
Alaskan Malamute Club, Victoria Inc.

SLED DOG RACING RULES for GIG/SCOOTER

Adopted 20 May, 1998. Updated October 2003

I. ENTRY RULES

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. ENTRIES

The race giving organization shall be known as The Alaskan Malamute Club of Victoria Inc. (A.M.C.V.)

- a) An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the race, subject to entry deadlines as determined by the A.M.C.V.
- b) The A.M.C.V. shall prohibit any person convicted of animal abuse or neglect at a misdemeanor or greater level from participating in A.M.C.V. sanctioned races.

2. DRIVERS

- a) The driver starting a team in the first heat of a race shall drive that team throughout the race, except that;
- 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 Marshall.
- c) Any driver disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- d) Drivers disqualified from a heat for animal abuse shall not be eligible for further participation in any class that is part of that event.
- e) Drivers must be a minimum of sixteen (16) years of age to compete in races, unless stated otherwise on the entry form for special classes (i.e. mini pee-wee up to 7 years of age, pee-wee 8 - 11 years of age and junior 12 - 15 years of age which will be run at the discretion of the race organizers (A.M.C.V.))
 - * Mini peewee and peewee class drivers must be accompanied by an adult who shall not assist the team in motion except to maintain stability.
 - * Junior class drivers do not require adult assistance.

3. DOGS

- 3.1 The Race Marshall may disallow entry of any team or dog for the following reasons
 - a) Any team or dog coming to the start line which, in the opinion of the Race Marshall, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail shall be disqualified.
 - b) Any team or dog not starting in the first heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
 - c) Any team or dog disqualified in any heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
 - d) Any dog or team shall not start more than one race in a three (3) hour period or start in two (2) consecutive classes.
 - e) The minimum age of competing dogs shall be twelve (12) months. This age must be attained no later than the day before the race.
- 3.2 The Race Marshall may disqualify any team or dog during or immediately following the event for the following reasons:
 - a) If the wellbeing of a dog or dogs on the team has been jeopardised, or if continuing in the event is deemed to put the wellbeing of the dog or dogs at jeopardy.
 - b) If a violation of the rules has occurred.

- 3.3 Excursion events: all dogs on the team must have completed at least one race event in an acceptable time to be eligible to participate in an excursion event.

4. DISEASE

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

5. IDENTIFICATION

- a) In races of more than one heat, each dog shall be marked for identification prior to the start of the first heat of the race, except where microchip identification is used.
- b) Dogs dropped from teams after the first heat of the race with more than two (2) heats, shall be marked a second time to indicate their disqualification from the team, except where microchip identification is used.
- c) Dogs may be identified where applicable by microchip with the aid of a microchip reader.

6. SIZE OF TEAM

- a) A Limited Eight-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than eight (8) dogs, and not less than five (5) dogs.
- b) A Limited Six-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than six (6) dogs, and not less than four (4) dogs.
- c) A Limited Four-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than four (4) dogs, and not less than three (3) dogs.
- d) A Limited Three-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than three (3) dogs, and not less than two (2) dogs.
- e) A Limited Two-Dog Class Team shall consist of two (2) dogs.
- f) A Limited One-Dog Class Team shall consist of one (1) dog.
- g) After the first heat and each ensuing heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to minimums.

7. TEMPERATURE

- a) If the temperature reaches 15 degrees C. at any time prior to or during the race, the classes not yet run shall be suspended. Where the site temperature falls below 15 degrees C. for at least one (1) hour in duration then such classes may be resumed at the discretion of the Race Marshall.
- b) If, at the discretion of the Race Marshall, the humidity has reached a high that would be detrimental to the health of the dogs, the classes not yet run shall be canceled for that day.

8. DISTANCE

- 8.1 Sprint Race Events: The recommended distance for each race shall be 2-4 kilometers per dog as designated by the class in which the team is entered, i.e. for the one dog class the trail will be between 2 and 4 km, for the two dog class the trail will be between 4 and 8 kilometers, etc.

- 8.2 Maxi Race Events: The recommended distance for each race shall be 3.5 - 7 kilometers per dog as designated by the class in which the team is entered.
- 8.3 Excursion Events*: The recommended distance for each event shall be a minimum of 16 kilometers irrespective of team size.

N.B. for events advertised as “endurance/freight runs” this rule does not apply.

B. MEDICATIONS ADMINISTERED TO DOGS

1. PROHIBITED DRUGS

All dogs shall be presented free of gazzeted stimulants and depressants. Analgesics, prescriptive and non-prescriptive, Anti-inflammatory agents including, but not limited to, corticosteroids, anti-prostaglandins and salicylates, Anti-anxiety agents, Anabolic steroids, Diet pills. Any substance that may effect the performance of the dog is prohibited. Any state, federal or territory restricted substance is prohibited.

2. DRUG TESTING

- a) If an organisation intends to test for prohibited drugs, it shall use approved drug testing procedures and shall declare so on the entry form.
- b) Whenever a specimen is requested for testing, the owner or driver shall be present (or his/her representative) and shall declare in writing to the sampling official all medications administered to the dog(s) within 72 hours preceding the start of the event.
- c) If an owner or driver refuses to allow a sample to be collected from a dog, that team shall be disqualified from the event.
- d) 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 ten (10) minutes before their scheduled time of departure.
- b) A team in harness shall not be required to stand for inspection longer than six (6) minutes before the time of departure.
- c) Inspection shall take place in an area that does not interfere with teams in the start or finish chutes.
- d) A team shall be available for inspection after each heat at the request of the Race Marshall.
- e) All equipment is subject to the approval of the Race Marshall.

2. HARNESSSES 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 neck line and tug line with the exception of the leader which shall be harnessed in the team by a tug line. Dual leaders shall be connected by a neck line.
- c) A snub line may be carried on the gig but it shall not be used in any manner other than to ties down and hold the gig.
- d) An adequate bungy mechanism shall be incorporated into the gangline.

3. WHEELED GIGS

- a) Shall have a platform and be equipped with a dog bag capable of safety restraining a struggling dog and if necessary, covering a severely injured or dead dog.

- b) May have three or four wheels but shall be capable of being driven and controlled by a single driver.
- c) Shall have a adequate locking brake system.
- d) Shall be equipped with a manual steering mechanism.
- e) Shall not exceed one hundred and sixty four centimeters (164cm) overall width.
- f) May be motorized but used with the understanding that the motor will not be used under the agreement of entry.
- g) The use of a motorised gig will be stated by the entrant on the entry form.
- h) Are not to be used for one (1) dog class but may be used for two (2) dog class and must be used for class sizes of more than two (2) dogs i.e. three (3) dog and above.

4. PUSH BIKES AND OTHER CHAIN DRIVEN CONVEYANCES

Are not to be used.

5. SCOOTERS

- a) Shall have a platform suitable for standing on.
- b) Shall have two (2) wheels only and be able to be controlled by a single driver.
- c) Shall have an adequate braking system.
- d) May be used for one (1) dog and two (2) dog classes only.

6. OTHER EQUIPMENT

- a) A muzzle or any collar that can be hooked as a full choke shall be prohibited.
- b) A racing number for each driver shall be provided. The driver shall display this number on his/her person throughout the race, when receiving awards and for official photographs.
- c) The use of a signal whip is prohibited.
- d) All drivers must wear a safety helmet.
- e) For night races an adequate headlamp must be worn and/or suitable bike lamp attached to the scooter or gig. Dynamo powered bike lamps are prohibited.
- f) All drivers shall carry side cutters capable of cutting through ganglines, tuglines, necklines or harnesses.

II START/FINISH RULES

1. DRAWING

- a) The starting positions for the first heat of a race shall be determined by a drawing held prior to the race at a designated time and place.
- b) The owner, driver or designated proxy of each team shall draw their own starting position. In their absence, the starting position shall be drawn by the Race Marshall or his/her representative.
- c) The order of the draw shall not be changed, either by addition or substitution. Late entries shall be added in order of receipt.

2. SINGLE START RACE

- a) The first days starting positions shall be determined by the draw with Number 1 starting first, Number 2 starting second, etc.
- b) The second days starting position shall be determined by the first days times, with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.
- c) In races of more than two (2) heats;
 - i. the total elapsed time of the previous heats shall determine the starting positions, with the fastest team leaving first, the second fastest team leaving second, etc.
 - ii. or, at the option of the A.M.C.V. the elapsed time of the previous single heat shall determine the starting positions with the fastest team

starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.

- iii. if the optional start (e. above) is to apply to the race, all entrants shall be notified prior to making entry, stating to which classes it shall apply.

3. DUAL START RACE

- a) The first day's starting positions shall be determined by the draw with Numbers 1 and 2 starting together first, Numbers 3 and 4 starting together second, etc.
- b) The second day's starting positions shall be determined by the first day's times. The finishing list will be divided into two groups, with the fastest in the faster group starting with the fastest team in the slower group, followed by the second fastest teams in each group, etc.
- c) In races of more than two (2) heats, the total elapsed time of the previous heats will determine the grouping and the starting positions, with the fastest teams in each group starting first, etc.
- d) If option b. (under "single start race") is to apply to a race of more than two (2) heats, the elapsed time of the previous single heat shall determine the groupings and starting positions, with the fastest teams in each group starting first, etc.

4. EQUAL TIMES

- a) If the total elapsed time of two teams is identical, the order of start for those teams shall be the reverse order in which they started in the preceding heat.
- b) Teams with equal times for the entire race, shall be awarded the higher finishing position.
- c) The purse for the tied place and the next lower place(s) shall be combined and divided equally among those teams tied for that place.

5. STARTING POINT AND TIME

- a) The deflector bumper of the gig or front axle of the scooter shall determine the starting point of the team.
- b) A team which fails to be in its starting position at its scheduled starting time will be declared a "late starting team".
- c) A late starting team shall not be allowed to start until after the last team entered in its class has started and after the prescribed starting interval, trail timing shall commence at the originally scheduled time of departure for that team
- d) A late starting team shall not interfere with any other team.
- e) If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall start in their originally scheduled starting order.
- f) If a team is late to the starting line for its second scheduled time of departure for any one heat, that team shall be disqualified.
- g) A team not clearing the Starting Chute (minimum distance 30 meters) prior to the scheduled start of the next team may be disqualified.
- h) The minimum start increment shall be thirty (30) seconds.

6. ASSISTANCE IN THE STARTING CHUTE

- a) Unless otherwise specified by the Race Marshall prior to the start of the first heat of the event;
 - i. Any amount or type of assistance is allowed to a team prior to the actual starting time.
 - ii. Once a team's starting time has commenced, only the chute judge or officials designated to assist may help in the chute.
 - iii. In the event of a tangle or a dog fight during a dual start, unlimited help is allowed.
- b) Once a team is beyond the starting chute area in an official start, all Trail Rules apply.

7. FINISH

- a) A team shall have finished the heat when the first dog on the team crosses the finish line.
- b) If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of its driver, that team shall have finished when the driver reaches the finish line.
- c) When a dual starting chute is used as a finishing chute, a team may return on either trail.

III TRAIL RULES

1. FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

- a) A team and driver shall run the entire course as established by the race organiser.
- b) If a team leaves the trail, the driver shall return the team to the point at which they left the trail.
- c) The trail shall be followed as marked.
 - i. "RIGHT TURN" shall be indicated by a red marker on the right side of the trail as near as practicable to the turn.
 - ii. "LEFT TURN" shall be indicated by a red marker on the left side of the trail as near as practicable to the turn.
 - iii. After a turn has been completed a blue marker shall indicate the "CORRECT TRAIL"
 - iv. "STRAIGHT AHEAD" shall be indicated by blue markers
 - v. "CAUTION" shall be indicated by yellow or orange markers on both sides of the trail.
 - vi. "END CHUTE" markers shall be placed at the end of the starting chute (minimum length 30 metres) on both sides of the trail.
 - vii. A " $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometre" marker shall be placed one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) kilometre from the finish line to indicate the start of the "NO RIGHT OF WAY ZONE" unless trail conditions indicate otherwise. The trail within the "NO RIGHT OF WAY ZONE" should be a least three (3) metres wide and aligned so that an overtaking team may pass freely on the run.

2. DRIVING A TEAM

- a) A driver may ride, scoot or run as wished.
- b) Any driver accepting a ride during a race on any other vehicle other than his/her own scooter/gig shall be disqualified.
- c) A driver shall not interfere with a competing team.
- d) All dogs starting a heat shall complete the entire course, either hitched in the team or carried on the gig (for two dog teams and above using a gig).
- e) A dog becoming unfit after departure shall be carried on the gig (for two dog teams and above using a gig one dog teams can use other drivers/Marshalls to get assistance).
- f) Carrying a passenger at any time during the race shall be prohibited unless;
 - i. Called for in the conditions of the race.
 - ii. Giving a ride to a driver in an emergency situation.

3. ASSISTANCE ON THE TRAIL

- a) All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorised by the Race Marshall.
- b) Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other in any manner authorised by the Race Marshall.
- c) Handler and spectator assistance shall be limited to holding the gig/scooter, 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.
- d) No one shall assist a team by willfully pacing it.

4. LOOSE TEAMS AND DOGS

- a) The driver shall overtake a loose team or dog(s) on foot.
- b) 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.
 - i. Authorised outside assistance is limited to holding a loose team or dog once it has been stopped.
 - ii. Any person(s) may (and is/are encouraged to) stop and hold a loose team or dog(s).

5. RIGHT OF WAY

- a) In dual start, the team with the lead dog farthest ahead at the end of the chute barrier shall have right of way.
- b) When teams are passing on a single trail.
 - i. The team traveling down hill shall have right of way.
 - ii. On level terrain the Race Marshall shall determine and announce, prior to the start of the race, whether income or outgoing team has right of way.
 - iii. In the one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) kilometre "NO RIGHT OF WAY ZONE" no team shall have right of way over a finishing team.

6. PASSING

- a) When one team driver intends to pass another team, the passing driver will call "TRAIL" when the lead dog(s) come within fifteen (15) metres of the gig/scooter of the team to be overtaken.
- b) 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 and keeping the team from moving forward if requested by the overtaking team driver.
- c) If the passing team becomes tangled or bunched up in the course of a pass, to allow time to untangle and tighten lines, that team's driver may request the overtaken team to remained stopped for up to one (1) minute in classes involving eight (8) or more dogs, one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) minute in all other classes.
- d) Once a team has been passed, that team shall not re-pass so long as the driver in front is making an effort to keep his/her team moving forward until;
 - i. In limited classes of more than two (2) dogs, after no less than one (1) minute or four hundred (400) meters.
 - ii. In limited classes involving two (2) dogs or less, after no less than a half ($\frac{1}{2}$) minute or two hundred (200) meters.
 - iii. At any lesser interval when both drivers are in agreement.

EXCEPTIONS:

After a pass has been completed, a team that has been passed need not hold his/her team while the other driver;

- i. repairs gear or
 - ii. unhooks and transfers a dog or dogs from one position in the team to another position in the team or
 - iii. goes off the race trail before the above mentioned distance or time interval has elapsed. Loading a dog in the gig constitutes changing a dog's position in the team.
- e. 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).

- f. Teams following each other shall maintain an interval of not less than one (1) team length, except when passing or in the "NO RIGHT OF WAY ZONE".
- g. When a team is overtaken in the "NO RIGHT OF WAY ZONE", that team does not have to stop and yield the trail.
- h. No driver shall interfere with a competing team.

IV CONDUCT

1. RESPONSIBILITY and SPORTSMANSHIP

- a) All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handler, and themselves whenever in the race area or on the trail.
- b) Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshall determines that driver, handler or team conduct any time in the race area or on the trail is detrimental to the sport/race, that team shall be disqualified.

2. ABUSE OF DOGS

Abuse of a dog(s), with or without an implement, shall be prohibited.

V RULES VIOLATIONS

1. REPORTS BY RACE OFFICIALS

- a) Race officials shall report overt rule violations to the Race Marshall verbally, in person or by radio, immediately or directly following the heat in which the violation occurred.
- b) The Race Marshall shall act, at his/her discretion, on any overt violations witnessed and reported by race officials.

2. REPORTS BY RACE CONTESTANTS

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

3. PROTESTS and HEARINGS

- a) Any driver implicated in a report of an alleged violation of the rules may request a hearing before the Race Marshall.
- b) Said hearing shall be granted by the Race Marshall.
- c) Hearings shall be held in private in the presence of the Race Marshall and or designated officials.

4. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- a) For violation of any Race Rule, the Race Marshall shall either issue a verbal warning to the driver, disqualify the driver and team from the race, or impose a time penalty.
 - i. No other disciplinary action shall be imposed.
 - ii. Decisions shall be announced as promptly as practical but no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of any ensuing heat(s).
 - iii. Any disciplinary action following the final heat of the race shall be acted upon prior to the awards ceremony.
 - iv. In the case of drug testing, the above time schedule does not apply to allow for laboratory findings and hearings, should the latter become necessary.
- b) The decisions of the Race Marshall shall be final.