



SECTION 13

BSHRA RACE RULES

THE BRITISH SIBERIAN HUSKY RACING ASSOCIATION

RACE RULES

GENERAL

The Race Organiser has sole responsibility for the implementation of the Race Rules. There is no recourse of appeal to any third party(ies), and as such the Race Organiser retains ultimate authority.

1 ENTRY RULES

A ELIGIBILITY

1 Entries

- a) The Race Organiser may refuse any entry for just cause.
- b) An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the race, subject to entry deadlines as determined by the Race Organiser.
- c) Any entrant shall have full third party insurance to provide cover in the event of loss or damage to a third party.
- d) Minimum age of entry for drivers - 16 years.
- e) Only dogs which are one of the purebred sled dog breeds and are registered with the Kennel Club are eligible for entry (including welfare dogs at the discretion of the Race Organiser but excluding those known to be of Zero bloodlines – see note under Classification).
- f) A driver may enter one team only in each class.

2 Drivers

- a) In normal circumstances, the driver starting a team in the first heat of a race shall drive that team throughout the race.
- b) A change in driver can only be made as the result of illness or injury to the authorised entrant and must have the approval of the Race Organiser. Any authorised change would however disqualify the team from officially competing in any subsequent heats.
- c) Any driver disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.

3 Dogs

- a) Any team or dog coming to the starting line which, in the opinion of the Race Organiser, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail shall be disqualified.
- b) Any team or dog disqualified in any heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- c) Dogs may not be replaced during or between heats.
- d) Minimum age of dogs for competition - 12 months.

4 Disease

- a) No dog or equipment shall be brought from a kennel where rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, or any other contagious disease exists.
- b) If the Race Veterinarian diagnoses any dog present in the race area as having a contagious disease or illness, that team shall be disqualified and shall immediately leave the race area.

5 Identification

The option to mark individual dogs for the purposes of identification rests with the Race Organiser.

6 Classification/Sizes of Teams

- a) An A class team shall consist of not more than eight dogs and not less than six dogs.
- b) A B class team shall consist of not more than six dogs and not less than four dogs.
- c) A C4 class team shall consist of not more than four dogs and not less than three dogs.
- d) A C3 class team shall consist of not more than three dogs and not less than two dogs.
- d) A D class team shall consist of two dogs.
- e) A DM class team shall consist of one, two or three dogs – Alaskan Malamutes only.
- f) A DF class team shall consist of one, two or three dogs of the following breeds – Samoyed, Alaskan Malamute, Canadian Eskimo Dog or Greenland dog; in any combination of these (eg two Samoyeds plus one Greenland Dog). (Mixed Freight class)
- g) Teams running more than 1 breed of dog in classes other than the DF Class are very welcome to do so but will be ineligible for any championship points.
- h) An S class team will consist of one dog only.
- i) A Junior classification may be scheduled at the Race Organiser's discretion.
- j) After the first heat and each subsequent heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to class minimums.
- k) No dog may take part in more than one class or team during any one day. (Exception: Junior classification not exceeding one mile.)

7 Weather Conditions

If, at the discretion of the Race Organiser, the conditions are such that to continue the proposed race would be detrimental to the health of the dogs, the classes not yet run may be altered or cancelled for that day.

B MEDICATION/DRUG TESTING

- 1 Any substance either prescribed or non-prescribed that is administered to a dog, which may affect performance, is prohibited. (This includes all stimulants and depressants, analgesics, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-anxiety agents and steroids).
- 2 The Race Organiser reserves the right, using qualified personnel, to test any sled dog for any prohibited substances.
- 3 If an owner or driver refuses to allow a sample to be collected from a dog, that team shall be disqualified from the event.
- 4 If any dog in a team shows a positive test of a prohibited drug, that team is subject to disqualification, the decision to be made following a hearing.

C EQUIPMENT

1 Inspection

- a) Drivers, teams and equipment shall be available for inspection in the vehicle holding area at least thirty minutes before their scheduled time of departure.
- b) Inspection shall take place in an area that does not interfere with teams in the start or finish chutes.
- c) A team shall be available for inspection after each heat at the request of the Race Organiser.
- d) All equipment is subject to the approval of the Race Organiser.

2 HARNESS AND LINES

- a) All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
- b) All dogs shall be fastened to the gang line by a neckline and tug line, with the exception of the leader(s), which shall be harnessed in the team by a tug line but may run with or without a neckline.
- c) A snub line will be carried on all rigs/scooters (and sleds) but will only be used to tie or hold the rig/scooter (or sled). This snub line must be attached directly to the gang lines.
- d) Shock absorbers will be bridged with a safety line.
- e) Karabiners (Carabiners), where used, should be lockable.
- f) All harnesses and lines are subject to the approval of the Race Organiser.

3 RIGS

- a) May have three or four wheels and shall be capable of being driven and controlled by a single driver. Any three or four wheeled rig which is designed outside the normal accepted design shall be subject to approval by the BSHRA board and should be prepared and produced to the BSHRA board at least 2 weeks before it is intended for use at a BSHRA race. The BSHRA board reserves the right to either stop or disqualify any competitor using a rig which it considers unfit for safe purpose.
- b) Shall have an adequate locking brake system.
- c) Shall be equipped with a manual steering mechanism.
- d) Shall not exceed sixty-four inches overall width.
- e) May not have an engine or any other device which will unfairly assist the team.
- f) Shall be fitted with an appropriate inflexible brushbow and deflectors, where necessary, which will enclose any protruding parts of the rig, which could potentially strike a dog in the team.
- g) In the event of an A Class classification being scheduled, additional rules may apply. However, these will be notified in the race entry form.

4 SCOOTERS

- a) Shall have a platform suitable for standing on and shall be capable of being driven and controlled by a single driver.
- b) Shall have two wheels only with a minimum wheel diameter 30cm (12) for each wheel.
- c) Shall have an adequate braking system either on both wheels or the rear wheel only but never on the front wheel alone.
- d) May not have an engine or any other device which will unfairly assist the team.

5 OTHER EQUIPMENT

- a) Sleds - shall have an adequate braking system.
- b) Whips and choke collars are prohibited.
- c) The Race Organiser will provide a racing number for each driver. The driver shall display this number clearly on his/her person throughout the race.
- d) Drivers will be required to wear clothing appropriate to the weather conditions of the race. Drivers will also be required to wear a recognised sporting helmet with chin-strap when racing or taking part in the Courtesy class. Spiked and metal studded shoes are not permitted.

2 **START - FINISH RULES**

A Drawing and Start Positions

The draw may be conducted in any one of three ways:

- 1 A seeded draw using previous performance as criteria for the seeding.
- 2 A partially seeded draw, seeding groups of teams of equal ability, and conducting a random draw from within those groups.
- 3 Where the Race Organiser believes all entries are of equal ability, a totally random draw may be made.

N.B. It is the responsibility of the Race Organiser to ensure that clean and fair competition takes place on the day of the race and the potential risk of incidents associated with inexperienced drivers and teams, in the face of the spectating public, is kept to an absolute minimum.

- 4 Late entries, if accepted, will be added to the draw in order of receipt.
- 5 The first day's starting positions shall be determined by the draw, with Number 1 starting first, Number 2 starting second etc.
- 6 The second day's starting positions shall be determined by the first day's times, with the fastest teams starting first, the second fastest team starting second etc.
- 7 In races of more than two heats, the total elapsed time of the previous heats shall determine the starting positions with fastest team starting first, the second fastest team starting second etc.
- 8 Starting intervals between teams, which shall be determined by the Race Organiser, will be no more than 4 minutes and no less than 1 minute, except in extenuating circumstances.

B Starting Point and Time

- 1 The Race Organiser will undertake to start the competition as early as possible on each race day.
- 2 Trail time for all teams shall begin at the originally scheduled time of departure.

- 3 In the event that a team is considered lost, whether with or without the driver, the race organiser may delay the start of following classes in 15 minute intervals until either the team is found or recovered. Competitors shall be notified as quickly as possible and the following classes will be restarted as soon as is considered safe.
- 4 Trail times shall be calculated using a timing procedure initiated by a starter and completed by a finish timer, although this may be aided by the use of electronic beams. The responsibility for the procedure lies with the Race Organiser. A synchronised trail clock showing official race time will be positioned at the start line so that the driver, starter and helpers can all see it clearly.
- 5 A team that fails to be in the starting position at its scheduled starting time will be declared a late starting team.
- 6 A team may retain its place in the draw and start up to 30 seconds late if, in the view of the starter, this will not interfere with or adversely affect the team due off next in the draw and if the starter deems it to be preferable for the late starting team.
- 7 However, generally a late starting team shall not be allowed to start until after the prescribed starting interval.
- 8 A team not clearing the Starting Chute prior to the scheduled start of the next team will be disqualified, except in extenuating circumstances.
- 9 In the event that the race is being run using an electronic start beam, then the starter will allow 15 seconds grace for a team to leave the start line. Beyond that time then the team's start time will run from the original start time – not from the beam time.
- 10 The driver is responsible for ensuring that the team is securely snubbed at the start line prior to the designated departure time.

C Assistance in the Starting Chute

- 1 If after they have started a team needs assistance in the starting chute then helpers can hold the rig/scooter while the driver sorts out the team. If a Race Organiser deems it necessary to employ a different system at a particular event, then this new system will be announced and explained at the mushers meeting.
- 2 Once a team is beyond the starting chute area in an official start, all Trail Rules shall apply.

D Finish

- 1 A team shall have finished the heat when the driver of the team crosses the finish line. The rig and driver must cross the line behind the dogs.
- 2 If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of its driver, that team shall have finished when the driver reaches the finish line.

3 TRAIL RULES

A Following the Trail

- 1 A team and driver shall run the entire course as established for the race.
- a) The trail shall be of suitable surface, avoiding such surfaces as concrete, tarmac and sharp rock gravel, except for necessary road crossings.
- 2 If a team leaves the trail, the driver shall return the team to the point at which they left the trail.
- 3 The trail shall be followed as marked:
 - a) Right Turn shall be indicated by a red marker on the right side of the trail.
 - b) Left Turn shall be indicated by a red marker on the left side of the trail.
 - c) Straight Ahead shall be indicated by blue markers.
 - d) Caution shall be indicated by yellow or orange markers.
 - e) A marker shall be placed one half mile from the finish line to indicate the start of the no right of way zone.

B Driving a Team

- 1 A driver may ride the rig/scooter, pedal or run as preferred.
- 2 A driver shall not interfere with a competing team.
- 3 All dogs starting a heat shall complete the entire course, either hitched in the team or carried on the rig/sled.
- 4 A dog becoming unfit after the departure shall be carried on the rig/sled. Any dog left with a Marshal shall render the team disqualified.
- 5 Carrying a passenger at any time during the race shall be prohibited unless:
 - a) Called for in the conditions of the race.
 - b) Giving a ride to a driver in an emergency situation.
- 6 Physical abuse of dogs is strictly prohibited.
- 7 Abuse of marshals or spectators is also strictly prohibited.

C Assistance on the Trail

- 1
 - a) All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from trail marshals stationed at designated points along the trail as authorised by the Race Organiser.
 - b) Trail marshal points shall be clearly indicated on trail maps prior to the start of the race.
 - c) Trail marshals shall be available to provide appropriate help when requested to do so by the team driver and only then.
- 2 Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other in any manner.

- 3 Handler and spectator assistance shall be limited to holding the rig/scooter, unless authorised by the Race Organiser, and except in the case of a loose team, or a team so unmanageable as to create a clear and present danger to themselves, other teams or persons.
- 4 In the absence of the driver, the team may be held or snubbed until the driver arrives to resume control of his team.
- 5 No one shall assist a team by wilfully pacing it.

D Loose Teams and Dogs

A loose team or dog may resume the trail without penalty provided the team/dog has completed the entire trail and the driver has received only authorised outside assistance.

- a) Authorised outside assistance is limited to holding a team/dog once it has been stopped.
- b) Any person(s) may (and is encouraged to) stop and hold a loose team or dog.

E Right of Way

- 1 When passing oncoming teams on a single track, the team travelling downhill has the right of way.
- 2 On level terrain, the Race Organiser shall determine and announce, prior to the start of the race, whether incoming or outgoing teams will have right of way.
- 3 In the half mile no right of way zone prior to the finish, no team shall have right of way over a finishing team.

F Passing

- 1 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/scooter of the team to be overtaken. The overtaking driver shall call trail when he/she intends to overtake.
- 2 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 team, or stopping if requested to do so by the overtaking team driver.
- 3 The overtaken team must keep a distance of at least 50 feet, or one team's length whichever is the greater, once overtaken and may only request the right of way to re-pass, if appropriate after:
 - a) 2 minutes or half a mile or
 - b) If both drivers agree at a lesser time or distance interval.
- 4 Passing teams which become tangled or are distracted by the interactions of the dogs may request the overtaken team to stop for a period not exceeding 60 seconds.

- 5 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 teams dogs.
- 6 A driver coming upon two or more teams stopped together may pass all such teams. The stopped team drivers shall make every effort to clear the trail for the moving team(s).
- 7 Teams following each other shall maintain an interval of no less than one team length, or 50 feet, which ever is the greater, except when passing, or in the no right of way zone.

4 CONDUCT

A Responsibility and Sportsmanship

- 1 All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handlers and themselves whenever in the race area or on the trail.
- 2 Commonsense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Organiser determines that driver, handler or team conduct at any time in the race area or on the trail is detrimental to the sport/race, that team shall be disqualified.

B Abuse of Dogs

- 1 Abuse of a dog, with or without an implement, is prohibited.

5 RULE VIOLATIONS

A Reports by Race Officials

- 1 Race officials shall report overt rule violations to the Race Organiser verbally, in person, by mobile phone or by radio, immediately or directly following the heat in which the violation occurred.
- 2 The Race Organiser shall act, at his discretion, on any overt violations witnessed and reported by race officials.

B Reports by Race Competitors

- 1 Drivers wishing to report an alleged violation of the rules by another contestant or a race official shall notify the Race Organiser immediately following the heat in which the incident occurred. (Notification may be verbal).
- 2 All verbal driver reports shall be followed with a written report, given to the Race Organiser within one hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred.

C Protests and Hearings

- 1 Any driver or race official implicated in a report of an alleged violation of the rules may make a protest and request a hearing before the Race Organiser.
- 2 Said hearing shall be granted by the Race Organiser.

D Disciplinary Action

- 1 For violation of a BSHRA Race Rule the Race Organiser shall either:
 - a) Issue a verbal warning.
 - b) Disqualify the team and driver from the race.
- 2 In all cases, a report will be forwarded to the BSHRA Board, who may or may not take further disciplinary action.
- 3 The decision of the Race Organiser shall be final.