



RALLY RULES

V10.2023

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Eligibility of Dogs and Drivers

1. Any dog participating in a working rally organised by the Alaskan Malamute Working Association must be a purebred sled dog and be registered with the Kennel Club or FCI 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.
2. In addition, Siberian Huskies issued with a BSHRA or SHWA(UK) Welfare Number, or SSDR Rescue Number will be able to participate and will be fully integrated within the appropriate class. 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 rally must be submitted before the start of the rally, subject to the entry deadline as set out by the organisers. **ALL** information requested must be included.
5. A single-entry form should be submitted per competitor which should include additional classes if appropriate, of which, the cost of each additional class is discounted. The submission of additional classes by the same competitor is sometimes referred to as being the "2nd household entry".
6. Another competitor living in the same household is classed as an individual in their own right. Therefore, a separate entry form must be submitted, which should include additional classes if appropriate of which the cost of each additional class is discounted.
7. A rally may be cancelled at any stage at the discretion of the event organiser and the AMWA Committee.
8. A refund may be given if an event is cancelled once all irretrievable overheads have been met.
9. Dogs undertaking any rally must be 12 months of age on or by the date of the rally.
10. No dog may take part in more than one class or team during any one day.

Exception: Junior and Scooter Classes not exceeding approx. one mile (dependant on trail layout).

A dog that is running in a multi-stage event (i.e., day run followed by a night run (day one), followed by a day run on day two) will not be able to compete in a Junior or Scooter class.

11. A dog or team proving to be a hazard to other dog teams or drivers/handlers shall be disqualified from the event by the event organiser/the AMWA Committee.
12. Any dog or team coming to the start line being, in the opinion of the rally organisers, unfit or incapable of completing the course/event will be disqualified.
13. Any dog or team disqualified in any heat of a rally shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the rally.

14. All drivers must be 18 years or over except for Junior classes. Drivers between 16 and 18 years of age wishing to enter adult classes **must** have been granted adult AMWA membership prior to the event.
15. Any driver/handler who displays poor sportsmanship or abuses his/her dogs shall be disqualified by the event organiser/the AMWA Committee and risks expulsion from the Association.
16. The driver starting a team in the first heat of a rally shall drive that team throughout the rally.
17. A change in driver can only be made because of illness or accident to the authorised entrant and must be approved by the event organiser.
18. Any driver disqualified in any heat is not eligible to continue in the remainder of the event.
19. The owner, driver or handler who has been disqualified may subsequently appeal to the event organiser/ AMWA Committee using the AMWA appeals/ complaints procedure.
20. The wearing of a protective helmet is **COMPULSORY** for all classes including the Recreational Class. The only exception as it is not appropriate is the Canicross Class.
21. The following approved types of helmets are acceptable. They must be undamaged and have a serviceable chin strap.
 - a. Cycle helmet
 - b. BMX helmet
 - c. Ski helmet
22. Helmets **must** be available for inspection by the scrutineer during the rig inspection.
23. If a driver 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 Start Timer to ensure this is adhered to. If the driver misses their start time they will be permitted to run at the end of the class.

Novice Drivers

24. A Novice Driver is defined as a driver, irrespective of class or classes entered, that is taking part in their first season. This does not include any previous runs in the Recreation Class.
25. When completing the Rally Entry Form this information must be included.

Junior Entries

26. Any Junior entered into the J2 Class must have adult supervision AT ALL TIMES. This may include riding a bicycle or scooter behind the Junior or running alongside. Both J1 and J2 classes will have marshals within sight of all points of the course.
27. Recognised head protection is to be worn by all junior competitors. (Rule 21. Refers).
28. Junior competitors entered in J1 or J2 are only permitted to run one dog irrespective of breed.

Classes for Rallies

- 29. M1 1 x Alaskan Malamute
- M2 2 x Alaskan Malamutes
- MS 3+ Alaskan Malamutes

ASFDC(3) 2-3 Dog, mixed sled dog teams (any sled/ freight dog combination). See Para 30 & 31 below.

ASFDC(6) 4-6 Dog, mixed sled dog teams (any sled/ freight dog combination). See Para 30 & 31 below.

- ES 2 Siberian Huskies (Rig Or Scooter)
- DS 2-3 Siberian Huskies
- CS 3-4 Siberian Huskies
- BS 4-6 Siberian Huskies
- S1 Scooter (1 dog only)
- BKJ Bikejor (1 dog only)
- DV Veteran (2/4 dogs with an average age of at least 7 – any sled dog combination)
- CX Canicross (1 dog only)
- J1 Junior 12 – 18 years (1 dog only)
- J2 Junior 8 – 11 years (1 dog only)

ASFDC Team Composition

30. Teams in these classes could consist of all Freight Dogs or have a combination of Freight Dogs and Siberian Huskies. To protect the heavier freight breeds from possible injury and/ or neck lining, the following team compositions will be permitted.

- a. ASFDC(3) – 2 Freight Dogs or a minimum of 1 Freight Dog/1 Siberian Husky
 3 Freight Dogs or a minimum of 2 Freight Dogs/1 Siberian Husky
- b. ASFDC(6) – 4 Freight Dogs or minimum of 2 Freight Dogs/2 Siberian Huskies
 5 Freight Dogs or minimum of 3 Freight Dogs/2 Siberian Huskies
 6 Freight Dogs or minimum of 4 Freight Dogs/2 Siberian Huskies

31. If competing in ASFDC(3) – 3 dog team, and through injury or for welfare reasons a dog has to be dropped, the team must still consist of the minimum 2 Freight Dogs or you will be disqualified. If competing in ASFDC(6) and through injury or for welfare reasons a dog has to be dropped the team must still consist of the minimum number of Freight Dogs relevant to the adjusted team size or you will be disqualified.

Disease

- 32. No dog, equipment or clothing shall be brought from a kennel where ANY contagious disease exists.
- 33. Should an event veterinarian diagnose any dog present at the rally to have a contagious disease, the team shall be disqualified immediately and asked to leave the rally site.

Medications

34. Prohibited medications are all those deemed harmful to the dogs or to the sport, including; stimulants, depressants, anaesthetics, and analgesics.
35. If a 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 disqualification for the whole of that season plus any penalty deemed appropriate including the cost of all veterinary charges.
36. If any owner or driver refuses to allow a sample to be collected from a dog in his/her presence, that team will be disqualified from that event. Any further penalty served will be deemed as appropriate.

Equipment

37. All drivers and equipment shall be available for inspection by the appointed scrutineers at a time set by the event organisers.
38. The inspection is to confirm that the Rig/Bike/Scooter/Sled meets the minimum standards required as set out in these rules.
39. The inspection does not negate your own responsibility to ensure your equipment is fit for purpose, for your own safety and of other competitors.
40. As such AMWA can in no way be held liable for any component that subsequently fails whilst taking part in the event.
41. Drivers and equipment may be required for inspection after each run or heat.
42. Each driver will ensure that harnesses and collars are correctly fitted prior to approaching the start line. Neck lines are to be fitted as appropriate.
43. Lines and connections will be checked by the scrutineers.
44. All connections from lines to harness, collar and Rig/Sled/Bike/Scooter must be capable of quick and easy detachment. Correct functioning of these attachments may be checked.
45. 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 to where it is attached to the Rig.
46. The snub line must be attached to the Rig securely by a knot or loop to the frame.
47. The snub line must be of sufficient length to enable the release from a static object (e.g., gatepost or tree) by the driver while standing on and in control of the rig.
48. All lines must be free of frays and excess wear.
49. Shock absorbers must have a safety line as part of the gang line.
50. Rigs must not be fitted with any device to assist propulsion.
51. Rigs must have three or four wheels and be free standing.
52. 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.

53. Rigs must be equipped with a manual steering mechanism capable of operation by the driver from the normal driving position.
54. Rigs fitted with a brushbow and those without a brushbow are acceptable, providing the following Rules (54a – 54f) 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 150cm (60”) in overall width.
 - d. No part of the Rig shall protrude in front of the brushbow, including the gang line attachments.
 - e. **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.
 - f. A Bikejor type attachment is acceptable.

Sleds

55. Sleds will be checked before each rally by the appointed scrutineers.
56. Sleds must be fitted with a brushbow, modern sleds are shaped accordingly (not square fronted).
57. Sleds must have an adequate braking system e.g., claw brake and/or drag mat.

Bikejor/Scooter

58. The dog shall be attached to the bicycle/scooter by a snub line (not exceeding 3 metres in length) with a shock absorber at all times.
59. Bicycles shall be equipped with an efficient brake at each wheel.
60. Scooters shall be equipped with an efficient brake at both wheels or rear wheel only.
61. Battery assisted “E-bikes” or “E-scooters” are not permitted in Bikejor or Scooter Classes, as this is deemed to be assisted propulsion.

Canicross

62. The dog shall be attached to the competitor by a snub line (not exceeding 2.5 metres in length) with a shock absorber at all times. The snub line shall be attached to the competitor by a hip belt, at least 7cm wide over the spine.

Dogs

63. All dogs must be properly harnessed in the team and be fastened by a neckline (except single lead dogs).
64. A tri-line (fan line) can 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.
65. The length of the neckline should be no shorter than 45cm (18") as to ensure the centre dog is not crowded and allows free movement. The neckline should be no longer than 92cm (36") to ensure that the outside dogs have sufficient length to manoeuvre but not stray into obstacles or passing teams.

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.
66. Any team falling behind the required minimum of fit dogs for the class entered, must retire. If this reduction in the number of fit dogs occurs on the trail because of injury or sickness, then no attempt should be made to complete the course.
 67. All dogs starting any heat must complete that heat even if running alongside.
 68. If in the event of an emergency, drivers must use their discretion as to whether to proceed with the depleted team to the finish or whether to alert a passing driver or contact a Marshal/ spectator to seek assistance (disqualification applies).
 69. After the first heat, a driver may drop any dog they wish from subsequent heat(s), subject to the minimum number of dogs specified for the relevant class.

Accessories

70. Muzzles, full choke collars, whips or other similar devices are strictly prohibited.
71. Spiked or metal studded footwear is prohibited.
72. A numbered bib and wireless transponder work with the timing system to record the elapsed time, and will be provided by the event organisers. The driver must ensure the bib and transponder numbers correspond. If taking part in more than one class, the driver will be issued a separate numbered bib and transponder for each class.
73. The driver must display the numbered bib on his/her person, so the number is clearly visible whilst competing.
74. The wireless transponder which is accompanied by a Velcro strap is to be worn on the right wrist, not covered up by clothing or gloves.
75. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure he/she arrives at the start line wearing the correct numbered bib and wireless transponder.
76. If the driver fails to turn up at the start line with either the correct numbered bib, no bib at all or no wireless transponder and there isn't time to rectify it, he/she may still be able to run at the organisers or a Committee Member's discretion. However, he/she may

have to wait until the end of the class and the timing, which will be recorded manually, will be taken from their original start time.

Course Procedure – Driving a Team - Conduct

- 77. A driver may ride, scoot or run as and when they wish.
- 78. Physical and verbal abuse of dogs is strictly prohibited.

Trail/ Course Set Up

- 79. The trail should be of a suitable surface, avoiding concrete, tarmac or sharp gravel wherever possible to avoid damage to dogs' feet.
- 80. Single colour markers will be used to mark the course. For a night rally these will be reflective.
 - a. Right turn – red marker on the right (25-50ft) before the turn.
 - b. Left turn – red marker on the left (25-50ft) before the turn.
 - c. Straight on/confirmation after a turn – blue marker.
 - d. Hazard/caution – yellow marker.
- 81. A No Right of Way (**NO ROW**) marker will be used to indicate that it is safe to overtake and run side by side and the team in front does not have precedence. This will usually be placed near the finish line.

Starting Procedure

- 82. The starting positions for the rally's first run will be determined by the organisers prior to the event. Consideration will be given to class start times for the heavier coated freight breeds and for competitors taking part in more than one class.
- 83. The order may, at the opinion of the event organisers, be changed to accommodate Rig/ Sled loans.
- 84. Teams that are already attached to a Rig, Sled, Scooter or Bike by gang/ tug lines and taken to the start line are to be led by the driver or handler(s) so full control is maintained and teams do not come into contact with each other.
- 85. The driver is responsible for ensuring that their team is securely snubbed at the start line.
- 86. The start time shall be the originally scheduled time of departure.
- 87. A late starting team shall not be allowed to start until the last team entered in the class has started (if time permits).
- 88. If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall re-start in their originally scheduled starting order (if time permits).
- 89. If a team is late for its second scheduled start for any heat, that team shall be disqualified.
- 90. A team not clearing the start chute within 30 seconds of its start time must retire and await instruction from the event organisers.

91. A team not clearing the start chute within 60 seconds of its scheduled starting time will be disqualified.

Outside Assistance

92. All teams may receive assistance from officials stationed at designated points along the trail. All drivers will be notified of permissible assistance at the Musers' Meeting.
93. An individual team may receive assistance from anyone if the team has become unmanageable.
94. Assistance shall be limited to holding the Rig/Sled/Scooter/Bike, except in the case of a loose team.
95. In the absence of a driver, the team may be held or snubbed until the driver arrives.
96. No person is allowed to assist a team by wilfully pacing it.

Loose Teams

97. Both team and driver must cover the entire course without unauthorised assistance.
98. A loose team interfering with other teams will be disqualified.

Passing

99. 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 within 15 metres (fifty feet) of the Rig/Sled/Scooter/Bike of the team to be overtaken. The overtaking driver shall call "**TRAIL**" when he/she intends to overtake thus notifying the driver of the team about to be overtaken of their intentions.
100. Upon hearing this request, the overtaken team shall make way for the passing team by moving over to one side of the trail, slowing his/her team, or stopping if appropriate.
101. The overtaken team must keep a distance of at least 15 metres (fifty feet) or one team's length whichever is greater. Once overtaken he/she may request the right of way to re-pass, if appropriate after 2 minutes or half a mile or if both drivers agree at a lesser time or distance.
102. Good sportsmanship recognises that the overtaken team will not prevent the overtaking team continuing its good run by hanging off the back of the overtaking team, thus causing a distraction for the overtaking team's dogs.

Finishing Procedure

103. As a driver approaches the finish chute, he/she is to stand up on the Rig/Sled/Scooter at least 6 metres (20 feet) from the beginning of the chute to enable the Finish Timer to clearly see the numbered bib and the timing equipment to register the wireless transponder. Remaining crouched down could lead to the wrong bib number being noted and the timing beams not recording the wireless transponder. This does not apply to Bikejor.
104. If the time is not recorded electronically than a manual time will be taken. If the reason for the timing not being recorded electronically is down to the driver not wearing the wireless transponder, then he/she could be subject to a time penalty or if deemed appropriate by the event organiser/ Committee Member disqualification.
105. Once a team has crossed the finish line that run is over. To run a team irrespective of whether 1 or 8 dogs back to your vehicle is potentially dangerous as it could lead to dogs coming into direct contact with other teams or people walking around the area.
106. On departing the finish chute **ALL** teams are to be led by either the driver or a handler back to their vehicle. Failure to do so will lead to a time penalty being imposed or if appropriate, disqualification. If assistance is required, then this should be requested beforehand. Safety of all dogs and all who attend a rally must come first.

Recreation Class

107. The Recreation Class, also commonly known as the R Class is primarily for the benefit of running dogs who, for whatever reason, are unable to participate in any other class.
108. Taking into account that some drivers may have other non-sled dog breeds with them that may train with their own sled dog breeds and should have the opportunity to be exercised also. On this basis, the R Class is open to these non-sled dogs also.
109. The minimum age of the dogs in the R Class is 9 calendar months.
110. If using a rig or sled the team size is to be between 2 – 4 dogs (maximum) unless an Alaskan Malamute or other freight breed in which 1 dog is permitted.
111. If using a bike or scooter, then 1 dog maximum is permitted irrespective of breed.
112. Juniors can take part (minimum age 8 years old). If the junior is aged 8 to 11 years old, they must be accompanied by an adult.
113. The R Class is the ideal opportunity to experience a rally trail without the pressure of actually taking part in the main event. Assistance will be provided if requested. The driver must have experience with the size of the team they are intending to run.
114. If a Recreation Class is to be put on at a rally it will be announced by the event organiser during the Musers' Meeting. Declaration forms will be available and must be duly completed and handed back to the event organiser before the driver will be permitted to run. A fee will be payable as notified by the organiser at the Musers' Meeting.
115. The R Class is not a timed event, but the team will only be able to start when directed by the Start Timer. This will be on a first come first serve basis. Normal rally rules as outlined above will apply.

116. A numbered bib will be worn (random number), which will be noted on the declaration form.

Championship

117. The Championship runs throughout each working season. Points are awarded for each stage completed. The number of points awarded is based on the position the driver finishes that stage.

118. Bonus points are awarded for each completed rally. (i.e., in a 2-stage rally, both stages must be completed).

119. The eligible classes are M1, M2, MS, ASFDC(3), ASFDC(6), BS, CS, DS, ES, DV, S1 (Malamute only), Bikejor (Malamute only), J1 & J2 (Malamute only).

120. The points are allocated for the placement for **each stage** and are compiled as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	40
2	36
3	32
4	28
5	26
6	24
7	22
8	20
9	18
10	17

Example: If you come 2nd on day 1 you get 36 points. If you come first on day 2 you get 40 points. Total points for that Rally = **76 points**

In addition, you get 5 bonus points per event (not per stage). So, if you only do one day of a 2-day Rally you are not awarded any bonus points.