



RALLY RULES

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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 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.
2. In addition, for a trial period for the 2017/18 Working Season, Siberian Huskies issued with a BSHRA or SHWA(UK) Welfare Number, or SDR 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.
5. A rally 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 rally **must** be 12 months of age on or by the date of the rally. Exception may be made for novelty classes.
8. No dog may take part in more than one class or team during any one day.

Exception: Junior and scooter classification not exceeding one mile

Exceptions may be made to accommodate a multi- stage event with distance and weather taken into account, with a minimum rest period of eight hours.

A dog that is running in a multi-stage event will not be able to compete in a junior and scooter class

9. A dog or team proven a hazard to other dog teams or drivers/handlers shall be disqualified from the event by the event organiser/committee.
10. Any dog or team coming to the starting point being, in the opinion of the rally organisers, unfit or incapable of completing the course/event will be disqualified.
11. Any dog or team disqualified in any heat of a rally shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the rally.
12. All drivers must be 18 years or over except for junior/novelty classes. Drivers between 16 and 18 wishing to enter adult classes **must** have been granted adult AMWA membership prior to the event.

13. 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.
14. The driver starting a team in the first heat of a rally shall drive that team throughout the rally.
15. A change in driver can only be made as a result of illness or accident to the authorised entrant and must have the approval of the event organiser.
16. Any driver disqualified in any heat is not eligible to continue in the remainder of the event.
17. The owner, driver or handler who has been disqualified may subsequently appeal to the event organiser/ AMWA committee using the AMWA appeals/complaints procedure.
18. 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.
19. 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
20. Helmets **must** be available for inspection by the scrutineer during the rig inspection.
21. 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 Start Timer to ensure this is adhered too. If the Musher misses their start time they will be permitted to run at the end of the class.

Novice Drivers

22. 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.
23. When completing the Rally Entry Form this should be annotated as appropriate.
24. The Novice Driver will be issued with a different coloured numbered bib which will help them to be identified by the Rally Organiser's and helpers so additional assistance can be provided if required.
25. On the trails this will help more experienced drivers to exercise additional caution if overtaking or provide assistance or guidance as appropriate.

Junior Entries

26. Any Junior entering a specially organised event under J2 must have adult supervision AT ALL TIMES this may include the use of a bicycle, running alongside or accompanying on rig. Both J1 and J2 classes will have marshals within sight of all points of the course.
27. Recognised, secured head protection to be worn by all Junior competitors.

28. Junior competitors entered in J1 or J2 are only permitted to run one dog irrespective of breed.

Classes for Rallies

M1	1 x Alaskan Malamute
M2	2 x Alaskan Malamute
MS	3 + Alaskan Malamute only 4-8 Dog Alaskan Malamute only (Passenger Rig)
ASFDC	Mix sled dog teams (Any sled/freight dog combination) 2-4 Dog, Must consist of at least 1 freighting breed. 4-8 Dog, Must consist of a least 1 freighting breed (Passenger Rig)
ES	2 Dog Siberian Husky
DS	2-3 Dog Siberian Husky
CS	3-4 Dog Siberian Husky
BS	4-6 Dog Siberian Husky 4-8 Dog Siberian Husky (Passenger Rig)
S1	Scooter (1 dog only)
BJ	Bikejor (1 dog only)
CX	Cani-cross (1 dog only)
J1	Junior 12 - 18 years (1 dog only)
J2	Junior 8 - 11 years (1 dog only)
DV	Veteran (2/4 Dog with an average age of 7 – Any Sled dog combination)

Disease

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

30. Should an event veterinarian diagnose any dog present in the rally to have a contagious disease, the team shall be disqualified immediately and asked to leave the rally area.

Medications

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

32. 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 disqualification for the whole of that season plus any other penalty deemed appropriate (and will cover all veterinary costs).
33. 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

34. All drivers and equipment shall be available for inspection by the appointed scrutineers at the time set by the event organiser(s).
35. Drivers and equipment may be required for inspection after each run or heat.
36. Each driver will ensure the proper safety and fit of harness and collars prior to the rally. These may be subject to scrutiny during the pre-rally checks.
37. Lines and connections will be checked by the scrutineers.
38. 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.
39. 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.
40. Snub line must be attached to the rig securely by a knot or loop to the frame.
41. The snub line must be of sufficient length to enable the release from static object (eg. gatepost or tree) by driver while standing on and in control of rig/sled.
42. All lines must be free of frays and excess wear.
43. Shock absorber must have safety line.
44. Rigs will be checked before each rally by the appointed scrutineers.
45. Rigs must not be fitted with any device to assist propulsion.
46. Rigs must have three or four wheels and be free standing.
47. 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.
48. Rigs must be equipped with a manual steering mechanism capable of operation by the driver from the normal driving position.
49. Rigs fitted with a brushbow and those without a brushbow are acceptable providing the following Rules (49a - 49g) 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 gangline 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 gangline 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

50. Passenger Rigs will be permitted in the following classes only; **MS, BS & AFSDC** 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. If a dog is dropped from a 4 dog team, then that team will be disqualified
 - d. The driver (Musher) and passenger are both to be adults (18years +)
 - e. The passenger is also to wear an approved protective helmet
 - f. A Team or teams shall on the first run be allocated the last starting positions within the respective classes. The second and/or subsequent runs shall be seeded based on the finishing time from the first run

- g. If using a passenger rig, you are to annotate this on the Entry Form to inform the Event Organiser(s)
- h. Championship points will be allocated in the normal manner

Sleds

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

Bikejor/Scooter

- 54. 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.
- 55. Bicycles shall be equipped with an efficient brake at each wheel.
- 56. Scooters shall be equipped with an efficient brake at both wheels or rear wheel only.

Cani-cross

- 57. 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 7 cm wide over the spine.

Dogs

- 58. All dogs must be properly harnessed in the team and be fastened by a neck line (except single lead dogs).
- 59. 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.
- 60. The length of the neck line 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 in to 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-ordinator 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.
61. Any team falling behind the required minimum of fit dogs for the class entered must retire. If this reduction in number of fit dogs occurs on the trail because of injury or sickness, then no attempt should be made to complete the course.
62. All dogs starting any heat must complete that heat even if running alongside.
63. 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 or spectator to seek assistance (disqualification applies).
64. After the first heat, a driver may drop any dog they wish from subsequent heat(s), subject always to the minimum specified.

Accessories

65. Muzzles, full choke collars, whips or other similar devices are strictly prohibited.
66. Spiked or metal studded footwear is prohibited.
67. A numbered bib will be provided by the event organisers. The driver must display the numbered bib on his/her person whilst competing. If taking part in more than one class, the driver will be issued a separate bib for each class. Attached to the numbered bib will be a wireless timing tag which is used in conjunction with the timing equipment. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure he/she is wearing the correct numbered bib when reporting to the start point.
68. If a driver fails to turn up at the start point with either the correct numbered bib, or no bib at all and there isn't time to rectify it; he/she may still be permitted 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 will be taken from their original start time.

Course Procedure – Driving a Team - Conduct

69. A driver may ride, scoot or run as and when he wishes Physical and verbal abuse of dogs is strictly prohibited.
70. A driver shall not interfere with a competing team.
71. Carrying a passenger at any time in the rally is prohibited, except if a passenger rig is used in MS, BS & ASFDC and rule 49. is complied with.

Trail/Course Set Up

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

73. Single colour markers will be used to mark the course. For a night rally these will be reflective.
- 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
74. 'No Right of Way' Markers will be used to indicate that it is safe to overtake and run side by side. This will usually be placed near to the finish line or end of a 'Row' part of the trail.

Starting Procedure

75. The starting positions for the rally will be determined by a draw held prior to the event by the organisers.
76. The order may, at the opinion of the event organisers, be changed to accommodate rig/sled loans.
77. Teams that are already attached to the 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.
78. The driver is responsible for ensuring that their team is securely snubbed at the start line.
79. The starting point of the team shall be the front of the brushbow.
80. Start time shall be the originally scheduled time of departure.
81. A late starting team shall not be allowed to start until the last team entered in its class has started (if time permits).
82. If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall re-start in their originally scheduled starting order (if time permitted).
83. If a team is late for its second scheduled start time for any heat, that team shall be disqualified.
84. A team not clearing the start position within 30 seconds of its start time must retire and await instruction from the event organisers.
85. A team not clearing the starting chute within 60 seconds of its scheduled starting time will be disqualified. Chute will be 50ft.

Outside Assistance

86. All teams may receive assistance from officials stationed at designated points along the trail. All drivers will be notified of permissible assistance at the musher's meeting.

87. An individual team may receive assistance from anyone if the team has become unmanageable.
88. Assistance shall be limited to holding the rig/sled, except in the case of a loose team.
89. In the absence of a driver, the team may be held or snubbed until the driver arrives.
90. No person is allowed to assist a team by wilfully pacing it.

Loose Teams

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

Passing

93. 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 fifty feet of the rig / sled / scooter 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 their intentions.
94. Upon hearing this request, the overtaken team driver shall make way for the passing team by moving to one side of the trail, by slowing his/her team, or stopping if appropriate.
95. The overtaken team must keep a distance of at least 50 feet, or one team's length whichever is the greater. Once overtaken he/she may only 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 interval.
96. 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

97. As a driver approaches the finish chute, he/she is to stand up if on a Rig, Sled or Scooter at least 6 metres (20feet) from the beginning of the chute to enable to Finish Timer to clearly see the numbered bib and for the timing equipment to register the wireless tag. By remaining crouched down could lead to the wrong number being noted and the timing beams not recording the wireless tag. This is not applicable to Bikejor.
98. 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.
99. On departing the finish chute **ALL** teams are to be led by either the driver or a handler back to their vehicle. If assistance is required then this should be requested beforehand. Failure to do so will lead to a time penalty being imposed or if appropriate, disqualification. Safety of dogs and all who attend a Rally must come first.

Recreation Class

100. 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.
101. It is open to any 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.
102. The minimum age of the dog(s) is 9 calendar months
103. 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.
104. If using a Scooter or Bike then 1 dog is permitted.
105. It is restricted to adult Musers only. It 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 Musher must have experience with the size of the team they are intending to run.
106. If a Recreation Class is to be put on at a Rally it will be announced by the event organiser during the Musher's meeting. Declaration Forms will be available and must be duly completed and handed back to the event organiser before the Musher will be permitted to run. A fee will be payable which is currently £3.00 per team.
107. It 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 served basis. Normal rally rules as outlined above will apply.
108. A race bib will be worn (random number), which will be annotated on the declaration form by the start timer. This is to be handed back to the event organiser on completion of the run to confirm that you are back.
109. Marshalls will remain in situ whilst the Recreation Class is being run to offer assistance if required.

Championship

110. The Championship runs throughout each working season. Points are awarded for each stage completed and the number of points awarded is based on position the Driver finishes that stage.
111. Bonus points are awarded for each completed Rally (i.e. if a 2 stage Rally, both stages must be completed).
112. Drivers will need to have completed a minimum of 6 stages within a Class to qualify for a final championship position.
113. The Drivers best results from the season go towards the championship, so not all stages count depending on the number of rally's that year.
114. The eligible classes are M1, M2, MS, AFSDC, DV, BS, CS, DS, ES, S1 (Malamute only), Bikejor (Malamute only), J1 & J2. (Malamute only)

115. Any Team in which there is a Siberian Husky with a BSHRA or SHWA(UK) Welfare Number or SDR Rescue Number will not be eligible to gain Championship points even if there is other KC registered dogs within the team but will still be eligible to win the race at each event.

116. Full details about the Championship can be viewed on the AMWA Website.