

MID-UNION SLED HAULERS.....CONSTITUTION

Preamble.....

“This Constitution embodies a description of the purpose and objectives of the voluntary group to be know as Mid-Union Sled Haulers (M.U.S.H.). This will be the permanent guiding document for all activities and rank as supreme rule of conduct.”

Article I NON-PROFIT STATUS

The Mid-Union Sled Haulers is a non-profit organization issuing no stock. Any proceeds derived from promotion of races, or from the sale of any goods connected with the said promotions or races, shall be used to defray the expenses of operating the club. No officer or member may be paid for his/her services to the club other than to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses made for official club business.

Article II PURPOSE.....

The purpose of this organization shall be to encourage the practice and growth of amateur sled dog activities through breeding, training, driving, and racing.

Article III GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- A. This club will be of an amateur nature, emphasizing sportsmanship, fun, and family participation with no purse money involved. Only trophies, merchandise, prizes, or finish money will be offered.
- B. The health and welfare of the dogs are considered most important in participating in any events in the club.
- C. This club will seek the cooperation of neighboring clubs.
- D. ISDRA rules will be used as a guideline for competitive events.
- E. Events will be conducted to encourage all aspects of the sport of sled dog driving.

Article IV OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors will be eight (8) members consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Property, Director of Publicity, Director of Timing and Director-at-Large. The immediate past President will become Director-at-Large for a one year term. The Director of Property and Director of Timing will be elected for a two-(2) year term (alternate years of election). The Director of Publicity will be elected for a one (1) year term.

- A. Duties of the President: A President shall preside over all meetings. He/she shall be a liaison for the club with other organizations and news media. He/she shall only have a vote to break ties and perform duties incident to his/her office.
- B. Duties of the Vice-President: Vice-President shall perform duties of the President in his/her absence. He shall negotiate racing events with sponsors in conjunction with the race chairperson.
- C. Duties of the Secretary: The Secretary shall keep all records including minutes of all meetings, maintain records of events for publication, and other duties normal to the office. The current Secretary shall be the registered agent for the club.
- D. Duties of the Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all moneys of the organization and keep accurate records of receipts and disbursements. A financial report shall be presented at all meetings and a detailed report submitted in writing to all members at the annual business meeting.
- E. Duties of the Director of Publicity: The Director of Publicity is responsible for proper publication of all races. He/she will work closely with the President on public relations with the news media and is responsible for all communications to be published in the official newsletter.
- F. Duties of Director of Property: The Director of Property is responsible for all property and equipment of the organization, including maintenance. It is his/her responsibility that all equipment is at the race site when needed and in working order. He/she is the chairperson of such a committee.
- G. Duties of the Director of Timing: The Director of Timing is responsible for all jobs related to timing and posting the results following the races. He/she will be chairperson of the timing and protest committee unless he/she is involved in the class being protested. He/she will receive and tabulate all entries. He/she will distribute race results to all necessary persons.

- H. Duties of the Director-at-Large: The Director-at-Large shall attend all Board meeting, assist the Board in carrying out the decisions of the previous Board and shall perform other such duties as may be assigned by the Board.
- I. Filling of vacancies: In the event of a vacancy of the Board of Directors, except for the Presidency, the President shall appoint a replacement with ratification by the Board. The replacement officer or director shall be a member of MUSH in good standing.

Article V..... CLASSES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

- A. Any person who agrees with and abides by the goals and rules of this Constitution and By-Laws, can become a member of this organization.
- B. The organization shall have two (2) classes of membership.
 - 1. Family membership consisting of the head of the family and all dependents, having one (1) vote per Family Membership.
 - 2. Life Membership consisting of one (1) person with one (1) vote per Life Membership. Life Membership will only be awarded by the Board of Directors.

Article VIOBLIGATION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

- A. Officers shall be required to uphold the principles and objectives of the organization as described in this Constitution and faithfully perform their assigned duties.
- B. Members are required to support the principles and objectives of the Constitution and abide by the By-Laws. All members shall participate in some way in the running of the club or its events.

Article VII.....DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

- A. An officer not performing his/her duties of said office or not adhering to or following the goals or rules of the Constitution will be dismissed by a majority vote of the Board (at least four Board members).
- B. A petition signed by the (10) members of a complaint against any Board member shall be cause for a hearing by the Board. Any Board member can be dismissed for any reason by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the general membership. This call for dismissal can be proposed by one (1) member and with two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at a general membership meeting in agreement will cause a ballot to be sent to all members.
- C. Any member not abiding by the rules and goals as expressed in the Constitution may be subject to dismissal by a majority of the Board members (at least five or an equivalent percent).

Article VIII BY-LAWS.....

By-Laws detailing the operating rules and regulations will be established by the members at the first regular meeting. Approval will be by a simple majority vote of the present members. Subsequent additions, deletions and amendments will be formulated by the Board of Directors in response to the will of the members, conformable to the Constitution. Proposed additions, deletions, or amendments will be submitted to the entire membership by means of the official newsletter not less than thirty (30) days in advance of either the regular membership meeting to be held in the Fall or the regular membership meeting to be held in the Spring. Such By-Laws must be approved by a vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members present.

Article IX AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be revised by the additions of amendments in the following manner: The proposed amendments shall be endorsed by ten (10) regular members and submitted to the Board of Directors. If a majority of the Board agree that the amendment conforms to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, it shall be submitted to the entire voting membership for approval by special mailing. The affirmative vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the current membership is required for ratification. Ballots must be returned within thirty (30) days to the Secretary. Failure to respond will count as an affirmative vote.

Article X DISSOLUTION

The organization may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the maximum possible votes. In the event of the dissolution of the organization, whether voluntary or involuntary or by the operation of law, none of the property of the organization, nor any assets of the organization shall be distributed to any members of the organization, but after payment

of debts of the organization, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization selected by the Board of Directors.

Article XI..... ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

A. Animal Welfare Policy:

Participants in any event of the Mid-Union Sled Haulers agree to abide by the following statement: There shall be no cruel, inhumane or abusive treatment of any dog, through deliberate action or inaction, through knowledge or ignorance, with or without implement, nor shall anyone deny a dog adequate care. Examples of willful acts considered to be in violation included (but not limited to):

1. Continuing to race a dog when it is injured, ill, or too fatigued.
2. Maintaining dogs in obese or mal-nutritioned condition and asking them to compete in race situations competitively.
3. Disciplining a dog out of anger rather than a means of correction.

All violations of this policy shall be brought to the Board of Directors for record. Violations not specifically covered in this policy, "Mush with P.R.I.D.E. Sled Dog Care Guidelines" will be used as reference.

B. Injury Policy:

Any injury that occurs to a dog at a MUSH event shall be reported to the Race Marshal, so that a log may be kept in order to eliminate further injuries. This report must not be used solely to find that any abuse has occurred. This policy shall also be in effect for dogs that expire while at a MUSH event or because of their attendance at an event.

This report shall contain:

1. The suspected injury.
2. The location the injury occurred (at the event).
3. Possible cause of the injury.
4. Whether Veterinary services were sought.
5. Any findings from a Veterinary examination, (either at the event or post event).
6. What first aid was applied.
7. What steps could be taken to prevent this injury in the future, both Race Marshal opinion and Drivers opinion.

These reports will be kept in a file with the Race Marshal for the race season and then turned over to the Director of Timing. The Director of Timing will maintain a club record of injuries. The record will be kept on file with the hope that further injuries can be avoided.

C. Reporting Procedure:

Suspected infractions of any portion of this policy must be reported to the Race Marshal within one (1) hour of the infraction. This report can be verbal but must then be followed by a written report within one half (1/2) hour of the verbal report. NO action can be taken without a written report.

D. Definitions:

The following definitions shall be used for enforcement of this policy:

1. Abuse is an action that inflicts excessive or unnecessary pain or injury to a dog.
2. Discipline is a reaction to an undesired act.
3. Injury causes a dog (under normal conditions), pain, suffering or tenderness to the touch.
4. Adequate Care is positive interaction, thus providing proper food, water, shelter, sanitary conditions, and Veterinary medical attention needed to maintain a state of good health.

E. Enforcement Panel:

The Race Marshal and The Board of Directors make up the enforcement panel. The Race Marshal shall be the key focal point for all violations. All reports of violations shall first be brought to the Race Marshal. The Race Marshal will be the chief investigator and will compile and bring the facts to the Board of Directors. The Enforcement Panel will assess all violations and institute all penalties.

F. Penalties:

Penalties for violations of this policy may include any of the following as deemed appropriate by the enforcement panel. All parties involved in the report will be notified and action by the enforcement panel will be in a timely manner.

1. Acquittal: Written letter confirming acquittal of any violation.
2. Warnings: Written warnings will be issued for minor violations.
3. Disqualification/Suspensions: Disqualification and/or suspensions could exclude the member from participation privileges in club events. A suspension will require a simple majority decision of the Enforcement Panel.
4. Dismissal: A dismissal will include a letter stating that membership and/or participation privileges have been revoked. A violation which leads to this action will also be reported to the Board of Directors of neighboring clubs. A dismissal will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority decision of the Enforcement Panel. A member receiving three (3) warnings or two (2) disqualification/suspensions can be cause for dismissal.
5. Any person convicted in a court of law for animal abuse or neglect will be denied membership and racing privileges.

MID-UNION SLED HAULERS BY-LAWS

I. Membership Meetings

- A. A spring meeting and a fall meeting for all members will be held each year, dates to be determined at the discretion of the Board of Directors. At the spring meeting, the past season will be reviewed, special recognition of performances by members including the awarding of trophies, and the election of officers will be accomplished. The newly elected officers will assume their duties at the close of the spring meeting.
- B. The fall meeting will include the announcement of events and training sessions. This will include contracted races with associated events and training sessions. The fall meeting will include educational features such as speakers, demonstrations, and displays.
- C. Special membership meeting, if required, may be called by a majority of the Board at other times with a minimum of 30 days notice to all members.
- D. All official business not otherwise delegated to the Board by the Constitution, will be transacted at these meetings.
- E. Membership dues shall be payable September 15. Dues should be paid when due so that a complete membership roster can be prepared for all members for distribution no later than November 1st.

II. Board Meetings

- A. Board meetings to conduct club business shall be held not less than four times each year at times and places determined by the President with consent of the majority of the Board. A Board meeting should be held immediately after the election of officers at the spring meeting.
- B. Board meetings will be open to all members and minutes will be printed in the newsletter. At Board meetings members not currently on the Board may comment by invitation only, but not vote.

III. Race Contracts

- A. All race contracts will be negotiated by the Vice-President or his/her delegated agent with the advice of the tentative race chairman who will be appointed by the President and approved by the Board. The tentative race chairman will normally become the race chairman for the designated event and will be in charge of the events planning with the sponsor after the contract is signed by both parties or their duly authorized representatives. All contracts must be ratified by the Board.

IV. Events and rules

- A. Copies of the rules will be distributed to members upon initial application and will be available at all the race sites. I.S.D.R.A. options will be made clear at the drivers' meeting preceding each race. The word "race" as herein used includes associated events.
- B. We will endeavor, depending on local conditions and facilities, to offer the following events:
 - 1. Three dog Class, 2-3 dogs per team 3 to 5 miles
 - 2. Five dog class, 3-5 dogs per team 4 to 7 miles
 - 3. Seven dog class, 5-7 dogs per team 7 to 12 miles
 - 4. Junior class, 1-3 dogs per team 1 to 3 miles
(Juniors are qualified drivers from 10 to 15 years old.)Distances should be determined as accurately as possible and consideration given to terrain and conditions.
 - 5. Middle Distance , minimum 15 miles
 - a. Limited - 3 to 7 dogs
 - b. Unlimited - 7 dog minimum, no maximum
 - 6. Long Distance - Cross Country, minimum 15 miles
 - a. Limited - 5 to 7 dogs
 - b. Unlimited - 7 dog minimum, no maximum
 - 7. Weight Pull
 - 8. Skijoring
 - a. 1 dog - 1 to 3 miles
 - b. 2 dog - 1 to 5 miles
 - 9. 1 Dog race - 100 yard dash
 - 10. Freight events

11. Novice training run for certification
- C. Race Chairmen are to be reimbursed for expenses incurred not to exceed \$100 unless prior Board approval is obtained.

V. Drivers Qualifications

- A. All drivers of minor status shall present a statement of permission to compete signed by a parent or guardian.
- B. Qualifying in weight pull will consist of having the dog pull the empty sled the required distance to demonstrate his/her ability to pull in a manner which will not harm themselves or others, either canine or human.
- C. A driver in all other events shall have had suitable experience in handling his/her team to safely run the course without hazard to spectators, themselves, other drivers, officials, any dogs on his/her own or other teams.
- D. Suitable experience may have been gained:
 1. Racing with other clubs in the past
 2. Attendance at any training sessions
 - a. Training sessions shall be designed to expose dog teams and drivers to passing both "on by" and "head on" so that control of racing situations is reasonably assured.
 - b. We recommend four (4) days attendance at training sessions for certification of newcomers to the sport.

VI. Race Officials

- A. The following race officials will be appointed by the President with the approval and advice of the Board of Directors:
 1. Race Marshal
 2. Chief Timer
 3. Chute Judge
 4. Weight Pull Judge
 5. Trail Judge
- B. A protest committee will be made up of the Director of Timing (chairman), Race Marshal and the Chief Timer.
 1. If a contestant knows that they has broken a rule, they should (in good sportsmanship) disqualify themselves from the event.
 2. If there is a disagreement as to whether or not a rule was violated, a protest should be filled.
 - a. A protest may be made verbally. A verbal protest must be followed by a written statement.
 - b. A written protest has to go to the Race Marshal 30 minutes after the conclusion of the class.
 - c. A written protest shall cite the rule believed to be violated and those who were witness to it.
 - d. The Race Marshal shall do an investigation and render his decision and notify the parties involved of his decision.
 - e. If the Race Marshal's decision is not agreeable than either party may request a hearing by the Protest Committee. The filing of a fee is required for this procedure.
 - f. The ruling of the Protest Committee is final.

VII. Communications

- A. Since good communications are the life blood of an organization of this sort, a well run newsletter is essential. The newsletter of the Mid-Union Sled Haulers shall be entitled "The Sled Hauler". The editor is encouraged to attend all Board meetings. All news of club activities, policies and plans will appear in this publication. Members are encouraged to send news items, suggestions, and items of general interest on subjects such as canine health, nutrition, training tips, equipment, adventures, etc. to the editor for publication at the discretion of the editor.
- B. Details of race programs will appear in the newsletter. Special notices may be handled by direct mailing between issues of the newsletter in order to communicate information that cannot wait for the regular date of publication of the newsletter or to put special emphasis on some particular happening.

- C. In the event of cancellation of a race, all pre-entered persons will be notified by phone/email of the cancellation. The latest time for a decision to cancel is 40 hours before the scheduled time of the first event. Thursday evening for a Saturday event.

VIII. Financing

- A. This is a non profit enterprise. No officer or Board member shall receive any remuneration for services. Reimbursement for necessary out-of-pocket expenses for club business may be made from the treasury.
- B. Funds for the operation of the club will come from membership dues which will be \$20.00 per year. This includes all dependent members of a family under the age of 18.
- C. Reasonable and consistent entry fees, with a 50% surcharge for nonmembers, will be determined by the Board. Entry fees will be doubled for post (late) entries.
- D. Additional funds may be raised to purchase equipment needed for activities as determined by the Board.

IX. Nominating Committee

- A. A nominating committee will be made up of the Secretary, Membership Chairmen, and a member at large to be appointed by the President. This committee is advisory only and will be a permanent committee, the purpose of which will be to compile and maintain a list of members who are both willing and qualified to serve as officials in this club. This list will be used as a basis for nominations during the spring elections and may be used by the Board at other times during the year when and if vacancies occur.

X. Membership Chairman

- A. The Membership chairman, herein known as “chairman”, will be appointed annually by the most current elected President no later than the first full Board meeting following the spring general membership meeting. The appointment must be endorsed by a majority of the Board members. The chairman’s responsibilities will be concluded upon the appointment of a succeeding chairman in the following year.
- B. The chairman will be responsible to the Board. Duties include distributing applications, surveys, polls, special mailing, etc. The treasurer may reimburse the chairman for incurred expenses with documentation at any time without special Board approval. Any extraordinary expenses must be approved by the Board in advance.
- C. The chairman will be responsible to keep records of members’ names, family, addresses, phone numbers, and any other pertinent information which will aid the club to better serve the membership, sponsors, and the sport in general.
- D. The chairman will serve on the nominating committee as described in the By-Laws, Article IX, Section A.

XI. Membership

- A. Membership dues shall be payable September 15. Dues should be paid when due so that a complete membership roster can be prepared for all members for distribution no later than November 1st.
- B. Life Members shall not be required to pay yearly dues.
- C. Life memberships shall be awarded on the following basis:
 - 1. Shall have been a member of Mid-Union Sled Haulers for not less than ten (10) consecutive years.
 - 2. Shall have given outstanding service to the Mid-Union Sled Haulers and the sport of sled dog racing in general.
 - 3. Shall be nominated by not less than six (6) adult members, excluding the nominee, who have been members not less than three (3) years each.

MID-UNION SLED HAULERS SPRINT RACE RULES

I. Conduct

- A. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshal determines that the driver, handler, passenger, minor child, 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, not allowed to run in subsequent heats, and ejected from the race site.
- B. All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handlers, any passenger, their minor children and themselves whenever in the race area or on the trail.
- C. Anyone physically fighting or causing police involvement or litigation of any kind against the club may have their membership rescinded, and be asked to leave the area where the current event is taking place.
- D. All drivers shall be responsible for appropriate clean up of their respective parking, camping, and dog stake out areas.
 - 1. Drivers shall be responsible for removing and properly disposing of all waste or debris left or utilized by themselves, dogs, guests, handlers, and children in designated areas prior to leaving the race site.
 - 2. A driver not fulfilling this responsibility shall be disqualified from the weekend events, and may be denied racing privileges at subsequent events.
 - 3. The Board of Directors shall define appropriate suspension penalties.

II. Entry Rules

- A. Eligibility
 - 1. Entries
 - a. An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the drivers' meeting, subject to entry deadlines as determined by Mid-Union Sled Haulers (MUSH).
 - b. Entry fees shall be determined by the Board with non-members entry fees being 50% more.
 - c. Membership may not be obtained the day of the race.
 - d. In order for a driver to switch classes the day of the race, the driver must pay a fee equal to his/her original entry fee per class change.
 - e. MUSH may reject any application/entry for just cause.
 - 2. Drivers
 - a. Minimum age of drivers shall be 10 years.
 - (1) Minors shall have written permission of a parent or guardian.
 - (2) A driver who is less than 10 years old, but who is qualified to drive a team, must petition the Board prior to the start of the race season to race in a regular sprint class. Majority approval of the Board is necessary.
 - b. The driver starting a team in the first heat of a race shall drive the team throughout ensuing heats.
 - (1) If a driver is forced to drop out of the race due to illness or injury, another driver may be substituted with permission of the Race Marshal.
 - c. Driver's attendance at the drivers' meeting is mandatory.
 - 3. Dogs
 - a. The Race Marshal may disallow entry of any team or dog for just cause.
 - b. Any team or dog coming to the starting line, which in the opinion of the Race Marshal is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail, shall be disqualified.
 - c. Any team or dog not starting the first heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
 - (1) All dogs may be marked and/or photographed for identification.
 - d. Any team or dog disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
 - 4. Disease
 - a. No dog, equipment, or clothing shall be brought from a kennel where rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, provirus, or other contagious disease exists.

- b. If the 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. Size of Team
 - a. A seven-dog class team shall consist of not more than seven (7) dogs, and not less than five (5) dogs.
 - b. A five-dog class team shall consist of not more than five (5) dogs, and not less than three (3) dogs.
 - c. A three-dog class team shall consist of not more than three (3) dogs and not less than two (2) dogs.
 - d. A junior class team shall consist of not more than three (3) dogs and not less than one (1) dog.
 - e. After the first heat and each ensuing heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to class minimums.
 - f. The Race Marshall may reduce the size of the team that he determines is too large for the designated driver.
 - g. Fewer than the minimum number of dogs in a class may be run with prior approval of the Race Marshal.
- B. Medications
- 1. Prohibited substances are all those deemed harmful to the dog and to the sport, including stimulants, depressants, local anesthetics, and synthetic steroids.
 - 2. Permitted substances are those deemed not harmful to the dog or the sport including antibiotics, antibacterial, analgesics, and vitamins.
 - 3. Drug testing
 - a. If testing is to be done, it must be so stated on the entry form.
 - b. ISDRA drug control procedures shall be used.
 - c. Whenever a specimen is required for testing, the use of any medication what so ever within seventy-two (72) hours of the race must be declared in writing by the owner or driver to the sampling official.
 - 4. Physical Examinations
 - a. The race giving organization may require a physical exam if so stated on the entry form.
 - b. All examinations are to be given by a certified veterinarian.
 - c. The race giving organization is responsible for notifying contestants of the time and place.
 - d. Any contestant who fails to have his/her dog/team examined at the designated time and place will not be permitted to run in the event, entry fee will be refunded.
 - e. Any dog/team not qualifying for the certificate of good health may not run in the event.
 - f. Any team that cannot meet minimum number of dogs, as specified for the event entered, as a result of having dogs that cannot pass the physical examination will not be allowed to participate in the event and have their entry fee refunded.
 - g. The Race Marshal will check all teams at the start of the race for the purpose of inspecting all dogs the musher plans to take with him/her.
- C. Equipment
- 1. Inspection
 - a. Drivers, teams and equipment shall be available for inspection in the vehicle holding area at least thirty (30) 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.
 - c. Inspection shall take place in an area that does not interfere with teams in the start or finish chutes. An inspection may not cause a team to be late for its start time.
 - d. A team shall be available for inspection after each heat at the request of the Race Marshal.
 - e. All equipment is subject to the approval of the Race Marshal.
 - 2. Harnesses and Lines

- a. All harnesses shall be padded around the neck and allow dog freedom of motion.
 - b. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file by tug lines and necklines.
 - c. All dogs shall be fastened to the gang line by a neck line and tug line with the exception of the leader(s) who shall be harnessed in the team by a tug line. Double leaders shall be connected to each other by a neckline.
- DEFINITIONS:**
- Neck line - The line between the collar and the gang line and/or between collars.
- Tug line - The line from the gang line to the dog's harnesses connecting near the dog's tail.
- Gang line - The main line that runs up through the middle of the team connecting the dogs to the sled. This is done through the use of tug lines and neck lines.
- d. A snub line (a long rope used to secure the team) shall be carried on the sled but it shall not be used in any manner other than to tie down and hold the sled.
 - e. A driver may not use a loop or line to tie themselves to the sled at any time.
3. Sleds
- a. A sled shall be capable of adequately carrying the driver and have a basket capable of carrying the largest dog on the team.
 - b. A sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brush bow, and secured snow hook.
 - c. A dog bag capable of restraining the largest dog on the team.
 - d. If the dog's head is enclosed in the dog bag, ventilation of the bag shall be 600 square centimeters or 93 square inches, which is approximately the size of an 8½ by 11 piece of paper.
4. Other Equipment
- a. Back numbers.
 - (1) Must be worn by the driver.
 - (2) Must be clearly visible to the timers and trail help.
 - (3) The back numbers must be returned to the pre-designated location.
5. Prohibited Equipment
- a. Wrist rope, muzzle, any collar that can be hooked as a full choke and whips.

III. START-FINISH RULES

- A. Drawing
 - 1. The starting positions for the first heat of a race shall be determined by a drawing held during the week prior to the race by the Director of Timing.
 - 2. The order of the draw shall not be changed, whether by addition or substitution. Late entries shall be added in order of receipt.
- B. Single Start Races
 - 1. The first day's starting positions shall be determined by the draw with the number 1 (one) starting first, number 2 (two) second, etc.
 - 2. The second day's starting position shall be determined by the first day's finish time, with the fastest team starting first, second fastest starting second, etc.
- C. Dual Start Race
 - 1. The first day's starting positions shall be determined by the draw with numbers 1 (one) and 2 (two) starting together first, numbers 3 (three) and 4 (four) starting together second, etc.
 - 2. The second day's starting positions shall be determined by:
 - a. First day's finish times
 - b. Divide the number of racers finishing the first day in half (½)
 - c. The fastest team, number 1 (one), and the team in the middle of the class (½) starting together first.
 - D. The second fastest team, number 2 (two), and the team one under the middle of the class, (½-1), would start together second. Etc.

- D. Equal Times
 - 1. If the total elapsed time of two teams is equal, the order of the start for those teams shall be the reverse order in which they started in the preceding heat.
 - 2. Teams with equal times for the entire race, shall both be awarded the higher finishing position.
- E. Starting Point and Time
 - 1. The brush bow of the sled shall determine the starting point of the team.
 - 2. Trail time for all teams shall begin at the originally scheduled time of departure.
 - 3. A team that fails to be in the starting position at its scheduled starting time, shall be declared a late-starting team.
 - a. 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 for that heat.
 - b. A late-starting team shall not interfere with any other team.
 - c. If more than one team is declared late-starting, those teams shall start in their originally scheduled starting order with the prescribed starting interval for that heat.
 - d. If a team is declared late-starting for its second scheduled time of departure for any one heat, that team shall be disqualified and not allowed to run.
 - 4. A team not clearing the starting chute (minimum distance of 100 feet) prior to the scheduled start of the next team shall be disqualified.
- F. Finish
 - 1. A team shall have finished the heat when the first dog in team crosses the finish line.
 - 2. A team shall have all the dogs, passengers, and driver that it left the starting line with.
 - 3. In the event one of the above members of the team becomes separated during the heat, the team shall not have finish until all its members have crossed the finish line.
 - 4. When a dual starting chute is used as a finishing chute, a team may return on either trail.
 - 5. Dogs may be called from behind the finish line only, but may not be baited or paced.
 - 6. No finished team shall interfere with any team still in competition.

IV. Trail Rules

- A. Following The Trail: A team shall run the full course as marked.
 - 1. The course shall be clearly laid out on a packed trail with a sufficient number of highly visible markers (9 inch diameter minimum). The trail shall be marked as follows;
 - a. “Right Turn” shall be indicated by a red marker on the right side of the trail 40 to 60 feet before the turn.
 - b. “Left Turn” shall be indicated by a red marker on the left side of the trail 40 to 60 feet before the turn.
 - c. “Straight Ahead” shall be indicated by blue marker on either side of the trail.
 - d. “Caution” shall be indicated by a yellow or orange marker on either side of the trail.
 - e. The end of the “starting chute” (minimum distance of 100 feet) shall be indicated by markers on both sides of the trail.
 - f. A “1/2 Mile” marker shall be placed one half (1/2) mile from the finish line to indicate the start of the finishing “no right-of-way zone”.
 - g. Reflective markers are suggested for night running.
 - h. Alternate trail markers may be used in conjunction with standardized marking upon approval of the Race Marshal, and drivers shall be advised at the “drivers meeting”.
- B. Driving A Team
 - 1. A driver may ride or pedal the sled, or run with the team as wished.
 - 2. Any driver accepting a ride during the race on any motorized vehicle shall be disqualified, except as applied in Rule IV-D Loose Team and Dogs.
 - 3. A driver shall not interfere with a competing team.

4. All dogs starting a heat shall complete the entire course, either hitched in the team or securely carried in the dog bag on the sled.
 5. A dog becoming unfit after departure shall be securely carried in the dog bag on the sled the remainder of the course.
 6. A driver will have the option of carrying a passenger, with the approval of the Race Marshal.
 - a. The passenger may not assist unless an emergency situation arises.
 - b. Shall not interfere with any other team or driver.
 - c. The passenger shall complete the entire course with the team.
- C. Assistance on the Trail
1. All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorized by the Race Marshal.
 2. Drivers running in any heat may assist each other in any manner authorized by the Race Marshal.
 3. No one shall assist a team by willfully pacing it.
- D. Loose Teams and Dogs
1. A loose team or dog may resume the course without penalty provided the team/dog has completed the entire course and the driver received only authorized outside assistance.
 2. The driver of a lost team must overtake their team by the quickest means available to ensure the safety of all involved.
 3. In the event that a driver cannot safely recover their team unassisted, the driver must accept any outside assistance offered to them. This assistance could include a ride from a motorized vehicle when available. Failure to accept the available assistance may result in disqualification.
 4. The driver who receives a ride on any motorized vehicle to recover their loose team will be assessed a time penalty of 20% of their elapsed time of the heat in which they received the assistance.
 5. All Race Officials and Trial Help, are encouraged to assist the driver of a lost team in overtaking their loose team in what ever manor possible.
- E. Right of Way
1. In a dual start, the team with the lead dog farthest ahead at the end of the divided chute shall have the right of way.
 2. When teams are passing in opposite directions (head on), on a single trail:
 - a. The team traveling downhill shall have right of way.
 - b. On level terrain, the outgoing team has right of way.
 3. In the one-half mile “no right-of-way” finish zone, no finishing team shall have the right of way over another finishing team.
- F. Passing
1. When one team intends to pass another, the passing team driver may request the right of way when the lead dog(s) come within fifty (50) feet of the sled of the overtaken team by calling “Trail”.
 2. The overtaken team shall make way for the passing team by moving to one side of the trail and slowing, or stopping, if requested by the overtaking team driver.
 3. Once the team has been passed, that team shall not repass:
 - a. Within less than two (2) minutes or one-half (1/2) mile.
 - b. At any lesser interval unless both drivers are in agreement.
 4. If the passing team becomes tangled as a result of the pass, that team’s driver may require the overtaken team to stop for no longer than one (1) minute in seven dog class, one-half (1/2) minute in all other classes.
 5. 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 moving teams.
 6. Teams following each other shall maintain an interval of not less than one team length, except when passing, or in the “no right-of-way” zone, or by agreement of both drivers.
- V. Abuse of Dogs
- A. Abuse of any dog, with or without an implement, shall be prohibited.
 - B. Any abuse of dogs will be cause for immediate ejection from the race site.
 - C. Conviction on charges of animal abuse shall result in immediate loss of membership and permanent loss of the right to race with this club.

VI. Rules Violations

- A. Protest by Race Officials
 - 1. Race officials shall report overt rule violations to the Race Marshal verbally, in person, or by radio, immediately or directly following the heat in which the violation occurred.
 - 2. The Race Marshal shall act, at his/her discretion, on any overt violations witnessed and reported by race officials.
- B. Protest by Race Contestants
 - 1. Drivers wishing to report an alleged violation of the rules by another contestant shall notify the Race Marshal immediately following the heat in which the incident occurred. Notification may be verbal.
 - 2. All verbal driver reports shall be followed by written report given to the Race Marshal with 1/2 hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred.
 - a. A written protest shall include a statement of the circumstances and the specific rule cited that was believed to have been violated.
 - b. The Race Marshal shall do an investigation and render his decision and notify the parties involved of his decision.
- C. Hearing by Protest Committee
 - 1. Any driver or race official found to be in violation of MUSH rules by the Race Marshal may request a hearing before the protest committee.
 - 2. Such a request shall be accompanied by a \$10.00 fee which shall be refunded if the protest is ruled in favor of the person demanding the hearing. If said person loses the said protest, the \$10.00 fee is forfeited to the club treasury.
- D. Disciplinary Action
 - 1. For violation of any MUSH race rule, the Race Marshal shall either issue a verbal warning to the driver, or disqualify the driver and team from the race.
 - 2. Decisions shall be announced as promptly as practical but no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of any ensuing heat(s).
 - 3. Any disciplinary action following the final heat of the race shall be acted upon prior to the awards ceremony.
 - 4. The decision of the Protest Committee shall be final.

MID-UNION SLED HAULERS.....GIG RACE RULES

- I. **MUSH Sprint Race Rules** shall be in effect with the following additions and/or limitations.

- II. **Equipment**
 - A. A gig may, in lieu of a dog bag, be equipped with more than one (1) extra line (at least 4 feet in length) capable of restraining a dog that has become unfit after departure at a predetermined check point. Such a dog/dogs shall be dropped at designated predetermined drop points along the trail. The dog/dogs shall be retrieved by the owner/driver immediately after the last driver finishes the heat.
 - B. Wheeled Gigs
 - 1. May have three or four wheels but shall be capable of being driven and controlled by a single driver.
 - 2. The gig may not have any kind of motor attached.
 - 3. It shall have an adequate locking brake system.
 - 4. It shall be equipped with a manual steering mechanism.
 - 5. It shall not exceed sixty-four (64) inches in overall width.
 - C. All equipment is subject to approval of the Race Marshal.

- III. **Temperature**
 - A. If the temperature reaches sixty (60) degrees Fahrenheit at any time prior to or during the race, the classes not yet run shall be canceled for that day.
 - B. If, at the discretion of the Race Marshal, the combination of the humidity and temperature have reached a high that would be detrimental to the health of the dogs then classes not yet run will be canceled for that day.

- IV. **Trail** When possible, the course shall be of a suitable surface, avoiding such surfaces as concrete, black top and sharp rock gravel except for necessary road crossings.

MID-UNION SLED HAULERS...MID DISTANCE RULES

I. MUSH Sprint Race Rules shall be in effect with the following addition and/or limitations.

II. Drivers

- A. A maximum of two (2) drivers per team will be permitted, not required, a primary driver and a co-driver.
 - 1. The primary driver is to be the driver of record.
 - 2. The co-driver may assist the driver on the trail and at check points.
 - 3. The co-driver must obey all rules pertaining to a driver
 - 4. With approval of the Race Marshal, prior to the drivers meeting, both drivers may be designated primary drivers if both meet age and ability requirements.
 - 5. Only one primary driver from each team need finish the race.
 - 6. A primary driver or co-driver may only be left at a pre-approved check point.
- B. Drivers may not be replaced during the race.
- C. Minimum age for drivers shall be sixteen (16) years of age and minimum age for co-drivers shall be ten (10) years of age.
- D. Drivers shall care for only their dogs at any check point.
- E. The driver is responsible for signing in at any check point. He must leave his name, time of arrival and time of departure.
- F. If there is a disqualification it shall be of the whole team, not parts of a team.

III. Divisions

- A. A limited division with no less than three (3) dogs or no more than seven (7) dogs.
- B. An unlimited division: The team must have no less than seven (7) dogs on Saturday and no less than five (5) dogs on Sunday. There will be on maximum number of dogs.

IV. Other Equipment

- A. Survival equipment may be required as specified on the entry form.
- B. Promotional material may be required by the race giving organization, weight not to exceed ten (10) pounds.

MID-UNION SLED HAULERS.....LONG DISTANCE X-COUNTRY RULES

- I. MUSH Sprint Race Rules** shall be in effect with the following additions and/or limitations.
- II. Team Size**
- A. Limited class must start with no less than five (5) dogs and not more than seven (7) and must finish with half (1/2) of the team still working in harness.
 - B. Unlimited class must start with no less than seven (7) dogs and must finish with half (1/2) of the team still working in harness. There shall be no maximum number of dogs.
 - C. No team may proceed beyond a check point with less than the minimum number of dogs working in harness established for that class.
 - D. No dog may be added to the team after the start of the race.
- III. Sleds**
- A. Each driver has the choice of his/her own sled, subject to the weather and trail conditions.
 - B. Sleds may not be changed during the race unless irreparably damaged.
 - C. The sled must be capable of carrying a dog plus the required equipment.
 - D. The sled must be equipped with a snub line, snow hook and an adequate brake and brush bow.
- IV. Drivers**
- A. A maximum of two (2) drivers per team will be permitted, not required, a primary driver and a co-driver.
 1. The primary driver is to be the driver of record.
 2. The co-driver may assist the driver on the trail and at the check points.
 3. The co-driver must obey all the rules pertaining to a driver.
 4. With approval of the Race Marshal, prior to the Drivers Meeting, both drivers may be designated primary drivers, if both meet age and ability requirements.
 5. Only one primary driver from each team need finish the race.
 6. A primary driver or co-driver may only be left at a pre-approved check point.
 - B. Drivers may not be replaced during the race.
 - C. Minimum age for drivers shall be sixteen (16) years of age and minimum age for co-drivers shall be ten (10) years of age.
 - E. The driver is responsible for signing in at any check point. He must leave his name, time of arrival and time of departure.
 - F. If there is a disqualification it shall be for the whole team, not parts of a team.
- V. Inspections**
All drivers, teams and equipment shall be available for inspection, in the vehicle staging area, one (1) hour prior to the scheduled departure time.
- VI. Mandatory Equipment**
This is equipment each team must carry aboard the sled throughout the race.
- A. Proper cold weather sleeping bag (a twenty degree rating or lower) for the driver.
 - B. Proper cold weather clothing (parka, boots, headgear, mittens) for the driver.
 - C. One (1) pair of dry socks for the driver.
 - D. Hand saw or ax and properly sheathed.
 - E. One (1) pair of snow shoes with bindings per sled.
 - F. Proper shelter
 - G. Adequate stove for heating food or melting snow.
 - H. One (1) days ration of dog food and water for the team. (minimum two [2] pounds per dog)
 - I. One (1) days ration of food and water for the driver.
 - J. Compass
 - K. Light for night driving
 - L. First aid kit
 - M. Knife
 - N. Cable cutters if cable lines are used.
 - O. One (1) spare harness
 - P. One (1) spare collar

- Q. An extra line (minimum four [4] feet long) capable of restraining any dog should one be dropped at a predetermined check point.

VII. Dogs

- A. Injured, fatigued or sick dogs may be dropped at predetermined manned check points.
1. One (1) day's ration of food must be left with the checker for each dog dropped.
 2. All dropped dogs must be tagged. Tags shall contain:
 - a. The dogs name
 - b. Musher's name
 - c. Musher's address
 - d. Reason the dog was dropped
 3. All dropped dogs shall be reunited with their team/driver prior to the awards presentation.
- B. Any dog that expires on the trail for any reason must be taken to the next manned check point. This dog shall be tagged, as above, and list probable cause of death.
- C. No switching of dogs between teams will be allowed after leaving the start.
- D. No dog may be added to a team after leaving the start.

VIII. Race/Trail Procedure

- A. Abuse of a dog with or without an implement is prohibited. The snubline, tie-out line or snow hook may only be used in the manner in which they were intended.
- B. Interference by a driver with a competing team is prohibited.
- C. If a team cannot find the trail due to weather, or other acts of God, closing it, they may proceed onto the next check point the best way they can as long as they don't knowingly shorten the trail. Should this occur the driver shall report it to the checker upon signing in.
- D. The driver has the responsibility of checking in at each checkpoint before going on. No driver may leave a checkpoint without checking out. The time of the "check in" and "check out" shall be recorded.
- E. No litter of any kind may be left on the trail.
1. All camps will be cleaned up before leaving.
 2. A reasonable effort shall be made to return the camp to the condition it was upon arrival. (i.e. straw and fecal material)
 3. All trash, from the camp, will be disposed of or carried on the sled until it can be properly disposed of.
 4. All fires shall be out.
- F. A driver setting up camp must clear the trail of his dogs and equipment.
- G. Two (2) or more teams may not be tied together.
- H. The Race Marshal or Race Veterinarian will have absolute authority over the dog teams. Their judgment as to mandatory rest or withdraw of a dog/dogs from the race for any condition, relative to dog care, shall be the rule of the trail. This can only be reviewed by the Protest Committee.
- I. The Race Marshal, Race Veterinarian or Checkpoint Checker may detain any team for unsafe equipment, if in that Official's opinion, such equipment may be injurious to the dogs or driver. The team detained may not leave until repairs are made or equipment exchanged.
- J. No driver shall tamper with another driver's dog/dogs, food or gear.
- K. No team shall receive any food from any airplane or vehicle between checkpoints unless an emergency is declared by the Race Marshal or Race Veterinarian.
- L. Drivers may assist each other between checkpoints.
- M. No planned help to prepare dog food, set up camp, cutting fire wood, etc. or providing help that is not offered to all the other teams.
- N. Drivers will not permit or allow any dog/dogs or co-driver to be hauled by any other team.
- O. Any driver who voluntarily withdraws from the race or who is disqualified by a race official will proceed, either up or down the trail, to the nearest checkpoint from which he/she can obtain transportation. He/she will give right-of-way to all competing teams.
- P. If the race official feels there are grounds for disqualification, he will notify the driver and the next checkpoint. If the notified driver feels that there are no grounds for disqualification and wishes to request a hearing, he/she must do so at the time of notification. This driver must then be given the right to continue and the hearing will take place at the end of the race.

- Q. No food or equipment shall be moved from a “drop” or checkpoint until the team is checked in.
- R. Each team must have the required starting food for the dogs and driver when leaving each manned checkpoint.
- S. No food shall be dumped or dropped along the trail.
- T. A team that has been passed may not repass for four (4) minutes or one (1) mile, any other interval must be upon agreement of both drivers.

MID-UNION SLED HAULERS.....SKI-JOURING RULES

I. **Ski-Jouring Definition:** A sport in which a person on cross-country skis is pulled by one or more dogs in harness over a marked course.

II. **MUSH Sprint Race Rules** shall be in effect with the following additions and/or limitations.

III Equipment

- A. A line of suitable length and strength, such as a gangline, to connect the skier and the harnessed dog/dogs.
 - 1. The line may be connected to the skier by:
 - a. A tow bar equivalent to that used by water skiers which is hand held.
 - b. A quick release safety type snap that is within reach of the skier so that in case of an emergency the skier can be released from the dog/dogs.
 - 2. If the ski-jouring line is to be connected to the skier the connection must be to a belt worn by the skier.
 - a. The belt must be at least one and a half (1 1/2) inches wide.
 - b. It must be made of leather or other suitable material.
 - c. It must have a ring or hook to attach the quick release safety snap to.
 - 3. The length of the line shall not be more than twelve (12) feet long.
 - 4. There shall be a minimum of six (6) feet from the tip of the skis to the base of the dogs tail.
- B. The skis shall be of a type commonly used by cross-country skiers.
 - 1. The skis shall be equipped with an appropriate type of binding.
 - 2. The skier shall wear appropriate boots for the bindings and skis used.

IV Race Rules

- A. The length of the course will be specified on the entry.
- B. Proper equipment, as described above, must be worn or the skier/driver will be disqualified.
- C. Dog/dogs should be properly trained and controlled by the skier/driver at all times.
- D. Dogs must be in good health and good condition.
- E. No ski, pole, or other equipment shall be used to discipline and/or injure any dog.

MID-UNION SLED HAULERS.....ONE DOG RULES

- I. **MUSH Sprint Race Rules** shall be in effect with the following additions and/or limitations.
- II. **Eligibility**
 - A. Age limit shall be five (5) to eleven (11) years inclusive. Proof of age must be furnished upon request.
 - B. Each child entered shall be under the supervision of at least one adult who must be a member of MUSH or a person who is entered in a regular racing class.
 - C. Each entrant shall be familiar with the sled, the dog and have some understanding of dog sledding.
 - D. There will be one (1) heat each day (when possible) for total time to establish placement.
- III. **Trail**
 - A. Trial length shall be approximately 100 yards.
 - B. Each team will run the trail alone without interference.
 - C. The trail shall be free of obstacles.
- IV. **Entry Fee**

There shall be no fee.
- V. **Finishing**

Dogs may be called from behind the finish line only, but may not be baited or paced.
- VI. **Dogs and Equipment**
 - A. The dog limit shall be one (1) dog per child. There will be no substitutions of dogs on the second (2nd) day.
 - B. Harnesses and sleds shall meet MUSH standards.

MID-UNION SLED HAULERS.....JUNIOR CLASS RULES

- I. **MUSH Sprint Race Rules** shall be in effect with the following additions and/or limitations.
- II. **The Ages**

The age of the Junior Class Drivers will be from ten (10) to fifteen (15) years of age inclusive.
- III. **Junior Class Drivers**

May qualify for the regular classes. The Junior Class Driver shall choose between the regular classes and the Junior Class at each individual race.
- III. **Dogs**

The junior class is limited to three (3) dogs.
- IV. **Trail**

The junior class trail shall not be longer than three (3) miles.

MID UNION SLED HAULERS.....WEIGHTPULL RULES

I. Area

- A. The weight pulling contest shall be in an area
 1. Not less than ten (10) feet wide
 2. Open on the end toward which the pull is to be made
 3. As level as possible
 4. Hard packed and uniform as conditions will permit.
 5. The dog must achieve traction on the same surface the sled travels on.
- B. There shall be a barrier separating the crowd from the pulling area
- C. Sufficient officials will be present to maintain the open end.
- D. If a slope, does exist, the pull will be up hill or toward the higher end.

II. Sled

- A. A sled shall be provided capable of safely carrying a load of 2700 pounds.
 1. The sled must have two (2) runners, two (2) to four (4) inches wide
 2. The surface of the sled contacting the ground shall be seven (7) to ten (10) feet long.
 3. This runner surface is to be shod with a hard smooth surface such as plastic or steel.
 4. The runner shall be curved in the front, reasonable manner for a sled.
- B. The sled shall be provided with an adequate bridle and tugline. This tugline shall be six (6) feet from the sled to the point of attachment to the dogs harness.

III. Entry Deadlines and Scheduling

- A. Entries for weight pull will close prior to the drivers meeting, at the same time all other entries close
- B. Late or post entries will be handled the same as with the other events.
- C. MUSH may reject any entry for just cause.
- D. Weight pull shall be a Saturday only event.

IV. Weighting Material/ Load Increments

- A. An adequate supply of pre-weighted and inert material, suitable for safe and stable stacking, shall be provided.
- B. The starting load shall be the empty sled.
- C. Load increments shall be fifty (50) or one hundred (100) pounds as determined by the Judge. The Judge may, at his/her discretion, seek advice from the contestants.
- D. Load increments should be kept low so that smaller dogs have a chance to pull.

V. Dog Weigh-In

- A. Each dog must be weighed within one (1) hour prior to the start of competition.
- B. Weigh-in shall be done under the supervision of the Judge with equipment supplied by the Club.
- C. The weight as read from the scale will be the Dogs Weight (DW) used in computing the percentage of weight pulled and thus determining the winner.

VI. Dog Qualifications

- A. In order to qualify for a weight pulling contest, a dog must be at least one (1) year of age.
- B. No dog, equipment, person or clothing shall be brought from a kennel where hepatitis, distemper, leptospirosis, provirus, or other contagious disease exists .
- C. No bitch, in season, shall pull in this event or be brought into the weight pulling area. The judge has the right to check all bitches for heat cycle.
- D. All dogs must pull the empty official sled to demonstrate their ability to pull, without injury to themselves or others.

VII. Harness and Equipment

- A. The dog must be fitted with an adequate freight style harness.
 1. A freight style harness has adequate padding around the neck.
 2. A bar spacing the traces in the rear.
 3. Must allow the dog freedom of movement.

- B. The Judge will determine whether or not the harness is properly fit and safe for the dog.
- C. If any part of the harness or other equipment breaks, during the pull, the contestant will have another chance after repairs are made.

VIII. Conduct

- A. All entrants are responsible for the conduct of their dog and handler before, during and after the event. Unmanageable dogs will be barred from competition.
- B. Unsportsman like conduct will be subject to disciplinary action or disqualification.
- C. All dogs must be under physical control, on lead, while in the pulling area, except when hooked to the sled.
- D. Cruel and/or inhumane treatment of a dog is strictly prohibited and will be cause for disqualification.

IX. Objective and Determining Winners

- A. The dog will be required to pull the load a marked sixteen (16) feet in one direction, in one (1) minute.
- B. The sled shall not leave the weight pulling area.
- C. The winner shall be determined as follows:
 - 1. The winner shall be the dog with the highest percentage.
 - 2. The formula for determining the percentage shall be Weight Pulled divided by Dogs Weight or WP/DW.
- D. When dogs having identical percentages, the dog with the fastest time shall receive the higher placing.
- E. When dogs are tied in both percentages and times, the one pulling the most actual weight shall receive the higher placing.

X. Handling and Baiting

- A. During the weight pull competition, dogs awaiting their turns shall be held in assigned holding area, to the rear of the sled and pulling area.
- B. No dogs shall be allowed in the general area ahead of the starting line, except for the dog hooked to the sled.
- C. During the pull the handler must be in one of two (2) positions:
 - 1. No further forward than the front of the sled.
 - 2. At least sixteen (16) feet in front of the dogs nose.
- D. The handler will signal ready when he/she is in one of these positions.
- E. No physical handling of the dog, after the time/pull has begun, shall be allowed.
 - 1. Handling consists of anyone touching the dog, its harness, the sled, or and other part of the equipment or load once the time/pull has begun.
 - 2. An official may hold the dog in position, at the request of the handler, until the handler signals ready.
 - 3. At the completion of the pull, the handler may touch the dog.
- F. Only one (1) handler is allowed to communicate with the dog in the weight pull area. Communication can be verbal, hand signal, other signal or combination there of.
- G. No food, treats, baits, spits, muzzles or any related aid shall be allowed to be used in the weight pulling area.
- H. No food, treats, etc., shall be allowed on the person of any handler in the weight pull area.

XI. Starting the Sled and Timing

- A. It is the responsibility of the handler to assure that the sled is not frozen to the ground prior to giving the ready signal.
- B. The timer starts the clock when the handler starts to command the dog.
- C. The clock shall run continuous for one (1) minute.
- D. If a dog has begun a pull, prior to time running out, the dog will be allowed to continue, without penalty.
 - 1. The load must remain in constant motion in order for time to continue.
 - 2. Once the load halts, or is pulled sixteen (16) feet, then time will stop.
- E. If the dog is unable to start the sled and/or complete the pull, in the allotted time, the handler may request the sled be started.

XII. Passing Turns

- A. Contestants may pass one (1) or two (2) turns at a time it they choose.
- B. After two (2) consecutive passes a pull must be attempted.
- C. At no time may the load be lightened.

XIII. Tangles

- A. If a dog becomes entangled in its harness or lines, upon a signal from the weight pull Judge, the handler may untangle the dog.
- B. Under this circumstance, the clock shall not be stopped and the sled position shall not be changed.
- C. The handler shall not give any command to the dog until he/she is in his/her original position.

XIV. Record Setting Procedure

If a handler wishes to attempt to set a club record, the dog shall be required to pull the load once in each direction. This is done to compensate for any incline the weight pull area may have. A rest period, maximum of ten (10) minutes, is allowed between pulls.

XV. Judges

- A. There will be a weight pull Judge who will supervise the event.
- B. For any infraction of these rules, the Judge may impose a warning or disqualification.
- C. If a disagreement arises with the Judges decision a Protest hearing may be called for as outlined in MUSH Sprint Race Rules, section VI Rules Violations, C Hearing by Protest Committee.