

SDAS Working Rally Rules

1. THE COURSE

- a) The course shall be clearly marked out with sufficient highly visible markers
- b) Recommended dimension for markers is 8" by 12"

c) Markers

Right Turn: Red marker on right, preferably 7.5 - 15.0 m (25-50ft) before turn

Left Turn: Red marker on left, preferably 7.5 - 15.0 m (25-50ft) before turn

Straight On: Blue Marker

Night Rally Markers: Will be reflective, to be advised by the individual rally organisers.

Caution: Yellow Marker - slow down

Marshall: White Marker with Black M

- d) The course should be of suitable surface, avoiding where possible such surfaces as concrete, tarmac, sharp gravel or other material likely to damage the feet of the dogs, except at necessary road crossings.
- e) It's each individual driver's responsibility to ensure by whatever means necessary that the designated course is safe and suitable for their team, bearing in mind its size and speed and their own level of skill and experience and the prevailing weather conditions at the time.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS, DRIVERS & PASSENGERS

- a) Drivers of a team must be fully paid up members of the Sled Dog Association of Scotland at the time of the event. Drivers of a team must also have their own third party insurance cover for their particular class or activity and produce proof to the Rally Organiser if requested.
- b) The Rally Organiser may not reject any entries submitted, unless they have a valid reason for this action, which is backed up by a current SDAS committee member.
- c) No dog, equipment or clothing shall be brought from a kennel where any contagious disease exists or has existed within the previous three weeks. Any breach of this Rule will result in disqualification and immediate removal from the Event Site.
- d) No dog may be replaced during the period of a rally. In a rally of more than one heat, the Rally Organiser may mark dogs for the purposes of identification.
- e) Any team, dog or driver coming to the Event being, in the opinion of the Rally Organiser, unfit or incapable of completing the course in a safe and satisfactory manner, will be disqualified from the entered classes. The rally organiser must have a valid reason for this disqualification, which is backed up by a current SDAS committee member.
- f) All Drivers must be 16 years of age, or over, on the first day of the Event - except for Junior classes. Drivers between 16 & 18 years of age will be required to be full Members of the SDAS before competing in events other than junior classes.
- g) The Driver starting in the first heat of an Event must be the driver of his team throughout the entire Event.



- h) Kennel Club registered, pure-bred sled dogs (as defined in item 3 of the Club's Constitution and Code of Ethics), i.e. Siberian Huskies, Alaskan Malamutes, Canadian Eskimo/ Greenland Dogs, Samoyeds and those dogs which are registered on the SDAS Open Sled Dog Register can be entered for SDAS events.
- i) No dog less than twelve months old on the first day of the Event will be accepted for entry other than the Recreational classes.
- j) Kennel Club registered names or SDAS Open Sled Dog Registration number and Date of Birth of dogs competing must be given on the entry form. It is acceptable to provide a full kennel list without being class specific.
- k) Passengers will only be allowed at the individual Rally Organiser's discretion. Minimum age for passengers should be 16 years of age and passengers must wear protective headgear and gloves.
- l) Dogs, which are not KC Registered Sled Dog breeds (as defined in item 3 of the club's Objectives within the Constitution and Code of Ethics), wishing to compete at SDAS events, should firstly register their dogs' details on the club's Open Sled Dog Register. Please contact a committee member, who will forward the appropriate forms for completion. See the Club's Constitution and Code of Ethics for further information on the Open Sled Dog Register.

3. MEDICATIONS

- a) Prohibited medications are all those deemed harmful to the dogs or to the sport, including stimulants, depressants, anaesthetics and analgesics. See www.ESDRA.net for information on their anti-doping procedures.
- b) If a dog is suspected of being under the influence of any prohibited medication, the Sled Dog Association of Scotland reserves the right to have the dog examined and tested by qualified veterinary personnel and, if positive, the Driver, Owner and Team will suffer automatic disqualification plus any further penalty at the discretion of the Committee of the SDAS.
- c) Veterinary inspection of any dog entered may be required at the discretion of the Rally Organiser and one current SDAS committee member.

4. EQUIPMENT

(Rig Classes)

- a) The responsibility for the condition, safety and suitability of all dogs and equipment rests solely with the Driver and/or Owner.
- b) All connections from lines to harness, collar and rig/sled must be capable of quick and easy detachment. Correct functioning of these attachments may be checked.
- c) All teams must have a snub line attached to the gang line between the rear of the team and point where it is attached to the rig/sled. This snub line must be of a length that is long enough to enable release from a static object (e.g. gate post or tree) by the Driver whilst on, and in control of the rig/sled.
- d) All lines must be free of frays and excess wear.
- e) Shock absorbers, when utilised, must have a safety line.
- f) Rigs/scooters must not be fitted with any device to assist propulsion.
- g) Rigs must have three or four wheels and be freestanding.



- h) Rigs/scooters must have an adequate braking system capable of stopping the rig/scooter, when brakes are applied by the driver, standing in the normal driving position and with motive power provided by either pushing or pulling of the rig/scooter by an assistant.
- i) Rigs/scooters must be equipped with a manual steering mechanism, capable of operation by the Driver from the normal driving position.
- j) Rigs must not exceed 150 cm (60") in overall width.
- k) All rigs should be fitted with a brushbow. No part of the rig shall protrude in front of the brushbow, including gangline attachments. If this does not cover the entire width of the rig, additional deflectors must be fitted around any protruding part, fabricated in such a way as to avoid the creation of any sharp projection. Brushbows must be not less than 20cms (7") nor more than 45cm (1 8") from the ground. All brushbow/deflectors must be manufactured from inflexible material.
- l) There should be no excessive play in wheel bearings and in the steering column bearing.
- m) Sleds must be fitted with a brushbow.
- n) Sleds must have an adequate claw braking system.
- o) No wet acid batteries may be carried.
- p) Back-up lights must be carried during night rallies.
- q) Muzzles, full choke collars, whip's or other similar devices are strictly prohibited.
- r) Bibs will be provided for each Driver by the Club.
- S) All drivers must wear a safety helmet which shows the BSI Kitemark. Participants must also wear gloves whilst competing. These gloves can be full fingered or fingerless and be made of any material.

(Cani-cross Classes)

- a) A cani-cross team consists of a driver and one dog, racing solely on foot.
- b) The dog's harness shall not allow the dog to escape.
- c) The dog shall be attached to the driver by a snub line with shock absorber at all times. The snub line shall be attached to the driver by a hip belt (at least 7cm wide over the spine). The snub line shall not exceed 2.5 meters in length.
- d) The driver shall not wear shoes that could be dangerous for dogs.

(Bikejoring Classes)

- a) A bikejoring team will consist of a driver pedalling a bicycle and one dog.
- b) The dog's harness shall not allow the dog to escape.
- c) The dog shall be attached to the bicycle by a snub line with shock absorber at all time. This snub line shall be attached to the bicycle and shall not exceed 3 meters long.
- d) The bicycle shall be equipped with efficient brakes on each wheel.



(Scooter Classes)

- a) A scooter team will consist of a driver riding a two-wheeled scooter being pulled by one dog. Bicycles with the pedal mechanisms blocked or removed will be allowed providing they meet the relevant safety requirements.
- b) The dog's harness shall not allow the dog to escape.
- c) The dog shall be attached to the scooter by a snub line with shock absorber at all time. This snub line shall be attached to the scooter and shall not exceed 3 meters long.
- d) The scooter shall be equipped with efficient brakes on each wheel.

5. PROCEDURES

- a) Starting position and time for each team shall be determined by drawing, seeding, or any other method as determined by the individual rally organiser.
- b) The format of the starting times for the second heat (where applicable), will be determined by the finishing times from the first heat with the fastest out first and so on.
- c) A rig must come to a full stop at the Start Line with the driver ensuring that his team is securely snubbed or otherwise held, at the Start Line.
- d) A team crossing the Start Line 5 seconds or less in advance of the official Starting Time will receive a 15 second penalty. In cases of greater violation, a 60 second penalty will result. In the event of a premature start, enabling the team to be returned to the Start Line to comply with the Official Start Time, then that team may re-start without penalty.
- e) The Starting Point of the team shall be the front of the brushbow.
- f) The start time of the team shall begin when such team is scheduled to leave the start line.
- g) Teams failing to leave the start line on time for any heat will not be allowed to start until the last scheduled team of the class has left. If more than one team should start late, each shall start in the order scheduled. Trail time for late starters will begin at the official time of departure.
- h) A team not clearing the designated start chute (minimum distance 30m) prior to the scheduled start of the next team may be disqualified.
- i) When the temperature rises above 10 degrees at any time during the course of the event (when taken in the shade at or near the start line) the event shall be reviewed by the rally organiser and may be stopped, or trails shortened where practicable. The rally organiser may, however, if he or she feels that the temperature/humidity combination is too high, review the event before this level is reached. Temperatures will be monitored during the course of the event.
- j) A driver may ride, scoot or run, but not in front of the team of dogs, when they wish.
- k) Physical and verbal abuse of the dogs is **strictly** prohibited at the event site and may lead to disqualification from that event.
- l) Wilful interference by a driver with other competing teams in any way is prohibited. Teams experiencing difficulty must make every effort not to impede other drivers.



6. CLASSIFICATIONS

A Class	No more than 8 dogs, no less than 5
B Class	No more than 6 dogs, no less than 4
B2 Class	No more than 6 dogs, no less than 4 Freight breed only (max 1 Siberian only).
C Class	No more than 4 dogs, no less than 3
C2 Class	No more than 4 dogs, no less than 3 Freight breed only (max 1 Siberian only).
D Class	No more than 3 dogs, no less than 2
E Class	2 dogs only
E2 Class	2 dogs only Freight breed only (max 1 Siberian only)
F Class	1 dog Siberian only.
F2 Class	1 dog Freight Breed only. (Freight breeds include Alaskan Malamute, Samoyed, Canadian Eskimo/Greenland Dog)
R Class	Recreational, non-timed (max 8 dogs)

Junior Class

J1 Class	8 - 11 year old, 1 dog only.
J2 Class	12 - 15 year old, 1 dog only.
J3 Class	12 - 15 year old, 2 dogs only.

Registered & Open dogs will be run separately.

7. DOGS

- a) All dogs must be, properly harnessed in the team and all dogs must be fastened by a neckline.
*Exception: Lead dogs must be properly harnessed in the team, but may **run** with or without a neckline.*
- b) Any dog suffering injury or becoming unfit to run during the competition may be dropped at the nearest marshal point, with the remainder of the team able to complete the race without penalty provided that the requirements of Rule 6 are satisfied. Dropped dogs will be recovered at the end of the class by race officials.

Where no marshal point is available, no dog should be tethered and left unaccompanied. The competitor should snub his/her team at the soonest opportunity and await recovery by race officials at the end of the current class. The competitor will be disqualified for that day's heat.

NOTE: The introduction of these revised rule allows the carriage and use of a dog bag to be at the driver's discretion rather than a formal requirement as in previous seasons.

- c) After the first heat, a driver may drop any dog they wish from subsequent heat(s), subject always to the minimum specified. See Rule 6.
- d) A dog may not take part in more than one Class or Team during any one day other than scheduled junior events.
- e) All dogs must be kept on leads at all times at rally sites. Flagrant breach of this rule will result in immediate disqualification from the Event.

8. PASSENGERS

- a) The passenger must not assist in the running of the team except in the case of the team becoming unmanageable.

9. FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

- a) A Team and Driver must follow the full course as laid out by the Rally Organiser and as described at the Mushers' Meeting.
- b) If a Team does leave the designated trail, the Driver must return the Team to the point at which they left the Trail. A Team and Driver meeting this condition may then continue the course without penalty.



- c) Both Team and Driver must cover the entire course without unauthorised assistance.
- d) Authorised assistants (ie marshalls) are only authorised to hold the rig and not at any time handle the team of dogs.
- e) All teams may receive assistance as per point 9d, from Officials stationed at designated points along the trail if so authorised by the Rally Organiser. All drivers will be notified of permissible assistance at the Musher's meeting.
- f) An individual Team may receive assistance from anyone only if that Team becomes unmanageable.
- g) No person is allowed to assist a Team by wilfully pacing it.
- h) A loose team interfering with other Teams will be disqualified.
- i) A Team not leaving the Start Line within 30 seconds of the designated start time must retire from the Start Area and await instruction from the Rally Organiser or his appointed Start Marshall. See Rule 5g
- j) On a hill, the Team travelling downhill has Right of Way.
- k) On level ground, the Rally Organiser shall determine if the outgoing or incoming team shall have right of way and this will be specified at the Musher's meeting.
- l) No incoming team shall have right of way over another incoming team from a **point** to be established by the Rally Organiser, but within 800m (0.5ml) of the Finish Line.
- m) An overtaking team has right of way over the preceding team when the overtaking team comes within 15m (50ft) of the team ahead.
- n) Under these conditions, the overtaking team driver should call "TRAIL". Upon hearing this call, the preceding driver must make way for the overtaking team bringing their team to a full stop, if requested, up to a maximum of 30 seconds where practical. See Rule 5k.
- o) The over taken team may request and receive the right of way to re-pass after 30 seconds.
- p) An overtaken team shall maintain such an interval so as not to be a distraction to the preceding team.
- q) The finishing point of a team shall be the brushbow of the rig/sled.
- r) Drivers must be in physical contact with their rig/sled when crossing the finishing line.

10. CONDUCT

- a) Drivers are responsible for the conduct of their dogs and handlers before, during and after the event.
- b) If the Rally Organiser and one current SDAS committee member determines that drivers', handlers' or teams' conduct at any time in the event is detrimental to the sport, they will be disqualified
- c) Mating of bitches is forbidden at rally sites.
- d) Puppies will not be allowed at Rallies unless they are fully inoculated. Persons bringing puppies to an event site without correct papers will be asked to leave.
- e) Puppies will not be offered for sale at an event site.
- f) Physical or verbal abuse by any person of any person at any part of the event site is forbidden.



11. PROTESTS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- a) Any person(s) 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) Any verbal protest must be confirmed in writing to the Rally Organiser within one hour after the end of the event or heat, whichever is first.
- 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 SDAS at the earliest convenient time.
- d) 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 driver at his discretion from that event.
- e) 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 SDAS at their next meeting following the protest.
- f) In all other respects, the decision of the Rally Organiser and/or committee is final.

12. SDAS CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS SYSTEM

A points system will operate. Points will be awarded in each class as follows:

Position	Number of Points	Position	Number of Points
1 st	66	11 th	14
2 nd	57	12 th	12
3 rd	49	13 th	10
4 th	42	14 th	8
5 th	36	15 th	6
6 th	31	16 th	5
7 th	27	17 th	4
8 th	23	18 th	3
9 th	20	19 th	2
10 th	17	20 th and thereafter	1

- a) All points for a class Championship must have been attained in that class only.
- b) In scheduled multi-day events, only the Final placings will count for points. Where only one heat of a scheduled two day rally has been possible then that heat shall stand for the results to be calculated for that event and championship points awarded accordingly.
- c) In the event of a tied points championship total then the tied position will be shared i.e. Tied Championship 1st position – the winners will share the trophy for the year.
- d) Discard System – depending on the number of Championship events held, only your top results will be recorded i.e. if 8 events are held then only 5 sets of results will be counted.
 - i) Run up to 3 championship events and 1 event can be discarded
 - ii) Run 4-6 championship events and 2 events can be discarded
 - iii) Run 7-9 championship events and 3 events can be discarded

