

Top 10 Working Dogs: Weight Pull, Backpacking, Sledding

General Guidelines:

- 1 **Eligibility:** Top 10 ranking in weight pull, backpacking, and sledding is open to all registrable Alaskan Malamutes who fit the ranking criteria.
 - 1.1 All qualifying Top Ten (10) Alaskan Malamutes are eligible to receive a certificate of their rank.
 - 1.1.1 Members of AMCA, Inc., will receive their Top 10 certificate as a courtesy.
 - 1.1.2 Non-members who do not enter the exhibition may request a certificate for a fee (TBD).
 - 1.2 The qualifying season will run from June 1st to May 31st of the following year.
 - 1.3 The dog(s) of any owner who is not in good standing with any club in which they are involved (AMCA, regional/local working clubs, affiliate clubs, all-breed clubs, etc.), are ineligible for the Top 10 ranking during that time.
 - 1.4 The Working Dog sportsmanship and dog care rules apply to this program and event. Violation of this rule will result in loss of eligibility, ranking and award. (WD 5.2, WDI 5.4, WDA/X 5.6)
 - 1.5 Only two Alaskan Malamutes per household per Top 10 will be eligible for the Top 10 ranking. Should more than two Alaskan Malamutes per household qualify, the highest ranking will receive an invitation. Should all things be considered equal, the owner will be allowed to choose which two dogs qualify for ranking.
 - 1.5.1.1 Exceptions: See team dog guidelines below (6.3.3).
 - 1.5.2 Should there be less than ten (10) qualifiers, the above rule may be modified to fill the ten (10) positions, as determined by the committee.
- 2 **Fees:** Exhibition entrants will be required to pay an entry fee (variable annually).
 - 2.1 Qualifying entrants are not required to enter the exhibition to maintain their position on the Top Ten (10) list.
- 3 **Deadlines:**
 - 3.1 Invitees should notify the committee with an entry or declination of entry by that year's stated Exhibition entry deadline. No late entries will be accepted.
 - 3.2 All qualifiers should provide the committee with catalog documentation by the stated deadline(s). No late information will be accepted.
 - 3.2.1 A one hundred and fifty (150-200) word biography of the dog/team qualifier to be printed in the catalog. Biography will be read during the presentation of the qualifier.
 - 3.2.1.1 Should the Exhibition print their own catalog, the entrant should supply a photo(s) and three generation pedigree to be printed in the catalog in addition to their one hundred and fifty (150) word biography.
 - 3.3 Entrants should notify the committee no later than October 1st if the qualifier will attend the event in person or as an absentee.
- 4 **Prizes:** Entrants will receive a ribbon and certificate of their placement on the Top 10 list for that year.
- 5 **General:** Program rules may be updated or modified annually by the Working Dog Committee. Any changes will be released after the current season's Top 10 list is released. .
- 6 **Other:** Qualifiers may enter the Exhibition even if they are unable to attend.

- 6.1 All qualifying dogs will be honored at the Exhibition. Entered absentee dogs will have their biography read, and if possible, the submitted photo displayed. Unentered dogs will have their name and biography read.

7 Qualification:

7.1 Weight Pull:

- 7.1.1 Stats will be maintained annually (see Weight Pull Stats guidelines).
- 7.1.2 The top ten (10) eligible Alaskan Malamutes from each category (Most Weight Pulled “MWP” & Highest Percentage Pulled “HPP”) will be invited to enter the exhibition.

7.2 Backpacking:

- 7.2.1 The top ten (10) earned packing titles, or submitted qualifying legs (see 7.2.1.1), for the year will be determined by nomination from the requisite title committee.
- 7.2.1.1 Exception: For those with earned titles or working toward a title, you may submit complete A/X legs totaling no less than 40 qualifying miles for consideration, I legs totaling no less than 40 qualifying miles excluding 10 mile day legs, or complete qualifying I/A/X title application(s).
- 7.2.1.2 Depending on the submitted application load per year, submitted trips under 7.2.1.1 may not make the cut.
- 7.2.1.3 All titles and legs must be submitted to the I/A/X committee no later than June 5th. No exceptions will be made.
- 7.2.1.4 For those submitting complete title packages: New trips will **NOT** qualify for another title, they will only apply toward the Top 10 program for that season.
- 7.2.1.5 For those submitting legs which will later be used in a title application: If these legs are considered and/or nominated and ranked, they are **NOT** approved toward any title, they are only reviewed as qualifying for the Annual Top 10 program. All title applications must be received as complete packages for approval review.
- 7.2.2 Titles will be judged and ranked on their merits. Including, but not restricted to: effort, total mileage, difficulty and how well the applicant/dog executed all of the title rules.

7.3 Sledding:

- 7.3.1 The top ten (10) earned sledding titles, or submitted qualifying I/A/X legs (see 7.3.1.1), for the year will be determined by nomination from the requisite title committee.
- 7.3.1.1 Exception: For those with earned titles or working toward a title, you may submit complete A/X legs totaling no less than 40 qualifying miles for consideration, I legs totaling no less than 40 qualifying miles, or a complete qualifying I/A/X title application.
- 7.3.1.2 Depending on the submitted application load per year, submitted trips under 7.3.1.1 may not make the cut.
- 7.3.1.3 All titles and legs must be submitted to the I/A/X committee no later than June 5th. No exceptions will be made.
- 7.3.1.4 For those submitting complete title packages: New trips will **NOT** qualify for another title, they will only apply toward the Top 10 program for that season.
- 7.3.1.5 For those submitting legs which will later be used in a title application: If these legs are considered and/or nominated and ranked, they are **NOT** approved toward any title, they are only reviewed as qualifying for the Annual Top 10 program. All title applications must be received as complete packages for approval review.

- 7.3.2 Titles will be judged and ranked on their merits. Including, but not restricted to: effort, total mileage, difficulty and how well the applicant/dog executed all of the title rules.
- 7.3.2.1 Lead dog legs will receive higher consideration than equivalent team dog legs.
- 7.3.3 Given the team nature of sledding, qualifiers will be limited to two (2) eligible dogs per team per year. Entrants may choose to honor their dogs using one of the options below:
- 7.3.3.1 **Option 1:** Applicants may qualify their team (provided the same dogs were used) and one “Golden Harness”* dog. Entrant should provide a name to identify the team.
- 7.3.3.1.1 For team qualifications: The team (or as many members as are available) may be presented all together, provided there are enough handlers and it can be done safely, during their ring time. Each team dog’s name will be read.
- 7.3.3.1.1.1 One biography for the team will be read (entrants are encouraged to briefly highlight each member with their 150 words).
- 7.3.3.1.1.2 One ribbon will be provided for the team.
- 7.3.3.1.1.3 One certificate will be provided for the team with individual names included.
- 7.3.3.2 **Option 2:** Should the entrant have a qualifying lead dog, that dog will receive one invitation and the entrant may choose to qualify their team or one other “Golden Harness” dog.
- 7.3.3.2.1 The same team guidelines apply as in option 1.
- 7.3.3.3 **Option 3:** The entrant may select two individual Golden Harness dogs from their qualifying team.
- 7.3.4 Should there be less than 10 qualifiers in the year, 7.3.3 may be modified to fill the ten positions.

★ *Golden Harness Dog: The recipient is chosen by the musher as the most outstanding dog in the team and will be recognized as the musher’s Golden Harness team member.*

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