

SDAS RACE RULES

The Sled Dog Association of Scotland (SDAS) will run all events under the current IFSS Race Rules & Procedures, subject to the local amendments set out in these SDAS Race Rules.

Any IFSS race rule change brought into force by the IFSS following the SDAS AGM will be reviewed by the SDAS Committee. The Committee will propose that the change is accepted or otherwise at the following AGM, unless the Committee unanimously agrees that immediate implementation is in the best interests of SDAS members and the sport.

LOCAL AMENDMENTS

The following local amendments will apply to all SDAS events unless otherwise specified on the race invitation.

Where there is no nominated Race Judge, the role will be undertaken by the Race Organiser, with jurisdiction under the guidance of at least two SDAS Committee members.

1. SAFETY BRIEFING

A Safety Briefing will be held on the Saturday morning of each race weekend.

The time of the Safety Briefing will be published on social media alongside the timed starting list prior to the event.

Attendance is compulsory for all competitors and for anyone completing the race trail, including anyone undertaking a recce.

2. JUNIOR COMPETITORS

A Parent, Guardian or Form Signer of any child entered into a Junior Category must be in attendance at the Safety Briefing.

This applies to all Junior Categories as listed in the category section.

3. FAILURE TO ATTEND THE SAFETY BRIEFING

Any competitor who does not attend the Safety Briefing will not be permitted to race at that event.

4. COURSE INSPECTION AND RECCE

The course will be available for inspection by competitors prior to the event at the discretion of the Race Organiser.

No dogs will be allowed on the marked course, in whole or in part, except during the competitor's designated heat.

The use of wheels for recce purposes will be at the discretion of the Committee.

5. DOG WELFARE AND CONDITION

It is the responsibility of dog owners to ensure that their dogs are sufficiently trained and conditioned and that they pose no hazard to their own health or welfare or to the health or welfare of other dogs participating in the event.

Any dog or team proven to be a hazard to other dogs, drivers or handlers may be disqualified from the event by the Race Organiser and/or Committee.

6. COMPETITOR RESPONSIBILITY

It is each individual driver's responsibility to ensure, by whatever means necessary, that the designated course is safe and suitable for their team.

Competitors must take into consideration: the size and speed of their team; their own level of skill and experience; and the prevailing weather and trail conditions.

7. ANIMAL WELFARE

SDAS views any act of neglect or cruelty towards dogs with serious concern.

Where appropriate, SDAS may initiate action under the rules relating to the Expulsion of Members if the Committee considers that sufficient grounds exist.

8. SPORTSMANSHIP AND ABUSE

Any driver or handler who displays poor sportsmanship or abuses their dogs may be disqualified by the Committee.

9. MEMBERSHIP

SDAS membership is open annually from **1 August to 31 August only**. Membership applications and renewals must be completed during this membership period.

SDAS members are eligible to enter events and participate in the Championship Series in accordance with these Race Rules and the membership requirements for the relevant racing season.

Non-members may also enter and compete at SDAS events by completing the relevant Non-Member Entry Form and paying the applicable non-member entry fee. Non-members who complete the required entry process will be permitted to compete and will be covered under the SDAS event arrangements for the duration of the event weekend for which they have entered.

Participation as a non-member does not constitute SDAS membership and does not provide annual membership rights or Championship eligibility unless otherwise specifically stated in the SDAS Championship Rules.

10. CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT OF EVENTS

Authority to postpone or cancel an event rests solely with the SDAS Committee.

If a race is cancelled prior to its start, SDAS will offer a 50% refund to all competitors entered.

11. CHANGES TO ENTRIES

Once entries for an event have closed, no alterations may be made to the class or classes already entered.

12. DISQUALIFICATION / DID NOT START

Any team or dog that is disqualified (DSQ) or does not start (DNS) in any heat may, at the discretion of the Race Organiser and/or Committee, compete in the remainder of the race.

However, the team will not be eligible for an overall result.

13. CONTAGIOUS DISEASE

No dog, equipment or clothing may be brought to an event from a kennel where a contagious disease exists or has existed within the previous four weeks.

Any breach of this rule will result in disqualification and immediate removal from the event site.

14. FITNESS AND ABILITY TO COMPLETE THE COURSE

Any team, dog or driver arriving at an event who, in the opinion of the Race Organiser and/or current SDAS Committee member(s), is unfit or incapable of completing the course in a safe and satisfactory manner may be required to:

- a. Reduce their team size;
- b. Remove the dog in question from the team; or
- c. Enter a different, smaller class where appropriate.

The Race Organiser or Committee member(s) must have a valid reason for requiring such a change, and that decision must be supported by at least one other current Committee member.

15. MINIMUM DRIVER AGE

All drivers must be 16 years of age or over on the first day of the event, except competitors entering Junior Classes.

16. DOG AGE REQUIREMENTS

No dog under 12 months of age on the first day of the event will be accepted for entry in any class except Bike and Scooter classes.

Dogs competing in Bike and Scooter classes must be at least 18 months old on the first day of the event.

For the Recreation Class, the minimum age may be between 10 and 12 months, depending on the breed and at the discretion of the Committee.

17. DOG IDENTIFICATION

Kennel Club registered names and numbers, or microchip numbers, for Open Sled Dogs must be provided on the Dog ID List, together with the date of birth of each dog.

It is acceptable to provide a full kennel list without making it class-specific.

18. IDENTIFICATION OF NON-REGISTERED SLED DOGS

Dogs that are not Kennel Club registered sled dog breeds, as defined in Item 3 of the Club's Objectives within the Constitution and Code of Ethics, wishing to compete at SDAS events should be microchipped as a means of identification.

SDAS may use a microchip scanner to confirm a dog's identity at events.

19. RESPONSIBILITY FOR DOGS AND EQUIPMENT

Responsibility for the condition, safety and suitability of all dogs and equipment rests solely with the Driver and/or Owner.

20. SNUB LINE

All rig and sled teams must have a snub line attached to the gangline between the rear of the team and the point where it is attached to the rig or sled.

The snub line must be of sufficient length to enable the driver, whilst on and in control of the rig or sled, to release the team from a static object such as a gate post or tree.

21. LINES

All lines must be free from frays and excessive wear.

22. SHOCK ABSORBERS

Shock absorbers, where utilised, must have a safety line.

23. BATTERIES

Wet acid batteries must not be carried.

24. NIGHT RACING

Back-up lights must be carried during night races.

25. BIB NUMBERS

Members are responsible for their own bib number and must ensure that it is clearly visible for timing.

Non-members will be provided with a bib number at the event.

26. FOOTWEAR

Competitors should not wear footwear that could be dangerous to dogs.

27. STARTING POSITIONS

The starting position and starting time for each team shall be determined by drawing, seeding or any other method determined by the individual Race Organiser.

28. SECOND/THIRD HEAT / SECOND DAY

Where applicable, the starting times for the second or third heats or second day's racing will be determined by the finishing times from the first heat.

29. TEMPERATURE

When the temperature rises above 12°C at any time during the event, measured in the shade at or near the start line, the event shall be reviewed by the Race Organiser.

The Race Organiser may: stop the event; shorten the trail where practicable; or take other appropriate action in the interests of dog welfare.

The Race Organiser may review the event before 12°C is reached if they consider that the combination of temperature and humidity is too high.

Temperatures will be monitored throughout the race.

30. CLASSES AND JUNIOR CATEGORIES

The following classes and Junior categories may be offered at SDAS events.

NB means registered Nordic / pure Nordic breed.

Junior Age: For Junior Classes, the competitor's age will be the age they will be on 31 December of the relevant year of competition (e.g. 31 December 2026 for the 2026/2027 season).

CLUBMAN CLASS

Clubman Class – Non-Championship Timed Class: A pool of 12 dogs may be used, with a maximum of 10 dogs per team. Dogs may be interchanged between race days.

Teams must use a heavy 4-wheeled passenger rig, with passenger optional, or an engineless quad where applicable, with braking on all wheels.

This class is only available at races approved in advance by SDAS.

RIG CLASSES

DR8 – Open / DR8NB – Nordic: 5–8 Dog Rig, with a minimum of 5 and maximum of 8 dogs. 4-wheeled rigs only, with braking on all wheels.

DR6 – Open / DR6NB – Nordic: 4–6 Dog Rig, with a minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 dogs. Braking on all wheels is required.

DR4 – Open / DR4NB – Nordic: 3–4 Dog Rig, with a minimum of 3 and maximum of 4 dogs.

DR3 – Open / DR3NB – Nordic: 2–3 Dog Rig, with a minimum of 2 and maximum of 3 dogs.

DR2 – Open / DR2NB – Nordic: 2 Dog Rig, with 2 dogs only.

SCOOTER CLASSES

DS2 – Open / DS2NB – Nordic: 2 Dog Scooter, with a minimum of 1 and maximum of 2 dogs.

DS1 – Open / DS1NB – Nordic: 1 Dog Scooter, with 1 dog only.

BIKEJORING CLASSES

DBNB – Nordic: 1 Dog Bike, mixed-sex competitor category.

DBM – Open: 1 Dog Bike, male competitor.

DBW – Open: 1 Dog Bike, female competitor.

CANICROSS CLASSES

DCM2 – Male / DCW2 – Female: 1–2 Dog Canicross, with a minimum of 1 and maximum of 2 dogs. DCM2 is for male competitors and DCW2 is for female competitors.

DCM – Male / DCW – Female: 1 Dog Canicross, with 1 dog only. DCM is for male competitors and DCW is for female competitors.

JUNIOR CLASSES

JUNIOR RIG CLASSES

DRJ1 – Open / DRJ1NB – Nordic: 8–12 years, 1 Dog Rig, with 1 dog only.

DRJ2 – Open / DRJ2NB – Nordic: 12–15 years, 2 Dog Rig, with 2 dogs only.

DRJ3 – Open / DRJ3NB – Nordic: 13–15 years, 2–3 Dog Rig, with a minimum of 2 and maximum of 3 dogs. Competitors must have competed in the previous season unless otherwise approved by the Committee.

DRJ4 – Open / DRJ4NB – Nordic: 14–15 years, 4 Dog Rig, with a maximum of 4 dogs. A 4-wheeled rig is required. Competitors must have competed in the previous season unless otherwise approved by the Committee.

JUNIOR CANICROSS

DCJ – 5–7 years: Junior Canicross, 1 dog only. Adult supervision is required and the adult must also be attached to the dog.

DCJ – 7–12 years: Junior Canicross, 1 dog only, mixed breed and gender. A 7-year-old competitor must be accompanied by an adult who is also attached to the dog.

DCJ – 12–15 years: Junior Canicross, 1 dog only, mixed breed and gender.

JUNIOR BIKEJORING

DBJ – 10–15 years: Junior Bike, 1 dog only, mixed breed and gender. An adult may accompany the Junior for safety on a bike behind the Junior team.

JUNIOR SCOOTER

DS1J – 10–15 years: Junior Scooter, 1 dog only. An adult may accompany the Junior for safety.

RECREATION CLASS

Recreation Class: £1 per dog, Saturday only. This is a non-Championship class.

CLASS RUNNING AND COMPETITION

Open and Nordic teams will be run separately for the first heat.

Subsequent heats will be based on time only for each class, with no separation in the running order between Open and Nordic teams.

Freight teams will run within the Nordic classes unless there are three or more entries in the relevant class. Where there are three or more entries, they may be allocated a separate NBF class for that particular event.

Championship Classes will remain Open/Nordic.

A dog may compete in a second class only where the second entry is into an eligible Junior Class and is run on the allocated shorter Junior trail.

Class running order will be based on team size and/or speed but may be varied to facilitate the smooth running of the event.

31. MATING OF BITCHES

Mating of bitches is forbidden at race sites.

32. PUPPIES AT EVENTS

Puppies will not be permitted at events unless they are fully inoculated.

Persons bringing puppies to an event site without the correct vaccination/inoculation documentation may be asked to leave.

33. SALE OF PUPPIES

Puppies will not be offered for sale at an event site.

34. CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

The Championship Series will award points in each eligible class as follows:

Position	Championship Points	Position	Championship Points
1st	66	11th	14
2nd	57	12th	12
3rd	49	13th	10
4th	42	14th	8
5th	36	15th	6
6th	31	16th	5

7th	27	17th	4
8th	23	18th	3
9th	20	19th	2
10th	17	20th	1

34.1 Championship Points

All points for a class Championship must have been attained in that class only.

Championship points will not be awarded at National Championship, World Cup or IFSS Qualifying events.

34.2 Race Weekend

Two consecutive race days will be held at each racing weekend.

Times will be combined over both days to determine overall finishing positions on the second day.

Championship points will be awarded based on the overall finishing position.

Competitors must run the same dogs in the same class on both days.

34.3 Tied Championship Points

In the event of a tied Championship points total, the tied position will be shared.

For example, where competitors are tied for Championship 1st position, the competitors will share the Championship trophy for that year.

34.4 Discard System

Depending on the number of Championship races held, the following number of results may be discarded:

4 or fewer races: 1 result may be discarded.

5 or more races: 2 results may be discarded.

To qualify for a final Championship placing, competitors must complete the minimum number of events equal to the total number of races held minus the allowable number of discards.

Competitors who fail to complete the minimum number of events may still accrue Championship points but will not qualify for a final Championship placing.

35. SDAS ENTRY RULES – REFUNDS AND TRANSFERS

Non-Refundable and Non-Transferable Entries

Once an entry has been submitted and payment has been received, no refunds or transfers will be permitted.

All entries are final once confirmed.

Entry fees cannot be refunded if a competitor withdraws, is unable to attend or changes their mind.

Entries cannot be transferred to another competitor or another event.

Competitors are responsible for ensuring that they can attend before submitting their entry.

All competitors should ensure that they understand and agree to these conditions before entering.

IFSS RULES NOT APPLIED BY SDAS

SDAS runs its events in conjunction with the current IFSS Race Rules & Procedures, except where a specific SDAS local rule has been adopted in place of an IFSS provision.

The following specific IFSS provisions are not applied to SDAS events where they conflict with the SDAS local rules stated in these Race Rules.

These are specific local deviations and do not represent a rejection of the IFSS Race Rules generally.

1. RIG REQUIREMENTS

IFSS Rule 82.2.3

The IFSS provision relating to minimum wheel numbers, axle spacing, minimum wheel diameter, dual wheel base and associated rig requirements is not applied to SDAS events where it conflicts with the SDAS local rig requirements.

The SDAS local rig requirements stated within these Race Rules apply instead.

This includes the class-specific requirements for:

number of dogs; number of wheels; 4-wheeled rigs where specified; and
braking requirements where specified.

IFSS Rule 82.2.3.1

The IFSS provision relating to braking requirements on rigs is not applied where it conflicts with the SDAS local rules.

The SDAS class-specific braking requirements stated in these Race Rules apply.

2. DOG ELIGIBILITY – SECOND CLASS

IFSS Rule 3.6

The IFSS provision allowing a dog that has raced in one class to race in a second class on the same day, subject to the IFSS distance limits, is not applied to SDAS events.

Under the SDAS local rules, a dog may compete in a second class only where the second entry is into an eligible Junior Class and the Junior class is run on the allocated shorter Junior trail.

The eligible Junior Classes are:

DCJ

DBJ

DS1J

DRJ1

DRJ2

DRJ3

DRJ4

3. MINIMUM DOG AGE

IFSS Rule 3.5

The IFSS provision requiring dogs participating in a race to be at least 18 months old is not applied to all SDAS classes.

The SDAS minimum dog age requirements are those specified in Rule 16 – Dog Age Requirements of these SDAS Race Rules.

In particular:

Dogs must be at least 12 months old for general classes.

Dogs competing in Bike and Scooter classes must be at least 18 months old.

Recreation Class minimum age may be between 10 and 12 months depending on breed and Committee discretion.

END OF SDAS RACE RULES