

Outdoor and Indoor Weight Pull Rules

I. General

- A. The pulling area must be at least 10 feet wide and 20 feet long with an open end toward which the pull is made. If there is any perceptible slope to the chute, the direction of the pull shall be toward the higher end. There shall be a physical barrier separating the crowd from the pulling area.
- a. The outdoor area shall be as level and hard packed as conditions permit.
- b. Indoors, the area shall be of dirt, sod, carpet or runner.
- c. The dog does not need to achieve traction on the same surface as that on which the vehicle rides.
- d. The pulling vehicle must achieve traction on the same surface for the entire 16 feet.
- B. Three officials will supervise the event. One will be designated Chief Judge. A majority ruling will be the deciding factor.
- C. All entrants are responsible for the conduct of their dogs and handlers before, during and after the contest. Unsportsmanlike conduct in the weight pull area or on the weight pull course will result in disqualification.
- D. All dogs shall be kept in a designated holding area behind the starting line while they are waiting to pull. No dog shall be allowed in the general area ahead of the starting line except for the dog that is pulling.
- E. All dogs must be under physical control, on lead, except when hooked to the weight pull vehicle.
- F. No female in season may be used in a weight pull or brought into the weight pull area. Other unentered dogs and family pets are also excluded.
- G. No pregnant females shall be allowed to compete in an AMCA weight pull.
- H. No dogs shall be brought from a kennel where Parvo, Brucellosis, Hepatitis, Distemper, Leptospirosis or any other contagious canine disease exists, nor shall equipment be brought from said kennel. In addition, all dogs brought to the event shall be accompanied by proof of Rabies vaccination and shall be vaccinated for canine infectious diseases, as advised by their veterinarian.
- I. No “double handling” shall be allowed. “Double handling” is defined as, “The act of someone, other than the dog’s handler, deliberately getting the dog’s attention in the chute in order to facilitate the dog’s pulling.” Any violation of this rule will result in the disqualification of the involved dog.
- J. No handling or bait is to be allowed once a dog enters the pull area (as defined in section I.A.) and is hooked to the load. Handling is to consist of anyone touching the dog, his harness, the pulling vehicle or any part of the equipment or load except chute officials who hook up the dog, hold the dog if requested by the handler, stop the load after completion of the pull, or aide in the event of a tangle. A handler may touch his dog to reset the dog in the event of a tangle. Baiting consists of the use of anything to influence the dog other than hand signals or voice commands. Dogs may be rewarded once they have left the pull area and have returned to their crate or vehicle.
- K. During the pull, the use of whips, noisemakers, leashes, muzzles or any form of baiting is prohibited.
- L. This event is open to any Alaskan malamute that is at least one year old. Weight pulls held at an AKC event might be limited to Alaskan malamutes or open to other breeds. Events not sanctioned by AKC may be open to other breeds.
- M. Entries close no less than ½ hour before the pull starts.
- N. No medication to stimulate the dog’s pulling ability shall be used.
- O. The sponsoring club or judge may reject any entry for due cause.
- P. Cruel and inhumane treatment of a dog is strictly prohibited and will be cause for disqualification.
- Q. The Chief Judge shall forward a complete copy of the weight pull results to the Working Dog Committee. For weight pull events held in conjunction with the National Specialty and/or the Regional Specialty held in conjunction with the National Specialty, the Chief Judge shall also forward a copy of the complete results to the AMCA Archivist. In addition to the complete pull results, the report shall include the type of pulling vehicle, type of surface, whether held indoors or outdoors, weather conditions and temperature if outdoors, type of tires, and air pressure of tires if pneumatic.

II. Weight Pulling Divisions

- A. There shall be five divisions in the contest.
 - a. Dogs weighing 60 lbs. or less.
 - b. Dogs weighing 61 lbs. up to and including 80 lbs.
 - c. Dogs weighing 81 lbs. up to and including 100 lbs.
 - d. Dogs weighing 101 lbs. up to and including 120 lbs.
 - e. Dogs weighing 121 lbs. and over.

All weights shall be rounded down to the lowest whole pound. Example: A dog weighing 80-3/4 lbs. would be recorded as 80 lbs. The 101-120 lbs. class and the 121 lbs. and over class may be combined, but each dog's weight must be recorded on the final report.

B. The dog that wins its weight class shall not be allowed to compete in the next weight class. However, the winning dog shall be allowed to continue pulling in order to compete for top percentage pulled or top weight pulled. These pulls shall be at the established increment or more.

III. Equipment

A. The dog must be fitted with an adequate freighting or weight pull harness. The judge will determine whether or not the harness is safe for the dog. Dogs should wear a buckle or martingale-type collar during competition. Prong/pinch collars, head halters, or electric shock collars are not permitted. If any part of the harness or other equipment breaks, the contestant will have another chance at the same increment after repairs are made.

B. Carrying capacity of weight pull vehicles.

a. Sleds should be capable of safely carrying a load of 2,700 lbs.

i. Sleds should have runners 2 to 4 inches wide and 7 to 10 feet long, curving at the front end in a reasonable manner for a sled.

ii. Report of the pull should indicate whether the runners were shod with steel or plastic.

b. A wheeled vehicle must be capable of safely carrying a load of 3,000 lbs.

i. Wheeled vehicles can be three or four wheel design, with wheels in a fixed position so they track in a straight line.

ii. Report of the pull should indicate whether the vehicle was equipped with solid or pneumatic tires.

iii. The use of a car as the pulling vehicle will result in invalidation of the contest.

C. Tugline

a. Shall not exceed 6 feet in length when a sled is used, with a minimum of 3 feet.

b. Shall not exceed 16 feet in length for a wheeled vehicle, with a minimum of 6 feet.

c. No shockline is to be used as part of the tugline in weight pulling events.

D. An adequate supply of pre-weighed, inert material suitable for safe, stable stacking shall be provided.

E. Provision should be made for attachment of a 16-foot rope to the rear of the pulling vehicle for stopping the pulling vehicle at the end of the pull and preventing injury to the pulling dog. The rope is then used to pull back the vehicle to the starting point and can serve as an accurate measure of distance traveled by the vehicle.

IV. The Contest

A. All dogs shall be weighed prior to each AMCA weight pull event (multiple or consecutive day pulls by the same organization require only one weigh-in unless the dog is within 2 pounds of a class division). All recorded dog weights shall be rounded to the lowest whole pound. Dogs should be weighed with nothing on except a standard collar.

B. The starting weight in each division shall be at least 300 lbs. including the pulling vehicle. There shall be approximately 100 lb. increments. This increment can be reduced or raised if the majority of handlers agree.

C. During each pulling effort, the handler must be in one of two positions.

a. No further forward than the front of the pulling vehicle when the dog is driven from the rear.

- b. No closer than the handler's line if the dog is being called. The handler's line will be located 10 feet past the end of the tugline, but in no event closer than the pulling vehicle's finishing line. As the dog approaches, the handler must back up, remaining in front of the dog, to avoid touching the dog until the pull is considered complete.
- D. The pulling vehicle's finishing line is measured 16 feet from the starting line, and the pull is completed when the vehicle is pulled the entire length. During the pulls, the Chief Judge will specify what part of the pulling vehicle will be lined up with the starting line; that same part of the pulling vehicle must then touch the finishing line before the pull is considered complete. For example, most clubs start with the front tires (for carts) centered on the starting line, and the pull is complete when the front tires are centered on the finishing line.
- E. The timer starts the pull 1) when the handler crosses the handler's line and calls his dog or commands him to start, or 2) when the dog begins to move the pulling vehicle. If the handler elects not to have his dog or the pulling vehicle held until he is in position and commands the dog to pull, and the dog begins to pull the vehicle before the handler crosses the handler's line, then the timer shall start the clock. The handler must make every effort to cross the handler's line before the dog starts to pull.
- F. The dog has 60 seconds to pull the weight 16 feet. If the weight is in motion when the time expires, the dog will be allowed to complete the pull without disqualification, providing the weight has been in continuous motion. Unless the weight is pulled the full 16 feet, the dog will not be credited for that pull.
- G. The judges must make sure that the pulling vehicle is properly lined up before each pull and that the runners or wheels are not frozen or wedged.
- H. If a dog becomes entangled in his harness or lines, the judges may declare a re-pull. The pulling vehicle will be returned to its original start position and the clock reset. One re-pull only will be allowed at a particular weight.
- I. Contestants may pass no more than two consecutive turns at a time. They may not request that the load be lightened at any time.
- J. The judges may stop the pull at any time if it appears that the dog may injure itself.
- K. The maximum load, including the vehicle's weight, pulled by each dog the entire distance of 16 feet, together with the time required for the pull, will be recorded and reported. *If two or more dogs pull the same maximum load, then the fastest time determines the winner. [Italicized portion passed by motion at 2008 annual meeting.]*
- L. Weather conditions will be reported and should include the following:
- a. Temperatures at the start and end of the contest.
 - b. Snow conditions, if applicable.
 - c. Rain, sleet or freezing rain, if applicable.
- M. Type of surface on which the pull is made should be recorded.
- N. For any infraction of these rules, the judge will impose a warning or disqualification.
- O. Any person wishing to protest any violation of these rules must do so immediately. The protest may be verbal but must also be followed by a written statement, citing the circumstances and particular rule or rules involved, within 20 minutes of the end of the contest. The individual against whom the protest is lodged shall be entitled to notification and a hearing before a decision is rendered.
- P. The judge's decisions are final.

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