

# Northwest Sled Dog Association Race Rules and Championship Points System

Revised July 9, 2011

1. The Association's racing season begins October 1<sup>st</sup> and concludes April 30<sup>th</sup>.
2. Classes and races to be used for championship points shall be determined at the NWSDA August or September general membership meetings prior to the start of the racing season. No additional races or classes will be sanctioned after the September NWSDA general membership meeting.
3. In the event a dog expires while competing in an Association race or event, while at the site of an Association race or event, or between heats of an Association race or event, as a result of abuse or negligence will cause disqualification. The race marshal, or his/her appointed judges, or the official in charge of an event, will determine whether the Musher should continue or be disqualified.
4. International Sled Dog Racing Association (ISDRA) rules will apply at all Association races.
5. The rules of the Race Giving Organization (RGO) will apply and be followed at all non-Association races where Championship Points can be earned.
6. In order to qualify for Championship Points, a Driver must:
  - a) be an Association Member in Good Standing, and
  - b) must complete all of the race heats for a class at an event.
7. The calculation for Championship Points will be based on the International Sled Dog Racing Association (ISDRA) point system, with the following exceptions:
  - a) all qualifying race results for the racing season will be combined to determine a Driver's total Championship Points, and
  - b) time, distance, and number of competitors will be the only factors used to determine a Driver's Championship Points, any other factors (e.g., purse, previous years standing, etc.) will be omitted or nullified from the calculation.
8. Drivers not completing all days scheduled for a single race, will not receive any Championship Points for that race.
9. In the event it is necessary to reschedule a Championship Points race, the rescheduled race will no longer be considered a Championship Points race and no Championship Points will be awarded to Driver's running in the rescheduled race. If the location of an event must be changed but the event will be held on the same dates as originally scheduled, Board approval must be obtained to keep Championship Points on the event.
10. Drivers may compete for Championship Points in as many classes as they wish.
11. Dogs may not compete in more than one class per day, except if reused in the PeeWee class.

12. All trophies and awards to be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet will be financed from entry fees.

- a) A \$6.00 awards fee per weekend per class will be incorporated into the entry fee for each Driver competing for Championship Points in either the Adult or Junior classes.
- b) A \$2.00 awards fee per weekend will be incorporated into the entry fee for each Driver competing for Championship Points in the PeeWee class(s).
- c) A minimum of \$500.00 for trophies and awards to be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet will be guaranteed by the Association.

13. All entry and award fees will be collected in US funds.

14. Any Driver who is fifteen (15) years old or older on or before October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current racing season year will compete in the Adult class(s).

15. Any Driver who is between the ages of nine (9) and not fifteen (15) years on or before October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current racing season year must compete in the Junior class(s). A Junior Driver may petition the Executive Board for a waiver and be allowed to compete in the Adult class(s).

16. Any Driver who has not reached nine (9) years of age on or before October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current racing season year must compete in the PeeWee class(s). PeeWee Drivers will only compete on snow and must be able to stand on the sled runners unassisted.

17. In addition to the ISDRA classes and team sizes, the following classes and team sizes will be allowed at NWSDA race events:

- a) Adult Classes

Mid Distance	8 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	8
Minimum #of Dogs	6

<b>Mid Distance Class</b>	<b>12 Dog</b>
<b>Maximum # of Dogs</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Minimum # of Dogs</b>	<b>8</b>

Distance Class	3 Dog Bike / Scooter
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Maximum # of Dogs	3
Minimum# of Dogs	1

<b>Sprint Class</b>	<b>Novice</b>
<b>Maximum # of Dogs</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Minimum # of Dogs</b>	<b>1</b>

b) Pee Wee Classes (snow only)

<b>Class</b>	<b>PEE WEE</b>
<b>Maximum # of Dogs</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Minimum # of Dogs</b>	<b>1</b>

18. All officials will be under the direction of the Race Marshal. The Race Manager for that particular race shall appoint the Race Marshal.

19. Classes can be combined if racing the same distance, but Association Championship Points will be calculated as if the classes were run separately.

20. A Novice Musher(s) is defined as a Driver who is unknown to the Association and will be assumed to be an inexperienced Driver. The Race Marshal has the authority to determine whether the Novice Musher must compete in the Novice class or be allowed to compete in another class(s).

21. All decisions of the Race Marshal are final. Any protest(s) to the Race Marshal's decision(s) must be submitted to the Association Secretary within thirty (30) days of the last day of the race. Only a competitor or official (including spotters) who officially participated in the event can file protests. Handlers, spectators, and Association members present at the site are specifically excluded from filing a protest. The information contained in the protest can only be used by the Board to make improvements or changes to future races.

22. The Race Marshal, or an official designated by the Race Marshal, shall make a temperature and a humidity reading prior to the start of each class. The temperature and humidity readings will be noted on the score board and announced prior to the start of each class.

23. Individuals are allowed to run if they miss the first heat/day of an event if all officials and competitors are in agreement at the Driver's Meeting. The class the individual will be allowed to run in will also be decided at the Driver's Meeting. No Championship points will be

awarded to the individual and the individual will be noted as running as an “Exhibitor” on the time sheets.

24. A Race Manager(s) and Race Marshal(s) are allowed to compete in a race event, however,

- a) if there is a single Race Manager and a single Race Marshal, they are not allowed to compete in the same class, or
- b) if there are multiple Race Managers and/or multiple Race Marshals, they are allowed to compete in the same class, provided there is at least one Race Manager or one Race Marshal who is not competing in that class in order to render decisions for that class.

25. A Race Marshal cannot render any decisions regarding the class or classes they are entered to compete, in those cases, a Race Manager, or another Race Marshal, who is not competing in that class(es) will act as the Race Marshal for that class(es). In the event the Race Marshal withdraws from competing in a class, they are allowed to render decisions regarding that class.

26. Whenever a dog is reported to have been injured while at, or participating in an Association event, or if a dog returns from the trail not attached in a team,

- a) If a Veterinarian is on-site, the Race Marshal shall immediately direct the Veterinarian to the dog(s) location(s).
- b) If a Veterinarian is on-call, the Race Marshal shall determine if the musher, or owner, of the dog(s) would like to consult with a Veterinarian and ensure they are put in contact with the on-call Veterinarian.

27. It is left to the Race Marshal’s discretion to determine if a dog being brought back in by a competitor, that is no longer a part of the competitor’s team, should have been carried in a dog bag, and to determine what disciplinary action, if any, should be imposed.

28. A family member **cannot** compete for Championship points for another family member, unless the other family member ran the first day/heat and is unable to run due to illness or injury.