

Siberian Husky Club of Victoria Inc – Social Sledding Race Rules

As adopted for the year commencing 2008.

ENTRY RULES

1. ELIGIBILITY & POINT SCORE

- (a) Both members and non-members of the Siberian Husky Club of Victoria Inc. (SHCV) are eligible to enter any race organised by the SHCV. However, non-members are not eligible to receive awards organised by the SHCV for its members.
- (b) Non-Siberian Husky and mixed teams are eligible to enter any race organised by the SHCV. However, only full Siberian Husky teams are eligible to receive awards and points in the point score.
- (c) An entry fee applies to all members with an additional fee for non-members.
- (d) An entry form is required for each team in each class to be run for a race meeting.
- (e) Entries will only be accepted up until the commencement of the Bib draw or the Drivers Meeting, whichever occurs first.
- (f) The SHCV reserves the right to refuse any entry of any person at its absolute discretion.
- (g) The SHCV shall prohibit any person convicted of animal abuse or neglect from participating in any race.
- (h) Points may only be awarded to drivers who are current financial members of the SHCV and who run full Siberian Husky teams.
- (i) A Rookie is an Eligible Driver who first competes in an adult racing class, whether or not in a race organised by the SHCV, in the current calendar year. The Rookie with the highest combined total of points scored (per class) for that calendar year will be named Rookie of the year.

2. DRIVER POINT SCORE

- (a) Points may only be awarded to drivers who are current financial members of the SHCV and run full Siberian Husky teams (Eligible Driver).
- (b) Each Eligible Driver who finishes a race will receive one point for each Eligible Driver that they finish ahead of, in addition to this each Eligible Driver shall receive one point.
- (c) The combined total of all points received for a calendar year will determine the overall Drivers Point Score winner.
- (d) A Driver Point Score shall be maintained separately for each class.

3. DOGS POINT SCORE

- (a) Each team of dogs that finishes a race will receive one point for each team of dogs driven by an Eligible Driver that they finish ahead of, in addition to this each team of dogs shall receive one point.
- (b) Points may only be awarded to dogs in pure Siberian Husky teams where at least one owner of each dog is a current financial member.
- (c) The Dog with the combined highest total of points scored in a calendar year will determine the overall Dogs Point Score winner.

4. THE CUP

- (a) To be eligible to win an award in either the Victoria, Mikulov or Charters Cup ('the Cup'), drivers must qualify by having started a minimum of three prior SHCV races in that calendar year as an Eligible Driver.

5. CLASSES

- (a) Class of drivers
 - (i) Pee Wee – 7 to 10 years of age inclusive
 - (ii) Juniors – 11 to 15 years of age inclusive
 - (iii) Adults – 16 years of age plus.
 - A. Any person under the age of 16 may race in the adult classes subject to the approval of the Race Marshal.
 - B. Drivers under the age of 18 must supply the written consent of the parents / guardians.
 - (iv) Veterans – Adult driver with all dogs in team older than 7 years.
- (b) The driver starting a team in the first heat of a race, shall drive that team throughout the entire race except that –
 - (i) A change of driver can only be made as a result of illness or injury to the authorised entrant and must have the approval of the Race Marshal. If illness or injury is not physically obvious, a medical certificate may be required.
- (c) Any driver disqualified in any heat of the race, is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race for that class.
- (d) An Eligible Driver is only eligible to receive awards in the class they are entered in.

6. DOGS

- (a) The Race Marshal may disallow entry of any team or dog.
- (b) Any team or dog coming to the start line which, in the opinion of the Race Marshal, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail, may be disqualified.
- (c) Any team or dog not starting in any heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- (d) Any team or dog disqualified in any heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- (e) The minimum age of a dog shall be set at nine months.
- (f) Only dogs still competing in the race shall be permitted in the vicinity of the track i.e., the track itself, holding area, start and finish area.
- (g) All dogs attending a race meeting, competing or not, shall be properly restrained at all times, (tethered or kept on a lead). At no time shall a dog be permitted to run free.

7. DISEASE

- (a) No dog or equipment shall be brought from a kennel where distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis or any other contagious disease exists.
- (b) If the Race Veterinarian/s diagnoses any dog present in the race area to have a contagious disease, that team and any team containing dogs residing at the same kennel as the affected dog shall be disqualified and must immediately leave the race area.

8. IDENTIFICATION

- (a) In races of more than one heat, each dog may be marked for identification prior to the start of the first heat of the race.
- (b) Dogs dropped from teams after the first heat of a race may be marked a second time to indicate their disqualification from the team.

9. SIZE OF TEAM

- (a) Limited 8 Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than 8 dogs and not less than 6 dogs.
- (b) Limited 6 Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than 6 dogs and not less than 4 dogs.
- (c) Limited 4 Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than 4 dogs and not less than 3 dogs.
- (d) Limited 3 Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than 3 dogs and not less than 2 dogs.
- (e) Limited 2 Dog Class Team shall consist of only 2 dogs.
- (f) Limited 1 Dog Class Team shall consist of only 1 dog.
- (g) Juniors and Pee Wee Classes shall consist of 1 dog.
- (h) Veterans Class shall consist of either 1 or 2 dogs, as determined by the Race Marshal.
- (i) After the first heat and each subsequent heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to class minimums.

10. TEMPERATURE

- (a) If the temperature reaches 15 degrees Celsius at any time prior to or during the race, at the Race Marshal's discretion, the classes not yet run shall be cancelled for the day or postponed.
- (b) If, at the discretion of the Race Marshal, the humidity has reached a high that would be detrimental to the health of the dogs, the classes not yet run shall be cancelled for the day or postponed.

MEDICATION AND DRUGS

11. PROHIBITED DRUGS FOR DOGS

- (a) All dogs shall be presented free of stimulants and depressants. Analgesics, prescriptive and non prescriptive, anti-inflammatory agents including, but not limited to corticosteroids, anti-prostaglandins and safcylates, anti-anxiety agents, anabolic steroids, diet pills or any substance that may affect the performance of the dog is prohibited. Any state, territory or federal restricted substance is prohibited.

12. DRUG TESTING OF DOGS

- (a) If the SHCV intends to test for drugs, it will use proper drug testing procedures and shall declare so on the entry form.
- (b) Whenever a specimen is requested for testing, the owner or driver (or his/her representative) shall be present 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, in addition to any medications administered once the event has started.
- (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 ineligible to race until the matter is heard before a hearing of the SHCV.

13. PROHIBITED DRUGS FOR DRIVERS

- (a) Any driver who is under the influence of any prohibited drug or alcohol shall not be permitted to leave the starting line whilst in charge of a team of dogs. A prohibited drug is any substance that is restricted by state or federal laws.

EQUIPMENT

14. INSPECTION

- (a) Drivers, teams and equipment shall be available for inspection at the request of the Race Marshal.
- (b) All equipment is subject to the approval of the Race Marshal.

15. HARNESES AND LINES

- (a) All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
- (b) All dogs shall be fastened to the gang (tug) line by a neck line and a tail line with the exception of the leader(s) which shall be harnessed in the team by a tow (tail) line. Dual leaders shall be connected to each other by a neck line, a single leader does not require a neck line.
- (c) A snub line must be carried on the gig, but it shall not be used in any manner other than to tie down and hold the gig.
- (d) All gang (tug) lines must include a shock-absorbing mechanism.

16. VEHICLES

- (a) For the Limited 8 Dog Class, Limited 6 Dog Class, Limited 4 Dog Class and Limited 3 Dog Class, the driver is required to use a wheeled gig as the towed vehicle.
- (b) For the Limited 2 Dog Class, the driver may use either a wheeled gig, scooter or a bicycle as the towed vehicle.
- (c) For the Limited 1 Dog, Novice, Junior and Pee Wee classes, the driver is required to use a scooter or bicycle as the towed vehicle.

17. WHEELED GIGS

- (a) Shall have a platform and be equipped with a dog bag capable of safely 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 an adequate locking brake system.
- (d) Shall be equipped with a manual steering mechanism.
- (e) Shall not exceed one hundred and sixty four centimetres (164cm) overall width.
- (f) Any mechanism capable of providing forward motion shall be removed or disabled.

18. SCOOTERS AND BICYCLES

- (a) Shall have a platform or other device 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.
- (e) Chain mechanisms or any other mechanisms capable of providing forward motion shall be removed or disabled.

19. OTHER EQUIPMENT

- (a) A muzzle or any collar that can be hooked as a full choke shall be prohibited.
- (b) Whips of any kind are not permitted.
- (c) A racing number (bib) for each driver shall be provided and displayed on the entrant throughout the race.
- (d) All drivers are required to wear a suitable bike safety helmet.
- (e) All drivers must carry cable cutters capable of easily cutting the gang (tug) lines that each team uses.

START - FINISH RULES

20. DRAWING

- (a) The starting positions for the first heat of a race shall be determined by a Bib Draw held prior to the race at a time and place designated by the SHCV.
- (b) The owner, driver or designated proxy of each team shall draw their own starting position. In their absence, the starting position will be drawn by the Race Marshal 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 the order of receipt.

21. START POSITION

- (a) The starting positions for the first heat shall be determined by the Bib Draw, with Number 1 starting first, Number 2 starting second, etc.
- (b) The starting positions for the second heat shall be determined by the drivers finishing times from the first heat, with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc., unless the Race Marshall determines otherwise.

22. EQUAL TIMES

- (a) If the total elapsed time of two or more teams is identical, the order of start for those teams for the next heat 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 (if any) for the tied place and the next lower place(s) shall be combined and divided equally amongst those teams tied for that place.

23. STARTING POINT AND TIME

- (a) The front wheel of the scooter or rig must be behind the start line.
- (b) Trail time for all teams shall begin at the originally scheduled time of departure.
- (c) A team not in its scheduled position in the starting order as the team in front commences the 5 second count down will be declared a late starting team. To remove any doubt, the first team in any given heat must be at the start line at the time directed by the Race Marshal, which shall be no less than the period of time equal to the starting interval before the scheduled start time.
- (d) A team must come to a complete stop at the start line before the commencement of each heat.
- (e) A late starting team shall not be allowed to start until after the last team entered in its class has started and only after the prescribed starting interval.
- (f) A late-starting team shall not interfere with any other team.
- (g) If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall start in their originally scheduled starting order.
- (h) If a team is late to the starting line for its second scheduled time of departure for any one heat, that team will be disqualified.
- (i) A team not clearing the starting chute (minimum distance 30 meters) prior to the scheduled start of the next team may be disqualified.
- (j) The starting interval shall be open to Race Marshal's discretion.

24. ASSISTANCE IN THE STARTING CHUTE

- (a) The amount and type of assistance in the starting chute shall be determined and announced by the Race Marshal prior to the first heat of the event.
- (b) Once a team is beyond the starting chute area in an official start, all Trail Rules shall apply.

25. FINISH

- (a) A team shall have finished the heat when the first dog on that team crosses the finish line.
- (b) If a loose team crossed the line ahead of its driver, that team shall have finished when the driver reaches the finish line.

TRAIL RULES

26. FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

- (a) A team and driver shall run the entire course as established by the SHCV.
- (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 marked in the following manner.
 - (i) A right turn shall be indicated by a **red** marker on the right side of the trail
 - (ii) A left turn shall be indicated by a **red** marker on the left side of the trail.
 - (iii) Straight ahead shall be indicated by **blue** markers.
 - (iv) Caution shall be indicated by **yellow** or **orange** markers.
 - (v) The "End of the Starting Chute" (minimum length 30 metres) shall be indicated by markers on both sides of the trail.
 - (vi) A "1/2 Kilometre" marker shall be placed half a kilometre from the finish line to indicate the start of the "*No Right of Way Zone*" unless trail conditions dictate otherwise.

27. DRIVING A TEAM

- (a) A driver may ride the gig, scoot or run as wished.
- (b) If using a bicycle, forward motion is not to be provided via the chain.
- (c) Any driver accepting a ride during the race on any vehicle other than his/her own gig or scooter will be disqualified, except as provided under rule 27(f) below.
- (d) A driver shall not interfere with a competing team.
- (e) All dogs starting a heat shall complete the entire course, either hitched in the team or carried on the gig.
- (f) A dog becoming unfit after departure shall be carried on the gig.
- (g) Carrying a passenger at any time during the race shall be prohibited unless –
 - (i) called for in the conditions of the race; or
 - (ii) except in an emergency.

28. ASSISTANCE ON THE TRAIL

- (a) All teams may receive assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorised by the Race Marshal.
- (b) Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other in any manner authorised by the Race Marshal.
- (c) Handler and spectator assistance shall be limited to holding the vehicle, except in the case of a loose team, or a team so unmanageable as to create a clear and present danger to itself, other teams or persons.
- (d) No one shall assist a team by wilfully pacing it.

29. LOOSE TEAMS AND DOGS

- (a) A loose team or dog(s) shall not delay or interfere with another team.
- (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.
- (c) Authorised outside assistance is limited to holding a loose team or dog once it has been stopped.
- (d) Any qualified person(s) may (and is encouraged to) stop and hold a loose team or dog(s).

30. PASSING

- (a) When one team's driver intends to pass another team, the passing team's driver may request right of way when the lead dog(s) come within fifteen (15) metres of the vehicle of the overtaken team.
- (b) The overtaken team's driver shall make way for the passing team by moving to one side of the trail and slowing his/her team, or, if necessary, stopping and keeping the team from moving forward if requested by the overtaking team's driver.
- (c) If the passing team becomes tangled or bunched up in the course of the pass, to allow time to untangle and tighten lines, that team's driver may require the overtaken team's driver to stop for no longer than 1 minute in classes involving eight (8) or more dogs, or 30 seconds 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 2 dogs after no less than 1 minute or 400 metres.
 - (ii) In limited classes involving 2 dogs or less, after 30 seconds or 200 metres.
 - (iii) At any lesser interval when both drivers are in agreement.
- (e) When teams are passing on a single trail –
 - (i) The team travelling downhill shall have right of way.
 - (ii) On level terrain, the Race Marshal shall determine and announce, prior to the start of the race, whether the in-coming or out-going team has right of way.
 - (iii) In the 500 metre "no right-of-way finish zone," no team shall have right of way over a finishing team.

31. EXCEPTION

- (a) After a pass has been completed, a driver that has been passed need not hold their 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. Loading a dog in the gig constitutes changing a dog's position in the team; or
 - (iii) goes off the race trail before the above mentioned distance or time interval has elapsed.
- (b) 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).
- (c) Teams following each other shall maintain an interval of no less than one (1) team length, except when passing or in the "No Right Of Way Zone".
- (d) When a team is overtaken in the "No Right of Way Zone", that team does not have to stop or yield the trail.
- (e) No driver shall interfere with a competing team.

CONDUCT

32. RESPONSIBILITY AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- (a) All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handler(s) and themselves whenever in the race area or on the trail.
- (b) Commonsense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshal 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 may be disqualified.
- (c) Abuse of a dog, with or without an implement, is prohibited.

RULE VIOLATIONS

33. REPORTS BY RACE OFFICIALS

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

34. REPORTS BY DRIVERS

- (a) Drivers wishing to report any alleged violation of the rules by another driver or handler shall notify the Race Marshal immediately following the heat in which the alleged violation occurred. Notification may be verbal.
- (b) All verbal driver reports shall be followed by a written report given to the Race Marshal within 1 hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred.

35. PROTESTS AND HEARING

- (a) Any driver or race official implicated in a report of any alleged violation of the rules may make a protest and request a hearing before the Race Marshal, which will not be unreasonably denied.
- (b) Hearings shall be heard in private and within 2 hours of the request or report being received by the Race Marshal.

36. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- (a) For violation of any rule governing the race, the Race Marshal will either issue a verbal warning to the driver, impose a time penalty, or disqualify the driver and the team from the race.
- (b) No other disciplinary action shall be imposed.
- (c) Decisions shall be announced as soon as practical, but no later than 2 hours prior to the start of any ensuing heats.
- (d) Any disciplinary action following the final heat of the race shall be acted upon prior to the awards ceremony.
- (e) In the case of drug testing, the above time schedule does not apply, to allow time for laboratory findings and hearings, should the latter become necessary.
- (f) The decision of the Race Marshal is final.