

# Australian Federation of Sleddog Sports - Race Rules



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## DEFINITIONS

**AGE:** The age of a competitor is regarded to be the age of the competitor attained at the last birthday. The age of a dog is the age it reaches prior to the first day of the competition.

**CHECK POINT:** A clearly defined and marked area adjacent to the trail, where drivers and officials only are admitted.

**CONTROL AREA:** A specially defined area before the start and after the finish **line** where only authorized persons are allowed, unless otherwise authorized by the Race Marshal.

**DRIVER:** A person who drives a dog team entered in the race.

**EVENT:** A meeting of contestants for the purpose of competing in one event which may involve several classes.

**FINISH ZONE:** A specified stretch of the trail toward the finish line, minimum 800 meters, where special rules for passing apply (see §18.6 for Ski-Dogs and Canicross).

**GUIDELINES:** A rule or set of rules which are not mandatory but highly recommended.

**HANDLER:** A person assisting teams at start, after finish and at other locations authorized by the Race Marshal.

**HEAT:** A completion of the trail, or a part of same, after which the ongoing timing is discontinued.

**LINE:** The line to which the dog(s) is/are attached to pull the vehicle (sled, bike, Scooter, rig) is made of different elements. The various elements together are called the Gang Line. The line running between the dogs (if more than one dog) is called the Tow Line or Central Line. The dog is attached to the tow line from the back of its harness by a Tug Line or Tail Line and may be attached from the collar to the tow line by a Neck Line.

**OFFICIAL:** A person appointed by the organizer or the Rules Enforcing Officers, authorized to perform, within prescribed limits, to act on their behalf.

**ORGANIZATION/ORGANIZER:** The organization/organizer in charge of running the event: the race-giving organization/organizer (RGO).

**PULKA:** The pulka or the Ski-Dogs sled (small sled with short runners)

**RACE:** A competition in a specified class and may be comprised of one or more heats.

**RACE AREA:** All designated parking areas, spectator areas, team holding areas, start/finish chutes, officiating areas and the trail areas.

**RACE JUDGE:** Rules Enforcing Officer, has the same authority as the Race Marshal / Chief Judge, except in the question of disqualification. References to the Race Marshal in these Rules shall also apply for the Race Judge(s), when appropriate.

**RACE JURY:** The Race Jury includes the Race Marshal, the Race Judges and any other official the Race Marshal may wish to include.

**RACE MARSHAL (RM):** The Chief Judge, i.e. the person who shall have supreme authority at an event. The Race Marshal is the only official who can decide upon a disqualification.

### **REGISTERED NORDIC BREED (RNB):**

Dogs of the acknowledged sleddog-breeds (Siberian Husky, Alaskan Malamute, Samoyed, Greenland-Dog) that hold a document/pedigree that was issued by one of the following breeding associations: F.C.I. (Fédération Cynologique Internationale), CKC (Canadian Kennel Club), AKC (American Kennel Club) or KC (British Kennel Club).

**SEASON:** The racing season, the period within which all competitions shall be commenced and concluded, in principle from July until June of the following year in the northern hemisphere and from November until October of the following year in the southern hemisphere. However, organizers and

technical organizers shall realize that local conditions (e.g., temperature, humidity etc.) may shorten this period in favour of the wellbeing of the dogs.

**SLED:** The vehicle driven by the contestant and pulled by his/her dog team during the competition, also includes a pulka, a bike, a Scooter, a rig when appropriate.

**SLED DOG:** A sled dog is a dog, irrespective of the breed or type, capable of being harnessed and of competing in one of the classes listed in the AFSS Regulations without a potential, beforehand, to be calculated risk, of harming the dog's well-being.

**STAKE-OUT AREA:** A specially defined area where dogs of participating teams shall be kept when not competing.

**STARTING CHUTE:** A specified stretch of the trail from the starting line, minimum 30 meters long and where possible 4 meters wide, where help is allowed

**TECHNICAL ORGANIZER:** A body which, upon an agreement and in close co-operation with the organizer, has assumed responsibility..

**VEHICLE HOLDING AREA:** A specially defined area where the participants' vehicles shall be parked in case this cannot be combined with the stake out area.

**SHALL:** ..... Shall be construed as being imperative.

**SHOULD:** ..... Shall be construed as advisory.

**MAY:** ..... Shall be construed as being permissive.

In this Rule and other AFSS Regulations, where appropriate, the words "Competitor", "Contestant", "Driver", "Athlete", etc. shall include "the competitor and/or his/her dog(s)"; and the singular shall include the plural.

# CHAPTER ONE (General Rules)

(Applies to all classes)

Note: In case of discrepancy between general rules and special rules, the special rules shall prevail.

## I. ENTRY RULES

### 1 Eligibility

#### 1.1 Entries

1.1.1 An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the race, subject to entry deadlines as determined by the organization.

1.1.2 The organization may reject any entry for just cause.

1.1.3 Liability insurance is mandatory for drivers and handlers covering the risks of sled dog racing and all consequences.

1.1.4 An entry for a minor driver (usually below 18 years old) shall be co-signed by parents or guardians. With their signature they declare that they are of opinion that the minor driver is capable to participate in the total event and to safely cover the trail in the applicable class as established by the organizer. Consequently, their signature is a waiver through which they hold the organizer harmless regarding any claim, liability, any other expenses or accusations relative to the fact that the driver concerned is not an adult.

1.1.5 The Race Marshal may disallow entry of any driver, team or dog for just cause.

#### 1.2 Claim

1.2.1 The competitor shall hold the organizer(s), judges, officials, sponsors, co-sponsors and other contributors to the organizer, (as distinguished from the individual competitor's sponsor) harmless from any claim or demand, based on any alleged action or non-action by the competitor, his/her dogs, agents, or others acting on his/her behalf. The competitor shall also release the organizer, judges, officials, competition sponsors, their agents and employees from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the competitor, his/her dogs, or property, including but not limited to lost or dropped dogs and misplaced food and supplies.

1.2.2 Furthermore, the organizer has the unqualified and unrestricted authority with regards to pictures and the gathering of information on the competition and all participants involved, as well as to the use of such pictures and information for advertising, public relations or any other publicity purpose related to the competition.

### 2 Drivers

2.1 The driver starting a team in the first heat of a race shall drive that team throughout the race.

2.2 A change in driver can only be made once and only as the result of illness or injury to the authorized entrant and must have the approval of the Race Marshal. The substitute driver shall drive the team throughout the race.

#### 2.3 Age of competitors:

2.3.1 In Dryland classes, the minimum and maximum ages shall be:

2.3.1.1 Senior classes: 14 years and above.

2.3.1.2 Junior classes: 10 to and including 16 years.

2.3.1.3 Peewee mushers aged 0 - 8 years are uninsured competitors and must run assisted by a guardian. Peewee mushers 8 - 10 may run assisted by an adult or unassisted.

2.3.1.4 A junior aged between 14 and 16 may run in the senior class subject to the approval of the Race Marshall, RGO and guardians consent.

- 2.3.1.5 The final decision as to the capability or suitability of a Junior to run in this class, is that of the Race Marshall. It is expected that the Race Marshall discuss the entry with the Juniors guardian, the RGO and or in consultation with the Junior mushers diary.
- 2.4 Any driver disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- 2.5 Drivers shall attend the drivers' meeting held prior to the start of Sprint and Ski-Dogs races. The Race Marshal may waive this rule if a competitor is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. However, in this case, the driver is responsible for obtaining a briefing from officials prior to the start of the competition.
- 2.6 Drivers shall attend the drivers' meeting held prior to the start of the Distance races as well as any other meeting officially announced in order to qualify to compete in the race. The Race Marshal may waive this rule if a competitor is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. However, in this case, the driver is responsible for obtaining a briefing from officials prior to the start of the competition.
- 2.7 Drivers shall not hinder- or endanger the welfare of their dogs, the progress of the event or discredit the sled dog sports. Offenders shall be disqualified.
- 2.8 A competitor shall not run in both junior and senior events on the same competition/event.
- 3 Dogs
- 3.1 Any team or dog coming to the starting line, which, in the opinion of the Race Marshal, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail, shall be disqualified.
- 3.2 Any team or dog not starting the first heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- 3.3 Any team or dog disqualified in any heat of the race is in no case eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- 3.4 Eligibility of dogs is not restricted to certain breeds. Providing there are, in a class, at least five (5) teams starting the first heat of the race, the RGO may divide each class between Registered Nordic Breed (RNB) teams and other teams, and even separate Registered Siberian Husky teams (RNB1) from other RNB teams (RNB2).
- 3.5 Dogs participating in a race must be at least twelve (12) months old or 52 weeks.
- 3.5.1 Dryland: 12 months in all classes.
- 3.5.2 Sprint: 12 months in all classes.
- 3.5.3 Ski-Dogs: 12 months
- 3.5.4 Distance classes: 12 months.
- 3.6 Any dog having raced in one class of a race shall not be eligible to race in another class on the same day, unless that other class is a relay (on snow or Dryland), Canicross or PeeWee.
- 3.7 Dogs may be required to undergo a physical examination by a race veterinarian in order to be allowed to start.
- 4 Disease (see also Annex [B . II](#))
- 4.1 No dog or equipment shall be brought from a kennel where kennel cough, rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis or any other contagious disease exists.
- 4.2 If the Race Veterinarian diagnoses any dog present in the race area to have a contagious disease, that team shall be disqualified and shall immediately leave the race area.
- 5 Identification
- 5.1 In a race of more than one heat, each dog shall be marked for identification prior to the start of the first heat of the race. In case of microchip identification, the list of chip numbers shall

be provided to the Race Marshal or his/her delegate as instructed by the Race Marshal or the race organizer.

5.2 Dogs dropped from teams after the first heat of a race involving more than two (2) heats, shall be marked a second time to indicate their disqualification to run in subsequent heats either via direct dog marking or via a note on the team chip list.

5.3 The contestants themselves are responsible for seeing to it that their team dogs are marked as prescribed prior to the start of the race.

6 Medications administered to Dogs and Drivers

6.1 Prohibited Drugs and Drug Testing - AFSS Anti-Doping Rules and regulations shall apply. It includes the WADA regulations for athletes and the specific AFSS Regulations for dogs. (See <http://www.sleddogsport.net/>)

6.2 At races, no one is allowed to perform any medical treatment on the dogs without authorization by the official race veterinarian or vet nurse.

7 Equipment

7.1 Inspection

7.1.1 Drivers, teams and equipment shall be available for inspection in the stake-out or vehicle holding area at least ten (10) minutes before their scheduled time of departure, unless otherwise announced by the Race Marshal. Preferably inspections will take place the day prior to a morning event or on the day of an evening event.

7.1.2 In distance races the teams and equipment shall be available for inspection in the stake-out or vehicle holding area or any other place as announced by the Race Marshal at least thirty (30) minutes before their scheduled time of departure. Preferably inspections will take place the day prior to a morning event or on the day of an evening event.

7.1.3 When the control is completed, no equipment shall be removed from the conveyance without the Race Marshals permission, and under supervision of same or of an authorized official.

7.1.4 A team in harness shall not be required to stand for inspection longer than six (6) minutes before the scheduled time of departure.

7.1.5 Inspection shall take place in an area that does not interfere with starting and finishing teams.

7.1.6 A team shall be available for inspection after each heat at the request of the Race Marshal or the designated Race Judge.

7.2 All equipment is subject to the approval of the Race Marshal. However, the competitors themselves are responsible that their equipment meets the requirements as per the rules and regulations.

8 Other Equipment

8.1 A muzzle, or a collar that can be hooked as a full choke are prohibited.

8.2 Whips are forbidden.

8.3 A racing number for each driver shall be provided by the race-giving organization. The driver shall display this number on his/her person throughout the race, unless otherwise authorized by the RM.

8.4 The competitor should not be wearing shoes that could be dangerous for dogs. Shoes with hardened spikes or studs of 1mm height maximum are allowed.

9 Finish Time Disqualification (Optional)

An eventual time disqualification shall be noted on the entry form, or in the invitation, indicating for which classes it shall apply.

## II. START-FINISH RULES (see also Annex C I)

### 10 Drawing and Rating

- 10.1 In races with single or dual starts, the starting positions for the first heat of a race shall be determined by a drawing held prior to the race at a time and place designated by the organizer. Unless specifically defined in the rules and regulations or other applicable documents, the organizer is free to decide in which way the drawing shall be performed and if drivers shall attend or be represented.
- 10.2 In case the organizer decides that drivers or team leaders shall attend the drawing, the drivers, their team leader or designated proxy of each team, may draw their own starting position. In their absence, the starting position may be drawn by the Race Marshal or his/her representative. If the drivers or the team leaders agree, the drawing could also be performed via an at-random computer method, with, per class, a team leader or a driver pushing the button
- 10.3 The order of the draw shall not be changed, either by addition or substitution. Late entries shall be added in order of receipt.
- 10.4 The drawing may, at the option of the organizer, be modified by seeding in accordance with a formula established by the organizer, subject to the approval of the AFSS.
- 10.5 A class is rated separately only if there are at least five (5) teams starting in the first heat of that elite / veteran classes, and three (3) teams starting in the junior class.

### 11 Single Start Race

- 11.1 The first day's starting positions shall be determined by the draw with Number 1 starting first, Number 2 starting second, etc.
- 11.2 After the first heat, the starting positions shall be determined by the total elapsed time of the previous heat(s), with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.
- 11.2.1 At the option of the organizer and when notified in the invitation or on the entry form, the elapsed time of the previous single heat shall determine the starting positions.
- 11.2.2 At the option of the organizer, the starting intervals of the last day of a race may be identical to the differences in the total elapsed times of the participants, so that the order in which the participants are crossing the finish line also will reflect their finishing positions (chase- or pursuit start)
- 11.2.3 At the option of the organizer, the competitors may all start at the same time (mass start). If the race includes seeded competitors they will start in the front line(s), the non-seeded competitors being on line(s) behind the seeded competitors.
- 11.2.4 At the option of the organizer, the starting position of the second and succeeding heats may be reversed with respect to the result of the previous heat (reverse start).

### 12 Dual Start Race

- 12.1 The first heat's starting positions shall be determined by the draw, with Numbers 1 and 2 starting together first (pair 1), Numbers 3 and 4 starting together second (pair 2), etc.
- 12.2 The second heat's starting positions shall be determined by the first heat's times. At the option of the organizer:
- a) Pair 1 shall consist of the best time and second best time of the previous heat, pair 2 shall consist of the third and the fourth best times of the previous heat, etc. or
- b) The result list of the first heat will be divided into two groups, the first group consisting of the first half of the result list and second group of the second half of the result list. Pair 1 shall

consist of the first teams of each group, pair 2 shall consist of the second teams of each group, etc.

12.3 In races of more than two heats, the elapsed time of the previous single heat will determine the starting positions using the grouping option defined in §12.2 above and decided for the second heat.

### 13 Time keeping and Equal Times

13.1 The time keeping shall be measured to at least: with electronic timing, at 1/10 – in-one tenth of a second without any correction. With manual timing, 1/1- in one second.

13.2 At relay events not only the total time of the teams shall be recorded, but also the individual time of each participant

13.3 If the 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.

13.4 Teams with equal times for the entire race shall be awarded the higher finishing position.

13.5 The purse and/or award for the tied place and the next lower place(s) shall be combined and divided equally among those teams tied for that place.

### 14 Mass Start and Pursuit Start

14.1 At the option of the organizer, mass start or pursuit start may be organized for specific classes and/or specific heats

#### 14.2 Mass start:

14.2.1 All participants of the same class start at the same time on the same starting line. If they cannot all stay on one line, the Race Marshal shall set more lines as required. Seeded competitors, if any, shall stay on the first line(s) ahead of the non-seeded competitors.

14.2.2 The starting area shall have one starting track per team. The distance between the starting tracks should be approximately 2 meters. The length of the starting tracks should be approximately 80 meters and shall end at a marked line.

14.2.3 There shall be at least 10 meters between each starting line, distance to be adapted to the size of the teams.

14.2.4 A safe number of assistants/handlers are allowed. At the moment of the start, these assistants shall stand stock still and face the starting teams until all teams have passed unless otherwise announced by the Race Marshal.

14.2.5 Start signal is given by the starter using clear and suitable methods, which must be made familiar to competitors prior to the start of any heats commencement.

14.2.6 The starter stands in front of the starting area so that all starting participants are able to see the starter.

14.2.7 Starting order is given in the following way:

14.2.7.1 One minute before the start an audible or visual alert is heard or seen.

14.2.7.2 Thirty (30) seconds before the start an audible or visual alert is heard or seen.

14.2.7.3 Fifteen (15) seconds before the start an audible or visual alert is heard or seen.

14.2.7.4 A five (5) second down is seen or heard prior to releasing the team.

14.2.8 If a team starts too early, it shall get a time penalty of 30 seconds.

14.2.9 A race judge is responsible for checking the violations. There shall be at least two race officials to check the starting line and at least two at the end of the starting chute tracks.

14.2.10 Mass start is not recommended in Bikejoring, Scooter and rig classes because of the potential risks for dogs and drivers caused by the equipment and the moving parts / wheels.

- 14.3 Pursuit start
  - 14.3.1 In the first race of the pursuit competition, the starting procedure is the single start procedure.
  - 14.3.2 In the second heat of the pursuit competition, the winner of the first heat starts first, the second ranked starts next, etc. The starting intervals are the same as the differences between the competitors' times from the first race results.
- 15 Starting Point and Time
  - 15.1 Starting Point
    - 15.1.1 In Sled classes, the brush bow of the sled should determine the starting point of the team.
    - 15.1.2 In Ski-Dogs and Canicross classes, the entire team, with the competitor holding his/her dogs by the collar or the harness, shall stay behind the starting line until the start signal has been given.
    - 15.1.3 In Dryland Scooter, Bikejoring and rig classes, the front wheel shall determine the starting point of the team and shall stay behind the starting line until the start signal has been given.
  - 15.2 Before the start, the starting team should come to a complete stop at the starting point defined in rule §15.1.
  - 15.3 Trail time for all teams shall begin at the scheduled time of departure.
  - 15.4 A team that fails to be in the starting position at its scheduled starting time or within half of the starting interval after the scheduled starting time shall be declared a late starting team, and shall receive a new starting time plus a time penalty of 3 (three) times the starting interval in its class. (Not applicable in Ski-Dogs, see §68)
    - 15.4.1 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.
    - 15.4.2 If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall start in the originally scheduled starting order.
    - 15.4.3 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.
  - 15.5 When a team starts too early according to its scheduled time of departure, and neither the driver nor any of his/her designated handlers has initiated this, either by intention or negligence, that team's starting time shall be adjusted accordingly (see §68.4 for ski-dog classes).
  - 15.6 Except in cases defined in rule §15.5 above, a team starting too early according to its scheduled time of departure shall receive a time penalty of 3 (three) times the starting interval of the class. Its recorded racing time will start at the original scheduled starting time.
- 16 A team not clearing the Starting Chute (minimum distance, 30 meters) prior to the scheduled start of the next team may be disqualified.
- 17 Unless otherwise specified by the Race Marshal, assistance in the Starting Chute shall be allowed.
- 18 Finish
  - 18.1 A team shall have finished the heat when the first dog on the team crosses the finish line. Other timing methods are allowed, but only if all drivers or team leaders are officially informed on the applicable method before the first start of the race.
  - 18.2 If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of its driver, that team shall have finished when the driver reaches the finish line.
  - 18.3 When a dual starting chute is used as a finishing chute, a team may return on either trail.

- 18.4 The team with the fastest total time of its class shall be declared the winner of that class.
- 18.5 In case of equal timing whatever the positions of the dogs are the two competitors are tie (See §13.3 above)
- 18.6 Finishing zone, where the “no right of way” applies, shall be 500 meters long (150 m for Ski-Dogs classes and Canicross)

### III. TRAIL RULES (see also Annex D and E)

#### 19 Following the Trail

- 19.1 A team and driver shall run the full course as established by the race-giving organization.
- 19.2 If a team leaves the trail, the driver shall return the team to the point at which they left the trail.

#### 20 Driving a Team

- 20.1 Any driver accepting a ride during the race on any vehicle other than his/her own means of transportation, shall be disqualified, unless in case of a loose team or dog.
- 20.2 A driver shall not interfere with a competing team.
- 20.3 Carrying a passenger at any time during the race shall be prohibited unless:
  - 20.3.1 Called for in the conditions of the race.
  - 20.3.2 Giving a ride to a driver in an emergency situation.

#### 21 Assistance on the Trail

- 21.1 All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorized by the Race Marshal. Only in case of a loose team or a team that is in clear and present danger to itself, to other teams or to persons, are officials and spectators allowed to take immediate action to secure the safety of the team. In all other cases, officials shall only act upon request of the driver for assistance, which is limited to controlling the dog(s) or to hold the sled/rig. The driver shall stop the team, clearly indicate which assistance is requested, and behave properly towards the officials.
- 21.2 Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other in any manner authorized by the Race Marshal.
- 21.3 No one shall assist a team by wilfully pacing it.

#### 22 Loose Team and Dogs

- 22.1 All drivers must assume that a loose team or dog is an endangered team or dog.
- 22.2 A loose team or dog(s) shall not delay or interfere with another team.
- 22.3 The driver of a loose team shall overtake his/her team by the quickest means available to ensure the safety of the loose team.
  - 22.3.1 In the event that the driver cannot quickly and safely recover his/her team, the driver must accept assistance, including a ride when available, to recover his/her team. Failure to accept available assistance may result in disqualification of the driver of the loose team. The Race Marshal shall determine if a driver is to be disqualified.
  - 22.3.2 Any person(s) is (are) encouraged to stop and hold a loose team.
  - 22.3.3 All assistance must be reported to the race marshal directly after crossing the finish line. The Race Marshal decides if the team shall be penalized.
- 22.4 A loose team or dog may resume the trail without penalty provided the team/dog has completed the entire trail and the driver has received only authorized outside assistance.

- 23 Right of Way
- 23.1 In a dual start, at the end of the chute, and whenever two trails join together, the team with the lead dog farthest ahead shall have the right of way.
- 23.2 When teams are passing in opposite directions on a single trail:
- 23.2.1 The team travelling downhill shall have the right of way.
- 23.2.2 On level terrain, the Race Marshal shall determine and announce, prior to the start of the race, whether the incoming or outgoing team has the right of way.
- 23.3 In the “no-right-of-way” finishing zone, no team shall have the right of way over a finishing team.
- 23.3.1 During a heat starting with a pursuit start or a mass start, no team shall have the right of way during the entire heat. However, no team shall prevent another team from passing by blocking the trail, or interfering with the dog(s) of a passing team.
- 24 Passing
- 24.1 When one team driver intends to pass another team, the passing team driver may request the right of way when the lead dog(s) come(s) within 15 meters of the sled of the team to be overtaken.
- 24.2 The team driver being overtaken shall make way for the passing team by steering the sled to one side of the trail, slowing his/her team and, if demanded by the overtaking team driver, stopping and keeping the team from moving forward. Stopping is not required in Ski-Dogs classes (see Chapter Three, §74) and in Dryland Canicross, Bikejoring and Scooter classes (see Chapter Four, §79.3.5, §80.3.5, §81.3.4).
- 24.3 If the passing team becomes tangled or bunched up in the course of the pass, to allow time to untangle and tighten lines, that team’s driver may require the overtaken team driver to remain stopped for up to one (1) minute in Unlimited and Limited Classes involving eight (8) or more dogs, one half (0.5) minute in all other classes. This rule does not apply to Canicross, Bikejoring, Scooter and Ski-Dog classes.
- 24.4 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,
- 24.4.1 In Unlimited or Limited Classes involving eight (8) or more dogs, after less than 4 (four) minutes or 1600 meters.
- 24.4.2 In Limited Classes involving fewer than eight (8) dogs, after no less than one (1) minute or 400 meters.
- 24.4.3 At any lesser intervals whenever both drivers are in agreement.
- 24.4.4 Rule §24.4 does not apply to Canicross, Bikejoring, Scooter and Ski-Dog classes.
- 24.5 After a pass has been completed, a team driver that has been passed need not hold his/her team while the other driver:
- 24.5.1 Repairs gear or
- 24.5.2 Unhooks and transfers a dog or dogs from one position in a team to another position in the team or
- 24.5.3 Goes off the race trail before the above mentioned distance or time interval has elapsed. Loading a dog in the sled constitutes changing a dog’s position in the team.
- 24.5.4 For Canicross, Bikejoring, Scooter and Ski-Dog classes, holding is not required unless the passing resulted in animal welfare problems or a crash of the driver.
- 24.6 A driver coming upon one or more stopped teams, may pass all such teams after making sure that the passing does not cause any danger for the overtaken teams driver or dogs. The

passing driver must wait for direction from the stopped driver/s. The stopped driver/s shall make every effort to clear the trail for the moving team(s).

- 24.7 Teams following each other shall maintain an interval of not less than one team length, except when passing or in the “no-right-of-way” Zone.
- 24.8 When a team is overtaken in the No-right-of-way Zone, that team does not have to stop and yield the trail.
- 25 Temperatures
- 25.1 Organizers and Race Marshals shall, in close cooperation with the race veterinarian, observe the guidelines as per Annex [B . III](#) and [B . IV](#).

#### **IV. CONDUCT**

##### 26 Responsibility and Sportsmanship

- 26.1 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.
- 26.2 Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshal determines that a driver’s, handler’s, or team’s conduct at any time in the race area or on the trail is detrimental to the sport/race, that team shall be disqualified.
- 26.3 In principle loose dogs are not allowed at the race area. However, the Race Marshal has the right to waive this rule if he is convinced that it is in the interests of the teams, and that drivers are in full control of their dogs. The latter meaning, that the loose dogs shall not bother other dogs, the stakeout area, or equipment of participants or others.

In case the Race Marshal finds reason to waive the rule, he shall discuss the matter with the organizer and, if agreed upon, inform the drivers at the first drivers meeting, along with other possible supplementary regulations.

If a driver or his dog(s) infringes this rule, the driver shall be penalized with, at least, a warning.

##### 27 Abuse of Dogs

- 27.1 Abuse of dogs, with or without an implement, shall be prohibited. If a driver, in the opinion of the Race Marshal abuses a dog, that driver shall be disqualified.

#### **V. RULES VIOLATIONS (See also the Annex A)**

##### 28 Reports by Race Officials

- 28.1 Race officials shall report over rule violations to the Race Marshal verbally, in person, or by means of communication, immediately or directly following the heat in which the violation occurred. All verbal reports shall be followed by a written report, given to the Race Marshal in principle within one (1) hour of the completion of the concerned heats.
- 28.2 The Race Marshal shall act, at his/her/her discretion, on any overt violations witnessed and reported by race officials. The Race Marshal shall inform the reporting official(s) on his/her decision and possible further action.
- 28.3 When a Rules Enforcing Officer finds that a rules violation has occurred, s/he shall impose a penal reaction and report the incident to the RM who may also request a hearing”.

##### 29 Reports by Race Contestants

- 29.1 Drivers wishing to report an alleged violation of the rules by another contestant, shall notify the Race Marshal or the Race Marshal's representative, immediately following the heat in which the incident occurred. Notification may be verbal.
- 29.2 All verbal reports shall be followed with a written report, (see example of a protest form in appendix), given to the Race Marshal within one (1) hour of the completion of the participant's heat in which the alleged violation occurred.
- 30 Protests and Hearings
- 30.1 Any driver implicated in a report of an alleged violation of the rules, will be notified of the protest by the Race Marshal and provided access to copies of the written protests, as soon as they become available but in all cases before any hearings are conducted.
- 30.2 Said hearing shall be conducted by the Race Marshal.
- 30.3 Contestants subject to a penal reaction from any Rules Enforcing Officer may appeal, i.e. request a hearing before the Race Jury.
- 31 Disciplinary Action.
- 31.1 For violation of any AFSS Regulation, the Race Marshal shall, either issue a verbal warning, a 15-second penalty, or disqualify the driver and team from the race.
- 31.2 No other disciplinary action shall be imposed, unless specifically defined in the Race Rules.
- 31.3 Decisions shall be announced as promptly as practical, but no later than four (4) hours prior to the start of any ensuing heat(s).
- 31.4 Any disciplinary action following the final heat of the race shall be acted upon prior to the awards ceremony.
- 31.5 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. No disqualification or other action will be taken against any contestant for alleged drug infractions pending the results of said tests.
- 31.6 Warnings, 15 second penalties and disqualifications, shall be issued in the result list. All disciplinary actions shall be mentioned in the Race Marshal's report, with reference to the violated provision.
- 32 The decisions of the Race Marshal shall be final unless promptly appealed to the Appeals Jury, if implemented, (see §33 and §34 below) in cases concerning a contestant's further participation in the event.
- 33 Appeals Jury at World and Continental Championships.
- 33.1 Any decision of the Race Marshal affecting a contestant's participation in the event may be appealed to the AFSS Appeals Jury. Such appeal must be made as soon as practical following the official rendering of the decision. The appeal must be in writing in the English language and shall state the alleged infraction, the decision reached, the penalty imposed and what the contestant believes to be incorrect or unfair.
- 33.2 In World and Continental Championship events, the Appeals Jury shall consist of either three or five members depending on the number of AFSS officials assigned to take part (either one or two officials, appointed by the AFSS President) on the jury. The other members of the jury will be national team leaders elected to serve on the jury by the other national team leaders.
- 33.2.1 If two AFSS officials are appointed, then three team leaders will be elected.
- 33.2.2 If only one AFSS official is appointed, then only two national team leaders will be elected.
- 33.2.3 The two national team leaders receiving the next highest amounts of votes cast after those elected, will serve as alternates in case one or more of the team leaders on the jury are

required to decline their appointment, due to a potential conflict of interest in any specific appeal.

- 33.2.4 The team leader members shall be elected by a secret vote of all team leaders. All team leaders are in principle eligible and no nominations will be held prior to the voting. All team leaders will receive a ballot with a place for either two or three names to be filled in. Team leaders may vote for themselves but may only cast one vote for any single name. The team leaders with the highest number of votes will fill the positions on the jury followed by the alternate positions.
- 33.2.5 The President shall designate which AFSS official is to serve as the chair of the Appeals Jury.
- 33.3 In principle drivers and /or member organizations may appeal the decision of the Appeal Committee via the AFSS Disciplinary Committee. However during an event the decision of the Appeal Committee will stay.
- 34 Appeals Jury at events other than World and Continental Championships
- 34.1 In events other than the World and Continental Championships, it is left to the choice of the organizer whether or not to implement a similar Appeals Jury. In last instance, the decision may be appealed via the applicable governing body of the member organization.
- 35 Appeals Jury investigation and decision
- 35.1 The jury shall conduct a new and independent investigation into the allegations.
- 35.2 The jury will render a decision following secret deliberations. They may affirm, overturn or modify the decision of the Race Marshal in any way necessary to achieve a correct and just outcome.
- 35.3 The jury will announce its decision as soon as possible so as not to interfere with the subsequent heats of the affected class.

## VI. ANIMAL WELFARE RULES

- 36 Supplementary to the various animal welfare measures as per the rules and procedures, the following rules apply:
- 36.1 All drivers shall guarantee- and be responsible for- the welfare of their dogs
- 36.2 Rule offences shall be corrected immediately, with the race rule [§27.1](#) being decisive (dog abuse = disqualification). RGOs and RMs shall not hesitate to report serious offenders to a higher level.
- 37 Means of transportation.
- 37.1 All means of transportation for dogs shall guarantee protection against the weather (temperature, wind, rain etc.) as well as against exhaust gasses.
- 37.2 In case of the transport of one or two dogs without a box, the dogs shall never be transported loose and never be fastened via a line to the collar. For the safety of dogs always dog boxes are to be preferred.
- 37.3 A sufficient supply of fresh air and a good air circulation shall be present.
- 38 Dog boxes
- 38.1 In case of more than 2 dogs, the animals shall be transported in boxes. These shall be well- and safely constructed, preventing escape and / or injury of the dogs
- 38.2 Since dogs vary in size, the dimensions of the boxes are not strictly laid down. However for safety reasons boxes shall be neither too small nor too large. The box shall be large enough for the dog(s) to stretch out, stand up, turn around and to curl up.

- 38.3 In case countries do have official, specific regulations for dog boxes, the RGO shall, in case of an international event, publish the eventual deviating regulations in the race invitation.
- 38.4 The boxes shall be clean and dry. Hay or straw shall be fresh and dry. If other material is used it shall be dry and such as it cannot harm the dogs.
- 38.5 Inside the boxes, the dogs shall not be chained.
- 38.6 Dogs in their boxes shall never be unattended for a long period. If the driver / handler for some reason cannot meet this requirement, he / she shall make arrangements with somebody else (and leave a key)
- 39 Stake-outs etc.
- 39.1 Stake out chains / cables, drop chains / cables and other tie on means shall be so constructed that comfort and some freedom of movement is guaranteed. It shall be possible for the individual dog to lie down.
- 39.2 The chain / cable at which the dog is fastened shall never be such long that they could create dangerous situations for the dogs like tangling with another dog or even suffocation.
- 39.3 All material shall be in good condition preventing possible injury. The ends of cable lines shall be wrapped to prevent injury because of unravelling of the ends.
- 39.4 Dogs at stake outs or on drop-out chains shall be attended.
- 39.5 Drivers / handlers shall keep the stake out / parking area clean, leave no food, and dispose of the dog droppings or other waste in containers available for that purpose. If no such containers are foreseen, one should take the garbage for disposal at another suitable place not disturbing other persons.

## CHAPTER TWO (Special Rules for Sled Sprint and Distance Classes)

### I. ENTRY RULES

#### 40 Eligibility

At the option of the race giving organization, competitions may be held in the following classes:

#### 40.1 Classes in Sprint races

- 40.1.1 An **Unlimited Class Team (SpU)** shall consist of not less than seven (7) dogs in the first heat and not less than five (5) dogs in any subsequent heat.
- 40.1.2 A **Limited Ten-Dog Class Team (Sp10)** shall consist of no more than ten (10) dogs, not less than seven (7) dogs in the first heat and not less than five (5) dogs in any subsequent heat.
- 40.1.3 A **Limited Eight-Dog Class Team (Sp8)** shall consist of not more than eight (8) dogs, and not less than five (5) dogs.
- 40.1.4 A **Limited Six-Dog Class Team (Sp6)** shall consist of not more than six (6) dogs, and not less than four (4) dogs.
- 40.1.5 A **Limited Four-Dog Class Team (Sp4)** shall consist of not more than four (4) dogs, and not less than three (3) dogs.
- 40.1.6 A **Limited Three-Dog Class (not an IFSS class)**: A limited Three-Dog rig shall consist of not more than three (3) dogs and not less than two (2) dogs. Any team that starts a heat having dropped to 2 dogs must compete using the rig and are prohibited to use a scooter or bike.
- 40.1.7 A **limited Two-Dog Class team (Sp2)** shall consist of not more than and not less than two (2) dogs. General rule §2.7 strictly applies to Sp2 class. This shall not be a World or Continental championship class
- 40.1.8 A **limited Two-Dog Youth class team (Sp2Y)** shall consist of not more than and not less than two (2) dogs. This shall not be a World or Continental championship class
- 40.1.9 After the first heat, and each ensuing heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to class minimums.
- 40.1.10 The Race Marshal may reduce the size of any team that s/he determines is too large for the designated driver.

#### 40.2 Classes in Distance races

- 40.2.1 A **6-dog Mid-Distance class Team (MD6)** shall consist of not more than six (6) dogs and not less than four (4) dogs.
  - 40.2.2 A **12-dog Mid-Distance class Team (MD12)** shall consist of not more than twelve (12) dogs and not less than eight (8) dogs in the first heat and not less than seven (7) dogs in any subsequent heat.
  - 40.2.3 A **Limited 8-dog Long Distance Class Team (LD8)** shall consist of not more than eight (8) dogs and not less than six (6) dogs in the first heat and not less than five (5) dogs in any subsequent heat.
  - 40.2.4 An **Unlimited Long Distance Class (LDU) Team** shall consist of not less than eight (8) dogs in the first heat and not less than seven (7) dogs in any subsequent heat.
  - 40.2.5 Upon request from the organizer, the AFSS may determine a maximum number of dogs in an Unlimited Class Team. The race invitation shall inform of an eventual limitation.
- 40.3 Additional and optional rules:

- 40.3.1 At the option of the organization, each driver may have a rotation pool of dogs to choose from, before each stage to meet the minimum/maximum requirements set for the class. The organization shall define the maximum number in the pool for each concerned class.
- 40.3.2 Each driver shall declare all the dogs included in his/her rotation pool. A driver may not exchange or add dogs once his/her pool of dogs has been declared and marked.
- 40.3.3 A race-giving organization may impose additional rules to meet requirements unique to local conditions insofar as they do not conflict with the AFSS intentions or the Animal Welfare ideas.
- 41 Equipment
  - 41.1 Harnesses and Lines
    - 41.1.1 All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
    - 41.1.2 All harnesses shall be well fitting and at least be padded around the neck and chest area. They shall be made from flexible fabrics.
    - 41.1.3 All dogs shall be fastened to the tug line, which shall be made of non rigid, flexible line, with a neck line and a tail line, with the exception of the leader(s), who may run without a neck line.
    - 41.1.4 A neckline shall be used in two-dog classes and in all teams
    - 41.1.5 A snub line but may be carried on the sled, but it shall not be used in any other manner than to tie down and hold the sled.
    - 41.1.6 Chain lines are strictly prohibited. All other lines shall not endanger the dog's welfare, and are subject to the approval of the Race Marshal (see §7.2).
  - 41.2 Sleds
    - 41.2.1 A sled shall be capable of adequately carrying the driver, and in case of emergency a passenger, and have a basket with a hard bottom, having a minimum surface of 40 cm x 50 cm, capable of safely carrying a dog.
    - 41.2.2 A sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, an adequate rubber braking pad fastened to the sled via a solid tip-up system, a brush bow, one snow hook in Sp2, Sp4 and Sp6 classes, two snow hooks in all other classes, and an adequately ventilated dog bag.
    - 41.2.3 The runners of the sled shall not have steel edges.
    - 41.2.4 Sleds may be replaced between heats/stages, and at designated checkpoints (Distance races).
  - 41.3 Helmets and are compulsory in all classes with the exception of canicross.
    - 41.3.1 The helmet should be a model approved by a national test registry.
    - 41.3.2 The Race Organizer may mandate additional special rules for safety equipment.
  - 41.4 Other equipment
    - 41.4.1 At the option of the organizer, additional mandatory equipment may be dictated. The race invitation shall list the equipment.
    - 41.4.2 An appropriate means of cutting through your lines must be carried. There must not be an open blade exposed at any time for the safety of your dogs and your self.

## II. TRAIL RULES (see also Annex D III on check points and rest stops)

- 42 Driving a Team
  - 42.1 A driver may ride the sled, pedal or run as wished.

- 42.2 All dogs starting the heat shall complete the entire course, either hitched in the team or carried on the sled.
- 42.3 A dog becoming unfit after departure shall be carried completely in the dog bag of the sled to the finish, unless specific drop checkpoints have been prepared along the trail and announced.
  - 42.3.1 A dropped dog shall be fastened by a chain or cable to hold it in place until it is picked up by an authorized person. However if a driver believes transporting an injured dog to the finish is the most appropriate course of action for veterinary care he or she will not be disqualified from the race, if the full course has been completed.
  - 42.3.2 Dropped dogs shall be disqualified from competing in the remainder of the race, unless the driver dropped a pool dog or dogs, at his/her discretion, and according to the requirements as per the rules. In this case, the driver, at his/her own discretion, may use dogs dropped by himself/herself again provided the dogs are in good health. However, sick or injured dogs shall be reported to a race veterinarian.

## CHAPTER THREE (Special rules for Ski-Dogs Pulka and Skijoring Classes)

### I. ENTRY RULES

- 43 At the option of the race giving organization, competitions may be held in the following disciplines:
- 43.1 1-dog and 2-dog Skijoring
- 43.2 1-dog and 1-4 dog Pulka
- 43.3 Combined race with skijoring and pulka stages.
- 43.4 Relay with all legs in pulka style, skijoring or mixed.
- 44 The classes (except relay) shall be divided into men and women if there are at least 5 participants in each class. Where there are less than 5 participants per class in the separate classes, men's and women's classes could be combined in one class.
- 45 In a multiple dog class, drivers may reduce their team. If the team is reduced, the driver may not add that dog back in subsequent stages (unless authorized by the Race Marshal or in supplementary regulations.). A participant is allowed to reduce the team only between stages.
- 46 The Race Marshal may reduce the size of any team determined to be too large for the designated driver.

### II. SKIJORING

- 47 A Skijoring team consists of a competitor, racing solely on skis and being connected to one or two harnessed dogs via a snub line.
- 48 Classes
- For the age of the athletes see Annex **Error! Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found.**
- At the option of the race giving organization, competitions may be held in the following classes:
- 48.1 One Dog Class Skijoring Men. (SM1)
- 48.2 One Dog Class Skijoring Women. (SW1)
- 48.3 One Dog Class Skijoring Junior Men. (SMJ)
- 48.4 One Dog Class Skijoring Junior Women. (SWJ)
- 48.5 Two Dog Class Skijoring Men (minimum 1 dog, maximum 2 dogs). (SM2)
- 48.6 Two Dog Class Skijoring Women (minimum 1 dog, maximum 2 dogs). (SW2)
- 48.7 Mid Distance Two Dog Class Skijoring Men (minimum 1 dog, maximum 2 dogs). (MDSM)
- 48.8 Mid Distance Two Dog Class Skijoring Women (minimum 1 dog, maximum 2 dogs). (MDSW)
- 48.9 Children's classes with competitors being younger than per **§Error! Reference source not found.** may also be held with One-dog team only.
- 49 Equipment
- 49.1 All dogs shall be harnessed in a single file or in pairs, and shall be attached to the driver by a snub line with shock absorber at all time

- 49.2 The snub line shall be attached to the driver by a hip belt (at least 7 cm wide over the spine) or any other harness type equipment. The belt shall have an open hook in order to make it easy to release the line, or a quick release connection (panic-snap).
- 49.3 The length of the expanded snub line should be a minimum of 2 meters and a maximum of 3 meters. It is prohibited to have any form of metal hook or ring at the driver's end of the line.
- 49.4 A neckline shall be used in two-dog classes.
- 49.5 Only cross-country skis without steel edges or sharp tips, and non-dangerous for the dog(s), may be used.
- 49.6 The equipment shall be available for inspection by the race officials before and after the race.
- 49.7 All entrants shall be responsible for making sure that their equipment meets the requirement of these rules.
- 50 Start, trail and finish rules.
- (See the Common rules for Ski-Dogs races: §VI COMMON START RULES FOR SKI-DOGS RACES; §VII COMMON TRAIL RULES FOR SKI-DOGS RACES; §VIII COMMON FINISH CHUTE FOR SKI-DOGS RACES)

### III. PULKA

- 51 A Pulka team consists of a competitor, racing solely on skis and being connected with a pulka, pulled by harnessed dog(s).
- 52 Classes
- At the option of the race giving organization, competitions may be held in the following classes:
- 52.1 One Dog Class Pulka Men. (PM1)
- 52.2 One Dog Class Pulka Women. (PW1)
- 52.3 One Dog Class Pulka Junior Men. (PMJ)
- 52.4 One Dog Class Pulka Junior Women. (PWJ)
- 52.5 One-Four Dog Class Pulka Men. (PM4)
- 52.6 One-Four Dog Class Pulka. (PW4)
- 52.7 Mid Distance One-Four Dog Class Pulka Men (minimum 1 dog, maximum 4 dogs). (MDPM)
- 52.8 Mid Distance One-Four Dog Class Pulka Women (minimum 1 dog, maximum 4 dogs). (MDPW)
- 53 Equipment
- 53.1 All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
- 53.2 The pulka shall be:
- 53.2.1 Connected with one or two solid shafts to the dog (s) closest to the pulka or sled (wheel dogs), so that it is not possible for the pulka or sled to overrun a harnessed dog(s).
- 53.2.2 So constructed that the runners do not create any risk of harming the dog(s).
- 53.2.3 Equipped with the possibility of fastening the load securely;
- 53.2.4 Equipped with a hand brake, if there are more than two dogs in the team;
- 53.2.5 Equipped with a snub line with shock absorber.

- 53.3 The total load to be carried shall be:
- 53.3.1 For a one (1) dog team the total load to be carried shall be: weight of the dog (adjusted upward to the nearest kilo) x 0.7. The Pulka weight is adjusted upward to the nearest half kilo.
- 53.3.2 For a two (2) dog team the total load to be carried shall be: the gross weight of the dogs (adjusted upward to the nearest kilo) x 0.7. The Pulka weight is adjusted upward to the nearest half kilo.
- 53.3.3 For a three (3) dog team the total load to be carried shall be: the gross weight of the dogs (adjusted upward to the nearest kilo) x 0.6. The Pulka weight is adjusted upward to the nearest half kilo.
- 53.3.4 For a four (4) dog team the total load to be carried shall be: the gross weight of the dogs (adjusted upward to the nearest kilo) x 0.5. The Pulka weight is adjusted upward to the nearest half kilo.
- 53.4 The load consists of: pulka, shafts, harness(es), lines and the additional weight.
- 53.5 The additional weight shall be furnished by the participant him/herself.
- 53.6 The snub line shall be attached to the driver by a hip belt (at least 7 cm wide over the spine) or any other harness type equipment. The belt shall have an open hook in order to make it easy to release the line or a quick release connection (panic-snap).
- 53.7 The length of the expanded snub line should be a minimum of 2 meters and a maximum of 3 meters.
- 53.8 Only cross-country skis without steel edges or sharp tips, and non dangerous for the dog(s) may be used.
- 53.9 The equipment shall be available for inspection by the race officials before the race, and for inspection and pulka weight control after the race.
- 53.10 All entrants shall be responsible for making sure that their equipment meets the requirement of these rules.
- 54 Start, trail and finish rules.
- (See the Common rules for Ski-Dogs races: [§VI COMMON START RULES FOR SKI-DOGS RACES](#); [§VII COMMON TRAIL RULES FOR SKI-DOGS RACES](#); [§VIII COMMON FINISH CHUTE FOR SKI-DOGS RACES](#))

#### **IV. COMBINED RACE**

- 55 Combined race is a Ski-Dogs event, consisting of one heat with pulka and one heat with skijoring, run by the same team.
- 56 Classes
- At the option of the race giving organization, competitions may be held in the following classes:
- 56.1 One Dog Class Combined Men. (CM)
- 56.2 One Dog Class Combined Women. (CW)
- 56.3 One Dog Class Combined Junior Men. (CMJ)
- 56.4 One Dog Class Combined Junior Women. (CWJ)

- 57 Equipment  
(See the Equipment Rules for Skijoring §49 and Pulka §53.)
- 58 Start, Trail and Finish rules  
At the option of the Organizer the combined race may be held in two different variations:
- 58.1 Mass start and pit-stop
  - 58.1.1 The start of the first heat is regulated by the Mass start Rules as per §69. After the first heat the competitors go directly into a pit-stop at the change over-area (see §59) and change to skijoring.
  - 58.1.2 The total race time is the time from the start of the mass start until the participators cross the finish line after the second heat.
- 58.2 Pursuit race
  - 58.2.1 After the first heat, the competitors have a rest. The duration of the rest is determined by the Organizer. Pursuit start Rule §65 defines the start order of the second heat.
  - 58.2.2 The total race time is the sum of the results of the two heats.
- 58.3 Trail Rules (see the Common §VII COMMON TRAIL RULES FOR SKI-DOGS RACES).
- 58.4 Finish Rules (see the Common §VIII COMMON FINISH CHUTE FOR SKI-DOGS RACES).
- 59 Combined Change-over Area (See drawing in the Appendix for example)
- 59.1 The change-over area shall be a marked area, length approximately 20-50 meters, width approximately 15 meters. It begins at the finish line and ends at a marked line across the trail.
- 59.2 The dog is to be held by the shaft or harness in the change-over area.
- 59.3 The participant shall change equipment from pulka to skijoring (or on the contrary) in his/her designated pit and leave all equipment in that pit.
- 59.4 It is not allowed for the participants to receive any assistance in the change-over area.

## **v. SKI-DOGS RELAY**

- 60 A relay race is a one-day competition, which involves relay teams of at least three participants.
- 61 At the option of the race giving organization, the relay will include stages of:
  - 61.1 pulka only,
  - 61.2 skijoring only,
  - 61.3 mixed skijoring and pulka. In that case the race giving organization will specify in advance which legs of the relay will be run in each discipline.
- 62 Each participant runs the trail once. After the finish line the participant changes over to the next participant in the relay team, who may then start.
- 63 The relay team that reaches the finish line first after all stages is the winner of the relay competition.
- 64 Relay Team
  - 64.1 The participants in a relay team shall in principle be representatives of the same organization or country. At the option of the race giving organization, a mixed team of organizations or countries may be allowed full participation, but they shall never be awarded with titles and the corresponding prizes at AFSS World Championships.

Note: National organizations are, during their events, at all times free to decide on awarding mixed teams.

- 64.2 Only one-dog teams are allowed in relay races, except when expressly authorized by AFSS.
- 64.3 Each Relay team may consist of men, women and juniors.
- 64.4 Separate relay competition may be organized for men, women and juniors.
- 65 Relay Entries
- 65.1 The name of the participants in each relay team and the order in which they start, shall be handed over to the race office at least 60 minutes before the start, or otherwise as informed by the race marshal.
- 66 Areas for Start, Trail, Change-Over and Finish in Relay Race (See drawing of change-over area in **Error! Reference source not found.**)
- 66.1 Starting, change-over and finish area do not have to be the same location.
- 66.2 Relay Starting area should meet the requirements for the mass start area (see the Common Mass start Rules for Ski-Dogs §69).
- 66.3 The Trail of the Relay Race should meet the requirements for the common trail rules (see the Common Trail Rules for Ski-Dogs §VII).
- 66.4 Relay Change-Over Area
- 66.4.1 The change-over area shall be a marked area, length approximately 20-50 meters, width approximately 15 meters. It is to be preferred that the change over area is made at an angle to the incoming trail (see examples attached).
- 66.4.2 The change-over area begins at the finish line and ends at a marked line across the trail.
- 66.5 Change-over procedure
- 66.5.1 A race official shall give a signal (e.g. the speaker announcing the starting number) to every team leader or assistant, when an incoming team is approximately 1 km from the change - over area.
- 66.5.2 The signal has to be clear for the team leaders or assistants, who shall be located at a special sector of the change-over area.
- 66.5.3 An incoming participant shall personally release the dog to a team assistant, as soon as the dog has passed the finish line.. The dog shall not be let loose at any time. The team assistant should take care of the dog.
- 66.5.4 The participant continues into the change-over area and touches the next participant of his/her team with his/her hand.
- 66.5.5 The change-over shall take place within the change-over area. A race official shall control the change-over.
- 66.5.6 It is not allowed for participants to receive any assistance in the change - over area except as already provided for in §66.5.3 above.
- 66.6 Relay Finish rules meet the requirements for the common Finish rules (see the Common Finish Rules for Ski-Dogs §VIII.).
- 67 Relay Timing
- 67.1 Time is measured from the starting order “Go” until the last participant of the team crosses the finish line.
- 67.2 Time is also measured the moment each individual participant passes the finish line. Therefore, it is advised to equip relay teams with bibs, which mention, besides the team number, also the starting position of each individual team member (e.g. 1<sup>1</sup>, 1<sup>2</sup> etc.)

## **VI. COMMON START RULES FOR SKI-DOGS RACES**

### **68 Individual Start Rules**

- 68.1 Individual Start chute is a specified stretch of the trail from the starting line, minimum 30 meters length and 4 meters width.
- 68.2 The competitor and the dog(s) shall wait behind the starting line until the start signal has been given.
- 68.3 The starting interval between the participants shall be 30 seconds or 1 minute.
- 68.4 If the team starts before the start signal is given, it will be called back for a proper start. This start will be allowed as soon as possible, but cannot take place within 10 seconds before, or within 10 seconds after another team's scheduled start.
- 68.5 If the team is late to the start, it will be allowed to start whenever it is ready, except for ten seconds before or after another starting team
- 68.6 In both cases, the time shall be kept as if the team had started on time, but the starter shall make a note of the real starting time.

### **69 Mass start:**

- 69.1 See General rules §[14.2](#) for Mass Start general rules with the following additional rule:
- 69.2 The competitors must lead their dogs by the shackle or harness along the starting track and must keep skis and poles parallel.
- 69.3 If a competitor does not hold his/her dog as instructed in §[69.2](#) s/he shall get a warning. If, in this situation, another competitor had to stop or was delayed, the offender should be penalized with 15 sec. or disqualified.

### **70 Pursuit start**

- 70.1 In the first heat of the pursuit competition, the starting procedure is in accordance with race rule §[63](#) above.
- 70.2 The competitor and the dog(s) shall wait behind the starting line until the start signal has been given.
- 70.3 See General rules §[14.3](#) for Pursuit start general rules.

## **VII. COMMON TRAIL RULES FOR SKI-DOGS RACES**

- 71 The driver shall follow his/her dog(s) on skis
- 72 The driver is not allowed to pace the dog(s) by running ahead of the team.
- 73 Pulling the dog or forcing the dog to move forward by any means is strictly forbidden. Assisting the dog(s) by pulling or pushing the pulka or the sled is permitted. Assistance in watering or feeding dogs is permitted. The race Marshal shall designate specific spots on the trail where such help may be given.
- 74 During the overtaking procedure on the command "TRAIL," the overtaken team shall make way for the passing team by moving on behind the dog(s) on the same side of the trail, shall not be skating and shall keep the skis and poles parallel to the trail.
- 75 If a dog becomes unfit or stops advancing for any reason, the competitor is not permitted to finish the heat.
- 76 The trail for individual start should be 4 meters wide and the last 150m should be 6 meters wide.

The trail for mass start should be 6 meters wide and the last 150m should be 8 meters wide.

## VIII. COMMON FINISH CHUTE FOR SKI-DOGS RACES

- 77 A marker, placed 150 meters before the finish line defines the “no-right-of-way” finishing zone in which the Ski-Dogs driver and his/her dog are obliged to hold the same side of the trail and no team shall have the right of way over a finishing team. The passing procedure, as per §69 above is no longer applicable

## CHAPTER FOUR (Special Rules for Dryland Classes)

### I. ENTRY RULES

- 78 Entry Rules
- 78.1 At the option of the race-giving organization, competitions may be held in the following disciplines:
- 78.1.1 Canicross
- 78.1.2 Bikejoring one dog
- 78.1.3 1 and 2-dog Scooter
- 78.1.4 3, 4, 6, 8-dog Rig
- 78.1.5 Relay in Canicross and/or Scooter and/or Bikejoring.
- 78.2 After the first heat and each ensuing heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to class minimums. See also § V. RIG CLASSES
- 78.3 The Race Marshal may reduce the size of any team determined to be too large for the designated driver.
- 78.4 Any dog having raced in one class of a dryland race shall not be eligible to race in a second class on the same day, unless the second class is **relay** or Canicross.

### II. CANICROSS

- 79 Canicross  
A Canicross team consists of a competitor, racing solely on foot, and one dog.
- 79.1 Classes  
At the option of the race giving organization, competitions may be held in the following classes:
- 79.1.1 Canicross junior men (DCMJ) and Canicross Junior women (DCWJ).
- 79.1.2 Canicross senior men (DCM) and Canicross senior women (DCW).
- 79.1.3 Canicross veteran men (DCMV) and Canicross veteran women (DCWV).
- 79.1.4 Relay competitions with women and men teams.
- 79.1.5 Children classes with competitors being younger than per §79.1.1 above may also be held but not as Championship classes.
- 79.2 Equipment

- 79.2.1 The dog shall be attached to the driver by a snub line with shock absorber at all time. The snub line shall be attached to the driver by a hip belt or any other harness type equipment (at least 7 cm wide over the spine). It is prohibited to have any form of metal hook or ring at the driver's end of the line. The expanded snub line shouldn't be less than 2 meters and shouldn't exceed 3 meters in length.
- 79.3 Start, Trail and Finish Rules
- 79.3.1 The competitor and the dog shall wait behind the starting line until the start signal has been given.
- 79.3.2 The driver shall not pace the dog by running ahead of the dog, or force the dog to run in any way.
- 79.3.3 Pulling the dog or forcing the dog to move forward by any means is strictly forbidden.
- 79.3.4 If a dog becomes unfit or refuses to advance for any reason, the competitor is not permitted to finish the heat.
- 79.3.5 During the overtaking procedure, the team being overtaken shall make unimpeded way for the passing team. On the command "TRAIL," the participant and the dog are obliged to hold the same side of the trail and slow down.
- 79.3.6 If a mass start is organized, all the competitors shall wait together behind the starting line holding their dog by the collar or the harness. If they cannot all stay on one line, they shall set more lines as required. Seeded competitors, if any, shall stay on the first line(s) ahead of the non-seeded competitors.
- 79.3.7 Finish rules: See Race Rules, Chapter One, [§18](#).

### III. BIKEJORING

#### 80 Bikejoring One Dog

##### 80.1 Classes

At the option of the race giving organization, competitions may be held in the following classes:

- 80.1.1 Bikejoring junior men (DBMJ) and Bikejoring junior women (DBWJ)
- 80.1.2 Bikejoring senior men (DBM) and Bikejoring senior women (DBW).
- 80.1.3 Bikejoring veteran men (DBMV) and Bikejoring veteran women (DBWV).
- 80.1.4 In all competitions, except championships, there should be classes for young children. Recommended from 11 years.

##### 80.2 Equipment

- 80.2.1 The dog shall be attached to the bicycle or to the driver, by a snub line with shock absorber not less than 2 meters expanded and not exceeding 3 meters in length expanded in front of the bike. If the line is attached to the driver, it should be by a hip belt (at least 7 cm wide over the spine) or any other harness type equipment. It is prohibited to have any form of metal hook or ring at the driver's end of the line.
- 80.2.2 The bicycle shall be equipped with an efficient brake on each wheel.
- 80.2.3 All drivers must wear a helmet approved by a national test registry. Wearing gloves is recommended.
- 80.2.4 Studded tires are not allowed on bikes

##### 80.3 Start, Trail and Finish Rules

- 80.3.1 The front wheel of the bicycle shall determine the starting point of the team, and it shall stay before the starting line until the start signal has been given.
- 80.3.2 The driver shall not pace the dog by driving ahead.
- 80.3.3 Pulling the dog or forcing the dog to move forward by any means is strictly forbidden.
- 80.3.4 If a dog becomes unfit or refuses to advance for any reason, the driver is not permitted to finish the heat.
- 80.3.5 During the overtaking procedure, the overtaken team shall make unimpeded way for the passing team. On the command "TRAIL," the participant and the dog are obliged to hold the same side of the trail and stop pedalling.
- 80.3.6 Finish rules: See Race Rules, Chapter One, II. [§18](#).

#### IV. SCOOTER

##### 81 Scooter

##### 81.1 Classes

At the option of the race giving organization, competitions may be held in the following classes:

- 81.1.1 Scooter one dog junior (DS1J). A Scooter one dog team consists of a driver riding a two-wheeled Scooter-type vehicle pulled by one dog.
- 81.1.2 Providing that there are enough competitors for both categories, Scooter one dog class may be divided into men (DSM1) and women (DSW1) categories.
- 81.1.3 Scooter 2-dog (DS2).
- 81.1.4 A Scooter 2-dog team consists of a driver riding a two-wheeled Scooter-type vehicle pulled by one or two dogs.
- 81.1.5 Three-wheeled rigs will be allowed in the Scooter 2-dog class
- 81.1.6 In all competitions, except World and Continental championships, there should be classes for young children. Recommended from 11 years, maximum 1 dog.

##### 81.2 Equipment

- 81.2.1 The dog shall be attached to the Scooter by a snub line with shock absorber not less than 2 meters expanded and not exceeding 3 meters in length expanded in front of the Scooter.
- 81.2.2 A neckline shall be used in two-dog classes
- 81.2.3 The Scooter shall be equipped with an efficient brake on each wheel.
- 81.2.4 The minimum wheels diameter shall be 12 inches (30 cm).
- 81.2.5 All drivers must wear a helmet approved by a national test registry. Wearing gloves is recommended.
- 81.2.6 Studded tires are not allowed on Scooters
- 81.3 Start, Trail and Finish Rules
- 81.3.1 The front wheel of the Scooter shall determine the starting point of the team and shall stay before the starting line until the start signal has been given.
- 81.3.2 The driver shall ride the Scooter behind his/her dogs.
- 81.3.3 If a dog becomes unfit or refuses to advance for any reason, the driver is not permitted to finish the heat.

- 81.3.4 During the overtaking procedure the overtaken team shall make unimpeded way for the passing team. On the command "TRAIL," the participant and the dog are obliged to hold the same side of the trail and slow down.
- 81.3.5 Finish rules: See Race Rules, Chapter One, II. [§18](#).

## V. RIG CLASSES

### 82 Rig Classes

#### 82.1 Classes

At the option of the race giving organization, competitions may be held in the following classes:

- 82.1.1 **3-Dog rig (not an IFSS class):** A limited Three-Dog rig shall consist of not more than three(3) dogs and not less than two (2) dogs. Any team that starts a heat having dropped to 2 dogs must compete using the rig and are prohibited to use a scooter or bike.
- 82.1.2 **4-Dog rig (DR4):** A limited Four-Dog rig shall consist of not more than four (4) dogs and not less than three (3) dogs.
- 82.1.3 **6-Dog rig (DR6):** A limited Six-Dog rig shall consist of not more than six (6) dogs and not less than four (4) dogs.
- 82.1.4 **8-Dog rig (DR8):** A limited Eight-Dog rig shall consist of not more than eight (8) dogs and not less than five (5) dogs.

#### 82.2 Equipment

- 82.2.1 All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
- 82.2.2 All dogs shall be fastened to the tug line, which shall be made of non rigid, flexible line, with a neck line and a tail line, leaders must use a neck line.
- 82.2.3 The rig in "rig" class may either have three (3) or four (4) wheels. The minimum wheels diameter shall be 12 inches (30 cm). All rigs shall be equipped with:
- 82.2.3.1 An efficient brake on the back wheels. Having brakes in the front wheels is recommended
- 82.2.3.2 A locking brake which can be blocked.
- 82.2.3.3 A snub line of about 3 metres shall be carried on the rig to be used to tie down and hold the rig.
- 82.2.3.4 All drivers must wear a helmet approved by Australian/New Zealand Safety Standards. Wearing gloves is recommended
- 82.2.3.5 Studded tires are not allowed on rigs
- 82.2.4 The following weights are recommended but not mandatory minimums for rigs:

4-Dog class: 25 kg

6-Dog class: 35 kg

8-Dog class: 45 kg

Independent from the above-mentioned weights, rigs shall be well and safely constructed, adapted to the number of dogs in the team, be stable and shall, as much as possible, guarantee the safety of dogs and drivers.

#### 82.3 Start, Trail and Finish Rules

- 82.3.1 The front wheel(s) shall determine the starting point of the team and shall stay before the starting line until the start signal has been given.
- 82.3.2 The driver may ride the rig, pedal or run as wished.

- 82.3.3 The driver shall not pace the dogs by running ahead or force any dog to run in any way.
- 82.3.4 Dog drop check - points shall be provided at least every 3 km, and may be combined with normal check points. They shall be equipped with a stake-out and water. Dogs dropped at check points shall not be allowed to start in succeeding heats. If no possibilities are provided to drop dogs and a dog becomes unfit or refuses to advance for any reason, the driver may decide to short cut the trail returning home or stop safely and wait for assistance by the RGO or other competitors. Dogs may be transported on the rig however an open and ventilated conveyance must be used. Dropped dogs cannot compete in subsequent heats.
- 82.3.5 During the overtaking procedure the overtaken team shall make unimpeded way for the passing team. On the command "TRAIL," the overtaken team is obliged to hold the same side of the trail and slow down. On the command "STOP," the overtaken team is obligated to stop movement forward. § 23 of Chapter One, III Trail Rules applies.
- 82.3.6 Finish rules: See Race Rules, Chapter One, II. [§18](#).

## VI. RELAY

### 83 Relay

- 83.1 The Dryland Relay is a one-day competition and consists of a minimum of 2 legs.
- 83.2 The Relay may be:
  - 83.2.1 Canicross Relay: Each Relay team may consist of men and women, seniors and juniors.
  - 83.2.2 Mixed Relay: The Relay legs are Canicross, and Bikejoring and/or Scooter. The Bikejoring must be the last leg, or if no Bikejoring, then Scooter must be the last leg. Each Relay team may consist of men and women, seniors and juniors Separate relay competition may be organized for men, women and juniors.
- 83.3 Each participant and each dog shall run the trail only once. After the finish line, the participant changes over to the next participant in the relay team, who may then start.
- 83.4 The relay team that reaches the finish line first after all legs is the winner of the relay competition.
- 83.5 Relay Team
  - 83.5.1 The participants in a relay team shall be representatives of the same organization or country. At the option of the race giving organization, a mixed team of organizations or countries may be allowed, but these teams are not part of the official result list.
  - 83.5.2 Only one-dog teams are allowed in relay races.
- 83.6 Relay Entries
  - 83.6.1 The name of the participants in each relay team and the order in which they start shall be handed over to the race office at least 60 minutes before the start or any other time schedule defined by the organization.
- 83.7 Areas for Start, Change-Over and Finish in Relay Race
  - 83.7.1 Starting, change-over and finish area do not have to be the same location.
  - 83.7.2 Starting area:
    - 83.7.2.1 The starting area will be the same as for a Canicross mass start.
    - 83.7.2.2 The length of the starting tracks should be at least 50 meters and shall end at a marked line.
  - 83.7.3 Relay Change-Over Area

- 83.7.3.1 The change-over area should be a marked area, length approximately 10-30 meters, width approximately 10 meters. It is an advantage that the change-over area is made at an angle to the incoming trail, to avoid the incoming trail's being in the same direction as the outgoing trail.
- 83.7.3.2 The change-over area begins at the finish line and ends at a marked line across the trail.
- 83.8 Relay Starting Procedure
  - 83.8.1 All participants of the first leg start at the same time.
  - 83.8.2 The participant and the dog stay before the starting line.
  - 83.8.3 The team assistants shall leave the Starting area by 30 seconds before the start.
  - 83.8.4 The participant has to hold the dog by the harness until the start signal.
  - 83.8.5 Start signal is given by the starter with one flag.
  - 83.8.6 The starter stands in front of the starting area so that all starting participants are able to see the starter.
  - 83.8.7 Starting order is given in the following way:
    - 83.8.7.1 One minute before the start a sign "1" is shown.
    - 83.8.7.2 Thirty (30) seconds before the start, the starter's arm are to be positioned with the flag over the head.
    - 83.8.7.3 Fifteen (15) seconds before the start, the starter's arm are positioned with the flag in a horizontal position.
    - 83.8.7.4 "Go," the starter's arm with the flags are rapidly lowered.
- 83.9 Relay Starting Restrictions.
  - 83.9.1 If a participant starts too early, he/she shall get a time penalty of 30 seconds.
- 83.10 Relay Change-Over Procedure
  - 83.10.1 A race official shall give a signal (e.g. the speaker announcing the starting number) to every team leader when an incoming team is not less than 500 meters from the change-over area.
  - 83.10.2 The signal has to be clear for the team leaders, who shall be located along the change-over area.
  - 83.10.3 An incoming participant shall release the dog personally to a team assistant as soon as the dog has passed the finish. The dog shall not be let loose at any time. The team assistant should take care of the dog.
  - 83.10.4 The change-over cannot take place until the dog of the incoming team member is held by the assistant.
  - 83.10.5 The participant continues into the change-over area and touches the next participant of his/her team with his/her hand.
  - 83.10.6 The change-over shall take place within the change-over area. A race official shall control the change-over.
  - 83.10.7 An assistant in the change-over area for outgoing participants is allowed only for the Bikejoring and/or Scooter leg. Assistants shall not hamper other outgoing participants.
- 83.11 The Trail of the Relay Race
  - 83.11.1 The entire trail should be, and the last 150 meters shall be, sufficiently wide for two Bikejoring participants (minimum 6 meters).
- 83.12 Relay Timing

83.12.1 Time is measured from the starting order “Go” until the last participant of the team reaches the finish line.

83.12.2 Time is also measured the moment each individual participant passes the finish line.

## **VII. DISTANCES**

84 The distances: See Annex [D . II](#)

## **VIII. TEMPERATURES**

85 Temperatures: See Annex [B . III](#)

## **IX. AGE OF DOGS**

86 Ages of Dogs

The dogs shall be at least 12 months old (52 weeks) on the first day of the competition in all classes.

## ANNEX

### A. RULES ENFORCEMENT

#### A. I Rules Enforcing Officers

1. Race Judges are the Rules Enforcing Officers at an event. Rules Enforcing Officers shall be appointed and exercise their assignments according to the IFSS Officials Regulations.
2. A Race Judge should have an IFSS Race Judge License but shall have at least a Race Judge License from an IFSS recognized body.
3. Two of the Race Judges shall be appointed Race Marshal and Chief Judge, respectively. The Race Marshal shall have the ultimate authority, and the ultimate responsibility, at the event. The Race Marshal is the only official who can decide upon a disqualification.
4. All Race Judges shall have the full authority to enforce all Race Regulations, within the prescribed limits.
5. References to the Race Marshal in IFSS Regulations also apply for Race Judges, when appropriate.
6. A Race Judge may delegate parts of his/her authority to designated officials, except the authority to impose penal measures.
7. At World Championships and Continental Championships no Rules Enforcing Officer may be a participant of the event. During other events the Race Marshal is not allowed to participate but the other judges may. If so, they shall not judge in the class they entered and also take no part in the deliberations of said class.
8. Details on the appointment and the obligations of IFSS judges are available on the IFSS Race Judge Regulations and licensing procedures which are also interesting and binding for organizers and member organizations.

#### A. II Race Jury and Appeals Jury (see also Race Rules §28 through §35)

9. The Race Judges shall constitute the Race Jury of the event. The Race Marshal shall be the Race Jury's chairperson.
10. The Race Jury shall be summoned by its chairperson
  - 10.1. when requested by one of its members,
  - 10.2. for a hearing
  - 10.3. for reviewing a rules violation which might lead to a disqualification.
11. The Race Jury decides whether its deliberations shall be held in a closed session or not.
12. The Race Jury shall decide on the eventual choice of penal measures in all cases laid before it. The Race Jury's chairperson shall have a casting vote in case of a tie. In the question of a disqualification, the chairperson may vote differently with his/her casting vote.
  - 12.1. In World Championships, the Appeals Jury may be appealed to by a team leader when a decision of the Race Marshal is affecting the participation of a contestant in the event.
  - 12.2. The Appeals Jury shall consist of three or five members depending on the number of officials assigned to take part (either one or two appointed by the AFSS President) on the Appeals Jury. The other members of the Appeals Jury will be national team leaders elected to serve on the Appeals Jury by the other team leaders

### **A. III Penal Measures**

13. If the violated race regulation does not mandate any unconditional reaction, the choice of penal measures shall be made according to the following:
  - 13.1. Warning: for a minor or negligent infraction of the race regulations, which does not give the contestant any significant advantage and entails no significant disadvantage to his/her fellow contestants, and is not deemed detrimental to the sport.
  - 13.2. 15 second penalty: for negligent infraction of race regulations but not as serious as it gives rise to a disqualification.
  - 13.3. Disqualification:
    - 13.3.1. When the contestant intentionally, or by gross negligence, violates the race regulations, and this has given him/her an advantage, or any of his/her fellow contestants a disadvantage,
    - 13.3.2. In case of a recurrence, when the contestant has already been given a warning or 15 second penalty for the same or similar offence,
    - 13.3.3. In case of repeated offenses, showing that the contestant is not capable of, or willing, to pay heed to the race regulations.
    - 13.3.4. In case of dog abuse, with or without implement.
    - 13.3.5. Time disqualification: An eventual time disqualification shall be noted on the entry form, or in the invitation, indicating the factor and for which classes it shall apply. If a time disqualification rule applies and the prescribed limit is exceeded, that team shall not be allowed to compete in subsequent heats.
14. Other Penal Procedures
  - 14.1. The violator shall be given a short written notice. A Warning shall be verbal.
  - 14.2. Contestants subject to a penal reaction from any Rules Enforcing Officer may appeal, i.e. request a hearing before the Race Jury.

### **B. ELIGIBILITY**

#### **B. I Entries**

15. The race shall be open to entries from members of all AFSS recognized member federations, except those refused by the organizer for just cause. Organizers are entitled to open their races to drivers from non-IFSS member organizations if they feel it to be benefiting the sports and/or AFSS. Participants to the IFSS World Championships shall be nominated by their respective national AFSS member federations.
  16. An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the race, subject to entry deadlines as determined by the organizer. See also Race Rule §[1.1.4](#).
  17. Handicapped drivers shall be encouraged to participate. However their participation shall not hinder or endanger other competitors or dogs, including the dog(s) of the handicapped competitor. The RM shall decide on possible participation of the handicapped driver and, if required, a helper, and always inspect the equipment. The overall safety for the handicapped driver and his/her dog(s) shall prevail. If the RM feels that it would benefit the handicapped driver and the total race to start the handicapped team as last in the class, s/he has the right to do so in all heats of the race, taking into account that the team shall be ranked according to its total results.
- Note: It is also possible to start the handicapped team a certain time before the first team, but then, there is always the risk on hindering overtaking teams in case of problems, and the handicapped driver may feel he/she is more or less racing outside the field. If starting last, he/she has always the chance to overtake one or more teams.

## **B . II Disease**

18. Race veterinarians are present throughout the race to monitor the health and welfare of all dogs, advise drivers in caring for their dogs' medical needs, and provide veterinary treatment for dropped dogs, if necessary.
19. The race veterinarian, in conjunction with the Race Marshal or race judge, may rule any dog is unfit to start or continue in the race, and remove the dog(s) from the race for medical or other reasons. If the Race Veterinarian diagnoses any dog present in the race area to have a contagious disease, that dog shall be disqualified and the competitor shall immediately leave the race site with all his/her dogs.
20. All dogs participating in a race shall be vaccinated according to the AFSS Animal Welfare Committee's recommendations. The IFSS Chief Veterinarian has, by recommendation as of April 16, 2007, suggested that the mandatory vaccinations shall be: Rabies Virus, Canine Parvovirus, Distemper and Canine Kennel Cough Complex (bordetella parainfluenza virus, canine adenovirus 2). All dogs should be vaccinated within 12 months in all cases and more than 21 days before the race in the case of prime vaccination. Vaccinations need to be done in accordance with regulations of the host country in which the race is taking place.

## **B . III Temperatures at Dryland races - Guidelines**

21. At dryland races there shall be a thermometer and a hygrometer in the starting area. They shall be readily visible, placed in the shade, at 50 centimetres (20 inches) above ground level.
22. The minimum and maximum temperatures and humidity shall be noted during the entire race.
23. Given the minima and maxima, trail conditions and local circumstances (e.g. humidity), the following guidelines are available for decisions to be taken by the race giving organization and the race marshal for the well-being of the dogs:
  - 23.1. Temperatures below 18°C for Canicross and 15°C for all other classes and with a humidity below 85 %: normal competition
  - 23.2. Temperatures above 15°C, but below 18°C: the distances shall not exceed the minimums given at 22 above. This maximum temperature is set at 15°C for Bikejoring classes and 18°C Canicross classes.
  - 23.3. Temperatures above 15°C, but below 18°C: the distance shall not exceed 1.5 kilometres for demonstration purpose.
  - 23.4. Temperatures above 18°C: no team shall be harnessed.
  - 23.5. If the temperature reaches 15°C, the race marshal shall call a meeting with the race veterinarian(s) in order to decide upon whether the race shall be delayed or cancelled. The veterinarian's opinion shall be preponderant in case of different opinions. Animal welfare shall always be the major deciding factor.
  - 23.6. 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 sport, even if the maximum temperatures above are not reached.

## **B . IV Extreme low Temperatures at snow races - Guidelines**

24. In the event of extreme low temperatures, the jury together with the Organizing Committee and the team leaders shall decide if the race should be cancelled, have a delay on the starting

time, or reduce the race distance. Any National Federation standards must be considered in making the final decision.

## **C. START AND FINISH**

### **C . I Starting Intervals**

25. The starting intervals should be
  - 25.1. one half (.5) or one (1) minute in Ski-Dogs classes, Canicross, Bikejoring and Scooter 1 dog.
  - 25.2. One half (.5) or one (1) or two (2) minutes in limited classes involving eight dogs or less and Scooter
  - 25.3. two (2) or three (3) minutes in classes involving ten dogs or more.
26. Interval Options
  - 26.1. The organizer may decide to use the longer starting interval in the first heat, and the shorter interval in the ensuing heat(s).
  - 26.2. At the option of the race-giving organization, the drivers may all start at the same time (mass start).
  - 26.3. at the option of the organizer, the drivers may start the last heat of a race with an interval time corresponding with the actual time difference, rounded upwards to whole seconds between his and the predecessor's team (Chase/pursuit starts)

### **C . II Relays**

27. A relay is a competition between relay teams comprised of at least three dog teams running the same trail in sequence. No driver or dog shall complete more than one heat.
28. The relay start shall be a mass start. The first heat drivers of the relay teams shall start side-by-side on the starting line
29. In relay events, Number 1 shall start in the centre position of the Starting Line, Number 2 shall have the position to the right of Number 1, Number 3 shall have the position to the left of Number 1, etc.
30. The Starting Chute should preferably be so wide as to allow for all first heat drivers to start side by side. If this is not possible, subsequent starting teams shall start on a secondary Starting Line 5 (five) meters behind the starting line according to the same system. If seeding is performed, no seeded group shall be larger than the maximum number of teams there is room for side-by-side.
31. The Relay Starting Chute should be as wide as the starting area for a distance of minimum one hundred (100) meters (30 m for Canicross relay), and narrowing to the normal lane width over a distance of a minimum additional one hundred (100) meters (30 m for Canicross relay).
32. The Exchange Chute shall cover a distance from the Finish Line on the outgoing trail of minimum thirty (30) meters, and shall, as a minimum, be ten (10) meters wide. In Pulka Style events, the Exchange Chute should have an angle of 45 to 90 degrees on the Finish Line.

## **D. THE TRAIL**

### **D. I Trail requirements**

33. The trail shall be safe for dogs and drivers. When laying out the trail, special attention shall be shown on turns and downhill stretches. The entire trail shall be constructed with consideration to the fastest and biggest teams expected to participate.
34. The trail should not cross itself. Teams may follow the same trail a second time. In that case, the route shall not go through the start or finish area on the repeat traverse. If it is unavoidable that the teams must follow the same trail more than twice, the organizer is responsible to announce this prior to the race in the race invitation. The deviation from this rule is allowable only due to unpredictable circumstances.
35. Trails shall, to the optimal extent possible, be broadly constructed to facilitate passing.
36. There should be sufficient space between the lanes so that teams are unable to distract each other.
37. Trails should be shielded from parking lots and parked cars.
38. Trails should not cross a traffic-laden road on the same level. However, if this cannot be avoided, there shall be a prior permission to block off the road during the competition. Dependable control shall be on hand and the trail should cross the road in a 90 degree angle;
39. In Sled Sprint Races, the trail shall be designed so that speed is prioritized and should be wide enough to enable one team to overtake another team.
40. The Starting Chute shall be at least 30 meters long and be so organized that a team can be entirely removed from the trail.
41. The Finishing Zone shall be at least 500 meters long (150 m for Ski-Dogs classes and Canicross), wide enough for passing and with no sharp turns.
42. The starting and finish lines shall be clearly defined.
43. Trails for Ski-Dogs shall, whenever possible, be different from that of Sled.
44. Ski-Dogs trails should be laid out in hilly terrain with special attention so that the trail also shall be a test of the contestant's skiing skills. It should be wide enough for two skiers to skate side by side in the Finishing Zone and for a skating skier to overtake a competitor on parallel skis on the rest of the trail.
45. In Dryland races, watering points shall be provided at least every 3 km along the trails, so that the dogs may be watered and cooled.
- 46. Distance races**
  - 46.1. If weather conditions, in the opinion of the RM or the organizer, dictate that the race cannot be run according to the basic criteria for the sport, the race may be postponed. If conditions as mentioned occur after the start, the race may be temporarily "frozen". This shall be done at a check-point or ahead of the location of the first driver. All drivers shall be held back for an identical period of time.
  - 46.2. The organizer and the RM shall, without unnecessary delay, inform all drivers of decisions, and reason for same, made according to [§ 46.1](#)
  - 46.3. Mandatory stops
    - 46.3.1. Races with a total distance of 20 to 100 km shall at least have a total of 2 hrs mandatory stops, to be distributed at the local organizer's discretion.
    - 46.3.2. Races with a total distance of more than 600 km shall at least have a total of 12 hrs mandatory stops, to be distributed at the local organizer's discretion.

## D . II Trail distances

### 47. Sprint and Ski-Dogs Races

47.1. Heat distances need not be identical each day of an event, but the shortest trails shall be run first. Subsequent days' heat distances shall not exceed one hundred and fifty (150)% of the first day's trail length. The shortest and longest possible distances for each heat will be indicated on the invitation.

47.2. **Minimum/Maximum Trail Distances:**

### 48. Distance Races

**For all classes:**

**Distance:** At the discretion of the RGO

### 49. Dryland races: Distances (per heat or stage and at the discretion of the RGO)

49.1.	Canicross seniors and veterans:	minimum of 2 km,	maximum 8 km	(1.2 to 5 miles)
49.2.	Canicross juniors:	minimum of 1 km,	maximum 4 km	(0.6 to 2.5 miles)
49.3.	Relay (each leg):	minimum of 0.5 km,	maximum 4 km	(0.3 to 2.5 miles)
49.4.	1-dog Bikejoring class:	minimum of 2 km,	maximum of 10 km	(1.2 to 6.2 miles)
49.5.	1-dog Scooter class:	minimum of 2 km,	maximum of 8 km	(1.2 to 5 miles)
49.6.	2-dog Scooter class:	minimum of 2 km,	maximum of 8 km	(1.2 to 5 miles)
49.7.	3-dog Rig class:	minimum of 2 km,	maximum of 8 km	(1.2 to 5 miles)
49.8.	4-dog Rig class:	minimum of 4 km,	maximum of 8 km	(2.5 to 5 miles)
49.9.	6-dog Rig class:	minimum of 5 km,	maximum of 10 km	(3.1 to 6.2 miles)
49.10.	8-dog Rig class:	minimum of 5 km,	maximum of 12 km	(3.1 to 7.5 miles)

## D . III Check points and rest stops

### 50. Camps and rest stops

50.1. Litter shall not be left on or along the trail, but be carried to the finish, check point or a deposit along the trail as determined by the organizer.

50.2. Camps and rest stops shall be established well off the trail. Dogs and equipment shall not be left on the trail and the driver shall not stay on the trail more than necessary.

50.3. Check points, camps and rest stops shall be cleared and tidied up before departure.

### 51. Check points

51.1. Drivers shall report at check points before proceeding.

51.2. In the event of an unmanned check point, and if the organizer has given no advice as to such an event, the driver, if possible, shall see to it that it may later be established that he/she has been at the check point and advise officials at the next manned check point of his/her action.

### 51.3. Dropped dogs

51.3.1. Dogs taken out of a team shall only be dropped at designated check points.

51.3.2. Dropped dogs shall be tagged with:  
- The driver's name and bib number  
- The reason for dropping the dog

51.3.3. Dropped dogs shall be leashed with a chain or similar until they are picked up.

51.3.4. The Race Marshal, an authorized official or the race veterinarian, may detain a team in order to repair or replace equipment deemed unsafe for the driver and/or the dogs.

51.3.5. The Race Marshal, an authorized official or the race veterinarian, may detain a team deemed temporarily unfit to proceed.

- 51.3.6. The Race Marshal, an authorized official or the race veterinarian, may remove a team or dogs deemed unfit to complete the competition.
- 51.4. When a driver arrives at a check point with less than the required number of dogs in the team, that team shall be disqualified. The Race Marshal, an authorized official or race veterinarian, shall determine if, and to what extent the team may proceed to a location where the team will be picked up.
- 51.5. Offers for accommodation, etcetera, for dogs and drivers at check points shall be identical for all participants.
- 51.6. Supplies and equipment
  - 51.6.1. At the option of the organizer, participants may, before the race, leave supplies and equipment at check points.
  - 51.6.2. The organizer determines at which check points supplies may be deposited and the routine for same.
  - 51.6.3. The above provisions do not have any effects on the requirements for mandatory equipment to be carried on the sled.
  - 51.6.4. A race may require different mandatory equipment. This shall be listed in special rules for the race.

## **E. TRAIL MARKING**

### **E . I General**

52. The trail shall be marked with a sufficient number of clearly visible markers, so placed that there will be no doubt for the driver where to go.
53. All Trail Markers shall be at least 25 cm in diameter or length per side.
54. Only one side of the sign shall be coloured to indicate the proper direction of travel.
55. Trail markers shall be placed about one (1) meter beyond the edge of the trail, and from 60 to 120 cm above the surface of the trail.
56. All markers shall be visible as far ahead as possible and at least 50 m.
57. Markers applicable for a certain class, or certain classes, only, shall be marked with the class(es)' identification or with the trail distance of the concerned class(es) by white letters in the centre of the marker. Information on elapsed distance shall be indicated by a black number on a white sign directly above a blue marker on the same stake. The class identifications shall be easily seen and read by the sportsmen/women. The identification shall be explained at the musher meeting prior the race.
58. Information on remaining distance shall be indicated by a black negative number on a white sign directly below a blue marker on the same stake.
59. Markers shall not be so placed, or made of such a material, that they might constitute a danger for dogs or drivers.

### **E . II Red Markers (Turn markers, of round shape)**

60. Red Markers shall be used at all intersections and crossings involving turns. The markers shall be placed about 20 meters ahead of the point in question at the same side of the trail as to which the teams shall turn.
61. The same procedure shall also be applied for all blind turns on the trail.

**E . III Blue Markers** (Straight ahead or Confirmation markers of square shape)

62. Blue markers may be placed on either side of the trail.
63. Blue markers used to indicate the correct trail after a crossing or turn shall be placed about 20 m beyond, and should be visible when approaching, the point in question.
64. Blue markers shall be used:
  - 64.1. at intersections or crossings when the trail is going straight through. The sign shall be placed about 20 meters ahead of the intersection.
  - 64.2. beyond turns, which apply only to a certain class, or certain classes. Such blue markers shall have the same class identification as the red turn marker.
65. Blue markers should be used:
  - 65.1. beyond all intersections, turns or blind corners, which are marked with a red marker.
  - 65.2. every full kilometre along the entire trail. At least every five (5) kilometres they should be marked with the elapsed or remaining distance.

**E . IV Yellow Markers** (Caution markers of triangle shape)

66. Yellow markers may be placed on either side of the trail. Yellow markers indicate portions of the trail, where slow, cautious passage is recommended, e.g. steep downhill, really sharp turns, icy spots. Yellow markers shall be placed about 20 meters ahead of the caution area.
67. If the caution area covers a length of the trail, two yellow markers shall be placed on the same stake at the beginning of the caution area. The end of the caution area shall be indicated with one yellow marker with a diagonal red or black cross.
68. All yellow markers shall be presented and explained at the Team Captain and/or drivers Meeting and they shall be indicated on the trail map.

**E . V Checkpoint Markers**

69. Checkpoints shall be indicated with rectangular white signs with black letters.

**E . VI Other Markers**

70. The end of the Starting Chute shall be indicated by markers on both sides of the trail.
71. A white marker shall be placed at the start of the Finishing Chute with the distance remaining (usually 150 m for Ski-Dogs classes and Canicross and 500 m for all other classes before the finish line) to indicate the beginning of the “No-right-of-way” zone.
72. Portions of the trail, where the correct trail is not clearly visible, may be marked with additional markings. Such additional marking shall never be considered a replacement for ordinary marking according to this Rule.
73. Marking for night heats. In addition to the trail marking described above, each marker should be equipped with light-reflecting material (minimum 25 cm<sup>2</sup>).
74. Other markers as prescribed in §60 up to and including §71 above are only allowed if all drivers have been informed before the first start. At AFSS events the technical organizer shall obtain AFSS permission to use different markers.

**E . VII Trail Blocking**

75. At trail crossings considered so difficult that even good teams may have problems, blockings shall be used in addition to marking.
76. A blocking shall appear as a physical hindrance for the dogs but shall not constitute any danger for dogs, drivers or equipment.
77. At trail crossings where different classes shall follow different trails, there shall be a Trail Steward, performing the necessary changes of the blockings after each class and, as necessary, directing/assisting teams to the correct trail.
78. The presence of a blocking or a Trail Steward does not allow for ordinary marking to be omitted.

## AFSS Race Protest Form

Name of Competition		Date of Competition		
Place of Competition (City, Province, Country)				
Name		Bib Number		
Postal Address				
City, Province		Country		
Phone Number (mobile)		Phone Number (Landline)		
Class	Indicate (check):			
	Dryland	Sled Sprint	Ski-Dogs	Distance
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Protest Against: (Name or Entity)	Bib Number
Describe the action(s) or incident and mention which rule(s) is/are infringed.	

Witnesses	
Name	Bib Number
Signature	
Name	Bib Number
Signature	

This form must be handed to the Race Marshall within one hour after the protester has finished.

Date	Time
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Team Leader's Name	Country
Leader's Mobile Phone Number	

Signature of Protester
Signature of Race Marshall