

# **OFFICIAL UKC WEIGHT PULL RULEBOOK**



**EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2011**



# Table of Contents

Regulations Governing	
UKC Licensed Weight Pulls .....	3
Jurisdiction .....	3
Definitions.....	3
General Rules .....	7
Judge Changes .....	7
Entering a UKC event .....	9
Weigh-In Time and Judging Schedule.....	12
Pull Area .....	12
Equipment.....	16
Eligibility to compete in weight pull events .....	19
Dogs that may not pull under a Judge.....	21
Weight Classes.....	22
Rules applying to Exhibitors and Spectators.....	22
Exhibitor Guidelines.....	24
Judging Procedures .....	25
Weigh-In.....	25
Handlers Meeting .....	26
Pulling Order .....	27
Pulling Rules.....	28
Maximum Starting Weights.....	30
Requirements for a qualifying pull .....	31
The Start and Finish.....	31
Passes .....	33
Fouls.....	33
Equipment Failure .....	34
Weight Pull Titles .....	35
Championship Points Schedule	
for Weight Pull Titles.....	37
Awards, trophies and ribbons .....	37
Total Dog Award .....	38
Weight Pull Judge Rules and Guidelines .....	39
Dog Temperament and Behavior.....	40
Use of Alcohol and Illegal Drugs at Events.....	41
Misconduct and Discipline.....	42
Inherent Rights and Powers of UKC .....	49
UKC Policy Regarding Persons	
Associated with Fighting Dogs .....	50

## Official UKC Rules and Regulations

### Regulations Governing UKC® Licensed Weight Pulls

*\*Effective August 1, 2011*

UKC is the trademark of the United Kennel Club, Inc. located in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The use of the initials UKC in association with any other registry would be in violation of the registered trademark. Notify the United Kennel Club, 100 E Kilgore Rd, Kalamazoo MI 49002-5584, should you become aware of such a violation.

**Section I. Jurisdiction.** All UKC Licensed Weight Pulls shall be governed by the rules herein. The following rules and regulations governing UKC Licensed Weight Pulls and the awarding of UKC Weight Pull points and titles issued by United Kennel Club are uniform and are not given on a local or geographical basis.

**Section II. Purpose.** Weight pull competition tests a dog's strength and stamina based on the dog's ability to pull a maximum amount of weight on a sled or cart over a prescribed distance within a prescribed amount of time. Scores are based on the amount of weight pulled and the amount of time required to complete the pull. The type of weight vehicle may vary according to the surface of the pull area.

**Section III. Who may offer weight pull events.** Any UKC club that is eligible to offer weight pulls may be licensed to offer All-Breed Weight Pull events. UKC reserves the right to grant, withhold or revoke event licenses at its own discretion.

#### Section IV. Definitions.

**A. Blind.** A dog is blind if it has no useful sight.

**B. Breeder of record.** The owner of the dam on the date of breeding is the breeder of record of all dogs whelped in the resulting litter.

**C. Chute.** Also known as the "course" or "track", the chute is a rectangular area at least 10 feet wide and 35 feet long, consisting of the 16 feet between the start line and the finish line, the additional area required behind the start line where the competing dog and the weight vehicle

stand prior to the start of the pull, and the additional area required beyond the finish line where the competing dog and handler stand when the pull is complete.

**D. Chute barriers.** The chute barriers define the long sides of the chute for pulls on snow and natural and artificial surfaces.

**E. Come-in weight.** The beginning weight a dog is required to pull.

**F. Contact point.** The contact point on a sled runner is the most forward point of the runner that is in contact with the ground when the sled is on flat ground.

**G. Corresponding date.** UKC schedules events based on a 52-week calendar. If a club offers an event on the 4th Saturday of this year, then that club's corresponding date in all subsequent years is also the 4th Saturday, regardless of the actual date.

**H. Course.** See Chute.

**I. Day-of-pull entry.** Most UKC clubs allow entries to be taken on the day of an event. The start and finish time for taking these entries is published in *BLOODLINES Dog Event News* magazine and on the UKC website.

**J. Determining a dog's age.** In determining a dog's age for entry purposes, a month-to-month calendar day system shall be used. For example, a dog born on January 1 shall turn six months old on July 1 of the same year.

**K. Disqualified.** Dog is deemed ineligible for competition. This can be the result of a condition prohibited in the rules, such as an alteration to the dog's natural state, an undesirable trait as listed in a breed standard, or a condition of or action by a dog that is prohibited under the rules of the United Kennel Club. A dog that has been disqualified from a conformation show or performance event may not participate in any further events unless reinstated by UKC.

**L. Dog.** The word "dog" used in these regulations includes both sexes.

**M. Dropping.** A dog must have all four feet on the pulling surface before being released. Any dropping of the dog will result in a foul.

**N. Excused.** A Judge has the right to excuse any dog, handler or both for any violation of the rules or unsportsmanlike conduct on the day of the event. The Judge may also excuse any dog whenever he/she reasonably believes the dog's physical condition creates a risk of injury to the dog. An excused dog or handler may not continue to compete in the weight pull.

**O. Failure to earn a qualifying leg/score (NQ).**

A dog that fails to meet the requirements as described in subparagraph BB.

**P. Failure to make a qualifying pull.** A dog that fails to make a qualifying pull as described in subparagraph CC.

**Q. Foul.** A foul is anything that interrupts a qualifying pull. For more information, see Section XXIII.

**R. Foul Out.** A team is allowed to foul twice during a class, at which time the dog is ineligible to continue competing in the pull. The dog's last qualifying pull will count as its top pull.

**S. Holding area.** A designated area provided by the host club with sufficient space to safely hold all dogs entered in the weight pull.

**T. Immediate family.** The spouse, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, brother or sister of a person are considered immediate family members.

**U. Leading a dog into the pull.** A handler who walks their dog forward into engaging the cart or sled. A handler having contact with their dog when the trace is lifted from the pulling surface, beginning the pull, will be assessed a foul.

**V. Limited Privilege Program.** This program is open to the following, provided they are spayed/neutered: mixed breed dogs, purebred dogs of unknown pedigree, and purebred dogs with disqualifying faults as described in the UKC breed standard. All Limited Privilege-listed dogs are eligible for weight pull events. Eligibility for future events will be determined and published in UKC publications and on the UKC website.

**W. On-deck area.** A designated area, immediately behind the chute, where the next dog in line and its handler waits while the dog being judged is pulling in the chute.

**X. Pass.** Skipping a round. See rules regarding passing in Section XXII.

**Y. Performance event.** Events where the dog is judged on the basis of performance rather than conformation. Weights Pulls, Agility and Obedience are typical performance events.

**Z. Pre-entry.** Some UKC clubs offer pre-entry in addition to day-of-pull entry. Pre-entries must be submitted by a specific date (published in *BLOODLINES Dog Event News* and on the UKC website), and are normally lower in price than day-of-pull entries.

**AA. Pre-entry only.** Some UKC clubs do not allow day-of-pull entries and require that all entries be submitted by a specific date (published in *BLOOD*

*LINES Dog Event News* and on the UKC website). These shows are described as “Pre-entry Only” (PE).

**BB. Non-qualifying leg/score (NQ.)** A dog that fails to make a qualifying leg/score. See subparagraph CC below “Qualifying Leg/Score.”

**CC. Qualifying Leg/Score.** A dog earns a qualifying leg/score by completing an uninterrupted pull of a weighted vehicle loaded with the following weights for 16 feet within 60 seconds and:

**1. On natural or artificial surfaces.** Eight times the dog’s body weight on the day of the event for events held on natural or artificial surfaces; or

**2. On snow.** Three times the dog’s body weight on the day of the event for events held on snow; or

**3. On rails.** Ten times the dog’s body weight on the day of the event for events held on a rail system.

**DD. Qualifying pull.** A dog shall be required to pull a weighted vehicle 16 feet in 60 seconds or less without a foul, excusal or disqualification. A qualifying pull is required to move to the next round.

**EE. Round.** A cycle of competition in a weight pull contest, in which each eligible dog gets to pull at the current weight level.

**FF. Sling-shot start.** Dogs that are released with more than 1 foot of slack in the trace running in to start.

**GG. Sportsmanship.** Conduct and attitude considered as befitting participants in sports, especially fair play, courtesy and grace in losing.

**HH. Temporary Listing (TL) number.** A Temporary Listing number may be used to enter a dog in UKC events before the dog is registered or listed with UKC. Refer to the UKC website for rules and instructions on how to obtain a TL number by going to:

<https://www.ukcdogs.com/DEWebCom.nsf/TL%20Web?OpenForm>.

**II. Timed Out.** A dog is “timed out” when it fails to complete a 16-foot pull in 60 seconds. Timing out is a foul.

**JJ. Traces.** Sometimes called a “bridle”, “traces” is the term applied to the rope that connects the dog to the weighted vehicle.

**KK. Trace line.** A line marked on the pulling surface that references a proper starting position. The line shall be marked by setting the cart or sled on the start line, extending the trace out tight and measuring back one foot.

**LL. Track.** See Chute.

**MM. Tug line.** On Y-shaped traces, the tug line is that part of the traces that forms the base of the Y and connects to the dog.

**NN. Uninterrupted pull.** A dog that pulls a weighted vehicle without a foul, excusal or disqualification.

## Section V. General Rules.

**A. Licenses.** All licenses for UKC Licensed events shall be granted, withheld or revoked at the sole discretion of the United Kennel Club.

**B. Governing rules.** UKC Licensed events are governed by UKC rules, classifications, and point systems.

**C. Suspended/Barred Individuals.** A list of individuals who have been suspended or barred by UKC is prohibited from participating in any UKC Licensed event, including but not limited to owner, co-owner, handler, backup handler, judge, guide, vendor, spectator, Master of Hounds, Bench Show Judge, Judge or Director for any Conformation or Performance event, and are prohibited from holding office in any UKC approved club or association.

### D. Judge Changes

**1. Change of Judge after event has been published in *BLOODLINES Dog Event News*.** The host club must make every reasonable effort to notify exhibitors of the change and offer refunds to all pre-entered exhibitors who submit a written request for refund of their entry fee(s). Judge changes must be posted in plain view at the event site during event hours.

**2. Appointing an emergency replacement Judge.** If, on the day of the event, a Judge is unable to start or complete his/her assignment, the Event Chairperson must appoint an emergency replacement Judge. Points or legs earned by exhibitors under emergency replacement Judges shall be considered as if they were earned under the original Judge for the purpose of calculating required wins under different Judges.

**E. Finality of Judges’ decisions.** By entering any weight pull, the owner and handler of any dog agree to accept the decision of the Judge as final. The decision of a Judge is the responsibility of the Judge and not that of United Kennel Club.

**F. Event Grounds Restrictions.** No dog less than 8 weeks of age may be present on the grounds of a UKC Licensed event. Any other dog not entered into the event is at the discretion of the club.

**G. Required inoculations.** All dogs six months of age or older must have inoculations for Rabies, Canine Distemper and Canine Parvovirus to be eligible to compete at UKC events. Dogs under six months of age present on the grounds of any UKC

event must have current inoculations for Canine Distemper and Canine Parvovirus. Failure to comply with this paragraph will result in disciplinary action.

**H. Prohibited performance-altering drugs or supplements.** The use of any performance altering drugs or supplements is strictly prohibited. Prohibited drugs include, but are not limited to: Stimulants, depressants, tranquilizers, narcotics, analgesics, mood enhancers, anabolic steroids, corticosteroids, anti-inflammatory or anti-arthritis medications, or any drugs, controlled or not, that may alter the dog's natural performance.

**I. Host club plan to test dogs for the presence of prohibited drugs or supplements.** If the host club plans to test dogs for the presence of prohibited drugs or supplements, that information must be included when submitting the Event Application for a scheduled weekend.

**J. Special requirements for bringing dogs into state where event is being held.** Clubs holding events in states with special requirements for bringing dogs into the state must list those requirements in writing when submitting the Event Application for a scheduled weekend.

**K. Choice of weighted vehicle.** Section IX, paragraph B.2 describes three types of weighted vehicles. The host club must choose one type for each pull and include that information on the Event Application for a scheduled weekend.

**L. When a non-UKC Licensed Weight Pull is held in conjunction with a UKC Licensed Weight Pull.** UKC clubs may host a non-UKC Licensed Weight Pull to be held in conjunction with a UKC Licensed Weight Pull providing:

1. Non-UKC licensed events hosted by the club must neither interfere with nor delay any of the licensed or non-licensed classes of the UKC Licensed event.
2. When both weight pulls are run simultaneously, each event must use a separate set of equipment and personnel.
3. The host club is responsible for ensuring that the licensing body of each event is distinctly identified.
4. No club may advertise any UKC Licensed Weight Pull as a "Dual sanctioned event."

**M. Prohibition against Event Chairperson and Event Secretary serving as Judge.** No person may serve as a Judge for the host club at any UKC Licensed event held on the same weekend when that person is serving as Event Chairperson or Event Secretary.

**N. Presence of Event Chairperson and Event Secretary at events.** The Event Chairperson and the Event Secretary must be present during events at which they are serving in these capacities.

**O. Regulation and recording of event results.** The UKC Dog Events Department regulates and records the results of conformation shows, obedience trials, agility trials and weight pulls and issues awards for levels of achievement at these events. Additional events may be added at the sole discretion of United Kennel Club.

**P. When points or legs are awarded.**

1. Points or legs earned toward UKC titles are awarded after United Kennel Club receives and processes the official event report from the host club.
2. No Weight Pull titles will be awarded until a dog with a Temporary Listing (TL) number has been permanently registered.

**Q. Responsibility of Owner to advise UKC of address change.** It is the responsibility of an owner on record to notify UKC of address changes for any UKC registered dogs who may have pending titles. A change of address form may be found on the UKC website, [www.ukcdogs.com/res/pdf/addchreq.pdf](http://www.ukcdogs.com/res/pdf/addchreq.pdf).

**R. Title Certificate.** UKC will mail the appropriate Title Certificate to the owner on record, once a title has been verified.

**S. UKC right to review and correct event related documents.** UKC has the right to inspect all reports, score sheets, and other documents related to UKC Licensed events and to review those documents for any reason. Pursuant to the Inherent Rights and Powers, UKC employees may make corrections, additions or deletions to any documents related to UKC Licensed events, regardless of whether or not those documents are signed by a Judge or club officer.

**T. UKC right to change rules, policies and fees.** UKC reserves the right to change rules, policies and fees at any time without notice.

**Section VI. Entering a UKC event.** Dogs must be permanently registered, have a Limited Privilege number (performance events, companion events & Junior Showmanship), or have a valid Temporary Listing number.

**\*A. Official UKC Entry Form.** Entries for all events for licensed weight classes must be submitted using the most current official UKC Entry Form. Entry forms must be complete when sub-

mitted to the Event Secretary, including a valid UKC Permanent Registration number, UKC Limited Privilege number or UKC Temporary Listing number. Incomplete or unsigned entry forms or entries unaccompanied by entry fees are invalid and are to be refused by the Event Secretary/Event Manager.

**B. Eligibility for entry in licensed Weight Pulls.** Entry in licensed Weight Pulls is limited to the following dogs provided they are at least one year of age on the day of the event:

1. Dogs that are permanently registered with UKC as of the day of the event or,
2. Dogs that have a valid Temporary Listing (TL) number as of the day of the event.
3. Dogs that have a Limited Privilege (LP) listing number as of the day of the event.
4. Upon reaching 12 years of age all dogs must have a Veterinary Certificate stating the dog is in good health and able to continue pulling. The Veterinary Certificate must be dated not earlier than 1 year from the date of the event.

**C. Ineligibility for entry in Licensed Weight Pulls.** The following dogs must not enter in weight pulls even if otherwise eligible and may be refused by the Event Secretary.

1. **Disqualified dog.** Dogs that have been disqualified by a Judge at a UKC Licensed event in accordance with Section XXX. B.1.
2. **Blind or lame dogs.** Blind or lame dogs must not be entered in UKC Weight Pull events.
3. **Females in Season.** Female in season must not enter in UKC Weight Pull events.
4. **Pregnant or lactating females.** Pregnant or lactating females must not be entered in UKC Weight Pull events.
5. **Drugged dogs.** Dogs under the influence of a performance-altering drug or supplement must not be entered in UKC Weight Pull events.
6. **Dogs that appear to be ill.** Dogs that appear to be ill or dogs with sutures, bandages, adhesive or any other material that is indicative or related to any surgical or medical procedure must not be entered in UKC Weight Pull events.

**D. Entry procedures and deadlines.** UKC clubs must use the following procedures for taking entries for licensed classes:

1. **Day-of-pull entries.** Clubs accepting day-of-pull entries must set a specific time period during which the Event Secretary will take entries for the event. This information will be published with the other event information in *BLOODLINES Dog*

*Event News* magazine and on [www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com). No entries will be taken at the event except during the specified time period. In the case of extreme weather or other emergency conditions, the Event Chairperson may decide to extend the taking of entries or delay the start of all judging by a reasonable period of time, or both. In such cases, the extension of entry-taking or delay of judging must be explained in writing by the Event Chairperson when submitting the Event report.

2. **Pre-entry.** Clubs accepting pre-entries must establish a pre-entry deadline after which no further pre-entries will be accepted. The pre-entry deadline must be published with the other event information in *BLOODLINES Dog Event News* magazine and [www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com). Clubs may offer a discounted entry fee for pre-entries. In such cases, exhibitors whose entries fail to arrive by the deadline date may be required to pay the full entry fee.

3. **Pre-entry only.** Clubs may elect not to take day-of-pull entries. In such a case, the club must include this information on its "Event Application for a scheduled weekend." Such events will be designated "PE ONLY" at the top of their listing in *BLOODLINES Dog Event News* magazine and [www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com).

4. **Conditional entry.** An entry which specifies any condition as to its acceptance must not be made and must not be accepted by a club.

5. **Refusing an entry.** Host clubs may refuse the entry of an otherwise eligible dog. While a club's decision is subject to review by UKC, it will not be overturned except where there is strong evidence that the club's decision is based on prohibited categories of discrimination (race, religion, national origin, etc.) or personal disputes.

6. **Corrections or changes to entry form.** A handler or owner may make corrections to the dog's name or corrections to the dog's registration number (but not both on an individual entry) on an entry form anytime prior to the judging of the class in which the dog is entered. An exhibitor or owner may change the dog's name or the dog's registration number on an individual entry, but he/she may not change both on the same entry. The exhibitor must complete a Correction/Class Change Form as provided by the club. The Event Secretary must attach the form to the original entry.

7. **Refund or Cancellation of Entry.** The host club shall be responsible for their own refund and/or cancellation of entry policy. It is suggested that the policy be posted.

**H. Entry numbers and armbands.** Each dog shall be assigned an entry number and the host club must provide armbands displaying the entry number to the person exhibiting the dog.

**I. Substitution of an Entered Dog.** Substitution of an entered dog may be allowed at the club's discretion, so long as the requirements outlined in "Entering a UKC Event" are followed and the new dog meets the eligibility requirements to be entered. Substitution of a dog is prohibited when the dog is ineligible to compete. Owners who are substituting a dog for an entered dog must submit a completed Official UKC Entry form along with a Correction/Class change form outlining the details of the submission.

**J. Dogs not UKC permanently registered.** Dogs that are not permanently registered or have a UKC Limited Privilege number must have a Temporary Listing (TL) number to enter into licensed events. TL numbers are available through UKC. Entry of dogs in a UKC Licensed Weight Pull that are not UKC permanently registered, have a UKC Limited Privilege or a valid Temporary Listing number are to be refused entry by the Event Secretary.

## Section VII. Weigh-In and Judging Schedule.

**A. Weigh-In.** See Section XV.

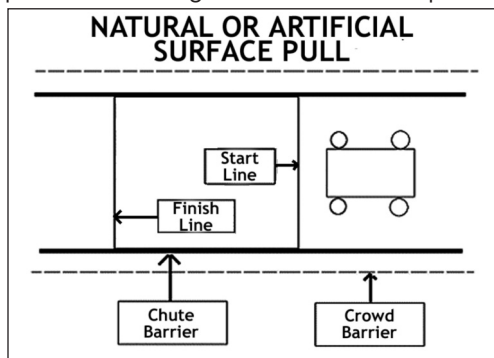
**\*B. Start time for licensed classes.** At pre-entry only pulls, the pull must start at the advertised start time. All other pulls must start at the advertised start time or as soon as possible thereafter if there is a large number of day-of-pull entries. On the day of the pull, no dog may pull in the chute prior to the start time advertised in *BLOODLINES Dog Event News* magazine or on the UKC website. No dog may be judged prior to the start time advertised in *BLOODLINES Dog Event News* magazine or on the UKC website. No dog may pull after completing the maximum amount of weight allowed per Section XX.

**C. Scheduling performance and conformation events where space is limited.** When a club is offering both conformation and weight pull, and space at the show site is limited to the extent that the conformation ring and the chute may be in the same space, conformation shall be judged last so that the performance dogs are not distracted by the scent of female dogs in season.

**Section VIII. Pull Area.** The pull area shall consist of a pulling track within a chute on an approved pulling surface, an on-deck area and a holding area.

**A. Approved pulling surfaces.** The following are approved weight pull surfaces:

**1. Natural surface.** May be hard packed dirt, fine packed stones or grass. Sand is not acceptable.

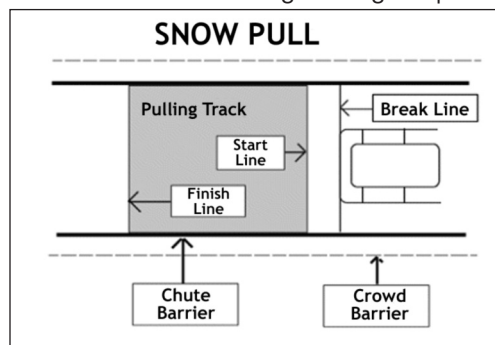


**2. Artificial surface.** May be either asphalt or concrete but must be covered with carpet. Bare asphalt or concrete is not acceptable.

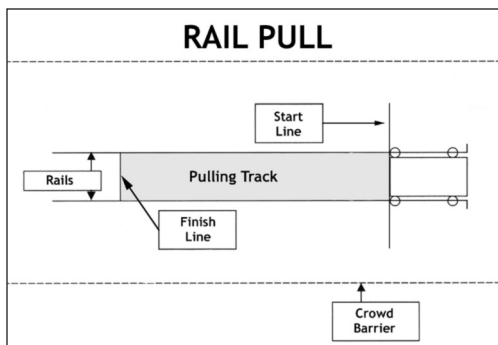
**3. Snow.**

**a. Natural snow.** Hard packed snow.

**b. Artificial snow.** Packed ice shavings such as those from an ice skating rink. There must be sufficient ice shavings covering the chute so that the dog's traction and the sled are able to remain on the ice shavings during the pull.



**4. Rail system.** The pulling surface lies between metal rails similar to railroad rails and which will safely hold the wheels of the carts. The pulling surface must be made of a material that is of sufficient strength and sturdy construction to support the combined maximum weight of the dog and weighted cart. The surface must be covered with carpet to allow the dog to gain traction.



## B. Pulling track.

**1. On natural and artificial surfaces.** The pulling track is designated inside the chute by plainly marked start and finish lines that are exactly 16 feet apart.

**2. On snow.** The pulling track is designated inside the chute by plainly marked start and finish lines that are exactly 16 feet apart. Pulls on snow shall have an additional break line marked exactly two feet behind the start line. Before a pull on snow, the sled may be moved in the area between the start line and the break line to ensure that the runners are not frozen to the snow. Regardless of how the sled is moved it must be at a dead stop before hooking the dog.

**3. On rails.** The pulling track is designated between the rails by plainly marked start and finish lines that are exactly 16 feet apart. Rail systems may be of a type mounted on a platform or of a type placed on the ground. While type and construction of rail systems may vary, the safety of all dogs and people attending the event is of paramount importance. Full consideration must be given to the construction and assembly of the components of this type system to ensure their stability and safety.

## C. Chute requirements.

**1. Pulls on natural and artificial surfaces and snow.**

**a. Dimensions.** The chute shall be at least 10 feet wide, but not more than 20 feet wide and at least 35 feet long.

**b. Placement of the chute.** The chute must be placed in a location that is as level as possible, and where the surface is most likely to remain consistent throughout the pull. The chute may only be groomed between classes.

**c. When chute is not level.** Where it is not possible to have a level chute, the dogs shall be required to pull from the low end toward the high end of the chute.

**d. Starting position.** Regardless of the slope of the chute, the starting position must be in a position that does not allow the cart to roll freely.

**e. Surface on which the dog gains traction.** The surface on which the dog gains traction must be the same as the surface under the wheels of the cart or runners of the sled being pulled.

**f. Chute barrier.** A chute barrier at least three feet high and running the entire length of the chute is required for all pulls on natural and artificial surfaces and snow. The barrier shall be placed at the outer edges of the chute. Chute barriers can be made of any material that will discourage the dogs from leaving the chute during the pull. Examples of suitable material include plywood, snow fence, wood planks and hog panels.

**2. Rail pulls.** There must be welded stops on both ends of the track so that the cart is not accidentally pulled off of the rails.

**a. Dimensions.** The recommended width of the pulling surface of the rail system is four feet, to allow use of sheet plywood measuring 4 x 8 feet. The recommended length is 30 feet or greater.

**b. Ensuring that track is level.** There should be legs attached to the track to allow adjustments for leveling the track on any surface. Where a floor track is used the track is as level as the floor under it.

**c. Starting position.** Regardless of the slope of the chute, the starting position must be in a position that does not allow the cart to roll freely.

**d. Crowd barrier.** A crowd barrier at least three feet high and running the entire length of the chute is recommended for all weight pulls. The barrier shall be placed at least three feet away from the outer edges of the chute. Crowd barriers can be made of any material that will prevent spectators from interfering with the dogs during the pull.

**e. Surface on which the dog gains traction.** The surface between the rails must be covered with carpet to allow the dog to gain traction.

**3. Placement of open end of chute.** The end of the chute toward which the dog is pulling must be open, clear of crates, dogs, and spectators.

**D. On-deck area.** The host club must provide a marked on-deck area directly behind and near the starting end of the pull chute. As each dog moves into the chute to pull, the next dog in line and its handler shall wait in the on-deck area. The dog in the on-deck area must be under its handler's control.

**E. Holding area.** The host club must provide a designated holding area with sufficient space to safely hold all dogs entered in the weight pull. Dogs in the holding area must be crated or on a short leash, and all must be closely supervised by their handlers.

## Section IX. Equipment.

### A. Dog's Equipment.

**1. Collar.** The dog may wear a flat buckle collar or be collarless in the chute and on deck areas. Any other type of collar and hanging tags are prohibited in the chute and on-deck areas.

**2. Harness.** The owner must provide each dog with a well-fitted weight pull harness prior to competition. Standard weight pull harnesses may be purchased from various sled dog and weight pull harness manufacturers.

a. The rear of the harness shall not extend more than two feet behind the dog as measured from the base of the tail.

b. The rear of the harness must have a dowel to prevent the sides of the harness from pinching or rubbing the hips and legs of the dog when pulling. Wooden dowels are preferred but a metal dowel is acceptable.

c. The handler must ensure that the harness is in good repair and without any evidence of fraying or other condition that might cause the harness to break during the pull.

d. The harness shall not be held together by plastic clasps, Velcro, or include any springs or shocks in it.

**3. Leashes.** Leashes are prohibited from being attached to the dog's collar or harness while the dog is pulling.

**4. Artificial aids to assist dog's traction.** Dog's pads are to be clean and free of any artificial aid designed to improve traction. This includes, but is not limited to boots, carpet, or any substance applied to the pads, except that when pulling on carpeting, pure water may be applied to the pads in the on-deck area.

### B. Pull Equipment.

**1. Traces.** Traces shall be used to attach the weighted vehicle to the dog's pulling harness. The traces must be made of rope or nylon. Chains or cable are not allowed. The traces must be attached to the weighted vehicle and to the dog's harness by sturdy enclosed metal rings or snaps.

**a. Wheeled cart traces.** Traces shall form a long V-shape and be at least five (5) and not

more than six (6) feet in length. The ring or snap that attaches the traces to the dog's harness shall be free to move from side to side. Traces shall be free of knots or anything that may hinder the free travel of the traces through the ring or snap.

**b. Sled traces.** Traces from the sled shall be tied together at a point not less than two (2) feet nor more than three (3) feet in front of the sled to form a Y-shape. The traces shall be sufficiently long so that the distance from the point of attachment on the sled to the attachment on the dog's harness shall not exceed six (6) feet.

**c. Rail traces.** Traces must be I-shaped and must be at least two and a half (2½) feet but not more than four (4) feet in length.

### 2. Weighted vehicles.

**a. Rail Cart.** A rail cart shall be the weighted vehicle for all weight pulls on rails.

**1) Rail cart requirements.** The rail cart must be capable of safely carrying a load in excess of 6,000 pounds. Rail carts are normally made of steel angle and the rails made from angle iron. A typical rail cart is made of steel, measuring 4 feet 8 inches x 4 feet 8 inches, measured from the outer sides of the cart. There must be at least four heavy-duty wheels mounted to the corners of the weight cart or 6 heavy-duty wheels mounted to the corners and middle of the weight cart. All wheels may be V-groove, or there may be two or three V-groove and two or three flat wheels on opposite sides of the cart. The wheel size for the small cart should be 3 inches and for the larger cart 4-6 inches with 4 inches being preferred. The V-groove in the wheel holds the cart on course as it rides on the top of the angle iron rails. Any size rail cart is acceptable provided the materials used are of sufficient strength to bear the weights used in the pull, and the construction and design ensure the safety of all concerned. The rail system should be designed so that it can be assembled and disassembled easily.

**2) Option to use two rail carts.** A club shall not require a dog to start pulling higher than the set weight listed per weight class and must provide an appropriate rail cart. The club may use two rail carts meeting the above requirements but of different size and weight or one cart that will fulfill all requirements. The smaller and lighter cart may be used for the 20-, 30-, and 40-pound classes. The smaller cart is not required to hold more weight than the actual weight of the larger cart. When the

weight pulled in these classes is equal or greater to the weight of the larger cart, the competition must continue with the larger cart.

**b. Sled.** A sled shall be the weighted vehicle for all weight pulls on snow.

**1) Sled requirements.** The sled must:

- a) Be capable of safely carrying a load in excess of 3,000 pounds.
- b) Be at least 30 inches but not more than 48 inches in width.
- c) Have two runners, made of steel or a ptx material, that are not less than two nor more than four inches wide, and are sufficiently long enough to provide at least 7 feet of contact surface. The front ends of the runners must curve upward.

**2) Option to use two sleds.** A club shall not require a dog to start pulling higher than the set weight listed per weight class and must provide an appropriate sled. The club may use two sleds meeting the above requirements but of different size and weight or one sled that will fulfill all requirements. The smaller and lighter sled may be used for the 20-, 30-, and 40-pound classes. The smaller sled is not required to hold more weight than the actual weight of the larger sled. When the weight pulled in these classes is equal or greater to the weight of the larger sled, the competition must continue with the larger sled.

**c. Wheeled cart.** A wheeled cart shall be the weighted vehicle for all weight pulls on natural or artificial surfaces.

**1) Cart requirements.** The cart must:

- a) Be capable of safely carrying a load in excess of 5,000 pounds.
- b) Have a solid weight-bearing surface consisting of wood or metal. The weight bearing surface may not be hollow.
- c) Have two axles and stand freely without tipping over.
- d) Have four pneumatic tires, each of which must have the same air pressure prior to the event. The tires shall not be less than eight inches and not more than eighteen inches in diameter, measured from one outer edge of the tire to the other. Wheels must be fixed so that they can only move forward and backward. A spare tire or adequate repair kit for the cart tires must be available at the pull site.
- e) Be equipped with 2 solid rings on the front for attaching the trace rope.

**2) Option to use two wheel carts.** A club shall not require a dog to start pulling higher than the set weight listed per weight class and must provide an appropriate wheel cart. The club may use two-wheel carts meeting the above requirements but of different size and weight or one cart that will fulfill all requirements. The smaller and lighter cart may be used for the 20-, 30-, and 40-pound classes. The smaller cart is not required to hold more weight than the actual weight of the larger cart. When the weight pulled in these classes is equal or greater to the weight of the larger cart, the competition must continue with the larger cart.

**3. Weight.** The host club shall supply an adequate amount of pre-weighted material suitable for safe, stable stacking.

**4. Stop watch.** The host club shall supply a stop watch capable of measuring time to 1/100th of a second.

**5. Scale.** The host club must supply a scale with the capacity to weigh all dogs entered. It is preferred that a digital scale be used.

## **Section X. Eligibility to compete in weight pull events.**

**A. Eligibility to compete in licensed weight pull classes.** No qualifying pull is required to compete in licensed weight pull classes. The following dogs are eligible to compete in UKC Licensed Weight Pull classes, provided they are at least one year of age on the day of the event:

1. Dogs that are permanently registered with UKC as of the day of the event or,
2. Dogs that have a valid Temporary Listing (TL) number as of the day of the event.
3. Dogs that have a Limited Privilege (LP) listing number as of the day of the event.
4. Upon reaching 12 years of age all dogs must have a Veterinary Certificate stating the dog is in good health and able to continue pulling. The Veterinary Certificate must be dated not earlier than 1 year from the date of the event.

**B. Mandatory excusals.** The following dogs may not compete in weight pulls even if otherwise eligible and must be excused by the Judge. The Judge's decision is final in all mandatory excusals. The Judge must mark the reason for any mandatory excusal in the Judge's book.

### **1. Females in season.**

- a. No female in season may participate in a weight pull. The host club has the option of

refunding the entire entry fee or retaining up to 50% of the fee as a processing fee of any weight pull competitor who provides a veterinarian's certificate verifying that the female came into season after the closing date for entries. The certificate may be mailed, provided the postmark is no later than the date prior to the day of the trial, or delivered by hand to the Event Secretary before the start of the trials.

b. A female found to be in season during a pull shall be immediately excused and shall be ineligible to receive a qualifying leg or championship points. The Judge's decision is final. The host club is not required to refund the entry fee.

c. Any female that appears so attractive to males as to be a disturbing element shall be excused by the Judge. The Judge's decision is final. The dog's last qualifying pull will count as its top pull in the class. The host club is not required to refund the entry fee.

**2. Pregnant or lactating females.** Pregnant or lactating females must not participate in UKC weight pull events. A Judge who reasonably believes that a dog is pregnant or lactating must excuse the dog and mark the reason in the Judge's book. The Judge's decision is final. A bitch that has been bred is considered pregnant until:

- a. She whelps a litter;
- b. A veterinarian has determined that a bred bitch is not pregnant; or,
- c. The 64th day after the last day the bitch was bred, counting the day of the breeding.

**3. Drugged dogs.** No dog under the influence of a performance-altering drug may participate in a weight pull.

**4. Lameness or illness.** Judges must excuse any dog that is lame, appears to be ill, or exhibits any evidence of recent injury, including, but not limited to, bandages, splints, or stitches.

**5. Excusing a dog for behavior on deck or in the chute.** See section XXX, paragraph A.

**6. Excusing a handler.** The Judge must excuse a handler who exhibits poor sportsmanship. The Judge has sole discretion whether or not to allow the dog of an excused handler to continue to participate in the pull with a substitute handler. The Judge's decision in these matters is final. Poor sportsmanship that rises to the level of misconduct must be dealt with in accordance with Section XXXII, paragraph B.

**C. Disqualifying a dog.** A Judge must disquali-

fy a dog that bites or attempts to bite a person (including the handler) or that bites or attacks another dog during the supervised weigh-in or while in the on-deck or chute areas. The Judge must complete the Disqualified for Attacking form as provided by the Event Secretary. A dog that has been disqualified by the Judge may not continue to compete in weight pulls even if otherwise eligible. The Judge's decision is final in all disqualifications. The Judge must mark the reason in the Judge's book for any disqualifications. A dog that has been disqualified from a conformation show or performance event may not participate in any further events unless reinstated by UKC.

**D. Rules Regarding Dogs Owned or Trained By Judges, Immediate Family Members and Members of the Same Household.**

**1. Dogs that may not pull under a Judge.**

Except as outlined in subparagraph D.2 below, exhibitors may not pull dogs from the following categories under any weight pull Judge. These dogs may, however, show in other types of events on the same day, provided the dog is not handled by the weight pull Judge. For example, a dog owned by a person judging a weight pull event, may participate in a performance or conformation event hosted by same club on the same day, provided the dog is not handled by the weight pull Judge. This following rules apply to both the Head Judge and the Backup Judge.

- a. A dog that is owned or co-owned by the Judge;
- b. A dog that is owned or co-owned by a member of the Judge's immediate family;
- c. A dog that is owned or co-owned by a person living in the same household as the Judge.
- d. A dog that has been owned or trained by the Judge or that has lived in the Judge's household, regardless of ownership, within three months of the date of the event.
- e. A dog that has been owned or trained by a member of the Judge's immediate family or that has lived in the household of a member of the Judge's immediate family within three months of the date of the event.

**2. Procedures whereby prohibited dogs may pull.** Any prohibited dog listed above may pull provided that:

- a. The host club must designate a Head Judge and a Backup Judge on the Application For One Licensed Event. The Head Judge shall be

- b. Therefore a prohibited dog of the Head Judge may pull under the Backup Judge.
- c. Therefore a prohibited dog of the Backup Judge may pull under the Head Judge.

## Section XI. Weight Classes.

**A. Determining a dog’s weight class.** The class for a dog is based on the dog’s natural body weight as determined at the official weigh-in for the event. Males and females shall pull together in the same class. Owners and handlers are prohibited from wetting down their dogs or forcing or encouraging their dogs to drink additional water in order to place a dog in a more advantageous weight class. Persons caught using this practice, sometimes called “water logging,” will be disqualified from participating in the weight pull and may also face disciplinary action from UKC.

### B. UKC weight classes.

Classes are open to any dog that meets entry eligibility as defined in this rulebook.

Weight Class	Minimum Weight	Maximum Weight
20 lbs	No minimum	under 21 lbs
30 lbs	21 lbs	under 31 lbs
40 lbs	31 lbs	under 41 lbs
50 lbs	41 lbs	under 51 lbs
60 lbs	51 lbs	under 61 lbs
70 lbs	61 lbs	under 71 lbs
80 lbs	71 lbs	under 81 lbs
90 lbs	81 lbs	under 91 lbs
100 lbs	91 lbs	under 101 lbs
Unlimited	101 lbs	no maximum

## Section XII. Rules Applying To Exhibitors And Spectators.

UKC exhibitors and spectators are expected to display good behavior and good sportsmanship on and off the course. Judges, Event Committee members and host club officers may excuse exhibitors or spectators from the chute, on-deck area, holding area or the event grounds for violations of these rules or conduct that interferes with the event and event participants.

**A. Complaints about the Judge’s decision.** By entering in a UKC event, the exhibitor is inviting the opinion of the Judge and must accept the Judge’s decision as final. Exhibitors are encouraged to discuss calls with Judges but may not argue about the Judge’s final decision. Complaints about the Judge may only be lodged with the host club if the exhibitor

believes the Judge has violated a specific UKC rule. Complaints about a Judge’s knowledge of and ability to apply UKC Weight Pull rules may be filed with UKC but must address specific deficiencies.

**B. Control of the dog.** Handlers are expected to keep their dogs under control at all times. The Event Committee may expel from the event grounds any person whose failure to control a dog interferes with judging or with the ability of other handlers to pull their dogs.

**C. Double handling.** Persons outside the chute are prohibited from any actions, intentional or otherwise, which affect the performance of a dog in the chute or in the holding area. Persons who are family or household members, have trained or handled the dog in any capacity, or have anything to do with the dog in the chute shall not place themselves beyond the finish line. This prohibition shall apply equally to persons attempting to improve or to impair a performance. The Event Committee may expel from the event grounds any person they reasonably believe is attempting to affect the performance of a dog. Judges may excuse any handler and his/her dog when the Judge reasonably believes the dog is benefiting from “double handling”.

**D. Grounds clean-up.** Handlers are required to clean up behind their dog if it fouls the chute, on-deck area, holding area, or the event grounds. A member of the Event Committee may bring cleaning supplies to the handler and may hold the dog while the owner cleans the chute or the on-deck area. Any handler who fails to clean up after his dog may be directed by the Event Committee to leave the event grounds.

**E. Interfering with the Judge.** No person may interfere with the Judge in any way while he/she is judging a weight class.

**F. Performance-altering drugs or supplements.** No dog under the influence of a performance-altering drug may participate in a weight pull. The use of performance altering drugs or supplements is strictly prohibited. Owners and handlers are presumed to know the condition of their dogs and risk disciplinary action for exhibiting dogs under the influence of performance-altering drugs.

### G. Misbehavior of handlers.

**1. Excusing a handler.** The Judge must excuse a handler who exhibits poor sportsmanship. The Judge has the sole discretion whether or not to allow the dog of an excused handler to continue to participate in the pull with a substitute handler. The Judge’s decision in these matters is final.

**2. Poor Sportsmanship.** Poor sportsmanship that rises to the level of misconduct must be dealt with in accordance with Section XXXII. B. The handler must not be permitted to exhibit until the hearing has been held. A different handler may exhibit any additional dogs the handler has entered. In this case the club is not required to refund entry fees(s) for said dog or any additional dogs the exhibitor has entered on that day regardless if the dogs were shown or not.

**XIII. Exhibitor Guidelines.** A weight pull is an evaluation of breeding stock, or a handler's ability to train and work with a dog. Many breeders have made a lifelong commitment to their breed and many exhibitors have made a lifelong commitment to dog training. Judges have spent years training and pulling dogs before stepping beside the chute to Judge. They are serious about the sport, and exhibitors should be as well. Exhibitors' behavior and deportment speak to the degree of commitment they have to their dogs and to the sport. The following are suggested guidelines for UKC Exhibitors:

- Exhibitors should accept the decision of the Judge gracefully. There should be no snatching of ribbons, loud comments or derision of the Judge or their decisions, either in the ring or out.
- Exhibitors' clothing should be neat and clean. Their apparel speaks to the respect they have for the sport, the pull and its proceedings.
- Exhibitors' dogs should be clean and, where necessary, brushed or trimmed to present a neat appearance.
- Exhibitors should take care when discussing the judging with the Judge to not appear confrontational. The judging was the Judge's opinion that day, and poor behavior on the part of the exhibitor will not change the outcome.
- Exhibitors should make an effort to help new exhibitors. We were all new to dog events at one time and we appreciated when someone helped us.
- Exhibitors should always leave event grounds in the condition they found them. Help the event committee and clean up your area.
- Exhibitors should take care not to promote rumors and negative comments about dogs, other exhibitors or Judges.
- Exhibitors should remember they are at the pull at the invitation of the pull-giving club. In order to ensure being invited back, exhibitors should do whatever they can to assist the host club and promote the family flavor of UKC events.

## Section XIV. Judging Procedures.

**A. Who may judge a UKC Licensed Weight Pull.** No person may judge a UKC Licensed Weight Pull unless he/she holds a current UKC Judge's license for weight pulls and is in good standing with UKC.

**B. Judge's authority in the chute.** The Judge may use whatever reasonable procedures he/she deems necessary to evaluate each dog's performance in an effective and efficient manner. The same procedures will be used to Judge each dog in a class.

**C. Responsibility for pulling area.** The Judge is responsible for ensuring that the pulling area is in compliance with the UKC rules.

**D. Responsibility for pulling equipment.** The Judge is responsible for ensuring that the pulling equipment is in compliance with the UKC rules.

**E. Responsibility for supervising pull officials.** The Judge is responsible for supervising and instructing all pull officials. Prior to the start of the pull, the Judge must instruct the pull officials regarding their responsibilities.

**F. Judge's decisions.** The Judge's decisions on the day of the pull are final. All questions or disputes occurring at a weight pull shall be resolved by the Judge and his/her decision shall be final.

**G. Discussion of dogs' performance with exhibitors.** UKC Judges are encouraged to discuss their decisions with exhibitors.

**H. Judge's book.** Judges are responsible for the accuracy of the information in their Judges' books. Each Judge must sign his/her Judge's book upon the completion of a judging assignment and return it to the Event Secretary.

### I. Prohibitions.

1. Judges may not ask an exhibitor any unnecessary questions regarding the dog in the chute.
2. Judges may not judge a conformation show and a performance or companion event on the same day.

## Section XV. The Weigh-In.

**A. Scale.** The host club must supply a scale with the capacity to weigh all dogs entered. It is officially recommended that a digital scale be used for weigh-in.

**B. Supervising the Weigh-In.** The Weigh-In must be supervised by the officiating Judge or the officiating Judge may choose to appoint another UKC Licensed Weight Pull Judge, a member of the Event Committee or an officer of the host club to supervise the Weigh-In.

**C. Determining the Dog's weight recording method.** The officiating Judge records the dog's weight in the method determined by the club on the Weigh-In form or may choose to appoint an assistant to help with the recording. Before the Weigh-In begins the club must decide the dog's weight recording method. All dogs must be recorded using the same method. Calculations of qualifying scores must be the same for all dogs using the chosen method. The dog's weight recording methods are:

- 1. Dog's weight recorded as a whole pound.** The dog's weight will be recorded as a whole pound; or
- 2. Dog's weight recorded to the tenth of a pound.** The dog's weight will be recorded to the tenth of a pound.

**D. Official Weigh-In Time.** Each dog must have an official weight before it will be allowed to compete at a UKC Licensed Weight Pull in accordance with the following:

1. The Weigh-In shall be scheduled not more than 24 hours prior to the start time of the pull.
- 2. Publishing Weigh-In time.** The weigh-in start time(s) will be published in the "Upcoming Events" section of *BLOODLINES Dog Event News* magazine or on the UKC website. Host clubs must begin the weigh-in at the published time.
- 3. Closing of Weigh-In time.** A dog may weigh-in until 30 minutes before the weight pull begins, unless a deadline weigh-in time is published. Meaning that a dog may only be weighed during that time, or the day of the pull up until 30 minutes before the weight pull starts.

**E. When one club is hosting weight pull(s).** When there are UKC Licensed Weight Pulls held by the same club, at the same location, on consecutive days, the dog will only have to be weighed once before competing in up to four events.

**F. When more than one club is hosting weight pull on the same weekend.** When there are UKC Licensed Weight Pulls held by more than one club, at the same location, each club is required to hold a mandatory weigh-in.

**G. Weigh-In requirements.** Dogs may wear a standard collar during weigh-in but weighted collars and collars wider than three inches are prohibited. Dogs may not be "waterlogged" nor wet during the weigh-in.

**Section XVI. Handlers meeting.** The officiating Judge shall conduct a handlers meeting at the conclusion of the weigh-in and before the first dog

pulls. The officiating Judge shall give instructions as to how the pull will be run and the load increments will be set. It is recommended that all weight pull handlers be present for the handlers meeting.

**A. Load increments.** The Judge shall recommend load increments based on the pulling conditions and the welfare of the dogs. The handlers shall vote on the load increments by which weight shall be increased. The decision shall be made by a simple majority of the handlers present at the handlers meeting. Tie votes shall be decided by the Judge. The load increment for each class shall remain the same throughout the class.

**B. Checking the pull area.** The host club will decide how frequently to check the pull area and their decision will be announced at the handler's meeting. The pull area may only be checked and groomed between weight classes.

## **Section XVII. Pulling Order.**

**A. Dog order.** The Timekeeper will determine the dog order for the class. The Judge will settle any disputes and the Judge's decision is final.

**B. Class order.** Classes may pull in any order, although most clubs prefer to start with the lightest weight class and work upward. The Judge will tell handlers the class pulling order at the handler's meeting. The host club may select one of the following options when determining the order of pulling:

**1. Class by class.** Using this option, each class will pull until a winner is determined before the next class pulls.

**2. Two or more classes combined.** When classes are small, the club may elect to combine two or more classes and pull all the dogs in those classes so long as the weight increments are the same and acceptable for all classes.

**3. All classes combined.** Using this option, all the dogs pull together regardless of class so long as the weight increments are the same and acceptable for all classes.

**4. Two or more dogs from multiple classes combined.** The club and handlers may elect to combine dogs from multiple classes to pull together as one group, so long as the weight increments are the same and acceptable to all classes. In this case each dog's results will be recorded in their respective class.

### **C. Conflicts.**

**1. All weight classes.** A dog not available to pull at the time it is called, may be marked absent by the Judge or allowed to pull at a later

time. The Judge's decision is final.

## Section XVIII. Pulling rules.

**\*A. Weather restrictions.** Pull events may be held year round but dogs may not pull when the temperature meets or exceeds 95° Fahrenheit in the area in which the dogs are pulling.

**B. Baiting in the on-deck area and the chute.** Handlers are prohibited from using food or any other type of lure to bait their dogs while in the on deck area or the chute. Judges must excuse any handler that they reasonably believe is baiting their dog or has bait on his/her person in the on-deck area or the chute. The Judge's book must be marked accordingly. The Judge's decision on this matter is final. Handlers who violate this rule may also be subject to disciplinary action by the host club and UKC.

### **C. Completing a pull after fouling or timing out.**

A dog who has been timed out or has been assessed a foul shall be allowed to complete the pull. No credit is given for completing a pull when a foul has been assessed. The pull through should be a positive experience for the dog, with the handler encouraging and assisting the dog to complete the pull. It should not be corrective in any manner. A handler who is harsh or corrective during a pull through may be excused from the pull at the Judge's discretion.

**D. Corrections.** Physical corrections to the dog shall not be allowed in the chute.

**E. Harnessing the dog.** When a dog is called from the holding area to the on-deck area, the dog will be harnessed and remain harnessed in the on-deck area until the dog is called to the chute or is eliminated from competition. A dog's harness may be removed between pulls as long as it does not cause delay.

**F. Language.** Profanity or offensive language shall not be allowed in the chute or on-deck area. The first incident the Judge will issue a warning. The second incident the Judge shall excuse the handler. The Judge has sole discretion whether or not to allow the dog of an excused handler to continue to participate in the pull with a substitute handler.

**G. Leash.** Leashes are prohibited from being attached to the dog's collar or harness while the dog is pulling. The leash must be removed before or immediately after the dog is hooked to the cart. The leash is to be given to the cart handler or placed in the handler's pocket. No part of the leash may be visible. The handler shall not throw the leash to the opposite end of the chute.

**H. Maximum starting weights.** At the start of a

pull, no dog is required to pull more than the maximum starting weight listed for its weight class. There will be no required come-in weight.

**\*I. Number of dogs that an exhibitor may handle per class.** An exhibitor may handle an unlimited number of dogs per class. Exhibitors of multiple dogs must inform the record keeper doing the weight pull paperwork that they have multiple dogs in the same class prior to the start of the pull. A maximum time of three minutes per round will be allowed for a dog change. After that time has passed a foul will be assessed. It is recommended that the competitor have a harness for each dog they are pulling in the same weight class.

**J. Other artificial aids.** Noisemakers, whips or any other devices may not be used to encourage dogs to pull, and are prohibited from the chute and the on-deck area.

**K. Prohibition against dogs outside the chute but forward of the start line.** During the pull, no dog, whether entered or not, may be in front of a line extended outward from both ends of the start line.

**L. Rest period.** Dogs will pull in the prescribed order, but no dog will be required to pull, including dogs that have fouled, without a five-minute rest between pulls. If the rest period is taken, the pull is to continue with the dog re-entering at the end of the five minute period. During the rest period, a dog must remain at the rear of the line in the holding area for the next pulling round. A handler may waive the rest period.

**M. When a dog is excused.** When a dog is excused, the dog's last valid pull will count as its top pull in the class and division.

**N. When a dog is disqualified.** No points, legs or other awards shall be given to disqualified dogs or females found to be in season.

**O. When a dog fails to make a qualifying pull.** A dog shall be required to pull a weighted vehicle 16 feet in 60 seconds or less without a foul, excusal or disqualification. A qualifying pull is required to move to the next round.

**P. When a dog fails to make a qualifying leg/score (NQ.)** A dog earns a qualifying leg/score by completing an uninterrupted pull of a weighted vehicle loaded with the following weights for 16 feet within 60 seconds and:

- 1. On natural or artificial surfaces.** Eight times the dog's body weight on the day of the event for events held on natural or artificial surfaces, or
- 2. On snow.** Three times the dog's body weight

on the day of the event for events held on snow, or  
**3. On rails.** Ten times the dog's body weight on the day of the event for events held on a rail system.

**Q. When a dog fouls out.** A team is allowed to foul twice during a class at which time the dog is ineligible to continue competing in the pull. The dog's last qualifying pull will count as its top pull in the class and division.

**R. When the pull is completed.** The pull is completed when the cart wheels or the contact points of the runners touch the finish line. The Judge must signal the handler and the timekeeper when the pull has been completed, either by calling "Pull" or with a hand signal. The Judge shall immediately stop his/her timer and call out the time and the record keeper shall immediately record both the time and weight pulled on the recording sheet. If the weighted vehicle is in motion at the expiration of the 60 seconds, the dog shall be allowed to complete the pull but the dog shall be assessed a foul.

**S. When a dog pulls off the rail track.** No penalty shall be assessed when a dog pulls on the ground instead of on the rail track.

**T. Withdrawal of dog from competition (HW).** A handler may withdraw his/her dog at anytime without jeopardizing any possible points or awards earned at the pull. Once a handler indicates the dog is withdrawn, the dog is no longer eligible to compete in the pull and the dog's last qualifying pull will count as its top pull in the class. "HW" shall be written on the Judge's Book.

**\*U. Automatic Withdraw.** Once the maximum weight is reached the dog is automatically withdrawn from the pull. The maximum weight a dog may pull is set as follows:

**1. Wheel System:** a dog is allowed to pull a maximum of 35 times the dog's body weight or the next closest amount in an increased increment. *For example a dog who weighs 100 pounds will be allowed to pull up to 3,500 pounds and no more.*

**2. Rail System:** a dog is allowed to pull a maximum of 45 times the dog's body weight or the next closest amount in an increased increment.

**3. Snow System:** a dog is allowed to pull a maximum of 15 times the dog's body weight or the next closest amount in an increased increment.

**Section XIX. Maximum starting weights.** A club shall not require a dog to start pulling at a higher weight than the maximum starting weights listed for each weight

class. There will be no required come-in weight. Starting class weights shall not exceed the following:

Weight Class	Maximum Starting Weights (in pounds)
20 lbs	75
30 lbs	125
40 lbs	200
50 lbs	300
60 lbs	400
70 lbs	500
80 lbs	600
90 lbs	700
100 lbs	800
Unlimited	900

**\*Section XX. Requirements for a qualifying pull.**

For a qualifying pull, a dog shall be required to pull a weighted vehicle 16 feet in 60 seconds or less without a foul, excusal or disqualification. The pull is complete and time recorded when the front wheels or the contact points of the sled runners first touch the finish line. A qualifying pull is required to move to the next round. Once the maximum weight is reached the dog is automatically withdrawn from the pull. The maximum weight a dog may pull is set as follows:

**A. Wheel System:** a dog is allowed to pull a maximum of 35 times the dog's body weight or the next closest amount in an increased increment. *For example a dog who weighs 100 pounds will be allowed to pull up to 3,500 pounds and no more.*

**B. Rail System:** a dog is allowed to pull a maximum of 45 times the dog's body weight or the next closest amount in an increased increment.

**C. Snow System:** a dog is allowed to pull a maximum of 15 times the dog's body weight or the next closest amount in an increased increment.

**Section XXI. The Start and Finish.**

**A. Notifying scorekeeper of total weight on the cart.** It is the competitor's sole responsibility to verify that the proper amount of weight has been loaded on the cart. If there is a question about the weight on the cart a brief recess will be taken while the weight is recounted and verified.

**B. Starting placements for the weighted vehicles.**

**1. Wheeled cart.** The cart shall be placed with front wheels directly behind and touching the starting line. The handler has the option of placing the cart anywhere on the starting line as long

as the wheels are perpendicular to the start line. The handler may reposition the cart one time. No test rolling of the cart shall be allowed.

**2. Sled.** Before each dog pulls, the sled must be placed with the contact points of the runners just touching the break line. At the Judge's direction, the sled may be moved from the break line to the start line in order to ensure that the sled is not frozen to the snow, a procedure called "breaking the sled". Once the sled is "broken", it must be positioned with the contact points of the runners just touching the start line and the sled runners' perpendicular to the start line.

**3. Rail cart.** The cart shall be placed with front wheels directly behind and touching the starting line.

**C. Clearing the chute.** All pull officials should be behind the front of the weight vehicle when the dog starts to pull. Only one handler may be in the chute during each dog's pull.

**D. Starting position of the dog.** The handler may place his/her dog anywhere between the wheels or runners in front of the cart or sled. The dog shall be positioned with its D-ring forward of the trace line before being hooked ensuring that there is no more than one foot of slack in the trace when releasing the dog. When releasing the dog the trace must be in contact with the pulling surface. Once the dog is in position in front of the cart or sled and released, the handler may not touch the dog or any equipment again until the pull is completed.

**E. Starting position of the handler.**

**1. Normal.** The handler shall be in front of the cart/ sled, and forward of or perpendicular to the dog's hind legs. The handler shall not touch the dog or equipment until the Judge indicates the pull has been completed.

**2. Driving from the rear.** When driving the dog from the rear, the handler shall be behind the front of the cart/sled. The handler shall not touch the dog or equipment until the Judge indicates the pull has been completed.

**F. No Pull Zone applies to Normal and Driving from the rear starting positions.** A handler must not position himself to the rear of the dog's hind legs and forward of the front of the cart. This area shall be considered a "no pull" zone. The handler will be allowed a maximum of three seconds in the no pull zone. A handler who remains in the no pull zone for more than three seconds will be assessed a foul. It is suggested that the Judge call out "no pull zone" to alert the

handler they have a maximum of three seconds in the no pull zone.

**G. Start time.** The timing of the pull starts when one of the following occurs:

**1.** The handler gives the dog a command to pull. The command may be given by voice or signal or both.

**2.** The dog starts to pull without a command.

**\*H. End time (when the pull is completed).** The pull is completed when the cart wheels or the contact points of the runners touch the finish line. The Judge must signal the handler and the timekeeper when the pull has been completed, either by calling "Pull" or with a hand signal. The Judge shall immediately stop his/her timer and call out the time and the record keeper shall immediately record both the time and weight pulled on the recording sheet. If the weighted vehicle is in motion at the expiration of the 60 seconds, the dog shall be allowed to complete the pull but the dog shall be assessed a foul.

**Section XXII. Passes.** At the start of a pull, no dog is required to pull more than the maximum starting weight listed for its class. There will be no required come-in weight.

**A. Number of passes allowed.** Once a dog has pulled, its handler may pass no more than two turns before the dog must pull again.

**B. After the dog is hooked to the weighted vehicle.** Once the dog is hooked to the weighted vehicle, the handler may not pass in that round except when pull is interrupted as the result of equipment failure. See paragraph E below.

**\*C. Signaling a pass.** The Handler must signal his/her decision to pass a round to the record keeper or Judge before the first dog of the new round starts.

**D. Rescinding a pass.** Once the handler has indicated to the timekeeper or the Judge that he/she is passing a particular round, that pass may not be rescinded after the start of the round.

**E. Equipment failure** (see Section XXIV paragraph A).

**Section XXIII. Fouls.** A team is allowed to foul twice during a class at which time the dog is ineligible to continue competing in the pull. When a dog receives a foul the record keeper shall mark an F in the appropriate round's column of the Judge's Book.

**A. What constitutes a foul.** A foul is anything that interrupts a qualifying pull. Examples of

fouls include:

1. A dog that eliminates in the chute.
2. Aggressive action of handler towards dog during the pull competition.
3. Improper Starting position (see Section XXI. E)
4. Dropping a dog at the start of the pull.
5. No leading the dog out (no pulling a dog into the start). The dog must be released prior to the trace coming off the ground.
6. Sling shot start. Sling shot starts are not allowed. A sling shot start is a dog that is released with more than 1 foot of slack in the trace and running in to start.
7. Handler touching the cart or dog in any way after the Judge/Timekeeper has started to time the pull.
8. Dog becomes entangled in the tug lines.
9. A handler who remains in the no pull zone for more than three seconds will be assessed a foul.
- \*10. Using a leash on a dog while pulling or having a leash on your person visible after being removed from the dog and before the pull is complete.
11. Dog times out (see Section IV, paragraph II).
12. Weighted vehicle becomes tangled in the chute barrier.
13. Equipment failure (see Section XXIV paragraph A).

**B. When a foul is committed.** When a foul is committed, the handler may unhook the dog and return to the holding area or he/she may elect to finish the pull. No points or legs shall be awarded on the basis of a completed pull that included a foul. The dog must pull again at the end of the round in which the foul occurred or may return to pull immediately at the handler's discretion. If the handler elects to take the five (5) minute rest period between pulls they must pull at the end of the round. A handler change shall not be allowed after a dog has been assessed a foul, until the foul has been cleared and the round in which the foul was called has been completed.

**C. Who determines when foul is committed.** The Judge calls fouls and his/her decision is final.

#### **Section XXIV. Equipment Failure.**

**A. Handler Equipment.** If any part of the harness or other equipment provided by the handler breaks the handler has the option to accept this interrupted pull as a pass rather than a foul.

**B. Club Provided Equipment.** If any part of the clubs equipment breaks i.e. the cart or trace line,

the handler will have the opportunity to re-pull that round one time with no foul or pass being assessed.

#### **Section XXV. Weight Pull Titles.**

**A. Titles.** The following titles shall be awarded for excellence in UKC weight pulling.

- United Weight Puller (UWP)
- United Weight Pull Champion (UWPCH)
- United Weight Pull Champion Excellent (UWPCHX)
- United Grand Weight Pull Champion (UGWPCH)
- United Grand Weight Pull Champion 1 (UGWPC1)
- United Weight Pull Champion Versatile (UWPV)
- United Weight Pull Champion Outstanding (UWPO)
- United Weight Pull Champion Supreme (UWPS)

#### **B. Requirements for Weight Pull Titles.**

**\*1. United Weight Puller (UWP) title.** To earn this title, a dog must earn a qualifying leg at three different UKC licensed weight pulls. A dog earns a qualifying leg/score by completing an uninterrupted pull of a weighted vehicle loaded with the following weights for 16 feet within 60 seconds and:

**a. On natural or artificial surfaces.** Eight times the dog's body weight on the day of the event for events held on natural or artificial surfaces, or

**b. On snow.** Three times the dog's body weight on the day of the event for events held on snow, or

**c. On rails.** Ten times the dog's body weight on the day of the event for events held on a rail system.

#### **2. United Weight Pull Champion (UWPCH) title.**

**\*a. Eligibility.** A dog must earn the United Weight Puller (UWP) title before it is eligible to earn points toward the United Weight Pull Champion title. Accumulation of points toward the title of United Weight Pull Champion (UWPCH) begins at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UWP title.

**b. Requirements.** A dog must then earn 100 championship points in accordance with the Championship Points Schedule in Section XXVI to become a United Weight Pull Champion.

#### **3. United Weight Pull Champion Excellent (UWPCHX) title.**

**\*a. Eligibility.** A dog must earn the United Weight Pull Champion (UWPCH) title before it is eligible to earn points toward the United Weight Pull Champion Excellent title. Accumulation of points toward the title of United Weight Pull

Champion Excellent (UWPCHX) begins at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UWPCH title.

**b. Requirements.** A dog must then earn 250 additional championship points in accordance with the Championship Points Schedule in Section XXVI to become a United Weight Pull Champion Excellent.

**4. United Grand Weight Pull Champion (UGWPCH) title.**

**\*a. Eligibility.** A dog must earn the United Weight Pull Champion Excellent (UWPCHX) title before it is eligible to earn points toward the United Grand Weight Pull Champion title. Accumulation of points toward the title of United Grand Weight Pull Champion (UGWPCH) begins at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UWPCHX title.

**\*b. Requirements.** A dog must then earn 500 additional championship points in accordance with the Championship Points Schedule in Section XXVI to become a United Grand Weight Pull Champion.

**5. United Grand Weight Pull Champion 1 (UGWPC1) title.**

**a. Eligibility.** A dog must earn the United Grand Weight Pull Champion (UGWPCH) title before it is eligible to earn points toward the United Grand Weight Pull Champion 1 title. Accumulation of points toward the title of United Grand Weight Pull Champion 1 (UGWPC1) begins at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UGWPCH title.

**\*b. Requirements.** A dog must earn 1,000 additional championship points in accordance with the Championship Points Schedule in Section XXVI to become a United Grand Weight Pull Champion 1.

**6. United Weight Pull Versatile (UWPV) title.**

A dog must earn the United Weight Puller (UWP) title before it is eligible to earn points toward the United Weight Pull Versatile title. A dog must then earn an additional 100 points on one weighted vehicle and an additional 100 points, which may be earned on any combination of at least two types of weighted vehicles. Championship points are awarded in accordance with the Championship Points Schedule in Section XXVI. Accumulation of points toward the title of United Weight Pull Versatile (UWPV) begins at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UWP title.

**7. United Weight Pull Outstanding (UWPO) title.**

A dog must earn the United Weight Puller (UWP) title before it is eligible to earn points toward the United Weight Pull Outstanding title. A dog must then earn

100 additional championship points each on two different types of weighted vehicles. Championship points are awarded in accordance with the Championship Points Schedule in Section XXVI.

**8. United Weight Pull Supreme (UWPS) title.**

A dog must earn the United Weight Puller (UWP) title before it is eligible to earn points toward the United Weight Pull Supreme title. A dog must then earn 100 additional championship points on each type of weighted vehicle (rail cart, sled, wheeled cart.) Championship points are awarded in accordance with the Championship Points Schedule in Section XXVI.

**Section XXVI. Championship Points Schedule for Weight Pull Titles.** Championship point schedule for the United Weight Pull Champion (UWPCH), United Weight Pull Champion Excellent (UWPCHX), United Grand Weight Pull Champion (UGWPCH), United Grand Weight Pull Champion 1 (UGWPC1), United Weight Pull Versatile (UWPV), United Weight Pull Outstanding (UWPO), and United Weight Pull Supreme (UWPS) titles. A qualifying pull is required to earn the following championship points:

SYSTEM	Pounds of Weight pulled per pound of dog's body weight	Championship Points
WHEELS	10	5
	15	10
	25	15
	35	20
RAILS	20	5
	25	10
	35	15
	45	20
SNOW	5	5
	7	10
	10	15
	15	20

**Section XXVII. Awards, Trophies and Ribbons.**

**A. Cash prizes.** UKC clubs may not offer cash prizes which includes but is not limited to cash awards, gift cards and gift certificates, without written authorization from UKC.

**\*B. Awards and trophies.** Clubs may not award placement awards and trophies

**1. Ribbons and rosettes.** All ribbons and rosettes must include the UKC Seal of Merit. The following ribbon colors and combinations are mandatory:

**2. Weight Pull:**

Qualifying – blue

Participant (Optional) – No required color

Total Dog: Qualifier – red, black and white

**Section XXVIII. Total Dog Award.** A club offering conformation and at least one performance event may apply to offer the Total Dog Award when submitting its Application for One Day's Licensed Events.

**A. Eligible dogs.** Dogs that are permanently registered with UKC as of the day of the events and dogs that have a valid Temporary Listing (TL) number as of the day of the events are eligible to compete for the Total Dog Award.

**B. Requirements for Total Dog Award.** To be eligible for this award, a dog must meet the requirements listed below at the same event.

**1.** Compete in conformation with competition and win one of the following classes:

**a.** Best Male/Female of Variety

**b.** Best Male/Female

**c.** Best of Winners

**d.** Champion

**e.** Grand Champion

**f.** Best of Breed

**g.** Group 1 through 4 (Note: Group 4 win only counts if there are five or more breeds in the Group class.)

**h.** Best in Multi-Breed Show

**i.** Reserve Best In Multi-Breed Show

**j.** Best In Show

**k.** Reserve Best In Show

**2.** Earn a qualifying score in a performance event. A weight pull qualifying score shall be:

**a. On natural or artificial surfaces.** Eight times the dog's body weight on the day of the event for events held on natural or artificial surfaces, or

**b. On snow.** Three times the dog's body weight on the day of the event for events held on snow, or

**c. On rails.** Ten times the dog's body weight on the day of the event for events held on a rail system.

**C.** For the purpose of this award, competition through Best of Breed is defined as defeating

another dog of the same breed. If there is no competition of the same breed, a Best of Breed winner who defeats another dog of a different breed by placing in the Group, by winning Best or Reserve Best In Multi-Breed Show, or by winning Best or Reserve Best In Show shall be considered to have a win with competition.

## **Section XXIX. Weight Pull Judge Rules and Guidelines.**

**A. Applying to become a UKC Licensed Weight Pull Judge.** Information on the requirements and procedure to apply can be found within the Judge's Handbook found on the UKC website.

**B. Judges' Code of Ethics.** UKC Judges are approved on the basis of their knowledge of dogs, their understanding of the UKC rules, their dedication to the sport of purebred and performance dogs and their integrity. Judges are the role models for our sport and, as such, are expected to adhere to the highest standards of conduct both in and out of the ring. Judges must adhere to the following guidelines when judging:

**1.** Remember that Judges' decisions play a key role in determining future breeding stock. Conformation decisions must be based strictly on the UKC standard and performance placements on the UKC rules.

**2.** Remember that performance Judges must be sure they make every effort to be consistent when scoring each dog.

**3.** Judges should dress appropriately for the event and the weather. A Judge's appearance should always be neat and professional.

**4.** Judges must not only avoid impropriety but also the appearance of impropriety. In a sport where Judges are often exhibiting and not officiating at the trial, it is important that the judge remain an exhibitor and refrain from critiquing runs or calls made by the officiating judge to friends and others exhibiting at the trial. In such cases Judges should be cordial to all exhibitors while maintaining a professional distance.

**5.** When not judging, Judges are encouraged to participate in UKC events as spectators, exhibitors, workers, and club members. In such situations, however, Judges must be mindful that people give extra attention to their words. Judges should refrain from gossip and be cautious about discussing dogs they have judged.

**6.** Judges may exhibit in a trial when two trials

are held on the same day provided it does not interfere with the trial in which the judge is officiating.

7. When a club has scheduled a Chief Judge and a Back-up judge for the trial as published in the UKC Upcoming Events listing an officiating Judge's dog may be exhibited by the Judge or another handler in the trial under the Back-up Judge.

### **Section XXX. Dog Temperament And Behavior.**

Owners of UKC Registered dogs are responsible for the behavior of their dogs at UKC events. Dogs participating in UKC events are expected to have stable temperaments appropriate to their breeds and to be sufficiently well trained so that no dog's behavior interferes with the Judge's ability to evaluate the dog or its performance. Owners or designated handlers are expected to ensure at all times that their dogs present no threat to persons or other dogs attending the event.

**A. Excusing a dog for temperament or behavior in the chute or on-deck area.** A Judge may excuse a dog when the dog's behavior significantly interferes with the Judge's ability to evaluate the dog's performance. This includes, but is not limited to, a dog that is so unruly that it indicates to the Judge it is unable to compete. A Judge must excuse a dog when the dog's demeanor gives the Judge reason to believe that the dog may not safely be in the chute or on-deck area with pull officials or its handler. In such cases, the Judge must mark the dog "Excused" in the Judge's book and state the reason for the excusal. The Judge's decision in such matters is final.

**B. Disqualifying a dog for temperament or behavior.**

**1. When the bite or attack occurs in the chute or on-deck.** A Judge must disqualify a dog that bites or attempts to bite a person, or that bites or attacks another dog. The term "attack" shall be construed to include unprovoked physical contact between the two dogs. If the bite, attempted bite or attack occurs in the ring, the Judge must mark the dog "disqualified" in the Judge's book and state the reason for the disqualification. The Judge's decision in such matters is final. The Judge must complete the UKC "Disqualified for Attacking" report form and report any such incident to the Event Committee immediately.

**2. When the bite or attack occurs elsewhere.** Any person who witnesses a dog biting or attempting to bite a person, or biting or attacking another dog anywhere on the event grounds

other than in the ring must report it immediately to a member of the Event Committee or the host club. The host club must investigate the alleged bite, attempted bite or attack and the club must file a complaint using the procedure outlined in Section XXXII of this rulebook. Once the complaint is complete, the Event Committee must send the complaint to UKC with their Event Report. The dog is considered disqualified in this situation and must not enter or exhibit at any UKC Licensed event until reinstated by UKC, and the Event Committee must immediately notify all concerned parties of same.

**3. UKC procedures for dogs disqualified under this section.** When UKC is notified that a dog has been disqualified under this section, the owner of the dog will be notified by certified mail of the Judge's report (disqualified in the ring) or the findings and recommendations of the host club (Complaint and hearing for biting or attacking outside the ring). The owner of the dog shall have 14 days from receipt of this notification to show cause why the dog should not be barred from participating in future UKC events and from all registration privileges. After reviewing any mitigating or extenuating evidence submitted by the owner, a Disciplinary Committee composed of UKC staff members shall make a finding of facts and determine the penalty, and this ruling shall be final. The owner of the dog shall be notified of the outcome within 30 days of receipt of the owner's response. Owners of dogs that are barred from registration privileges are required to return the dog's UKC registration certificate within 14 days of notice that the dog is barred. Failure to promptly return the registration certificate can result in loss of UKC privileges. Dogs barred from registration privileges may not be transferred. The name, breed and owner of a dog barred from registration privileges shall be published once in the first issue of *BLOODLINES Dog Event News* magazine after the owner is notified.

**Section XXXI. Use of Alcohol and Illegal Drugs at Events.** The use of alcohol and illegal drugs at UKC events is prohibited. Violators may be excused from the ring by the Judge and from the show or event grounds by the Event Committee or any officer of the host club. The decisions of these officials are final. The Event Secretary is to file a Misconduct and Discipline form notifying UKC in writing of any Judge who is excused by the host club for violation of this rule.

## Section XXXII. Misconduct And Discipline.

**A. Standard of conduct at a UKC event.** United Kennel Club events are intended to be family-oriented recreation for dog lovers and their UKC Registered dogs. Accordingly, UKC expects the highest standard of conduct at events.

**B. Misconduct.** Misconduct may be defined as conduct by a person that is prejudicial to the interests of the sport of purebred dogs. There are three general categories of misconduct:

**1. Wrongdoing at a UKC event.** This may include, but is not limited to, threatening, assaulting or battering another individual; falsifying any event-related document; cheating or conspiring to cheat in order to improve the standing of any dog competing at an event; abusing or neglecting a dog; throwing bait in the ring; littering the ring with bait; using bait or a squeaker in the ring when a Judge has prohibited their use.

**2. Wrongdoing not associated with a UKC event.** This may include, but is not limited to, falsification of UKC registration papers; misidentification of a dog or the parentage of a dog; abuse or neglect of dogs; or continued failure to keep proper registration records.

**3. Uttering a payment with non-sufficient funds.** This category refers to paying entry fees via a check with non-sufficient funds in the account, the use of a debit or credit card that is declined, forged or invalid money orders, or other forms of payment where an exhibitor's entry fees remain unpaid after competing. Refer to Section XXXII. E. Procedures for handling an act of uttering a payment with non-sufficient funds.

**C. Jurisdiction.** All persons present on the grounds of a UKC event during the event hours are subject to the jurisdiction of the UKC. In addition, UKC has jurisdiction over any misconduct that may occur off the grounds of the event or outside event hours, provided that the misconduct is reasonably related to the event. This paragraph shall be interpreted as broadly as is necessary to regulate such off-grounds misconduct as abuse of motel rooms by persons attending the events.

**D. Procedures for handling misconduct during or associated with an event.**

**1. The complaint.**

**a. Who must file a complaint.** Any person or persons who become aware of an act of misconduct during the hours of a UKC event, must notify either the Event Chairperson or the Event Secretary

at any time during the hours of the event.

**(1) When a Judge observes misconduct in the chute or on-deck area.** Any Judge who observes misconduct by an exhibitor in the Judge's ring must excuse the exhibitor from the ring and file a complaint with the Event Chairperson or Event Secretary as soon as practicable. The Judge must note the reason for excusal in his/her Judge's book.

**(2) When a person is excused for misconduct in the chute or on-deck area.** A person excused by the Judge for misconduct in the ring may not show in any other class or event until after his/her hearing. The club shall not refund any entry fees unless the Hearing Committee makes a finding that the alleged misconduct did not occur, that the misconduct was not prejudicial to the interests of the sport of purebred dogs, or that the misconduct did not occur in conjunction with a UKC event. No dog owned or co-owned by the excused person may continue in further competition until the matter has been resolved by a hearing. If the excused person is handling a dog that he/she does not own or co-own, that dog may be returned to competition with another handler.

**(3) When a person observes misconduct by a member of the Event Committee or a Judge at an event.** Any person who becomes aware of an act of misconduct by a member of the Event Committee or a Judge during the hours of an event must file a complaint in accordance with this Section. Complaints about a Judge's placements must be dealt with in accordance with Section XII, Paragraph A.

**b. Upon receipt of a complaint.** Upon receipt of a complaint, the Event Chairperson shall provide the complainant with a UKC Misconduct Report and Hearing Form. The complainant must enter the name of the subject of the complaint (hereinafter referred to as the "respondent") in Section 3, and complete all of Sections 1 and 2, providing the following:

**(1) Section 1.** The club name, location of the event, the date of the incident, and the name of the Event Chairperson.

**(2) Section 2.** The complainant's name, address, daytime and evening phone numbers, and the facts and circumstances of the alleged misconduct, including the specific sections of the pertinent UKC rulebook which have allegedly

been violated. The Event Chairperson shall then appoint from the officers and directors of the host club, two persons who shall serve, with the Event Chairperson, as the Hearing Committee, except that no officer or director who witnessed the alleged misconduct shall serve on the Hearing Committee. Additionally, no person who is related to or living in the same household as either the complainant or any accused person shall serve on the hearing committee. If no officer or director is eligible to serve, then other club members may be appointed. The Event Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson of the Hearing Committee and shall set a time and place for the hearing. If the Event Chairperson witnessed the alleged misconduct, he/she shall appoint, from the officers and directors of the host club, three persons who shall serve as the Hearing Committee and shall also designate one to serve as Chairperson of the Hearing Committee. The Chairperson of the Hearing Committee shall appoint a member to record the notes of the hearing. The place for the hearing shall be on the event grounds and the hearing time shall be set so as to give the respondent adequate time to prepare for the hearing.

**2. Notice.** As soon as possible after receiving the complaint, the Hearing Chairperson shall advise the respondent of:

- a.** The specific conduct that is the subject of the complaint and the time and place at which the alleged misconduct occurred;
- b.** The name of the complainant;
- c.** The names of witnesses against him/her; and
- d.** The time and place of the hearing. The Hearing Chairperson must enter the respondent's address and daytime and evening phone numbers in Section 3 of the complaint. He/she may obtain this information directly from the respondent or from respondent's UKC official entry form, if the respondent is an exhibitor. If the respondent cannot be located on the grounds, the Hearing Chairperson shall select a date, time and place for the hearing and notify the respondent in writing by certified mail (return receipt requested) at the mailing address on the UKC official entry form or the respondent's last known address, whichever is applicable. Every reasonable effort shall be made to locate and notify the respondent of the complaint and hearing. Hearings not held on the day of the event must be held no more than 28 calendar days from the date of the event.

**3. If the respondent fails to appear at the hearing.** If, after having been advised of the complaint and the date, time and place of the hearing, the respondent fails to appear, the hearing shall proceed without the respondent.

**4. The Hearing.**

**a. Advisement of respondent's rights.** The Hearing Committee Chairperson shall advise the respondent of the following rights:

- (1) The right to be present during the testimony of all witnesses;
- (2) The right to cross-examine all witnesses;
- (3) The right to present witnesses on his/her own behalf; and,
- (4) The right to testify in his/her own behalf.

**b. Witnesses.** All witnesses who come before the Hearing Committee shall testify under oath administered by the Hearing Chairperson. Witnesses who are unable to attend in person may testify by telephone.

**c. Order of testimony.** The complainant shall present his/her evidence first, followed by the respondent's evidence.

**d. Cross-examination.** Each party shall be allowed to cross-examine the other's witnesses. Members of the Hearing Committee shall also be allowed to question the witnesses.

**e. Spectators.** Spectators shall not be allowed at Hearing Committee hearings except for UKC Field Representatives appointed to attend the hearing on behalf of UKC or UKC staff.

**f. Attorneys.** No party shall be entitled to have an attorney present at the hearing.

**5. Findings.** At the conclusion of the hearing, the complainant, respondent and all witnesses shall be excused. The Hearing Committee shall deliberate and make their findings based on a preponderance of the evidence. A two-thirds majority is sufficient to make findings. The findings shall be reported as follows:

- a.** Whether the alleged misconduct was proven to have occurred;
- b.** Whether the alleged misconduct was prejudicial to the interests of the sport of purebred dogs;
- c.** Whether the alleged misconduct occurred in connection with a UKC event. In reaching its decision, the Hearing Committee may not consider the respondent's general reputation or status in the sport of purebred dogs, prior acts of misconduct, nor the extent of the respondent's investment in dogs. The sole consideration must be the specific instance of miscon-

duct with which the respondent is charged.

**6. Completing The UKC® Misconduct Report And Hearing Form.** The Hearing Committee Chairperson shall complete Sections 4, 5 and 6 of the Misconduct Report and Hearing Form as follows:

**a. Section 4:** The name, address and phone number of each witness and a summary of each witness's testimony. This summary shall include all pertinent facts provided by the witness. If the space on the form is insufficient, additional sheets of paper may be used to record the summary.

**b. Section 5:** The date and time that respondent was notified of the hearing and the names, addresses and daytime and evening phone numbers of the Hearing Committee members.

**c. Section 6:** The Hearing Committee's findings and recommendations shall be entered in this section. In addition, each member of the Hearing Committee shall then sign the form in the space provided and enter his/her address, daytime and evening phone numbers and e-mail. Within 10 calendar days of the hearing, the Hearing Chairperson shall forward one copy of the UKC Misconduct Report and Hearing Form to United Kennel Club. The club hosting the event shall also keep a copy of the completed UKC Misconduct Report and Hearing Form.

**E. Procedures for handling an act of uttering a payment with non-sufficient funds.**

**1.** When the club or Event Manager becomes aware of an act of uttering in the amount of \$100 or more, the Treasurer must make a written notification along with proof the violation and a copy of the dog's entry form(s) to UKC within 21 days of the event.

**2.** The appropriate UKC Department Head shall review all such cases. If the findings of prejudicial misconduct are upheld, the UKC Department Head or Disciplinary Committee shall impose one or more of the following penalties:

**a. Invalid Entry.** The dog's record for the event will be treated as an invalid entry when recording the Event Results.

**b.** The exhibitor must contact the club immediately upon notification from their financial institution that the payment was insufficient and resolve the insufficient funds entry payment to the club. Additionally, the club must make every reasonable attempt to collect sufficient funds.

**c.** The club may collect a reasonable amount of fees in addition to the entry amount from the exhibitor.

**d.** When the outstanding debt has been successfully paid by the exhibitor, which may include additional charges assessed to the club by their financial institution, the club must notify UKC within 7 days.

**3. Appeal.** After UKC has been notified by the club or Event Manager that the uttering has been successfully paid, the exhibitor may make an appeal to re-instate the dog's points to the Disciplinary Committee. An appeal must be filed not later than 30 days from the date the uttering has been successfully paid to the club. The Decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be final

**4. Habitual uttering.** The UKC Disciplinary Committee may place on Probation, Suspension or Barring any exhibitor or owner for repeated instances of uttering as described in the Penalties section below.

**F. Misconduct by an Event-giving club.** When any person or persons become aware of an act of misconduct by an event-giving club, its event officials, any person acting in an official capacity or acting event manager during the hours of a UKC event must make written notification of the violation by the club to UKC within 7 days of the event.

**G. Penalties.** The appropriate UKC Department Head shall review all Hearing Committee findings and staff investigation results with the UKC Disciplinary Committee. If a Hearing Committee's findings of prejudicial misconduct are upheld, the Disciplinary Committee shall impose one or more of the following penalties:

**1. Probation.** Probation can last for a period up to three years. During the period of probation, the individual shall be closely monitored by UKC. Any further instances of misconduct may result in an immediate suspension or barring of the individual at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee and without further due process.

**2. Suspension.** The Disciplinary Committee shall impose a minimum three hundred dollar fine and a minimum one-year suspension for probation violations and for most serious acts of misconduct. The suspension will begin immediately upon notification by certified mail (return receipt requested) but the fine must be paid before the time counts toward the sentence. For example, a person may be notified on January 1 that his penalty will be a one-year suspension and a fine

of three hundred dollars. This individual will be suspended as soon as he is notified of the penalty but the one-year suspension does not start until the date the fine is paid. If the suspended individual waits until March 1 to pay his fine, his suspension will actually run fourteen months until midnight of February 28 the following year.

**3. Barring.** The Disciplinary Committee shall bar an individual for an indefinite period of time for repeat instances of misconduct or for the most serious forms of misconduct, including cruelty to dogs. The period of barring shall begin upon notification of the respondent by certified mail (return receipt requested).

**4. Privileges lost during suspension or barring.** The following rules apply to persons who are barred or suspended:

**a.** A suspended/barrred person may not register any dogs in his/her name (joint or individual ownership).

**b.** No dog registered in the name of a suspended/barrred person (joint or individual ownership) may be used for breeding and no offspring of such a dog is eligible for registration with UKC.

**c.** A suspended/barrred person may transfer any dogs currently registered in his/her name (joint or individual ownership), except that no dog registered in the name of a suspended/barrred person, regardless of co-ownership status, may be transferred to any member of that person's family.

**d.** A suspended/barrred person may not register any litters or sign any litter registrations in any capacity.

**e.** A suspended/barrred person may not enter or participate in any way in any UKC licensed event.

**f.** No dog registered in the name of a suspended/barrred person (joint or individual ownership) may be entered or participate in any way in any UKC licensed event nor may such a dog receive points or legs toward any UKC title.

**g.** Appeals. Any person placed on probation, suspended or barrred may appeal directly, in writing, to the UKC President. An appeal must be filed not later than 30 days from the date a person is notified of the probation, suspension or barring. The decision of the President is final.

**h.** UKC Inherent Rights and Powers. Notwithstanding anything herein and regardless of whether these procedures are followed, under the Inherent Rights and Powers, UKC reserves the right to itself and its sole judg-

ment and discretion, to investigate any misconduct and to impose such sanctions and penalties as deemed appropriate.

## **INHERENT RIGHTS & POWERS OF UKC®**

*(Revised December 18, 2009)*

United Kennel Club holds and has reserved to itself certain inherent rights and powers in connection with conducting its business, registering litters, transferring registrations of dogs, licensing events, and awarding titles. These inherent rights and powers include but are not limited to the following:

United Kennel Club has the right to inspect all reports, scorecards and documents related to UKC events. Some, but not all, of the items subject to inspection are:

- a) scores;
- b) disqualifications of dogs for fighting or other reasons;
- c) errors by the recording person; and
- d) documentation excluded for any reason.

UKC reserves the right to correct any mistakes found during such inspection whether or not the document has the signature of a Judge or Club Officer. UKC reserves the right to itself and in its sole judgement and discretion, to take such actions and impose such sanctions as would:

- a) Bar an individual from entering or participating in any way in any UKC licensed event.
- b) Bar an individual from transferring or registering any pups or dogs in that person's name (joint or full registration) or to any member of that person's family.
- c) Bar an individual from receiving Championship points for any dog registered in that person's name (joint or full registration).

By way of illustration, the following constitute some, but not all, of the situations calling for the above sanctions:

- a) Falsification or alteration of a UKC Registration Certificate, Pedigree, UKC Easy Entry™ Card or any other UKC document.
- b) Falsification or alteration of any reports of wins issued to UKC
- c) Falsification or alteration of receipts issued by UKC Judges.
- d) Switching, wrongfully using or attempting to use a UKC Registration Certificate, Pedigree, UKC Easy Entry™ Card or any other UKC document.
- e) Selling or attempting to sell a dog with false or incorrect UKC Registration Certificate or Pedigree.
- f) Intimidating, threatening, or injuring a Judge, Club/Association member or official, event participant or spectator, or UKC representative.

The six illustrations given above are only by way of example and UKC reserves to itself its inherent right and power to impose such sanctions in any other circumstances deemed appropriate by UKC.

Any individual who is found guilty by a court of law of

a crime involving dogs will be barred from United Kennel Club for an indefinite period. A person shall be considered guilty in a criminal proceeding if they are convicted by a Judge, jury, or if they enter a plea bargain or other arrangement to plea to a lesser offense, or if their case is disposed of by any form of deferred adjudication; a person shall be considered guilty in a civil proceeding if they are held responsible or liable by a Judge, jury, or if a compromised settlement is reached between the parties.

#### **UKC® POLICY REGARDING PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH FIGHTING DOGS**

Any individual or group of individuals known by UKC to promote, support, raise dogs for fighting; knowingly sell, give or trade dogs that will be used in fighting; condone or be associated with the facing off, game testing, rolling or pitting of dogs; or arrested for attending and/or participating in a dog fight, will have the following actions taken against them by United Kennel Club and *BLOODLINES Dog Event News*:

1. All dog registration privileges will be revoked for life.
  - a. The person(s) will not be permitted to register any litters of puppies.
  - b. The person(s) will not be permitted to transfer ownership of any puppies or adult dogs into their name.
2. The person(s) will be barred for life from participating in or entering any UKC licensed events. Their dogs will not be awarded any UKC Championship points or titles even if handled by another person.
3. The person(s) will be barred for life from advertising in *BLOODLINES* or any other UKC publications. Anyone aware of any persons currently involved in such activities as are listed above should report them to United Kennel Club.



The Total Dog Registry

**UNITED KENNEL CLUB, INC.**  
**100 E Kilgore Rd**  
**Kalamazoo MI 49002-5584**  
**Tel: (269) 343-9020**  
**[www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com)**

Published by  
**UNITED KENNEL CLUB, INC.**  
100 E Kilgore Rd  
Kalamazoo MI 49002-5584  
Tel: (269) 343-9020  
[www.ukcdogs.com](http://www.ukcdogs.com)