



ALASKAN MALAMUTE CLUB OF WISCONSIN

OUTDOOR & INDOOR WEIGHT PULL RULES

I. GENERAL

- A. The pulling area [chute] must be at least 10 ft. wide and 20 ft. long with an open end toward which the pull is made.
 - 1. If there is any perceptible slope to the chute, the direction of the pull will be toward the higher end.
 - 2. The area will be as level and hard packed as conditions permit.
 - (a) Outdoors – The area will be asphalt or concrete pavement; or compacted snow, dirt, or sod.
 - (b) Indoors – The area will be a solid surface, with carpet or a runner for the dog to gain traction on.
 - 3. The dog does not need to achieve traction on the same surface as that on which the vehicle rides.
 - 4. The pulling vehicle must achieve traction on the same surface for the entire 16 ft.
 - 5. There will be a physical barrier separating the crowd from the pulling area.
- B. Three AMCW weight pull committee members will serve as judges, to supervise the event.
 - 1. One judge will be designated chief judge.
 - 2. 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 of the dog and handler.
- D. All dogs must be kept in a designated holding area behind the starting line while they are waiting to pull. No dog will 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.
 - 1. All dogs not actively pulling must be in a crate, or must be attended by a responsible handler.
 - 2. Any dog that soils or damages any property, while under the control of its handler may be disqualified from further participation in the day's event.
- 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 from the weight pull area.
- G. No pregnant females will be allowed to compete in an AMCW weight pull.
- H. No dogs may be brought from a kennel where parvo, brucellosis, hepatitis, distemper, leptospirosis or any other contagious canine disease exists, nor will equipment be brought from said kennel. In addition, all dogs brought to the event must be accompanied by proof of current rabies vaccination; and have been vaccinated for canine infectious diseases, as advised by their veterinarian.



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- I. No "double handling" will 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.
 - 1. Any violation of this rule will result in the disqualification of the involved dog.
 - 2. The AMCW videographers/photographers are exempt from any rule regarding double handling, while acting in their official capacity.

- J. No handling or baiting will be allowed once a dog enters the chute and is hooked to the load.
 - 1. Handling consists of anyone touching the dog, the harness, the pulling vehicle or any part of the equipment or load; except designated event officials who hook-up or hold the dog, stop the load after completion of the pull, or aid in the event of a tangle. A handler may touch the dog to reset the dog in the event of a tangle.
 - 2. 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 dog weighing at least 30 lbs., that is at least 1yr. old.
 - 1. No dog age 10 yrs. or older may enter the pull, except in novice class.
 - 2. Dogs turning 10 during the season will be allowed to finish out the season.
 - 3. Weight pulls held at an AKC event may be limited to Alaskan malamutes or open to all breeds.
 - 4. Events not sanctioned by AKC may be open to all breeds.

- M. Entries will close no less than ½ hr. before the pull starts.
 - 1. No late entries in the regular classes will be considered for any reason.
 - 2. A dog over the age of 1, weighing at least 30 lbs., may be entered in novice class until the start of the weight pull.

- N. No medication to stimulate the dog's pulling ability will be used.

- O. AMCW or the chief judge may reject any entry for due cause, including lack of appropriate grooming of the dog.

- P. Cruel and inhumane treatment of a dog is strictly prohibited and will be cause for disqualification.

- Q. A copy of all weight pull results will be sent to the chair of the AMCA working dog committee.
 - 1. The report will 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.
 - 2. For weight pulls held in conjunction with an AMCA national specialty, or a regional specialty held in conjunction with the national specialty, the AMCA weight pull rules will be used, with a copy of the results also sent to the AMCA archivist.



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- R. Smoking is not allowed while hooking-up a dog, or anywhere in the chute area.
- S. All entrants are required to complete a weight pull entry agreement for the event, prior to participating in the pull.
- T. The weight pull rules in effect at the start of each weight pull season will be followed throughout that entire season.
- U. A dog **MUST** complete the first pull of its first round to qualify for any prizes offered for that day's event.
 - 1. A dog must be entered and place in a minimum of 3 AMCW weight pulls to be eligible for an end-of-season weight pull award.
 - 2. A dog that completes the first pull of its first round will receive an initial 5 qualifying points and an additional 1 point for each dog that they beat.
 - 3. The total points earned at each event will count towards the dog's end-of-season weight pull award eligibility.
 - 4. The end-of-season weight pull awards will be made at, but separate from, the annual AMCW member achievement awards presentation banquet.
- V. If a dog entered in regular classes fails to complete a pull in any round up to the conclusion of the novice class, the dog may participate in the novice class.
 - 1. The dog will be allowed to compete in the novice class even if the handler elects to pass during any round in the regular competition
 - 2. If there are time constraints regarding the weight pull, it will be up to the event judges if the dog will be allowed to pull in the novice class.

II. WEIGHT PULLING CLASSES

- A. There will be five weight classes in the contest, in addition to the novice class.
 - 1. Class D – Dogs weighing between 30 – 60 lbs.
 - 2. Class C – Dogs weighing between 61 – 80 lbs.
 - 3. Class B – Dogs weighing between 81 – 100 lbs.
 - 4. Class A – Dogs weighing between 101 – 120lbs.
 - 5. Open – Dogs weighing 121 lbs. and over
- B. All weights will be rounded down to the lowest whole pound [example: A dog weighing 80¾ lbs. would be recorded as 80 lbs.].
 - 1. Unless there are at least 3 dogs entered in the class; classes D & C, and A & Open, will be combined for prizes only. A combination of classes will not affect a dog's eligibility for an annual achievement award.
 - 2. Where classes are combined, each dog's weight must be recorded on the final report.
- C. The dog that wins its weight class will not be allowed to compete in the next weight class.
 - 1. The winning dog will be allowed to continue pulling in order to qualify for top percentage pulled or top weight pulled.
 - 2. Qualifying pulls will be at the established weight increment or more.



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III. EQUIPMENT

- A. The dog must be fitted with an adequate freighting or weight pull harness.
1. Dogs should wear a buckle or martingale-type collar during competition. While slip collars and halti-type collars are allowed, prong/pinch collars and electric shock collars are not permitted.
 2. If any part of the harness or other equipment breaks, the contestant will have another chance at the same increment after repairs are made.
 3. The chief judge will determine whether-or-not a harness or collar is safe for the dog.
- B. Carrying capacity of weight pull vehicles.
1. Sleds should be capable of safely carrying a load of 2,700 lbs.
 - (a) Sleds should have runners 2 – 4 in. wide and 7 – 10 ft. long, curving at the front end in a reasonable manner for a sled.
 - (b) The report of the pull will also indicate whether the runners were shod with steel or plastic.
 2. Carts must be capable of safely carrying a load of 3,500 lbs.
 - (a) Carts can be either a 3 or 4 wheel design, with all wheels in a fixed position so they track in a straight line.
 - (b) The report of the pull will also indicate whether the vehicle was equipped with solid or pneumatic tires.
 - (c) The use of a car as the pulling vehicle is prohibited.
- C. Tugline
1. For a sled – Will be between 3 – 6 ft. in length.
 2. For a cart – Will be between 8 – 16 ft. in length.
 3. Shockline will not be allowed for use as part of the tugline.
- D. An adequate supply of pre-weighed, inert material suitable for safe, stable stacking will be provided by AMCW. Only the weight provided by AMCW will be used at Club weight pulls.
- E. Provision will be made for attaching a 10 ft. 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 or handler. The rope can then be used to pull back the vehicle to the starting point.

IV. THE CONTEST

- A. All dogs, except novice class dogs, will be weighed prior to each AMCW weight pull event [multiple or consecutive day pulls supervised by the Club, require only one weigh-in unless the dog is within 2 lbs. of a class division].
1. All recorded dog weights will be rounded to the lowest whole pound.
 2. Dogs will be weighed with nothing on except a buckle, martingale-type, or slip collar. Adding any additional weight to the dog is prohibited.
- B. The starting weight in each class will be at least 300 lbs. including the weight of the pulling vehicle.
1. Weight will be increased in approximately 100 lb. increments, which can be reduced or raised if the majority of the handlers agree.
 2. The novice class will be limited to a total weight of 1050 lbs.



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- C. During each pulling effort, other than in the novice class, the handler must be in one of the following positions.
1. Driving a dog – No further forward than the front of the pulling vehicle.
 2. Calling a dog – No closer than the leading end of the handler's line, located 16 ft. past the end of the tugline.
 3. The handler must avoid touching the dog until the pull is considered complete.
- D. The pulling vehicle's finish line is measured 16 ft. from the starting line, and the pull is completed when the vehicle is pulled the entire length.
1. During the pulls, the chief judge will specify what part of the pulling vehicle will be lined up with the starting line.
 2. The same part of the pulling vehicle must then touch the finish line before the pull is considered complete. Example: For a cart with a front tire centered on the starting line, the pull is complete when the same tire is centered on the finish line.
- E. The dog or pulling vehicle will be held until the handler calls or commands the dog to pull, at which time the timer will start the clock.
- F. The dog has 60 sec. to pull the weight 16ft.
1. If the weight is in-motion when the time expires, the dog will be allowed to complete the pull; providing the weight has been in continuous motion.
 2. Unless the weight is pulled the full 16 ft. 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 tangled in the harness or lines, the judges will declare a re-pull.
1. The pulling vehicle will be returned to its original start position and the clock reset.
 2. One re-pull only will be allowed at a particular weight.
 3. A tangle is defined as:
 - (a) The dog gets its foot, head, etc. caught in the barrier.
 - (b) The dogs' body goes past the line of the barrier.
 - (c) Calling a dog – The dogs' entire body goes past the front of the pulling vehicle.
 - (d) Driving a dog – The dogs' head comes past the front of the pulling vehicle.
 - (e) The pulling vehicle rolls over the line attached to the dog.
 - (f) The dog soils the chute area.
 - (g) The dog has at least one hind leg outside the harness, while moving forward and trying to pull.
- I. Contestants may not request that the load be lightened; or "pass" a dog more than 2 consecutive turns at a time.
1. The handler may pass a dog up until the start of its class.
 2. Once the scorekeeper has been notified that a dog has been passed, the handler cannot withdraw the pass.
- J. The judges may stop the pull at any time if it appears that the dog may injure itself.



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- K. The maximum load, including the vehicle's weight, pulled by each dog the entire distance of 16 ft., 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.
- L. Weather conditions will be reported and should include the following:
1. Temperatures at the start and end of contest.
 2. Snow conditions, if applicable.
 3. Rain, sleet or freezing rain, if applicable.
- M. The type of surface on which the pull is made, will be recorded.
- N. For any infraction of these rules, the chief judge will impose either a warning or a disqualification.
- O. Any person wishing to protest any violation of these rules must do so immediately.
1. Verbal protests must be made to the chief judge.
 - (a) The chief judge will determine the validity of the protest and may:
 - (1) Dismiss the protest; or
 - (2) Impose either a warning to or a disqualification of the individual against whom the protest was lodged.
 - (b) Verbal protests will be dealt with before the next round.
 2. Any person not satisfied with the result of the verbal protest, may submit a written protest to the chief judge before the end of the round, citing the circumstances and particular rule or rules involved.
 - (a) The individual against whom the protest is lodged will be entitled to a hearing before a final decision is rendered.
 - (b) Following a review of the facts presented, the three event judges will make a final determination regarding the protest, and may:
 - (1) Uphold the initial determination; or
 - (2) Dismiss the protest; or
 - (3) Impose either a warning or a disqualification, to either individual involved.
 3. All protests will be decided, before the start of the next round.
- P. The judge's decisions are final.