

Northwest Sled Dog Association

Championship Points System and Race Rules

Approved September 7, 2026

SECTION I - CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS SYSTEM

A. CHAMPIONSHIP SANCTIONED RACES

1. The Northwest Sled Dog Association's (NWSDA) racing season begins October 1st and concludes May 31st.
2. Classes and races to be used for championship points shall be determined at the NWSDA May and June general membership meetings, prior to the start of the racing season. No additional races or classes will be sanctioned after the June NWSDA general membership meeting.
3. 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 drivers 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.

B. DRIVER ELIGIBILITY

1. In order to qualify for championship points, a driver must:
 - a) be a NWSDA member in good standing, and
 - b) must complete all of the race heats for a class at an event.
2. Drivers not completing all scheduled days of a race will not receive any championship points for that race.
3. Drivers may compete for championship points in an unlimited number of classes.
4. 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 race heat and start time will 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.
5. If a driver cannot compete on subsequent race heats due to illness or injury, another driver may be substituted for exhibition only, at the discretion of the Race Marshal or designated official.

C. CHAMPIONSHIP POINTING

1. The calculation for championship points will be based on the Pacific Northwest Championships point system:
 - a) For each sanctioned class in each race, the following calculation shall be used:

Total mileage run in all heats + number of teams that begin the first heat = total points available

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Place	% Assigned Points	Place	% Assigned Points
1	100.00	16	50.00
2	96.67	17	46.67
3	93.33	18	43.33
4	90.00	19	40.00
5	86.67	20	36.67
6	83.33	21	33.33
7	80.00	22	30.00
8	76.67	23	26.67
9	73.33	24	23.33
10	70.00	25	20.00
11	66.67	26	16.67
12	63.33	27	13.33
13	60.00	28	10.00
14	56.67	29	6.67
15	53.33	30	3.33

b) There are no points awarded for not finishing or being disqualified.

c) The total points from each race, sanctioned class, and driver shall be combined for the season points total.

2. Points shall be awarded in a sanctioned class where a minimum of two entrants begin the first heat.
3. Classes can be combined if racing the same distance, but NWSDA championship points will be calculated as if the classes were run separately.
4. In classes where there are at least two Registered Northern Breed (RNB) entrants, NWSDA members completing an event shall be eligible for event awards, as well as an annual award based on the placement determination using the scoring system noted above. A detailed description of the RNB criteria and eligibility for event and annual awards is found in the Registered Northern Breed Recognition and Award Program document dated 3-28-25.

D. TROPHIES AND AWARDS

1. All trophies and awards to be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet will be financed in this manner:
 - a) \$6.00 from each entry fee from all classes from each NWSDA race shall go toward championship awards.

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- b) NWSDA will guarantee a minimum of \$500.00 for trophies and awards to be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet.
 - c) Registered Northern Breed Awards will be supported by Margaret Black, Snowdance Siberians.
2. All entry and award fees will be collected in US funds.

SECTION II - RACE RULES

A. APPLICABLE RACE RULES

1. International Federation of Sleddog Sports Race Rules (IFSS) dated July 15, 2026, in conjunction with these NWSDA Race Rules, shall apply at all NWSDA races. If a conflict exists, NWSDA Race Rules shall govern.
2. The rules of the Race Giving Organization (RGO) will apply and be followed at all non-association races where championship points can be earned.

B. ENTRIES AND DRAWING

1. Entries shall be received by the Saturday prior to the race, or as listed on the race entry.
2. To be eligible for annual Registered Northern Breed (RNB) Awards the musher must note RNB teams (all dogs in team must be RNB) on race entry forms with proof of registration (document/pedigree) to be reviewed by the race marshal prior to the race when requested.
3. The starting positions for the race shall be determined by a drawing held prior to the race at a time and place designated by the Race Director.
 - a) The order of the draw shall be in the order in which entries were received. In the event more than one entry is received on one day, those entries that are hand delivered will be listed first, followed by online and mail entries. When more than one entry arrives by mail, the date of the postmark will determine their order. If entries are postmarked the same day, the order will be determined randomly.
 - b) The drawing for positions will be divided in half. The first half of the total mushers to enter will draw for the first half of the starting positions. The second half of the total mushers to enter will draw for the second half of the starting positions. In the event of an odd number of entries, the odd number will be included in the last half of the drawing.
4. The start order for the second or subsequent heats shall be determined by the first day's times with the first-place team leaving first and the last place team leaving last.
 - a) At the discretion of the Race Marshal, in consideration of time and/or safety, heats may be determined with the last-place team leaving first and the first-place team leaving last.

B. DRIVERS

1. Any driver who is fifteen (15) years old or older on or before October 1st of the current racing season year will compete in the adult class(es).

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2. Any driver who is between the ages of nine (9) and not fifteen (15) years on or before October 1st of the current racing season year must compete in the junior class(es). A junior driver may petition the executive board for a waiver and be allowed to compete in the adult class(es).
3. Any driver who has not reached nine (9) years of age on or before October 1st of the current racing season year must compete in the peewee class(es). Peewee drivers will only compete on snow and must be able to stand on the sled runners unassisted.
4. A novice musher(s) is defined as a driver who is unknown to the NWSDA 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(es).

C. CLASSES

1. The following classes and team sizes will be allowed at NWSDA race events:

a) Adult Classes (pointed)

Mid Distance and Sprint Classes (dryland and snow races)	12 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	12
Minimum # of Dogs	8

Mid Distance and Sprint Classes (dryland and snow races)	8 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	8
Minimum # of Dogs	6

Mid Distance and Sprint Classes (dryland and snow races)	6 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	6
Minimum # of Dogs	3

b) Adult and Junior Classes (pointed)

Sprint Class (dryland and snow races)	4 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	4
Minimum # of Dogs	2

Mid Scooter/Bikejor (dryland only) or Fat Tire Bikejor/Sled/Skijor (snow only) Classes	3 Dog
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Maximum # of Dogs	3
Minimum # of Dogs	1

Scooter/Bikejor (dryland only) or Fat Tire Bikejor/Skijor/Sled (snow only) Classes	2 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	2
Minimum # of Dogs	1

Scooter/Bikejor/Canicross (dryland only) or Fat Tire Bikejor/Skijor/Sled (snow only) Classes	1 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	1
Minimum # of Dogs	1

c) Novice Classes (non-pointed)

Novice Sprint (dryland and snow) Classes	1-4 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	4
Minimum # of Dogs	1

Novice Bikejor/Scooter (dryland only) or Fat Tire Bikejor /Skijor (snow only) Classes	2 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	2
Minimum # of Dogs	1

Novice Bikejor/Scooter/Canicross (dryland only) or Fat Tire Bikejor /Skijor (snow only) Classes	1 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	1
Minimum # of Dogs	1

d) Senior Class (non-pointed)

Senior Sprint (dryland and snow) Classes	1-4 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	4
Minimum # of Dogs	1

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Senior Bikejor/Scooter (dryland only) or Fat Tire Bikejor/Skijor (snow only) Classes	2 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	2
Minimum # of Dogs	1

Senior Bikejor/Scooter/Canicross (dryland only) or Fat Tire Bikejor /Skijor (snow only) Classes	1 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	1
Minimum # of Dogs	1

e) Pee Wee Class (non-pointed)

Pee Wee Sled Class (snow only)	1 Dog
Maximum # of Dogs	1
Minimum # of Dogs	1

E. EQUIPMENT

1. All teams with more than one (1) dog in lead shall have a leader neckline at all times.
2. All drivers in wheeled events shall wear a helmet. Eye protection is highly recommended.
3. All drivers must wear and have visible an official numbered or honorary musher bib when racing.
4. Any team larger than two (2) dogs shall carry a snubline consisting of a line with an eye on each end, substantial enough to be attached to a stationary object and arrest the forward movement of the team. Carabiners are recommended on each end. A snubline length of 12 ft is recommended but a minimum length of at least 10 ft is required.
5. A knife or suitable cutting implement is mandatory except for canicross when using non-cable lines.
6. Cable cutters are mandatory except for canicross if using a cable gangline and/or cable necklines.
7. All equipment is subject to inspection by the Race Marshal or designated official prior to the race or upon request.

F. RACE OFFICIALS

1. All officials will be under the direction of the Race Marshal. The Race Director for that particular race shall appoint the Race Marshal. Other officials shall include Timers, Chute Boss, Trail Boss and on-site Veterinarian/Veterinary Technician.

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2. The Race Marshal, or an official designated by the Race Marshal, shall make a temperature and a humidity reading prior to the start of race day. A weather application utilizing the nearest weather station, or on-site measurement, may be used. If weather is a concern, checks shall be made periodically throughout the race day with heats adjusted accordingly.
3. A Race Director(s) and Race Marshal(s) are allowed to compete in a race event with conditions:
 - a) If there is a single Race Director and a single Race Marshal, they are not allowed to compete in the same class.
 - b) If there are multiple Race Directors and/or multiple Race Marshals, they are allowed to compete in the same class, provided there is at least one designated Race Director or one Race Marshal who is not competing in that class in order to render decisions for that class.
 - c) A Race Marshal cannot render any decisions regarding the class, or classes, in which they are entered to compete. In those cases, the Race Director, or designated 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.
4. All decisions of the Race Marshal are final. Any protest(s) to the Race Marshal's decision(s) must be submitted to the NWSDA Secretary within thirty (30) days of the last day of the race. Only a competitor or official who officially participated in the event can file protests. Handlers, spectators, and other NWSDA members present at the site are specifically excluded from filing a protest. The information contained in the protest can only be used by the executive board to make improvements or changes to future races.

G. MANAGEMENT AND HANDLING OF DOGS

1. Any dog having raced in one class of a race is eligible to race in a second class on the same day (max. two heats per day) if the total lengths do not exceed 12 km (7.5 miles) in Dryland and 20 km (12.5 miles) in On-Snow. ([IFSS](#))
2. Whenever a dog is reported to have been injured while at, or participating in, an NWSDA event:
 - a) The on-site veterinarian shall be immediately directed by the Race Marshal or designee, to the location of the dog(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.
3. In the event a dog expires while competing, or on site, of a NWSDA race or event, or between heats of an NWSDA race or event, and the death is determined to be the result of abuse or neglect, the driver shall be disqualified and possibly banned from future events. The Race Marshal, or his/her appointed judges, or the official in charge of the event, shall make this determination.

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4. Teams not finishing with all dogs that started a heat shall be disqualified unless finishing with a bagged-dog or having a dog transported by a Race Official. New dogs may not be substituted for injured dogs.