

# AMWA WEIGHT PULL RULES

## Eligibility of Dogs

1. Any dog participating in a competitive weight pull 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).
2. Dogs undertaking a weight pull **must** be 12 months of age on or by the date of the rally
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. Pregnant females nor those in season shall be allowed to compete.
5. No dog, equipment or clothing shall be brought from a kennel where ANY contagious disease exists.
6. Should an event veterinarian diagnose any dog present in the weight pull area to have a contagious disease, the team shall be disqualified immediately and asked to leave the area.
7. Prohibited medications are all those deemed harmful to the dogs or to the sport, including stimulants, depressants, anaesthetics and analgesics.
8. 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 and owner will suffer automatic disqualification (and will cover all veterinary costs).

## Entries

9. An entry to the weight pull must be submitted before the start of the event, subject to the entry deadline as set out by the organisers.
10. An event may be cancelled at any stage at the discretion of the event organiser **and** the AMWA committee.
11. A refund may be given if an event is cancelled once all irretrievable overheads have been met.

12. The event will be supervised by a minimum of three officials and a majority decision is final.
13. Any handler who displays poor sportsmanship or abuses his/her dogs shall be disqualified by the event organiser/committee and risks expulsion from the Association.

### **Weight Pull Classes**

- A 41lbs up to and including 60lbs
- B 61lbs up to and including 80lbs
- C 81lbs up to an including 100lbs
- D 100lbs and over

All weights shall be rounded down to the nearest whole lb.

14. A dog that wins its weight class shall not be eligible to compete in the higher weight class but may continue pulling to compete for top weight percentage pulled.

### **Set Up**

15. The pulling area must be at least 10 feet wide and 20 feet long with an open end towards which the pull is made. If slopes are unavoidable the direction of the pull shall be towards the higher end.
16. A physical barrier shall separate spectators from the pulling area
17. Outdoor pulling areas shall be as level and as hard packed as possible.
18. Indoor areas shall be as level as possible and the dog traction area must be of a dirt, sod, or carpet surface. The vehicle rolling area does not necessarily need to be of the same surface.

### **Equipment**

19. All dogs must be fitted with a correctly fitted freighting or weight pull harness which extends no more than 2 ft from the base of the dog's tail and is fitted with a spreader bar.
20. Prong pinch collars or electric shock collars are prohibited.

21. A wheeled vehicle of a three or four wheel design may be used and must be capable of safely carrying a load of 3,000lbs. Wheels must have the capability of being fixed to track in a straight line
22. AMWA currently owns and uses a four wheeled vehicle with pneumatic tyres. Any change to this must be indicated when reporting on a weight pull event.
23. Sleds capable of safely carrying a load of 2,700 may be used and this will be indicated by AMWA organizers prior to the event. Sled runners will be 2-4 inches wide, between 7 and 10ft long and curved at the front end in a reasonable manner. Reports will indicate whether the runners are shod with steel or plastic.
24. Tug lines shall be between 6 and 16 feet when a wheeled vehicle is used and 3 and 6 feet when a sled is used.
25. No shock line is to be used as part of the tug line in weight pull events.
26. A 16 foot rope should be attached to the pulling vehicle for stopping and pulling back to the start point.

#### **General Set Up /Procedures and Conduct**

27. To avoid un-necessary distraction, holding area behind the start line will be designated. No dogs are to be allowed in the general spectator's area ahead of the start line.
28. All dogs must be kept under control at all times.
29. No handling or baiting is to be allowed once a dog enters the pull area and is hooked to the load. Handlers are only permitted to touch the dog in the event of a tangle. Baiting consists of the use of anything that influences the dog other than hand signals or commands. Dogs may be rewarded once they have left the pulling area and returned to the holding area.
30. Handlers **only** will be permitted to stand within the open pull area of the chute. All persons capable of baiting the pulling dog must be no further forward among the spectators than the starting line. Any violation may result in disqualification of the dog involved.
31. The use of whips, leashes or muzzles is prohibited.
32. The officials will give and record a minimum of one warning to a handler or associate for any rule breach before disqualification
33. Any handler disqualified in any heat is not eligible to continue in the remainder of the event.

34. The owner or handler who has been disqualified may subsequently appeal to the event organiser/AMWA committee using the AMWA appeals/complaints procedure.

### **The Weight Pull**

35. All dogs shall be weighed on the day of the weight pull event. Standard collars only to be worn during a weigh in.

36. A starting pull of the un-laden pulling vehicle will be undertaken by all dogs as a warm up followed by a starting weight of at least 300lbs including the vehicle.

37. Each load increment shall be approximately 100lbs. This may be reduced or raised if all handlers in the class agree.

38. Competitors may pass no more than two consecutive turns and may not request the load to be lightened once passing on a round.

39. During each pull the handler must be:

- Rear Handling – no further forward than the front of the pulling vehicle
- Front Handling – no closer than the dogs finishing line

40. The finish line shall be 16ft from the front of the pulling vehicle, the pull being completed once the front wheels reach this line.

41. Timing starts when the handler indicates they are ready to command the dog.

42. The dog has 60 seconds to pull the weight 16ft. If the weight is in continuous motion when the time expires the dog will be allowed to complete the pull without disqualification.

43. The officials may stop a pull if it appears an injury to the dog may occur.

44. The clock may be stopped in the event of a tangle to allow the handler to realign the dog and harness before restarting the pull. A maximum of two tangles on the same round are permissible.

45. Maximum loads including the vehicle weight together with the time taken to pull will be recorded. In the event of a tie the fastest time will determine the winner.

### **Reports**

46. Any reports issued will include the following information:

- temperature at the start and end of weight pull contest
- Weather conditions
- Indoor/outdoor venue and type of surface pulled on

- Type of pulling vehicle used and wheel/runner shods.
- Any rule violations/disqualifications.