DOGS VICTORIA

REG. NO. A0023882W

REGULATIONS

PART 13- SLED SPORTS

Last update: 15 January 2026

To be read in conjunction with DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations, Codes & Policies

Table of Contents

13.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS 2

13.2 ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION 2

13.3 TRIAL ENTRIES 2

13.4 CATALOGUE 2

13.5 NON-ATTENDANCE OF JUDGE 3

13.6 CANCELLED FIXTURES 3

13.7 EXTREME WEATHER – SLED SPORTS 3

13.8 PRECINCTS OF THE TRIAL 4

13.9 JUDGING PROCEDURES 4

13.9 JUDGES' DRESS CODE 4

13.10 RULE CHANGES 4

13.11 JUDGES' TRAINING AND TESTING PROGRAM 5

13.12 HOW TO BECOME A SLED SPORTS JUDGE 5

13.13 WRITTEN EXAMINATION 6

13.14 PRACTICAL EXAMINATION 6

13.15 RECORD KEEPING 6

13 - SLED SPORTS

(15/10/21)

13.1 General Requirements

13.1.1 All Sled Sport trials are to be held under the Rules of the Australian National Kennel Council for that discipline.

13.1.2 The welfare of dogs competing in Sled Sports is paramount to our sport. These Regulations must be read with canine welfare, the safety of handlers and the public as the highest priority. The affiliate club and its trial management running the trial are accountable for ensuring these priorities are maintained.

13.2 Organisation and Administration

13.2.1 -Submission of draft fixture schedules and judges' contracts – deleted (duplication) refer to regulation 3.4.12 (15/01/26)

13.2.2 All rules, regulations, definitions or instructions in the nature of Rules and Regulations printed in the schedule shall be deemed to be Regulations of the trial and shall have the same effect as if they formed part of these Regulations, provided they are not inconsistent with these Regulations.

The schedule shall contain:

13.2.2.1 The date on which the entries close as the first item appearing on the first page of the prize schedule.

13.2.2.2 Notification to the effect that the body is affiliated with Dogs Victoria and that the trial is held under the Rules and Regulations of Dogs Victoria and that a copy is available upon request.

13.2.2.3 The name of the Affiliate conducting the trial.

13.2.2.4 The correct status of the trial, whether it is a sledding, weight pull or back packing event

13.2.2.5 The name and address of the venue on which the trial is to be held.

13.2.2.6 The date on which the trial is to be held.

13.2.2.7 The address to which entries are to be sent and the telephone number of the club or Trial Secretary.

13.2.2.8 The name of each Judge and the class/es allocated to that Judge.

13.2.2.9 The price and ordering instructions, of catalogues (if applicable).

13.2.2.10 Entry fees per class.

13.2.2.11 Time that judging will commence, including that all start times are weather and temperature dependant.

13.2.2.12 Advice as to the availability of catering.

13.2.2.13 List of the trophies and sashes to be awarded.

13.2.3 All Classes scheduled must be conducted by the Affiliate.

13.3 Trial Entries

13.3.1 All details must be clearly shown on the entry form.

13.3.2 Acknowledgment of receipt of postal entries will only be given if a stamped self-addressed envelope is included with the entry form. Online entries will be acknowledged. (15/02/16)

13.3.3 Requests for changes to catalogue order will not be approved unless the exhibitor has more than one exhibit entered in a weight pull, in which case, at the judge's discretion, a change to the order may be made to facilitate efficient running of the event.

13.4 Catalogue

At any fixture where entries close on a prior date, a catalogue evidencing the following must be prepared and include:

13.4.1 The name of the exhibitor/registered owner.

13.4.2 The name and registered number of the exhibit.

13.4.3 The event in which the exhibit is entered.

13.4.4 The class in which the exhibit is entered.

13.4.5 The name of the Judge(s) officiating.

13.4.6 The name of Dogs Victoria Representative.

13.5 Non-Attendance of Judge

13.5.1 Where a contracted Judge does not attend within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time for that judge, the organising affiliate is to appoint a suitably qualified replacement judge.

13.5.2 In any case where a judge does not attend as contracted, the organising Affiliate is to provide a written report to Dogs Victoria Office within seven (7) days, providing all known details to the reason for the non-attendance of the contracted Judge and the reason for selecting the substitute Judge.

13.6 Cancelled Fixtures (15/12/25)

13.6.1 Prior to the commencement of a trial, where conditions are deemed to be unsafe for dogs or competitors to compete, the committee conducting the fixture may cancel the trial after consultation with the VCA Representative, Judge/s or the Office Operations Manager of Dogs Victoria. Alternatively, where the majority of Judges present and officiating at the fixture decide that conditions are unsuitable, they will instruct the Committee to cancel the trial. Under the aforementioned circumstances all entry fees shall be refunded to all exhibitors who are in attendance at the cancelled fixture.

If the conditions are considered to be unsafe as a result of extreme weather, refer to Regulation 13.7.

13.7 EXTREME WEATHER – SLED SPORTS (15/12/25)

13.7.1 DEFINITIONS

Refer to Regulation 3.2

13.7.2 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.3

13.7.3 AFFILIATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.4

13.7.4 HEAT

Sledding

13.7.4.1 If the temperature reaches 15 degrees Celsius at any time prior to or during the race, the classes not yet run shall be suspended. In the event of such suspension, if the site temperature falls below 15 degrees Celsius for at least one (1) hour in duration then such classes may be resumed at the discretion of the Race Marshall.

If, at the discretion of the Race Marshall, the humidity has reached a high that would be detrimental to the health of the dogs, the classes not yet run shall be cancelled for that day.

Backpacking/Hiking

13.7.4.2 Backpacking hikes must not be commenced or conducted at any time the forecast or ambient temperature exceeds 25 degrees Celsius on the BOM Website or BOM Weather app.

Weight Pull

13.7.4.3 Weight pull competitions must not be commenced or conducted at any time the forecast or ambient temperature reaches 25 degrees Celsius or above on the BOM Website or BOM Weather app.

13.7.5 CANCELLATION OF AN EVENT

Refer to Regulations 3.5.20.4 and 3.5.20.5 and Regulation 13.7.4.

13.7.6 'WAIT AND SEE' APPROACH – JUDGING MUST BE SUSPENDED

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.6 and Regulation 13.7.4

13.7.7 'WAIT AND SEE' APPROACH – JUDGING MAY CONTINUE

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.7 and Regulation 13.7.4

13.7.8 POSTPONEMENT, RELOCATION (INCLUDES MOVE INDOORS) AND CHANGE OF COMMENCEMENT TIME

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.8

13.7.9 THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.9

13.7.10 REFUNDS OF ENTRY FEES FOR EVENTS CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.10

13.8 Precincts of the Trial

13.8.1 The trial management committee will determine the precincts of the trial.

13.8.2 The training or exercising of dogs off lead within these precincts is not permitted.

13.8.3 Prior arrangements may be made with the trial secretary for trial events to be used for Judges' training and assessment.

13.9 Judging Procedures

13.9.1 Subject to weather conditions and Regulation 13.3, Judging of events must commence at the scheduled time with any scratching being available to the Judges prior to the commencement of judging.

13.9.2 Affiliates conducting weight pull activities must provide appropriate equipment to maintain cleanliness of the weight pull chute area.

13.9 Judges' Dress Code

DOGS AUSTRALIA judges should dress in a manner befitting an official, taking into consideration the type of event and the weather conditions.

13.10 Rule Changes

Following any Rule changes by DOGS AUSTRALIA, all Judges must attend lectures conducted to explain/discuss such Rule changes. Non-attendance will result in suspension of licence until this requirement has been met.

13.11 Judges' Training and Testing Program

13.11.1 Judges' Training and Testing program as adopted by the Victorian Canine Association Inc., and effective from 1st January each year, must be set to the minimum standard as set down by the DOGS AUSTRALIA Judges Training Schemes for each discipline.

13.11.2 To qualify for the DOGS AUSTRALIA National Judges List of Sled Sports Judges, the Judge must have completed all Dogs Victoria requirements as outlined in the Training and Testing Program.

13.11.3 A person must make application to Dogs Victoria by completing the application form for entry into the Judges Training and Testing Program and lodging it with Dogs Victoria office.

13.11.4 Deleted (15/04/25)

13.11.5 A person shall not be entitled to judge a recognised Sled Sports event unless they have been approved to judge or unless they have received the permission of the Management Committee to judge at a nominated Trial.

13.11.6 Reports and/or complaints against Judges will be dealt with in accordance with Dogs Victoria Rule 2.20 and these Regulations.

13.11.7 A member whose approval to judge has been cancelled or suspended following action in accordance with Dogs Victoria Rule 2.20 may appeal the decision in accordance with Dogs Victoria Rule 2.20.3.4 and these Regulations.

13.12 How to Become a Sled Sports Judge

13.12.1 To be eligible to apply, a person must have:

13.12.1.1 Been a member of Dogs Victoria for a minimum of five (5) years. (The Member Body will consider an application for a person transferring from another State or Territory of Australia, or overseas, who can provide evidence that their canine experience extends over a minimum period of five consecutive years as a member of the Controlling Body for the State, Territory or Country of prior residence.)

13.12.1.2 Trained, competed and successfully titled a dog in the discipline for which they are applying to judge.

13.12.1.3 Officiated as Trial Manager, Judges Steward or in another official role at (5) DOGS AUSTRALIA recognised sled sports events in the preceding three (3) years.

13.12.1.4 Attended a minimum of three (3) lectures and /or other advertised instruction sessions provided by the Sled Sports Committee within the last five (5) years.

13.12.1.5 Been approved by the Victorian Canine Association Inc.

13.12.2 Trainee Judge

13.12.2.1 A trainee Judge will be required to attend lectures and tutorials covering interpretation and application of the Rules for the conduct of Sled Sports and other topics relevant to judging of the sled sports discipline or have attended a minimum of three (3) lectures and/or other advertised instruction sessions provided by the Sled Sports Committee within the last five (5) years.

13.12.2.2 Complete practical and written training components.

13.12.2.3 Punctual attendance at theory and practical sessions is required.

13.13 Written Examination

13.13.1 All trainee judges will be required to sit a written examination for the relevant sled sport discipline.

13.13.2 Invigilators will be selected by the Sled Sports Committee to administer the written examination.

13.13.3 The written examination papers shall consist of "short answer questions" and/or "multi-choice questions" only.

13.13.4 Except for "multi-choice questions" where one (1) person only is required, there shall be at least two (2) persons appointed to separately mark the papers, without conferring.

The results shall be separately forwarded to the office of Dogs Victoria to be then forwarded to Dogs Victoria Sled Sports Committee.

13.13.5. In the case of a split decision (equal pass and fail) an additional person shall mark the papers and that mark shall decide the result.

13.13.6 All written examinations shall require a 75% pass mark. The DOGS AUSTRALIA Rules for the Conduct of Sled Sports shall be the only basis for the written examinations.

13.13.6.1 All examination papers (pass or fail) will be held by Dogs Victoria Office.

13.13.7 A candidate who has failed a written examination (other than multi-choice questions) may request a re-mark of their paper.

13.13.7.1 Such request to be in writing and within 14 days of advice of the result of the examination.

13.14 Practical Examination

13.14.1 The Sled Sport Judges Training Co-ordinator will organise a venue and suitably qualified dogs for testing and their handlers - this may be at a sanctioned trial, a non-trial event such as a members' training day or an assessment purpose only event.

13.14.2 The Sled Sport Judges' Training Co-ordinator will select the Assessment panels, and furnish each member of the Panel with the appropriate stationery to judge the performance of the dog, as well as assessment of the applicant.

13.14.3 The Sled Sport Judges' Training Co-ordinator may delegate part of the responsibilities in 13.14.1 and 13.14.2 above to another person.

13.14.4 The applicant will judge a minimum of five (5) dogs or teams for the test.

Where circumstances warrant, additional dogs may be used at the discretion of the Assessment Panel.

13.14.5 The applicant is required to judge the dog as would normally occur in test/trial conditions, and mark the judge's sheet accordingly.

13.14.6 Multiple applicants may be tested at the same time where circumstance warrant, provided the applicants stand separately from each other, and mark the dog independently, without conferring.

13.14.7 The applicant is responsible for ensuring their judging sheet is complete and correct, prior to handing the sheet to the Assessment Panel.

13.15 Record Keeping

The maintenance of a list of judging appointments and other assignments, complete with exact dates and other relevant details, is the responsibility of each Judge.

13.15.1 No judging appointments may be accepted for any trial until the relevant status has been granted by the Member body.

13.15.2 Judges may not accept appointments outside of their home State/Territory to judge trials for which they have not been approved by their State/Territory Member Body..