



MAHDS Race Rules; 1 & 2 Dog Events

REGULATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS MAHDS RACES 1 & 2 Dog Events 2017

1. GENERAL RULES

1.1 Equipment

- In a race, the dog must be equipped with a harness that is designed for pulling and harness dog sports which is fitted to their body in order not to cause injury.
- The bungee line must be attached to the harness at all times during a race and not to the collar of the dog.
- Only flat collars are allowed during races.

1.2 Minimum age of dogs for racing

All disciplines:

- 2 km and under: 10 months
- More than 2 km: 12 months

Skijoring / kick sledding:

- 6 to 10 km: 15 months
- More than 10 km: 18 months

1.3 Decision on the ability of a dog to participate



Any decision regarding a dog's ability to participate in an event or to complete the race in complete safety is the responsibility of the race official and / or the organizer. However, if the competitor is able to present a valid certificate from a veterinarian indicating the ability of the dog to participate in the event, it shall take precedence over the the race official.

1.4 Dog demonstrating weakness

A dog showing any signs of disease, infection or weakness (contagious or not) will be disqualified or expelled from the venue of the event. The organizer of the event and the race reserves the right to carry out the necessary checks in this respect.

1.5 Female Dog in Heat

A bitch in heat will only be able to participate in a race if she is kept in the background at the location of the event, so as not to disturb the other dogs. In addition, she shall be kept under surveillance.

1.6 Discipline

Failure to comply with any provision of Articles 1.1 to 1.5 without the competitor having approval from the race official shall result in the disqualification of his team. The race official may prevent the departure of the team or summon it to leave the race venue before the end of the event.

2. STARTING RULES

2.1 Late Start

A team that does not start at their scheduled time will not be allowed to start until the last registered team leaves, unless they are ready to start at least 30 seconds before the next starting team.

If a team missed their scheduled start the timer will start at their scheduled start



time without option of changing the official race time, whether the timing system is manual or chips.

3. COURSE RULES

3.1 Headphones

Headphones are not permitted on the race course.

3.2 Team work with dogs

- The dog must at all times be connected to the competitor who is its teammate.
- The dog must never be overtaken by the competitor to whom it is attached, the team will be given a penalty of thirty seconds on their race time if the dog(s) is overtaken by their human teammate.
- Pulling the dog or forcing it to advance by any means is strictly forbidden.
- It is forbidden to let a dog be pulled or dragged by his or her canine teammates, during the event. The penalty for this offence is automatic disqualification by the race official.
- It is also forbidden to go past the dog to cross the finish line.

3.3 Passing

For the purposes of this section, the term *overtaking* means "team that performs a pass and "exceeded," team that was passed. "

3.3.1 Overtaking in bikejoring, skijoring, scooter and kicksled

In bikejoring, skijoring, scooter and kicksled, the overtaking team must announce itself by shouting



"TRACK" or "TRAIL", so that the exceeded team may hear it well. They can also announce themselves by indicating the side it will pass on (eg "TRAIL, LEFT").

The exceeded team must:

- Give right of way, keeping the right side of the trail if the overtaking team has not specified the side by which it will pass, or by following their dog so as to form with him a straight line;
- Keep a constant speed or slow down;
- Maintain control over the dog;
- In skijoring, keep skis and sticks parallel to the trail;
- If necessary, shorten the bungee or stop.

During a pass, the overtaking can communicate to the exceeded team to slow down.

3.3.2 Exceeding Canicross and Cani-trail

In canicross, the exceeding can ask the exceeded to keep a constant speed without accelerating. This, so that the overtaking team can have the space and the necessary time to take the lead safely. This rule does not apply to teams starting at the same time.

3.3.3 Rules Applicable After Any Pass

The newly exceeded competitor must respect the request made by the overtaking team and keeping a distance of at least two teams between the overtaking team and them. This rule does not apply to events where the start is made in waves or for teams starting at the same time. After a pass, it will not be possible for the exceeded team to pass the team which has overtaken them within 300 meters of the pass or if there has been less than 30 seconds, unless authorized. This rule



does not apply when it is less than 400 meters finish line, or for the events where the start is made in waves or for canicross races.

3.3.4 Penalties

Any infringement of the rules provided for in 3.3.1 to 3.3.3 is punishable by a penalty of 30 seconds of penalty on the race time, on the decision of the race official who meets the offending competitor and, if applicable, the complainant.

4. RULES BY DISCIPLINE

4.1 Bikejoring

- This discipline is practiced with one dog.
- For the purposes of the regional circuit, only the bikejoring to one dog is considered.
- The dog is permanently attached to the bicycle by a bungee line where the distance between the front of the handle bars and the base of the dog's tail is at the maximum of 2.45 meters, when tight without elongation. However, the recommended distance is 2.20 meters.
- Wearing a helmet is compulsory for the cyclist;
- The bicycle must be a mountain bike, equipped with mountain bike tires capable of going off road and must have brakes capable of immobilizing the team.

4.2 Canicross and canitrail

- This discipline is practiced with one dog.
- The dog is permanently attached to a belt worn by the competitor, by a bungee line whose distance from the competitor's abdomen to the base of the tail of the



dog must be at most 2 meters, when tight without elongation. However, the recommended distance is 1.70 meters.

- Studs and spikes may be allowed provided they are not dangerous for dogs and other competitors. Organizers will determine the conditions of use of this type of equipment and may declare they are prohibited. The race official reserves the right to refuse the use of such equipment if it considers that it is dangerous.
- For canicross a short style running harness may be used.

4.3 Skijoring

- This discipline is mainly practiced with one dog, but two dogs can be authorized. The participant must get permission from the organizer of the event.
- For purposes of the regional circuit, only skijoring with one dog is considered.
- When the team is composed of two dogs, the dogs must be connected by a Neckline.
- The dog is permanently attached to a belt worn by the related competitor, by a bungee line with a distance from the competitor's abdomen to the base of The tail of the dog is at maximum 3 meters. However, the recommended distance is 2.75 meters.
- Only "skating" type skis are accepted.

4.4 Scooter

- This discipline is practiced by one or two dogs.



- For the purposes of the provincial circuit, only the two-dog scooter is considered.
- If the team consists of only one dog, the competitor must ensure that his dog is sufficiently fit to travel the distance and, if necessary, assist more.
- The organizer can refuse a one dog team if he considers it not adequate or the terrain too difficult.
- When the team is composed of two dogs, the dogs are Permanently by a bungee line, the distance between the front of the Direction and base of the dog's tail furthest is a maximum of 2.45 Meters, when stretched without elongation. However, the recommended distance is 2.20 meters.
- The scooter must not have a motor, must be equipped with stubbed tires capable of going off road, and must have brakes powerful enough to immobilize the team.
- Dogs must be connected by a neckline.
- Headphones cannot be worn.

4.5 Kick Sled

- This discipline is practiced by one or more dogs.
- For the purposes of the provincial circuit, only the two-dog kicksled is considered.
- The organizer can refuse a team if he considers them not adequate or the terrain too difficult.



- The dogs are permanently connected by a line the distance of which in front of the sled and the base of the dog's tail is at most a maximum of 2.45 meters, when stretched without elongation.
- The sled must be equipped with a brake system or a brake mat (Rubber mats) attached to the sled.
- The sled skis must not have metal edges
- Dogs must be connected by a neckline.
- Helmet is mandatory for children under 18 and strongly recommended for adults.

5. RULES CONCERNING BEHAVIOR

5.1 General behavior during an event and animal welfare

- Every competitor is responsible for the behavior of his / her dog(s) at the venue, as well as on the race course.
- Every competitor is responsible for the welfare of his / her dog (s) before, during and after the event (s), under penalty of a warning by the race official.
- Loose dogs are not allowed on the event site.
- Maltreatment of dogs with or without an instrument is prohibited.

5.2 Reporting Concerning Behaviour

Any behavior deemed harmful or unacceptable at an event must be reported to the the race official assigned to the event, who will see to discipline the behaviour at his discretion or report it to the association officials.



A repetition of one or more behaviors towards a dog or a human is judged unacceptable in the context of an event may be subject to disciplinary action by the disciplinary committee.

5.3 Sportsmanship

Common sense and sportsmanship prevail. If the race official judges that the competitor or a dog at any time or another is detrimental to the sport or the event, they may disqualify a team and summon it to leave the the event. In this case, re-registration for a future event will be reviewed by the disciplinary committee.

6. CATEGORIES AND DISCIPLINES ACCEPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CIRCUIT

We refer to the document "Explanation of the regional circuit".

7. APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM A COMPETITOR

If required, each competitor may apply for a waiver of exemption no later than 3 days before the race.

8. PROTEST

8.1 Protest for breach found on the day of the event

In order to file a complaint about a breach of the rules, the complainant must File a complaint in writing with the race official on the day of the event, within a maximum of one hour following the finish of the last participant in the race on which the Complaint is concerned. The complaint shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the race official. Any appeal from a decision made by the race official is heard by the disciplinary committee of FQSCA*. A complainant who wishes to appeal the decision of the race official shall have a Maximum of 7 days to do so, from the end of the event.



8.2 Protest for breach discovered after the event

The complainant must submit his complaint in writing to the Disciplinary Committee within a maximum period 7 days following the end of the event in question.

9. DISQUALIFICATION

Any competitor who has been disqualified for two (2) occasions during the same season for any violation of the rules shall be suspended for the next two (2) events sanctioned by MAHDS, for all disciplines and seasons combined.

**These rules have been developed and accepted by the Federation Quebecoise des Sports Canins Attelés for sport development across Canada. Specifically created with the Canadian competitive context in mind these rules have been developed for the unique facets of 1 & 2 dog sports. They have been approved for use by The Canadian Association of Harness Dog Sports for nationally sanctioned events and IFSS as acceptable at internationally sanctioned events.