



Rally Rules

SSHHC RALLY RULES

GENERAL:

Members wishing to organise a Working Rally on behalf of the Club shall forward written details to the Committee, including a copy of the entry form and schedule.

ENTRY RULES:

A. Eligibility

1. Entries

- a) All entrants must be fully paid up Members of the Scottish Siberian Husky Club (S.S.H.C.)
- b) Any dog entered must be owned by a Member of the S.S.H.C. Should a dog be owned jointly, or in partnership, one owner must be a fully paid up Member of the Club.
- c) All entrants must have full third party insurance cover in the event of loss or damage to a third party.
- d) Minimum age of entrant – sixteen years.
- e) The Rally Organiser may only refuse an entry with just cause.
- f) Entrants may only enter one team in each class.

2. Musers

- a) No change of Musher is allowed for a team during an event unless as a result of injury or illness to the entrant. The approval of the Rally Organiser must be given for an authorised change of Musher. However, an authorised change of Musher would disqualify the team from officially competing in the event.
- b) A Musher disqualified for infringement of the rules in any heat of the Rally is not eligible to compete further for the duration of the event.
- c) Musers must have run one rally season at the minimum of 6 rallies, with the maximum of 3 dogs, before they are eligible to enter the A, B, B2, C, C2 and CU classes at SSHC rallies.

3. Dogs

- a) Any dog team arriving at the starting point which, in the opinion of the Rally Organiser, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the course will be disqualified.
- b) A dog or team disqualified in any heat of the Rally is not eligible to compete further for the duration of the event.
- c) Dogs may not be replaced during or between heats. The option to “mark” individual dogs for the purpose of identification is at the discretion of the Rally Organiser.
- d) No dog under the age of twelve months may compete, 10-12 months old dogs may take part in the courtesy class at organiser’s discretion, if such a class is offered. Details for this class must be provided on the entry form.
- e) A dog may not take part in more than one class or team during any one day, with the exception of Junior/Novelty events.
- f) The Rally Organiser must approve of any alteration to the team details given on the entry form.
- g) No dog or equipment may be brought from a kennel where rabies, distemper, leptospirosis or any other contagious disease exists or has existed within six weeks previous to the event.
- h) Any dog diagnosed by the Veterinarian covering the Rally as having a contagious disease will disqualify the team and must immediately leave the venue of the Rally.

B. Medication and Drug Testing

- a) It is prohibited to administer to a dog any medication, either prescribed or non-prescribed which may affect performance. This includes all stimulants, depressants, analgesics, anti-inflammatories, anti-anxiety agents and steroids.
- b) Should a dog be suspected of having been administered a prohibited substance, the Rally Organiser reserves the right to have the dog tested by qualified veterinary personnel, and if tested positive, the Musher, Owner and team will be disqualified. Further action may be taken at the discretion of the Committee of the S.S.H.C.
- c) Any entrant who refuses to allow a sample to be collected from a dog will be disqualified from the event. Further action may be taken at the discretion of the Committee of the S.S.H.C.

C. Classification and Team Definitions

1. Classes

- a) **A CLASS** – No more than 8 dogs – not less than 6 dogs;
- b) **B CLASS** – No more than 6 dogs – not less than 4 dogs;
- c) **B2 CLASS**- No more than 6 dogs – not less than 4 dogs (max 1 Siberian);
- d) **C CLASS** – No more than 4 dogs – not less than 3 dogs;
- e) **C2 CLASS** – No more than 4 dogs – not less than 3 dogs (max 1 Siberian);
- f) **CU CLASS** – No more than 4 and no less than 3 dogs (For SSHC recognised unregistered Siberian Huskies);
- g) **E CLASS** – No more than 3 dogs – not less than 2 dogs;
- h) **E2 CLASS** – No more than 3 dogs – not less than 2 dogs (max 1 Siberian);
- i) **D CLASS** – 2 dogs only; **D2 CLASS** – 2 dogs only (max 1 Siberian);
- j) **DU CLASS** – 2 dogs only – (for S.S.H.C. recognised unregistered Siberian Huskies);
- k) **S1 Scooter Class** – (Nordic Breeds) 1 dog only. Dogs must be eligible to run in any other SSHC class.
- l) **CX1 Canicross Class** – (Nordic Breeds) 1 dog only. Dogs must be eligible to run in any other SSHC class.
- m) **BK1 Bikejoring Class** – (Nordic Breeds) 1 dog only. Dogs must be eligible to run in any other SSHC class
- n) **S2 Scooter Class** – (Open). 1 Dog only.
- o) **CX2 Canicross Class** - (Open). 1 Dog only.
- p) **BK2 Bikejoring Class** - (Open). 1 Dog only.
- q) **COURTESY CLASS** – for all dogs, with entry money for this class to go to Welfare. As in the existing rule, the above classes are to be included at each individual rally organiser's discretion.
- r) **Junior classification(s)** may be scheduled at the Rally Organisers discretion and distance must not exceed one mile for one dog or two miles for two dogs. A junior must be between the ages of eight to fifteen years old. 1 dog teams only allowed for up to twelve years old. 2 dog teams may be scheduled for thirteen to fifteen years old. Each Junior entrant must provide a Marshal.
- s) Classes provided will be at the Rally Organisers discretion

2. Passengers

- a) Passengers will only be allowed at the individual Rally Organizers discretion.
- b) Passengers must not assist in the running of the team except in the case of the team becoming unmanageable.
- c) Any passenger must be a member of the S.S.H.C. and must be over the age of 16 years
- d) No Passenger may be carried in a team of less than three dogs.

D. Weather Conditions

- a) The temperature and humidity levels will be taken in the shade near the start line from the beginning of the first heat and monitored thereafter.
- b) If, at the discretion of the Rally Organiser, the temperature rises to above 12 degrees and condition are such that to continue the proposed race would be in detriment to the well-being of the dogs, the classes not yet run may be altered or cancelled for that day.

E. Equipment

1. Inspection

- a) All Rigs/Sleds shall be available for inspection by the Scrutineer at the time set by the Rally Organiser in an area that will not impede teams in the start and
- b) The responsibility for the safety of all equipment rests with the Musher and/or owner(s). The Scrutineer is looking for obvious breach of rules only.
- c) All equipment is subject to the approval of the Rally Organiser.

2. Harness and Lines

- a) All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file/Fan hitch at discretion of the Rally Organiser.
- b) All dogs will be fastened to the gang line by a neck line and tug line with the exception of the lead dog(s) which may be run without a neck line.
- c) A snub line will be carried on all rigs (and Sleds) and must be attached directly to the gang line
- d) The snub line must be of sufficient length to enable release from a static object (e.g. tree or gatepost) by the Musher whilst on and in control of the rig or sled.
- e) Shock absorbers will be "bridged" with a safety line.
- f) All lines must be free of frays and excess wear.
- g) Carabineers, if used must be "lockable".

3. Rigs

- a) Rigs may have three or four wheels and shall be capable of being driven and controlled by a single Musher.
- b) Rigs shall have an adequate brake system and must be equipped with a manual steering mechanism.
- c) Rigs must not exceed one hundred and fifty centimetres (sixty inches) in overall width.
- d) Where a rig has been designed to have an inflexible brush bow and/or deflectors fitted, these should be fitted and not removed or altered. A rig specifically designed and built to be used without a brush bow will be allowed. Where fitted, brushbows must not be less than twenty centimetres, (eight inches) nor more than forty-five centimetres, (eighteen inches) from the ground.
- e) Rigs will not have an engine or any other device to assist propulsion.
- f) In all classes, all rigs may if the musher wishes, carry a dog bag, for use at discretion.
- g) "A" class rigs may be subject to further regulations and requirements these will be notified on the race entry form.

4. Sleds

- a) Must be fitted with a brush bow.
- b) Must have an adequate braking system.
- c) In all classes, with the exception of D class, sleds may carry a dog bag for use at discretion of the driver.

5. Other Equipment

- a) Full choke collars, muzzles, whips or other similar devices are prohibited.
- b) A racing number for each Musher will be provided by the race Marshall. The Musher shall display this number clearly on his person throughout their run,
- c) Mushers will be required to wear clothing suitable to the weather conditions. Metal studded or spiked footwear are prohibited.
- d) Should a night rally be scheduled:
 - I. No wet acid batteries may be carried.
 - II. Plastic lens are recommended but any glass must be taped or preferably bagged.
 - III. Back-up lights must be carried.

F. Start and Finish Rules

1. Drawing and Start Positions

- a) The draw may be conducted at the rally organiser's discretion by either:
 - I. a totally random draw
 - or
 - II. a partially seeded draw (whereby teams of equal ability are grouped for a random draw).
- b) Late entries (if accepted) will be added to the draw in order of receipt.
- c) The start times for any second heat will be determined from the finishing position of the teams in the first heat, with the fastest team starting first etc. or alternatively, the start time for any second heat will be determined from the finishing position of the teams in the first heat, with the slowest team starting first etc.
- d) The rally organiser will determine the starting intervals between teams and must be no more than three minutes and no less than two minutes (with the exception of one dog classes) for A, B or C, and no more than three no less than one for all other classes, except in extenuating circumstances.

2. Starting Point and Time

- a) The Musher is responsible for ensuring the team is securely snubbed at the start line prior to their designated departure time.
- b) Trail times for all teams will begin at the scheduled start time.
- c) A team failing to start at the scheduled start time will be declared as late starters and may remain in the competition with a "late start" if in the starters opinion this will not impede the following team.
- d) Generally a late starting team will not be allowed to start until after the designated starting time of the last scheduled team in that heat.
- e) A team not clearing the start chute prior to the start time of the next team will be disqualified except in extenuating circumstances.
- f) The starting point of the team shall be the front of the brush bow.
- g) Should a team need assistance in the start chute, then helpers may hold the rig and team while the Musher sorts out the team, and once beyond the start chute all trail rules will apply.

3. Finish

- a) A team will have finished the heat when the dog team and Musher cross the finish line.
- b) Mushers must be in physical contact with the rig/sled when crossing the finish line.

G. Trail Rules

1. Following the Trail
 - a) The team and Musher must follow the full course as laid out by the rally organiser and as described at the Musers meeting.
 - b) If a team leaves the trail the Musher must return the team to the point at which they left the trail to avoid disqualification for this manoeuvre.
 - c) The trail shall be marked as follows:
 - i. Right turn – Red marker on right, approximately seven and a half to fifteen meters (twenty five to fifty feet) before turn.
 - ii. Left turn – Red marker on left, approximately seven and a half to fifteen meters (twenty five to fifty feet) before turn.
 - iii. Straight ahead – Blue marker
 - iv. Caution – Yellow marker
 - d) The minimum dimension of the markers will be eight inches by ten inches, depicting one colour and function.
 - e) Night rally markers will be reflective, to be advised by the individual rally organiser.
 - f) The course should be of suitable surface avoiding where possible such surfaces as concrete, sharp gravel and other materials likely to damage the feet of the dogs, except at necessary crossings.
2. Driving a Team
 - a) A Musher may ride, scoot or run as preferred but must not be in front of the dog team while in motion.
 - b) Wilful interference by a Musher with other competing teams is strictly prohibited; teams experiencing difficulties must make every effort not to impede other competitors.
 - c) All dogs starting a heat shall complete the entire course either hitched in the team or placed in the dog bag, failure to do so will result in disqualification for the event. The exception to this is if the dog has been dropped and left with an authorised rally Marshall for health or safety reasons, in which case disqualification will not apply.
 - d) A dog becoming unfit after departure shall be carried in the dog bag or left with a Marshall. Acceptance of a dropped dog is always at the discretion of the Marshall.
 - e) Physical and verbal abuse of dogs is strictly prohibited at the event site and may lead to disqualification from the event and any further penalty will be at the discretion of the committee of the S.S.H.C.
 - f) Abuse of Marshalls and spectators is also prohibited.
3. Assistance on the Trail
 - a) All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from Marshalls stationed at designated points along the trail as authorised by the rally organiser at the Musers meeting. Type of assistance is always at the discretion of the Marshall.
 - b) An individual team may receive assistance from anyone, only if the team becomes unmanageable.
 - c) Authorised Marshalls will be available to assist only when requested to do so by the Musher.
 - d) No one shall assist a team by wilfully pacing it.

4. Loose Teams and Dogs

- a) A loose team or dog will not incur penalty provided the team/dog has completed the entire course and the Musher has received only authorised outside assistance.
 - I. Authorised outside assistance is limited to holding a team/dog once it has been stopped.
 - II. Everyone should be encouraged to stop and hold any loose team/dog.
 - III. A loose team/dog interfering with any other team will be disqualified.

5. Right of Way

- a) When passing oncoming teams on a single track, the team travelling downhill has right of way.
- b) On level ground, the rally organiser shall determine at the Mushers meeting if the outgoing or incoming team have the right of way.
- c) In the half mile "no right of way" zone prior to the finish, no team shall have right of way over any other team.

6. Passing

- a) An overtaking team has right of way over the preceding team, when the overtaking team comes within fifty feet (fifteen meters) of the team ahead. The overtaking Musher shall call "trail" when they intend to overtake.
- b) Upon hearing this call, the team ahead shall make way for the passing team, by moving to one side of the trail and slowing the team or stopping if requested to do so by the overtaking Musher, up to a maximum of thirty seconds.
- c) An overtaken team may request and receive the right of way to repass after one minute.
- d) Teams following each other shall maintain a distance of no less than one team length or fifty feet whichever is the greater, except when passing, or in the "no right of way" zone.
- e) Passing teams becoming tangled as a result of the pass may request the overtaken team to wait for a period of not more than sixty seconds.
- f) A Musher finding two or more teams stopped together may pass all such teams, the stopped teams shall make every effort to clear the trail for the moving team(s).

H. Conduct

1. Responsibility and Sportsmanship
 - a) All Musherers are responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handlers and themselves before, during and after the event.
 - b) Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the rally organiser determines that Musher, handler or team conduct at any time in the event, is detrimental to the sport, they will be disqualified. It is the duty of all members to report any abuse witnessed to the rally organizer as soon as practicable.
 - c) Mating of bitches is forbidding throughout the duration of the event.
 - d) Puppies will not be allowed without full vaccination certificates.
 - e) Puppies will not be offered for sale at an event site.
 - f) Abuse of a dog, with or without an implement is prohibited.

J. Protest and Disciplinary Action

1. Protests
 - a) Anyone wishing to protest a violation of the rules, must do so immediately following the heat or run in which the alleged violation occurred. The protest may be verbal.
 - b) A verbal protest must be confirmed in writing to the rally organiser within one hour after the heat in which the alleged violation occurred. The protest must be accompanied by a fee of five pounds, which may be refunded by the Club in the event of the protest being upheld.
 - c) In the event of any protest or report of an alleged rule violation, the concerned parties may demand a hearing, such hearings must be granted and organised by the rally organiser and the committee of the S.S.H.C. at the earliest convenient time.
2. Disciplinary Action.
 - a) For any violation of the foregoing rules, the rally organiser with or without the recommendation of any judge or protest committee, may impose a warning to, or disqualify any competitor from the event at their discretion.
 - b) In the event of a protest being registered against a competing rally organiser, then any decision must be confirmed or reversed by the committee of the S.S.H.C. at their next meeting following the protest.
 - c) In all other respects, the decision of the rally organiser is final.

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