



LONG DISTANCE TREK RULES

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Eligibility of Dogs and Drivers

1. Any dog participating in a Long Distance Trek organised by the Alaskan Malamute Working Association must be a pure bred sled dog and be registered with the Kennel Club to that effect, or have a rescue number issued by the Official Breed Club for that breed (sled dog breeds only) or have an AMWA Working Number. Non sled dogs owned by participants are eligible to walk the course with a handler but may not be in harness or attached in any way to a rig/sled/driver.
2. In addition, Siberian Huskies issued with a BSHRA or SHWA(UK) Welfare Number, or SSSDR Rescue Number will be able to participate. The driver/owner must be a current AMWA Member to be eligible.
3. It is the responsibility of the dog owners to make sure that their dogs are sufficiently trained and conditioned and that they pose no hazard to the health or welfare of themselves or other dogs participating in the event.
4. An entry to the trek must be submitted before the start of the event, subject to the entry deadline as set out by the organisers.
5. A trek may be cancelled at any stage at the discretion of the event organiser and the AMWA committee.
6. A refund may be given if an event is cancelled once all irretrievable overheads have been met.
7. Dogs undertaking any long distance trek **must** be 18 months of age on or by the date of the event. Those between the age of 18 and 24 months old and participating in their first trek will normally be restricted to 7.5 miles or the minimum distance offered dependant on the team size with a minimum of 5 hours rest between runs. Longer distances may be permitted at the organisers discretion taking into account proven fitness.
8. A dog or team proven to be a hazard to other dog teams or drivers/handlers shall be asked to leave the event by the event organiser/committee.
9. Any dog or team coming to the starting point being, in the opinion of the trek organisers, unfit or incapable of completing the course/event will not be permitted to run.
10. Any driver/handler who displays poor sportsmanship or abuses his/her dogs shall be disqualified by the event organiser/committee and risks expulsion from the Association.
11. The owner, driver or handler who has been disqualified may subsequently appeal to the event organiser/ AMWA committee using the AMWA appeals/complaints procedure.

12. Junior members may take part in a non-competitive long distance trek (day time only) at the organisers' discretion. They must however be accompanied by a parent in an accompanying team (in which case they must stay together for the entire distance) or alongside walking/running/cycling. **They will not be permitted to take part in a night run unless between the ages of 16-18. This would also be at the organisers discretion.**
13. The wearing of a protective helmet is **COMPULSORY** for all Musers.
14. The following approved types of helmet are acceptable. They must be undamaged and have a serviceable chin strap.
- a. Cycle Helmet
 - b. BMX Helmet
 - c. Ski Helmet
15. Helmets **must** be available for inspection by the scrutineer during the rig inspection.
16. If a Musher arrives at the start line without a helmet they will not be allowed to run until wearing one. It will be the duty of the Event Organiser's to ensure this is adhered too.
17. All long distance treks are un-timed.

Trek Distances

18. Where the venue permits, a short and long distance option will be offered. Where possible there will also be a night trek. Trail lengths on offer will be communicated in the respective event flyer, which is obtainable from the AMWA Website and the AMWA Bulletin Board on Facebook. The distances shown are minimum distances.
19. Trail lengths may be altered at short notice depending on weather and trail conditions.
20. There will be no individual classes for treks.
21. There will be various marshalled checkpoints to pass and withdraw at if necessary.
22. Team sizes:
- **For distances over 11 miles:** Minimum team size: 2 dogs*; maximum: 8 dogs.
 - **For distances between 7.5 and 11 miles:** Minimum team size: 1 dog; maximum: 8 dogs. This trail is also open to 1 dog scooter teams and 1 dog Cani-Cross teams.
 - **Night Trek (10 miles approx.):** Minimum team size: 1 dog; maximum: 8 dogs. All participants will be in one group led by an experienced driver

*- Team size at the discretion of the organisers

23. On **One Day Treks** organisers have the option to offer a non-marked trek. These treks may also offer a short and long distance but rather than following a marked trail, participants will join a group led by an experienced musher. The event flyer will clearly state if the trek is undertaken in a group on unmarked trails.

Disease

24. No dog, equipment or clothing shall be brought from a kennel where ANY contagious disease exists.

25. Should an event veterinarian diagnose any dog present to have a contagious disease, the handler and dog shall be asked to leave the event area.

Medications

26. Prohibited medications are all those deemed harmful to the dogs or to the sport, including stimulants, depressants, anaesthetics and analgesics.

27. If any dog is suspected of being under the influence of any prohibited medication, the event organisers reserve the right to have the dog examined and tested by qualified personnel, and if positive, the dog, driver and owner will suffer automatic refusal of entry to events for the whole of that season plus any other penalty deemed appropriate (and will cover all veterinary costs).

28. If any owner or Driver/Musher refuses to allow a sample to be collected in his/her presence from a dog, that team will be disqualified from that event. Any further penalty served will be deemed as appropriate.

Equipment

29. All drivers and equipment shall be available for inspection by the appointed scrutineers at the time set by the event organiser(s).

30. Drivers and equipment may be required for inspection after each trek.

31. Each driver will ensure the proper safety and fit of harness and collars prior to the trek. These may be subject to scrutiny during the pre-trek checks.

32. Lines and connections will be checked by the scrutineers.

33. All connections from lines to harness, collar and rig/sled must be capable of quick and easy detachment. Correct functioning of these attachments may be checked.

34. All teams must have a snub line attached to the gang line as one continuous line between the rear of the team and the point where it is attached to the rig/sled.

35. The snub line must be attached to the rig securely by a knot or loop to the frame.

36. The snub line must be of sufficient length to enable the release from static object (e.g. gate post or tree) by the driver while standing on and in control of rig/sled.
37. All lines must be free of frays and excess wear.
38. Shock absorber must have a safety line.
39. Rigs will be checked before each trek by the appointed scrutineers.
40. Rigs must not be fitted with any device to assist propulsion.
41. Rigs must have three or four wheels and be free standing.
42. Rigs must have an adequate braking system. Rear wheels must lock, and remain locked, when brakes are applied by the driver standing in the normal position and with motive power supplied by either pushing or pulling the rig by the scrutineers.
43. Rigs must be equipped with a manual steering mechanism capable of operation by the driver from the normal driving position.
44. Rigs fitted with a brushbow and those without a brushbow are acceptable providing the following Rules (44a - 44g) are complied with.
 - a. **Rigs fitted with a Brushbow.** This must cover the entire width of the rig and must be created in a way as to avoid any sharp projection. If the brushbow is not wider than the rear wheels, then deflectors must be fitted to cover any protruding parts and made of inflexible material.
 - b. Brushbows must not be less than 8" nor more than 18" from the ground. All brushbows must be manufactured from inflexible materials.
 - c. Rigs must not exceed 150 cm. (60") in overall width.
 - d. No part of the rig shall protrude in front of the brushbow, including the gang line attachments.
 - e. All four wheeled rigs must be fitted with a tubular front bumper, the length of which shall equal at least the full width of the rig. The ends of the bumper must be rounded so as not to present a hazard. No part of the rig shall protrude in front of the bumper, including gang line attachments. The front wheels must also be protected by additional deflectors which must be secured either side of each wheel. Further additional deflectors must be fitted around any protruding part, fabricated in such a way as to avoid the creation of any sharp projection. Bumpers must be not less than 20 cm. (8") nor more than 45 cm. (18") from the ground. All bumpers/deflectors must be manufactured from inflexible material
 - f. **Rigs without a Brushbow.** All teams must have a snub line attached to the gang line as one continuous line between the rear of the team and the point where it is attached to the rig by means of a knot or loop. The use of a carabineer and small tug line is recommended but not compulsory.

- g. A Bikejor type attachment is acceptable.

Passenger Rigs

45. Passenger Rigs will be permitted providing the criteria listed below are adhered to.
- a. Rigs must have an adequate braking system. All wheels must lock, and remain locked, when brakes are applied by the driver standing in the normal position and with motive power supplied by either pushing or pulling the rig by the scrutineers.
 - b. Minimum team size is 4 dogs with the maximum being 8 dogs
 - c. The driver (Musher) and passenger are both to be adults (18years +)
 - d. The passenger is also to wear an approved protective helmet

Sleds

46. Sleds will be checked before each trek by the appointed scrutineers.
47. Sleds must be fitted with brushbow/modern sleds are shaped accordingly (not square fronted).
48. Sleds must have an adequate braking system, e.g. claw brake or drag mat.

Things Advised to Take With You On The Trek

49. There are a number of items that you are advised to take with you on the trek. However, this list is not exhaustive. Some items are shown as compulsory as these are seen as a safety requirement to help locate you should you get lost. Please use your common sense!
- Rig Bag/Backpack (Compulsory)
 - Water for Musher and dog(s)
 - Dog Bowl(s)
 - Treats/snacks
 - Mobile phone (With emergency contact numbers) (Compulsory)
 - Puncture Repair Kit & tools/spare wheel
 - Waterproofs or change of coat
 - High energy snacks
 - Spare lead
 - Head torch/torch (Compulsory)
 - Whistle
 - Dog boots or spares

Lighting Equipment

50. If taking part in a night trek suitable lights are required. These will be checked during the rig inspection. No wet acid batteries may be carried. Plastic lenses are recommended, but any glass must be taped or preferably bagged. Back-Up lights must be carried during the night trek

We strongly recommend the use of a rear red light as a safety precaution, so the Musher is clearly visible. These are inexpensive and readily available.

Accessories

51. Muzzles, full choke collars, whips or other similar devices are strictly prohibited.

52. Spiked or metal studded footwear is prohibited.

53. A numbered bib will be provided by the event organisers. The driver must display this number on his/her person whilst competing.

Dogs

54. All dogs must be properly harnessed in the team and be fastened by a neckline (except single lead dogs).

55. A tri-line (fan line) can only be used with three dogs and requires a free running neckline connected between the two outside dogs which enables the neckline to slide through the collar of the centre dog.

56. The length of the neckline should be no shorter than 18" inches as to ensure the centre dog is not crowded and allows free movement, and the neckline should be no longer than 36" inches to ensure that the outside dogs have sufficient length to manoeuvre but not stray into obstacles or passing teams/pedestrians.

Conditions of use:

Prior to use at an AMWA event, competitors are required to have the length of neckline measured and should notify the events co-coordinator prior to start of event.

Purpose of use:

- The tri-line is an alternative to the traditional fan line.
- Helps to introduce young dogs to working and being within a team.
- Running three dogs side by side without encumbering other teams on the trail.

Course Procedure – Driving a Team – Conduct

57. A driver may ride, scoot or run as and when he wishes physical and verbal abuse of dogs is strictly prohibited.

58. A driver shall not interfere with another participating team.

59. Carrying a passenger on a rig other than a passenger rig (for details see rule 45) is prohibited at any time (unless in extreme emergency).

Trail/Course Set Up

60. The trail should be of a suitable surface, avoiding concrete, tarmac or sharp gravel
Wherever possible to avoid damage to dogs' feet.

61. Single reflective coloured markers will be used to mark the trails.

- Right turn – red marker on the right (25-50ft) before turn
- Left turn – red marker on the left (25-50ft) before turn
- Straight on – blue marker
- Hazard/caution – yellow marker

62. Marshals will be posted at key positions. Mobile Marshals on quad bikes/4 x 4's may also be used along the trails.

63. Regular water stops will be provided if feasible. It is the Musers responsibility to ensure enough water is carried for their own dogs.