(vi) Diacetylmorphine (heroin), benzoylmethylecgonine (cocaine), cannabinoids and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), gammahydroxybutyric acid (GHB) and its salts and amphetamines including amphetamine, methylamphetamine and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) are all illicit substances and possession is illegal. These substances may have a performance enhancing or decreasing effect in racing and cause welfare concerns if administered.

(vii) Insulins and insulin-like growth factor-1 can affect metabolism, growth and development of the racing greyhound. They can produce a performance enhancing effect, and have welfare concerns for greyhounds, which are treated with these substances without therapeutic cause. Appropriate therapeutic treatment of a diabetic greyhound (rarely seen aside from pregnancy induced) would include retirement from racing to better control the condition.

(viii) Growth hormones and their releasing factors have the ability to increase musculoskeletal growth and development in the racing greyhound and can have a performance enhancing effect in addition to the potential welfare concerns.

(ix) Selective receptor modulators including but not limited to selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMS), selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMS), selective opiate receptor modulators (SORMS) and selective glucocorticoid receptor agonists have the ability to have anabolic, behavioral, anti-inflammatory, analgesic or performance effects by switching on normal endogenous production pathways.

(x) Peroxisome proliferator activated receptor  $\delta$  (PPAR $\delta$ ) agonists, including but not limited to GW 1516 have the ability to mimic the beneficial effects of exercise on muscle and metabolic systems and can have a performance enhancing effect.

(xi) AMPK activators, including but not limited to AICAR (5-amino-1- $\beta$ -D-ribofuranosyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide) have been shown to increase exercise speed and endurance in sedentary mice and thus its administration in racing may increase performance.

(xii) Other agents that directly or indirectly affect or manipulate gene expression if administered would be considered gene doping. These substances may alter metabolic systems which can lead to increased performance and also present the potential for serious welfare risks for dogs.

(xiii) Hypoxia inducible factor (HIF)-1 stabilisers, including cobalt and FG-4592, and HIF activators, including xenon and argon, can increase red blood cell production and prolong their life in circulation. Increased concentration of red blood cells leads to increased oxygen transporting capacity and reduces the effects of fatigue on the muscles. In addition to the potential for increased performance these substances can have serious welfare concerns in the racing dog as they chemically mimic the effects of hypoxia (low oxygen).

Possession or administration of registered, appropriately obtained and labelled products containing cobalt and vitamin B12 is allowed under this rule where appropriate, but the cobalt threshold will be enforced on race day. All treatments must be recorded in the Treatment Record as per. Possession of highly concentrated cobalt salts is likely to be considered a breach. Where an out of competition sample is significantly greater than the threshold and there is concerns a large amount of cobalt salts may have been administered, Stewards will consider the facts of the individual case, including Treatment Records, and expert evidence.

(xiv) Agents modifying myostatin function, including myostatin inhibitors can increase muscle mass and endurance which can lead to a performance enhancing effect.

(xv) Oxygen carriers including but not limited to perfluorochemicals, efaroxiral and modified hemoglobin products increase the amount of oxygen in circulation which can then feed muscles and other metabolic systems which are stressed during racing thereby reducing fatigue. They also represent welfare concerns if administered.

(xvi) Thymosin beta is a peptide which is capable of regulating cell migration and is able to promote blood vessel development and tissue repair after injury. It has an anti-inflammatory action by down regulation of cytokines and can promote the maturation of stem cells, healing damaged muscles. Due to these effects it would be considered a performance enhancing substance.

(xvii) Venoms of any species or derivatives thereof have a wide and varied effect on animals which are all detrimental. These effects range from neurotoxic, myotoxic and hemotoxic and can cause severe illness and death in the greyhound. Although rumoured to improve performance, they would be detrimental to performance and raise serious welfare issues if administered to a greyhound. Venom detection tests can be used to confirm where a greyhound has unfortunately been a victim of snakebite. It is not the intention of controlling bodies to enforce this rule under these circumstances.

(xviii) Synthetic proteins and peptides and synthetic analogues of endogenous proteins and peptides not registered for medical or veterinary use in Australia or New Zealand are all banned and can have a range of effects such as increasing muscle mass and efficiency of metabolism under exercise conditions. These substances would generally have a positive effect on condition or performance.

(xix) Any substance capable of disguising or making undetectable the administration or presence of any Permanently Banned Prohibited Substance i.e. masking agents. Although few are known to exist, due to their mode of action and their potential effect on the health of greyhounds, they present welfare and integrity concerns and so their use is banned.

(xx) Anabolic androgenic steroids excluding ethyloestrenol for controlling oestrus in the female are banned. Use in greyhounds leads to an unfair performance advantage through increasing muscle mass, increasing endurance and altering behavior (aggression and chasing desire). They can also cause several negative health effects in the greyhound and raise potential welfare implications if administered.

(xxi) Non-erythropoietic EPO-receptor agonists are a group of substances that can increase red blood cell production and prolong their life in circulation. This leads to an increased concentration of red blood cells in the racing dog, which leads to increased oxygen transporting capacity and reduces the effects of fatigue on the muscles. This can increase performance in the racing greyhound. These substances all have serious welfare concerns in the racing dogs as they have been linked to cardiac arrest, infarctions of vital organs and cerebral hemorrhage.

(xxii) Haematopoietic growth factors, including but not limited to filgrastim have no therapeutic indication in the greyhound and their administration can alter the synthesis of red and white blood cells. Administration in the dog raises serious welfare concerns due to their side effects and potential integrity risks.

(xxiii) Hydrocortisone is a substance that produces pain-relieving, anti-inflammatory effects and can also alter metabolism and increase the fatigue threshold which is likely to lead to performance enhancement in the racing greyhound. APVMA or TGA registered topical products can be prescribed by your veterinarian after having established a therapeutic need for that product and can only be administered topically (e.g. on the skin or in the ear). The hydrocortisone threshold will now be enforced both on race day and out of competition, and administration of hydrocortisone (e.g. Hysone, Solu-Cortef) will lead to a breach of the threshold. Where systemic corticosteroids are required for treatment, veterinarians can continue to prescribe veterinary products that contain other corticosteroids (e.g. prednisolone, dexamethasone, etc.)

This list of permanently prohibited substances has been derived from the Greyhound Racing Australia Regulation 79A. As a guide to all sled sport enthusiast.