

OFFICIAL UKC WEIGHT PULL RULEBOOK



Effective September 1, 2016

All changes reflected in bold and italic text.



Table of Contents

Rules for Weight Pull Competition		Chapter 6 – Scoring	17
Chapter 1 – General Rules	3	Chapter 7 – Judging Procedures	20
Chapter 2 – Rules Applying to Exhibitors and Spectators	9	Definitions	20
Chapter 3 – Weight Pull Titles and Classes	10	Inherent Rights and Powers of UKC	23
Chapter 4 – Weight Pull Equipment Requirements and Specifications	14	UKC Policy Regarding Persons Associated With Fighting Dogs	23
Chapter 5 – Weight Pull Procedures	16		

UKC is the trademark of the United Kennel Club 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.

Weight pull competition tests a dog's strength and stamina based on the dog's ability to pull a maximum amount of weight 16 feet within 60 seconds. Scores are based on the amount of weight pulled per body pound and the amount of time required to complete the pull. The type of weighted vehicle and surface may vary. The following rules and regulations governing UKC Licensed Weight Pulls, and the awarding of UKC points, qualifying pulls and titles issued by United Kennel Club are uniform and are not given on a local or geographical basis. All UKC licensed weight pull events shall be governed by the *Official UKC Rules for Dog Events*, the *UKC Misconduct & Discipline Guidelines for Dog Events*, and the *Official UKC Weight Pull Rulebook*.

Exhibitor Guidelines. Exhibitors' behavior and deportment speak to the degree of commitment they have to their dogs and to the sport. 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.

Experienced exhibitors should make an effort to help new exhibitors; the future of the sport is in the hands of the Novice. All exhibitors must display good sportsmanship and respect for others.

Exhibitors should take care when discussing a pull with the judge, and accept the decision of the judge gracefully. Remember, it was the judge's evaluation of THAT performance on THAT day.

Exhibitors should always keep their area clean, dispose of all dog waste appropriately and leave an event site in the condition they found it. Every exhibitor is expected to know the rules before competing and be ready to abide by them. Exhibitors should do whatever they can to assist the host club and promote the family friendly atmosphere of UKC events.

CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL RULES

Section 1. Eligibility of dogs. To be eligible to compete in licensed weight pulls dogs must be at least 1 year of age and **less than 12 years of age** on the day of the event. They must be permanently registered with UKC, or have a valid Temporary Listing (TL) number or Performance Listing (PL)/Limited Privilege (LP) listing number as of the day of the event. At a pre-entry only event, the dog must be permanently registered, or have a valid TL or PL/LP number by the closing date of the event. Dogs with eliminating conformation faults may compete in licensed weight pulls.

Disqualified dogs, blind dogs, lame dogs, dogs that appear to be ill, dogs being issued performance altering drugs, females in season and pregnant or lactating females may not compete in a weight pull. No dog that has sutures, bandages, adhesive or any other material that is indicative or related to any surgical or medical procedure may compete in a weight pull event.

Females in season: 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 published start time of the trial. Pregnant or lactating females: 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 and need not seek the opinion of a veterinarian.

Deaf dogs and dogs missing all or part of one limb may participate in weight pulls. A judge may excuse a dog missing a limb for lameness only if the judge determines that the dog is stiff or sore in one or more of its remaining limbs. The judge's decision is final and they need not seek the opinion of a veterinarian.

Section 2. Eligibility of Dogs Owned By Judges. The following applies to pulls in which there is only a Chief judge scheduled to officiate:

No dog that is owned or co-owned by the judge or by a member of the judge's household or immediate family may compete in a weight pull in which that judge is scheduled to officiate. A dog that has been owned, trained or has lived in the judge's household or with a judge's immediate family within three months of the date of the pull in which the judge is scheduled to officiate may not compete under that judge.

Weight pull judges may exhibit a dog or have a dog they own or co-own exhibited by someone else in any event preceding the day of their judging assignment, the day of their judging assignment, or the day after their judging assignment at an event in which they have been hired or in a scheduled weekend. Dogs owned by a judge may be entered and exhibited at the same pull in which they are scheduled to officiate under the Back-Up Judge System for performance events.

No Judge may interrupt, disrupt, delay or reschedule an event in which they have entered a dog in, in order to fulfill or complete their judging assignment. Nor may a judge interrupt, disrupt, delay or reschedule an event in which they are officiating in order to facilitate exhibiting a dog.

Judges reported and proven to have interrupted, disrupted, delayed or rescheduled an event to allow themselves to exhibit a dog, or interrupted, disrupted, delayed or rescheduled an event in which they are officiating to exhibit a dog, will face disciplinary action which could include suspension of judging privileges for up to 1 year and a fine up to \$500.

Clubs reported and proven to have interrupted, disrupted, delayed or rescheduled an event to allow a judge to exhibit a dog or allowed a judge to interrupt, disrupt, delay or reschedule an event in which the judge is officiating in order to exhibit a dog, will face disciplinary action which could include the suspension of event privileges for up to 1 year and a fine up to \$500.

Should a conflict of time arise at an event on a scheduled weekend in which the judge is forced to choose between exhibiting and judging, the judge must fulfill the assignment the club hired them to fulfill and willingly and knowingly withdraw any entries in any event that presents the conflict. Should a judge find a handler for the entered dog if there is a conflict of time, the dog may still be exhibited in the event in which it is entered.

Judges exhibiting in any event on the same day other than the event they officiate will be eligible for awards, placements, All-Star and Championship points where applicable.

Section 2a. Judges' Immediate Family/Household. No dog can be entered under a judge that has been owned or trained by the judge, the judge's immediate family, or that has lived in the judge's household or the household of a member of the judge's immediate family, regardless of ownership, within three months of the date of the event.

The immediate family members of a judge and members of a judge's household may exhibit any dog not owned or co-owned by the judge in any event, on any day of a scheduled weekend in which the judge has been hired, provided that they do not enter or exhibit the dog in the same event-type that the judge is officiating on the same day, with the exception of using they back up judging system in the performance events. Immediate family /household members may enter any event without restriction on any other day the judge is not scheduled to judge.

Section 3. Back-Up Judge System. The judge must notify the club in advance that they wish to enter a dog in an event they are assigned to judge. The host club must designate a Chief (Head/Lead) judge and a Back-Up judge on the event application. The Chief Judge shall be the overall authority for judging the event for which they are assigned; a dog owned by the Chief Judge may compete only under the assigned Back-Up judge.

The back-up judge may only officiate for the chief judge (and/or immediate family/household members of the judge) and may not officiate for any other exhibitors entered in that event with the exception of the events in which multiple dogs are judged at the same time (i.e., drag racing, weight pull, lure coursing). In that case, the back-up judge may only judge the class/division/race in which the judge's dog(s) are competing.

Judges are prohibited from interrupting their judging assignment in order to exhibit. With the exception of the events in which multiple dogs are judged at the same time, judges who are exhibiting their dog must either exhibit first before all other entered exhibitors or exhibit last after all exhibitors regardless of which class they are entered. For drag racing, weight pull and lure coursing, the judge's dog(s) may exhibit in their appropriate division or class.

Chief Judges may enter their own dogs in the event in which they are assigned only for the purposes of obtaining qualifying scores and titles. The dogs are not eligible for placements and awards in the class(es) in which they are competing. Judges exhibiting in any event on the same day (other than the event they officiate) will be eligible for awards, placements, All Star, Top Ten and Championship points where applicable.

Section 3a. Emergency Replacement of Back-Up Judge. Should an assigned back-up judge fail to appear at an event in which they were assigned, there will be no emergency replacement of the back-up judge's assignment. In this case the Chief Judge will forfeit their entry and fulfill their assignment. However, if an event was published in the UKC's Upcoming Events as having a back-up judge and if a fully licensed judge is in attendance at an event where the assigned back-up judge did not appear, the judge in attendance may serve as the back-up judge. Clubs must note the change in back-up judges and provide a detailed explanation of the circumstances in their event report.

Section 4. Eligibility of Owners/Handlers. Weight Pull handlers may be any age provided the handler is able to control the dog. A judge may excuse a dog at any time if they believe the handler is unable to control the dog. The judge's decision is final. Handlers under the age of 18 may compete as a Junior Handler. A Junior Handler may not have reached their eighteenth birthday as of January 1 of the competition year. After December 31 of the year in which a Junior Handler turns 18, the Junior may no longer participate in the Junior program. A Club

may request verification of the Junior participant's age. Junior handlers are responsible for notifying the event secretary /manager of their participation upon checking in at the event.

Handlers under 18 years of age do not have to be a member of the UKC Junior Program in order to compete, but will not be eligible for awards or acknowledgement that UKC Junior members are eligible for.

Section 5. Exhibitors with more than one dog entered in a pull. 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.

Section 6. Physically Challenged Handlers. Physically challenged handlers may use a wheelchair, crutches, cane or any other means of mechanical assistance in the pull area, but must be able to move around without physical assistance from another person. A person may place a blind handler in the designated place in the chute to handle the dog, but that person must leave the area before the pull can begin. The handler may also be assisted by a person to exit the competition area once the dog's performance is over. The judge may make modifications to assist a physically challenged handler provided that no modification is made that gives any advantage to the handler's dog or that changes the dog's part of the pull in any way.

Section 7. Entering a UKC Event. Entries to all events for both licensed and non-licensed classes must be submitted using the most current official UKC Performance entry form. Entry forms must be complete when submitted to the Event Secretary/Manager, including a valid UKC Permanent Registration number, Performance Listing (PL)/Limited Privilege (LP) listing number, or UKC Temporary Listing number. Incomplete or unsigned entry forms, or entries unaccompanied by entry fees are invalid and must be refused by the Event Secretary/Manager.

All weight classes must be offered at every UKC licensed weight pull. UKC weight pull titles may only be earned in licensed classes. Classes may be judged in any order as determined by the judge.

Section 8. Temporary Listing (TL) Numbers. TL numbers are only valid at conformation, performance, and Pointing Dog events. TL numbers may be purchased at an event that has been approved to sell TL numbers. If a club is approved to sell TL numbers, it will be listed with the event information on the UKC website and in any official announcement of the club's event. If the event is held on a week day, the Temporary Listing numbers may also be purchased and issued on the same day by contacting UKC Show Operations within normal business hours. All Temporary Listing Numbers are non-refundable, non-transferable, and do not apply to the cost of permanent registration or Performance Listing (PL) numbers.

A Temporary Listing number may be issued to any dog. Dogs that have previously been issued a UKC Permanent registration or Performance Listing (PL)/Limited Privilege (LP) listing number will not be issued a TL number.

Temporary Listing Numbers must be assigned on or before the show date. TL numbers that are issued after an event will not be valid for that event, nor are TL numbers valid for any events that occurred prior to the purchase of the TL number. There is no limit to the number of licensed events that a dog with a TL number may be entered in before the dog is permanently registered/listed with UKC. TL numbers are no longer valid once a dog is permanently registered/listed with UKC.

TL numbers included on the application for permanent registration or Performance Listing (PL) number will automatically have any wins, titles earned, Top Ten points, and/or All Star points applied to the dog's permanent record. No wins, titles earned, Top Ten points and/or All Star points will be awarded until a dog with a TL number has been permanently registered/listed. Temporary Listing numbers are not valid for any event held under the rules that govern licensed Coonhound or Beagle events.

Section 7. Class Restrictions.

No dog may be entered more than once in the pull.

No dog may be entered in more than one division (A or B) in the same pull.

No dog may be entered in a pull for exhibition only.

No dog may be entered in a weight class that they did not qualify for during the weigh in.

No dog may compete until it has been weighed in.

Section 8. Judging Schedule. At pre-entry only pulls, judging must start at the advertised start time. At all other pulls, judging must start at the advertised start time or as soon as possible thereafter if there are a large number of day-of-pull entries.

No dog may pull in the chute prior to the published start time on the Upcoming Events listing at www.ukcdogs.com or in the judging schedule. No dog may be judged prior to the published start time on the Upcoming Events listing at www.ukcdogs.com or in the judging schedule. When an event site only accommodates an area large enough for a single ring or pull area, and a club is offering both conformation and weight pull, conformation shall be judged last.

Section 9. Judging Procedures. The judge may use whatever reasonable procedures they deem necessary. UKC judges are encouraged to discuss placements and performances with exhibitors. Judges may not ask an exhibitor any questions regarding the dog being evaluated other than age. Judges are responsible for the accuracy of the information in their judges' books. Each judge must sign the judge's book upon the completion of a judging assignment and return it to the Event Secretary/Manager. The Event Secretary/Manager must provide the judge with one copy of the signed judge's book prior to the judge leaving the event grounds, on the day of their last assignment. The judge is required to keep all of their judge's books on file for a period of one year after the judging assignment.

Section 10. Pull Area Requirements. The pull area consists of three areas: the holding area; on-deck area; and the chute. The judge shall walk the pull area prior to the start of the pull and verify that it has been properly set up, is free of hazards and is as safe as possible.

Holding area. A designated holding area must be provided and clearly marked with sufficient space to safely hold all dogs entered in the weight pull.

On-deck area. A marked on-deck area directly behind and near the starting end of the chute must be provided and clearly marked. As each dog moves into the chute to pull, the next dog and handler team shall wait in the on-deck area.

Chute. The chute is a minimum of 10 feet wide, and a maximum of 20 feet wide. The chute is a minimum length of 35 feet, with no maximum. 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.

When it is not possible to have a level chute, the dogs are required to pull from the low end toward the high end of the chute. Regardless of the slope of the chute, the starting position must be in a position that does not allow the cart to roll freely. The end of the chute that the dog is pulling toward will be open and clear of all dogs, crates, and spectators. The chute may only be groomed between classes. A chute barrier at least three feet high and running the entire length of the chute is required for all pulls. Chute barriers can be made of any material that will discourage the dogs from leaving the chute during the pull.

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

Section 11. Pulling Surface. 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. There are 3 different types of surfaces that are used in UKC Licensed Weight Pulls. All surfaces must have clearly marked start and finish lines that are exactly 16 feet apart.

Natural surface. May be hard packed dirt, fine packed stones or grass.

Artificial surface. May be either asphalt, concrete, or wood, and must be covered with carpet.

Snow. Hard packed natural snow, or packed ice shavings such as those from an ice skating rink. In addition to the start and finish lines, a pull on snow also requires a break line exactly 2 feet behind the start line. This is to allow for movement of the sled between the break and start line to ensure the runners are not frozen to the ground.

Section 12. Placements, Awards and Ribbons.

Class Placements. The judge will give up to four placements, where possible in each division of each class, based off the dog's weight pulled per body pound. First place must be awarded to the dog with the highest amount of weight pulled per body pound; second place to the dog with the next highest amount of weight pulled per body pound; and so forth. If two or more dogs pull the same amount of weight per body pound, the winner will be determined as the dog with the fastest pull time. If the time is the same, and the dogs remain tied, the tie will stand.

Most Weight Pull per Body Pound. The Most Weight Pulled per Body Pound award will be awarded per division. This award is given to the dog in each division who has the highest amount of weight pulled per body pound. When two or more dogs competing in the same pull and division have the same amount of weight pulled per body pound regardless of weight class, the winner of the Most Weight Pulled per Body Pound award within the division will be the dog with the fastest time. If the time is the same, and the dogs remain tied, the tie will stand.

Most Weight Pulled per Body Pound Veteran. The Most Weight Pulled per Body Pound Veteran award will be awarded per division to veteran dogs only. This award is given to the veteran dog who has the highest amount of weight pulled per body pound. When two or more veteran dogs competing in the same pull have the same amount of weight pulled per body pound, regardless of weight class, the winner of the Most Weight Pulled per Body Pound Veteran award within the division will be the dog with the fastest time. If the time is the same, and the dogs remain tied, the tie will stand.

High Scoring Junior. All clubs hosting a UKC Licensed weight pull must offer a High Scoring Junior award per division. Any Junior Member competing in a UKC licensed weight pull, and who earns a qualifying pull, will be eligible to compete for High Scoring Junior. The Junior Member whose dog earned the highest amount of weight pulled per body pound will win the High Scoring Junior award. If the time is the same, and the dogs remain tied, the tie will stand.

Cash Prizes. UKC clubs may offer cash prizes at performance events without prior written authorization from UKC. Cash prizes includes, but are not limited to, cash awards, gift cards, and gift certificates.

Awards and Trophies. Clubs may offer such awards and trophies as they choose; however, awards and trophies given by a club must be given consistently to all winners at the same level. Clubs may accept trophies donated by individuals or other organizations, and these trophies may be designated for specific breeds or specific accomplishments. All awards and prizes must be made available prior to the events and must be offered to be won outright.

Ribbons and Rosettes. All ribbons and rosettes must include the UKC Seal of Merit. The following ribbon colors and combinations are mandatory. All ribbons will be a minimum of 2 inches in width and 6 inches in length. Ribbons awarded for all other wins may be any other colors or combination of colors.

Weight Pull Ribbon Colors

1st place – blue

2nd place – red

3rd place – green

4th place – yellow

Qualifying pull – light blue

Most Weight Pulled per Body Pound – purple, gold and white

High Scoring Junior – gold and purple

Total Dog Qualifier – red, black and white

Match Ribbons Colors

1st place – rose

2nd place – brown

3rd place – light green

4th place – gray

Qualifying score – any other color not listed above

Most Weight Pulled per Body Pound in Match – any other color not listed above

High Scoring Junior in Match – any other color not listed above

Section 13. 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.

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.

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 considered the same as the minimum requirements for a qualifying pull.

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 14. Total Junior Award. Please refer to the UKC Junior Rules for the Total Junior award information.

CHAPTER 2 - RULES APPLYING TO EXHIBITORS AND SPECTATORS

UKC exhibitors and spectators are expected to display good behavior and good sportsmanship at all UKC licensed events. Every exhibitor is expected to know the rules before competing and abide by them. Judges, Event Committee members, and officers of the host club may expel any exhibitor or spectator from the event grounds for violations of these rules or conduct that interferes with the event and event participants.

Section 1. Complaints about the judge's placements. By entering a UKC event, the exhibitor is inviting the opinion of the judge and must accept the judge's decision as final. The decision of a judge is the responsibility of the judge and not that of the United Kennel Club. Exhibitors are encouraged to discuss pulls with judges but may not argue about the judge's placements. If a judge is in violation of a specific UKC rule, it should be brought to the attention of the host club's event committee for a resolution. If the exhibitor believes the judge has violated a specific UKC rule which could not be resolved by the host club's Event Committee, or feels as if the judge's knowledge of the Weight Pull rules is inadequate, a complaint may be filed with UKC but must address specific deficiencies and/or rule violations. Complaints must be made in writing to the UKC. No anonymous complaints will be accepted. Electronic audio or video recordings will not be considered by UKC when reviewing a judge's competency to judge a weight pull event.

Section 2. Control of the dog. Exhibitors are expected to keep their dogs under control at all times. The Event Committee may expel from the show grounds any person whose failure to control a dog interferes with judge or with the ability of other exhibitors to pull their dogs.

Section 3. Double Handling. Exhibitors and spectators are prohibited from any intentional actions designed to affect the performance of a dog during the competition. This prohibition shall apply equally to persons attempting to improve or impair a performance. The event committee may expel from the show grounds any person they reasonably believe is double handling. Judges may excuse exhibitors (and their dogs) who they reasonably believe are benefiting from double handling.

Section 4. Interfering with the judge. No person may interfere with the judge in any way while they are judging a pull.

Section 5. Exhibitors' responsibility for cleaning up after their dog. Exhibitors are required to clean up after their dog if it fouls during the pull or on the event grounds. A member of the Event Committee may bring cleaning supplies to the exhibitor and may hold the dog while the exhibitor cleans and disposes of the waste if the dog eliminates while pulling. Any exhibitor who fails to clean up after their dog may be directed by the Event Committee to leave the event grounds.

Section 6. Performance-altering drugs or supplements. Giving performance altering drugs or supplements to a dog 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.

Section 7. Artificial aids to assist dog's traction. The dog's pads are to be clean and free of any artificial aid designed to improve traction. When pulling on carpeting, pure water may be applied to the pads in the on-deck area.

Section 8. 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.

Section 9. Misbehavior of handlers. 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.

Section 10. Handler Misconduct. A handler who abuses their dog anywhere in the pull area including, but not limited to the holding area, on deck area, and chute shall be excused immediately by the judge. The judge must mark the dog as excused and the reason in the judge's book for the excusal. The host club's event committee or any person witnessing a dog being abused on the event grounds may file a complaint in accordance with the *Official UKC Rules for Dog Events, Misconduct and Discipline Guidelines, category 1*. The handler shall not be permitted to exhibit until the hearing has been held. A different handler may exhibit any additional dogs that handler has entered. In this case the club is not required to refund entry fee(s) for said dog or any additional dogs the exhibitor has entered on that day regardless if the dogs were shown or not.

Section 11. 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. Handlers are also prohibited from carrying any bait while in the on-deck and chute. Judges must excuse any handler that they believe is baiting their dog or has bait on their person. The judge's book must be marked accordingly. The judge's decision on this matter is final.

CHAPTER 3 - WEIGHT PULL TITLES AND CLASSES

Section 1. Weight Pull Titles. UKC Weight Pull titles must be earned successively. Equivalent titles from other venues may not be substituted for UKC weight pull titles in determining eligibility for a class, but they may be used to determine eligibility for a class. They may be used to determine a dog's eligibility for a division.

Section 2. UKC Weight Pull Title Certificates and Official Notification. Once the requirements for a weight pull title have been met and recorded, UKC will automatically mail a Certificate of Honor indicating the award to the dog's recorded owner. The owner shall be deemed notified as of the mailing date of the title certificate.

Section 3. Weight classes.

Division A. This division is open to any dog that has not achieved the UKC Weight Pull Champion Excellent title.

Division B. This division is open to all dogs. A dog that has achieved the UKC Weight Pull Champion Excellent title or higher is required to pull in this division.

The class for a dog is based on the dog's natural body weight as determined at the official weigh-in for the event. ***The officiating Judge records the dog's weight on the weigh-in form or may choose to appoint an assistant to help with the recording. The dog's weight will be recorded and rounded down to the nearest whole pound. All dogs must be recorded using the same method. Each weight class will be divided into divisions A and B. No dog may be entered into more than one division or weight class at a pull.*** Males and females shall pull together in the same class. Weight classes will be divided as outlined below.

Class Weight Range

10 lbs - 10 pounds and under

20 lbs - 11 pounds under 21 pounds

30 lbs - 21 pounds under 31 pounds

40 lbs - 31 pounds under 41 pounds

50 lbs - 41 pounds under 51 pounds

60 lbs - 51 pounds under 61 pounds

70 lbs - 61 pounds under 71 pounds

80 lbs - 71 pounds under 81 pounds

90 lbs - 81 pounds under 91 pounds

100 lbs - 91 pounds under 101 pounds

Unlimited - 101 and over

Section 4. Weight Pull Titles.

United Weight Pull (UWP). To earn this title, a dog must earn a qualifying leg at three different UKC licensed weight pulls. There is no restriction of the number of qualifying pulls that may be earned under the same judge. A dog earns a qualifying pull by completing an uninterrupted pull of a weighted vehicle loaded with the following weights:

Wheels on natural and artificial surfaces. Eight times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Rails. Ten times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Snow. Three times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Advanced Puller (AP). *Any dog that has earned a United Weight Pull title is eligible to start earning legs toward the Advanced Puller (AP) title beginning at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the United Weight Pull (UWP) title. To earn an Advanced Puller title, a dog must earn 10 qualifying pulls by pulling the same amount of weight as outlined for the United Weight Pull (UWP) title. The AP title will have numeric designations to signify the number of time the title has been completed; for example, AP2, AP3 etc.* There is no restriction of the number of qualifying pulls that may be earned under the same judge.

Versatile Puller Novice (VPN). *Any dog that has earned a United Weight Pull title is eligible to start earning legs toward the Versatile Puller Novice (VPN) title beginning at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the United Weight Pull (UWP) title. To earn a Versatile Puller Novice title, a dog must earn a minimum of 10 qualifying pulls. A minimum of 5 qualifying pulls on one weighted vehicle or surface (Natural, Artificial, Rails or Snow), and 5 additional pulls which may be earned on any combination of at least two types of weighted vehicles or surfaces by pulling the same amount of weight as outlined for the United Weight Pull (UWP) title.* There is no restriction of the number of qualifying pulls that may be earned under the same judge.

Versatile Puller Advanced (VPA). *Any dog that has earned a United Weight Pull title is eligible to start earning legs toward the Versatile Puller Advanced (VPA) title beginning at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the United Weight Pull (UWP) title. To earn a Versatile Puller Advanced title, a dog must earn a total of 10 qualifying pulls. A minimum of 5 qualifying pulls must be earned on two different vehicles or surfaces by pulling the same amount of weight as outlined for the United Weight Pull (UWP) title.* There is no restriction of the number of qualifying pulls that may be earned under the same judge.

Versatile Puller Excellent (VPE). *Any dog that has earned a United Weight Pull title is eligible to start earning legs toward the Versatile Puller Excellent (VPE) title beginning at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the United Weight Pull (UWP) title. To earn a Versatile Puller Excellent title, a dog must earn a total of 15 qualifying pulls. A minimum of 5 qualifying pulls must be earned on three different vehicles or surfaces by pulling the same amount of weight as outlined for the United Weight Pull (UWP) title.* There is no restriction of the number of qualifying pulls that may be earned under the same judge.

Versatile Puller Ultimate (VPU). *Any dog that has earned a United Weight Pull title is eligible to start earning legs toward the Versatile Puller Ultimate (VPU) title beginning at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the United Weight Pull (UWP) title. To earn a Versatile Puller Ultimate title, a dog must earn a total of 20 qualifying pulls. A minimum of 5 qualifying pulls must be earned on each of the different vehicles or surfaces by pulling the same amount of weight as outlined for the United Weight Pull (UWP) title.* There is no restriction of the number of qualifying pulls that may be earned under the same judge.

United Weight Pull Champion (UWPCH) title. Any dog that has earned the United Weight Puller (UWP) title is eligible to start earning points toward the United Weight Pull Champion title. Accumulation of points toward the

United Weight Pull Champion (UWPCH) title begins at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UWP title. To earn this title, a dog must meet all of the requirements below:

Weight Pull Championship Points. *A total of 100 weight pull championship points must be earned. Points may be earned from the A or B division or any combination of the two. To earn Weight Pull championship points, dogs must pull a minimum amount of weight per body pound. The number of points earned increases as the amount of weight per body pound increases. There is no restriction of the number of qualifying pulls or championship points that may be earned under the same judge.*

United Weight Pull Champion Excellent (UWPCHX) title. Any dog that has earned the United Weight Pull Champion (UWPCH) title is eligible to start earning points toward the United Weight Pull Champion Excellent title. Accumulation of points toward the title of United Weight Pull Champion Excellent (UWPCHX) title begin at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UWPCH title. To earn this title, a dog must meet all of the requirements below:

Weight Pull Championship Points. *A total of 250 weight pull championship points must be earned. Points may be earned from the A or B division or any combination of the two. To earn Weight Pull championship points, dogs must pull a minimum amount of weight per body pound. The number of points earned increases as the amount of weight per body pound increases. There is no restriction of the number of qualifying pulls or championship points that may be earned under the same judge.*

United Grand Weight Pull Champion (UGWPCH) title. Any dog that has earned the United Weight Pull Champion Excellent (UWPCHX) title is eligible to start earning points toward the United Grand Weight Pull Champion title. Accumulation of points toward the title of United Grand Weight Pull Champion (UGWPCH) title begin at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UWPCHX title. To earn this title, a dog must meet all of the requirements below:

Weight Pull Championship Points. *A total of 250 weight pull championship points must be earned. Points must all be earned from the B division. To earn Weight Pull championship points, dogs must pull a minimum amount of weight per body pound. The number of points earned increases as the amount of weight per body pound increases. There is no restriction of the number of qualifying pulls or championship points that may be earned under the same judge.*

United Elite Weight Pull Champion (UEWPCH) title. Any dog that has earned the United Grand Weight Pull Champion (UGWPCH) title is eligible to start earning points toward the United Elite Weight Pull Champion title. Accumulation of points toward the title of United Elite Weight Pull Champion (UEWPCH) title begin at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UGWPCH title. To earn this title, a dog must meet all of the requirements below:

Weight Pull Championship Points. *A total of 500 weight pull championship points must be earned. Points must all be earned from the B division. To earn Weight Pull championship points, dogs must pull a minimum amount of weight per body pound. The number of points earned increases as the amount of weight per body pound increases. There is no restriction of the number of qualifying pulls or championship points that may be earned under the same judge.*

United Weight Pull Versatile (UWPV) title. Any dog that has earned the United Weight Puller (UWP) title is eligible to start earning points toward the United Weight Pull Versatile title. Accumulation of points toward the United Weight Pull Versatile (UWPV) title begin at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UWP title. To earn this title, a dog must meet all of the requirements below:

Weight Pull Championship Points. *A total of 200 weight pull championship points must be earned. A minimum of 100 points must be earned on one weighted vehicle or surface, and a minimum of 100 additional points must be earned on any combination of at least two types of weighted vehicles or surfaces.*

United Weight Pull Outstanding (UWPO) title. Any dog that has earned the United Weight Puller (UWP) title is eligible to start earning points toward the United Weight Pull Outstanding title. Accumulation of points toward the United Weight Pull Outstanding (UWPO) title begin at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UWP title. To earn this title, a dog must meet all of the requirements below:

Weight Pull Championship Points. *A total of 200 weight pull championship points must be earned. A minimum of 100 points each must be earned on two separate weighted vehicles or surfaces.*

United Weight Pull Supreme (UWPS) title. Any dog that has earned the United Weight Puller (UWP) title is eligible to start earning points toward the United Weight Pull Supreme title. Accumulation of points toward the United Weight Pull Supreme (UWPS) title begin at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UWP title. To earn this title, a dog must meet all of the requirements below:

Weight Pull Championship Points. *A total of 300 weight pull championship points must be earned. A minimum of 100 points each must be earned on three separate weighted vehicles or surfaces.*

United Weight Pull Ultimate (UWPU) title. Any dog that has earned the United Weight Puller (UWP) title is eligible to start earning points toward the United Weight Pull Ultimate title. Accumulation of points toward the United Weight Pull Ultimate (UWPU) title begin at the next pull following the completion of the requirements of the UWP title. To earn this title, a dog must meet all of the requirements below:

Weight Pull Championship Points. *A total of 400 weight pull championship points must be earned. A minimum of 400 points each must be earned on four separate weighted vehicles or surfaces.*

Weight Pull Championship Point Schedule			
Division A		Division B	
WHEELS - ARTIFICIAL			
Percentage	Points	Percentage	Points
10	5		
15	10	15	10
20	15	20	15
25	20	25	20
		30	25
		35	30
WHEELS - NATURAL			
Percentage	Points	Percentage	Points
8	5		
12	10	12	10
16	15	16	15
20	20	20	20
		24	25
		28	30
RAILS			
Percentage	Points	Percentage	Points
15	5		
25	10	25	10
35	15	35	15
45	20	45	20
		55	25
		65	30

SNOW			
Percentage	Points	Percentage	Points
5	5		
7	10	7	10
10	15	10	15
15	20	15	20
		20	25
		35	30

CHAPTER 4 - WEIGHT PULL EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS

The judge is responsible for examining the weighted vehicle and all trace and cart handler lines to ensure the function ability and safety of all pull equipment.

Section 1. Equipment provided by the club. The club shall ensure that adequate equipment is available to run the pull, such as pens, pencils, clip boards, posting boards, clean-up supplies, etc., and available at the site.

In addition the following equipment is provided by the host club:

Weighted vehicles. There are three types of weighted vehicles. Rail Cart, Wheeled Cart, and Sled.

Rail Cart. A rail cart is the weighted vehicle used for all weight pulls on a rail track system.

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 outside edges of the cart. Any size rail cart is acceptable provided the construction and design ensure the safety of all concerned and the materials used are of sufficient strength to bear the weights used in the pull. A smaller and lighter cart may be used for the 10-40 pound weight classes provided the smaller cart meets the above requirements. A 3-inch sized heavy duty wheel is required for the small cart. 4 inch – 6inch sized heavy duty wheels are allowed for the larger cart, with 4 inches being preferred. There must be at least four heavy-duty wheels one mounted to each corner of the weight cart or six heavy-duty wheels, one mounted to each corner and the remaining two mounted on each side in the middle of the 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 V-groove in the wheel holds the cart on course as it rides on the top of the angle iron rails.

Rail track system requirements. The rail track is made of metal rails similar to railroad tracks. The rails are made of sufficient material to safely hold the wheels of the cart(s) and have sufficient strength to support the maximum weight of the cart. There must be welded stops on both ends of the track to prohibit the cart from rolling off. There should be legs attached to the track to allow adjustments for leveling the track on any artificial surface. The pulling surface lies between the tracks and must be covered with carpet to allow for the dogs to gain traction. The recommended width of the pulling surface of the rail system is four (4) feet. The minimum length of the pulling surface is thirty (30) feet. The rail system should be designed so that it can be assembled and disassembled easily.

Sled. A sled is the weighted vehicle for all weight pulls on snow.

Sled requirements. The sled must be capable of safely carrying a load in excess of 3,000 pounds. The minimum width of the sled is 30 inches, with a maximum of 48 inches. Each sled is required to have two runners providing a minimum of seven feet of contact surface. The runners should be made of steel or ptex material. The runners have a minimum width of 2 inches, with a maximum of 4 inches. The front ends of the runners must curve upward. A smaller and lighter sled may be used for the 10-40 pound classes provided the smaller sled meets the above requirements.

Wheeled cart. A wheeled cart is the weighted vehicle used for weight pulls on natural and artificial surfaces.

Wheeled Cart requirements. The cart must be capable of safely carrying a load in excess of 5,000 pounds. The cart is required to have a solid weight-bearing surface consisting of wood or metal. The weight bearing surface cannot be hollow. The cart is required to have two axles and stand freely without tipping over. The front of the cart is required to be equipped with two solid rings for attaching the trace rope. A smaller and lighter cart may be used for the 10-40 pound classes provided the smaller cart meets all of the requirements. The cart must be equipped with four fixed tires. All of the tires are required to have the same air pressure prior to the start of the pull. The tires have a minimum diameter of eight inches and maximum diameter of eighteen inches. When measuring the tire, you will measure directly across the center from the outer edges of the tire. A spare tire or adequate repair kit for the cart tires must be available at the pull site.

Traces. Traces made of rope or nylon are required to attach the weighted vehicle to the dog's pulling harness. The traces must be attached to the weighted vehicle and to the dog's harness by sturdy enclosed metal rings or snaps. The traces will vary per type of weighted vehicle being used.

Rail traces. Traces must be I-shaped with a minimum length of two and a half (2½) feet and a maximum length of four (4) feet.

Sled traces. Traces from the sled will be tied together a minimum length of two (2) feet and a maximum length of three (3) feet in front of the sled; the traces for a sled will form a Y-shape. The traces are required to be of sufficient length to allow a maximum of six (6) feet from the point of attachment to the sled to the attachment on the dog's harness after the knot has been tied.

Wheeled cart traces. Traces will form a long V-shape and have a minimum length of five (5) feet and maximum length of six (6) feet. The ring or snap that attach the traces to the dog's harness must be free to move from side to side.

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

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

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 2. Equipment provided by the exhibitor.

Collar. The dog may wear a flat buckle, **snap or martingale** collar, **no more than 2 inches wide**, or be collarless **during weigh in**, in the chute and on deck areas. Any other type of collar and hanging tags are prohibited in the chute and on-deck areas.

Harness. The owner must provide each dog with a well-fitted weight pull harness prior to competition. The rear of the harness can only extend a maximum of two feet behind the dog as measured from the base of the tail. 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. It is the responsibility of the handler to ensure that the harness is in good condition and free of any fraying or weakening that may cause the harness to break during the pull. Plastic clasps, Velcro, elastic, springs and shocks are prohibited from being used on a weight pull harness. 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.

Leashes. Leashes are not required in the on-deck or chute area. Leashes can be used in these areas, and may remain attached to the collar until the dog's harness is hooked to the traces. Once the dog is hooked, the leash

must be removed and placed in a pocket where it is completely out of sight. The leash is to remain out of sight until the pull is complete, at which time it can be reattached to the collar.

Section 3. Equipment Failure.

Handler Equipment. If any part of the harness or other equipment provided by the handler breaks, a foul will be assessed.

Club Provided Equipment. If any part of the club's 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.

CHAPTER 5 - WEIGHT PULL PROCEDURES

Section 1. Weigh-In Procedures. 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:

Weigh-In times. The Weigh-In is required to be scheduled no more than 24 hours prior to the start time of the pull. The weigh-in start time(s) will be published on the UKC website. Host clubs are required to begin the weigh-in at the published time. A dog may weigh in until 30 minutes prior to the published start time for the weight pull. If a deadline weigh-in time is published, all dogs must be weighed in by the deadline.

When one club is hosting multiple weight pull(s) over consecutive days. When a club is hosting up to four weight pulls, at the same location, on consecutive days, a dog will only have to be weighed in once before competing in all of the pulls being offered.

When two or more clubs are hosting weight pulls in conjunction with each other. UKC Licensed Weight Pulls may be held by more than one club, at the same location, on the same weekend. In this instance each club is required to have a separate weigh-in for their pulls. If one of the clubs is offering more than one pull over the weekend, the pulls must be held on consecutive days, or the club will be required to weigh in the dogs for each pull.

Requirements for dogs being weighed. Dogs may be weighed with or without a collar. Dogs may wear a standard collar as described in Chapter 4 Section 2 during the weigh-in. Dogs are required to be dry and not "waterlogged" during the weigh in.

Supervising the Weigh-In. The Weigh-In must be supervised by the officiating Judge, or the officiating Judge may 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.

Section 2. Handlers meeting. The officiating judge shall conduct a handlers meeting at the conclusion of the weigh-in prior to the first pull. The judge will go over the class order and the load increments will be voted on and set. It is recommended that all weight pull handlers be present for the handlers meeting.

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 3. Determining load increments. At the handlers meeting, the judge will recommend the load increments based on the pulling conditions and the welfare of the dogs. The handlers will vote on the load increments for the class in which they are pulling to determine the amount of weight that will be added for each round. The decision is made by a simple majority vote of the handlers present at the handlers meeting. Tie votes will be decided by the Judge. The load increment for each class will remain the same throughout the class.

Section 4. Pulling Order.

Dog order. The dog order for the class will be announced at the beginning of each class. The judge is responsible for allowing changes to the order due to conflicts or one handler pulling multiple dogs in the same class. The judge's decision is final on all changes to the dog order. 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.

Class order. Weight classes may be run in any order. The judge will announce the class pulling order at the handler's meeting. The judge will select one of the following options when determining the order of pulling:

Option 1. Class by class. Using this option, each class will pull until a winner is determined. Each weight class must be **completed** before any dogs from the next class are allowed to pull.

Option 2. Two or more classes combined. *The judge may elect to combine two or more classes, and pull all the dogs in those classes as long as the weight increments are the same and acceptable for all classes. In this case, each dog's results will be recorded in their respective class.*

Section 5. Weather restrictions. Pull events may be held year-round. The maximum temperature allowed in the pull area is 94.9° Fahrenheit.

Section 6. Maximum starting weights. A dog is not required to start pulling at a higher weight than the maximum starting weight listed for each weight class. There is not a required come-in weight. Starting class weights shall not exceed the following:

10 lbs – 50 lbs

20 lbs - 75 lbs

30 lbs – 25 lbs

40 lbs – 200 lbs

50 lbs – 300 lbs

60 lbs – 400 lbs

70 lbs – 500 lbs

80 lbs – 600 lbs

90 lbs – 700 lbs

100 lbs – 800 lbs

Unlimited – 900 lbs

Section 7. Rest period. No dog will be required to pull, including dogs that have fouled, without a five (5) 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. A dog must remain at the rear of the line in the holding area for the next pulling round during the rest period. A handler may choose to waive the rest period.

CHAPTER 6 - SCORING

Section 1. 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. No penalty shall be assessed for a dog that pulls on the ground instead of on the rail track. A qualifying pull is required to move to the next round.

Section 2. Minimum amount of weight required. The minimum amount of weight required for a qualifying pull is:

Wheels on natural and artificial surfaces. Eight times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Rails. Ten times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Snow. Three times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Maximum amount of weight allowed to be pulled. Once the maximum weight is reached, the dog is automatically withdrawn from the pull. The maximum weight a dog may pull is different for each division and is set as follows:

Division A.

Wheels on artificial surfaces. Twenty-five times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Wheels on natural surfaces. Twenty times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Rails. Forty-five times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Snow. Fifteen times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Division B.

Wheels on artificial surfaces. Thirty-five times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Wheels on natural surfaces. Twenty-eight times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Rails. Sixty-five times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Snow. Thirty-five times the dog's body weight on the day of the event.

Section 3. Starting placement for the weighted vehicle.

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.

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

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 request, the sled will be moved from the break line to the start line in order to ensure that the sled is not frozen to the snow. Once the sled moved from the break line, it must be positioned with the contact points of the runners directly behind and touching the start line. The sled runners are required to be perpendicular to the start line.

Section 4. Starting position of the dog. The handler may place their dog anywhere between the wheels or runners in front of the weighted vehicle. The dog shall be positioned with the D-ring on the harness forward of the trace line before being hooked. No more than one foot of slack is allowed in the trace when releasing the dog. When the dog is released, the trace must be in contact with the pulling surface. Once the dog is released, the handler may not touch the dog or any equipment again until the pull is completed. A handler having contact with their dog when the trace is lifted from the pulling surface, beginning the pull, will be assessed a foul.

Section 5. Starting position of the handler. A handler cannot position themselves between the hind legs of the dog and the front of the weighted vehicle. This area is be considered a "no pull" zone. A handler who remains in the no pull zone for more than three seconds will be assessed a foul. The Judge will call out "no pull zone" to alert the handler they have a maximum of three seconds before being assessed a foul.

Normal. The handler shall be in front of the weighted vehicle, and in front of or perpendicular to the dog's hind legs. The handler cannot touch the dog or equipment until the Judge indicates the pull has been completed.

Driving from the rear. When driving the dog from the rear, the handler shall be behind the front of the Weighted Vehicle. The handler cannot touch the dog or equipment until the Judge indicates the pull has been completed.

Section 6. Verifying the weight on the cart. Prior to hooking the dog to the cart, the competitor should verify that the proper amount of weight has been loaded on the cart. If the total weight on the cart comes into question, a brief recess will be taken while the weight is recounted and verified.

Section 7. 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.

Section 8. Position of dogs outside of the chute. No dogs are allowed in front of the start line, outside of the chute. A line may be extended outward from both ends of the start line as a visual for exhibitors and spectators.

Section 9. Start time. The timing of the pull starts when one of the following occurs: the handler gives the dog a command to pull (the command may be given by voice or signal or both); or the dog starts to pull without a command.

Section 10. Completing the pull. 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 when the pull has been completed, either by calling "Pull" or with a hand signal. The Judge shall immediately stop their timer and call out the time, and the record keeper shall immediately record both the time and weight pulled on the recording sheet. The time recorded is considered the end time. If the 60-second time limit is reached prior to the pull being completed, the judge will call out "Time", and a foul will be assessed.

Section 11. Passes. Once a dog has completed a pull, the handler may pass up to two rounds prior to the dog being required to pull again. Once the dog is hooked to the weighted vehicle, the handler may not pass in that round.

Signaling a pass. The Handler must signal their decision to pass a round to the record keeper or Judge before the first dog of the new round starts.

Rescinding a pass. Once the handler has indicated to the timekeeper or the Judge that they are passing a particular round, that pass may not be rescinded after the start of the round.

Section 12. Fouls. A foul is anything that interrupts a qualifying pull. A team is allowed to foul twice during a pull, at which time the dog is ineligible to continue competing in the pull. When a dog or handler receives a foul, the judge will call "Foul" and the record keeper shall mark an "F" in the appropriate column for that round on the judge's books.

Examples of fouls include but are not limited to:

- A dog that eliminates in the chute.
- Corrections to the dog during the pull competition or in the pull area.
- Improper Starting position.
- Dropping a dog at the start of the pull.
- The dog being released after the trace has come off the ground.
- Handler touching the cart or dog after the pull has started.
- Dog becomes entangled in the tug lines.
- 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.

When a foul is committed, the handler may unhook the dog and return to the holding area or they 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 may pull again at the end of the round in which the foul occurred or they 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 is not allowed after a dog has been assessed a foul. The handler may only be changed when the foul has been cleared and the round in which the foul was called has been completed. A dog who 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. 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.

Section 13. When a dog fails to make a qualifying pull. A dog is 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. When a dog is excused, the dog's last valid pull will count as its top pull in the class and division. No points, legs or other awards shall be given to dogs disqualified at a weight pull event.

Section 14. Handler Withdraw (HW). A handler may withdraw their dog at any time 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.

Section 15. Automatic Withdraw (AW). Once the maximum weight is reached, the dog is automatically withdrawn from the pull. Once a dog is automatically withdrawn, the dog is no longer eligible to compete in the pull. "AW" shall be written on the judge's book once the final time is recorded at the maximum weight.

CHAPTER 7 - JUDGING PROCEDURES

Section 1. Judge's authority in the chute. The judge may use whatever reasonable procedures they deem 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. The judge will supervise and instruct all of the pull officials and prior to the start of the pull, the judge will go over their responsibilities.

The Judge is responsible for ensuring that the pulling area and the pulling equipment is in compliance with the UKC rules and is safe for all handler and dog teams.

Section 2. 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 their decision is final. UKC Judges are encouraged to discuss their decisions with exhibitors.

Section 3. 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(s) upon the completion of a judging assignment and return them to the Event Secretary.

Section 4. 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.

DEFINITIONS

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

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.

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.

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

Come-in weight. The lowest weight a dog is required to pull.

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.

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.

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 on the UKC website.

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.

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.

Dog. The word "dog" used in these rules includes both sexes.

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.

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.

Foul. A foul is anything that interrupts a qualifying pull.

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.

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

Immediate family. The spouse, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, sibling, grandchild, in-law of a person are considered immediate family members.

Natural Surface. *Hard packed dirt, fine packed stones or grass.*

Non-Qualifying. A term used to mark a specific dog in a weight pull event where the minimum amount of weight per body pound is not pulled the required distance in the specified time.

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.

Pass. Skipping a round. A handler is allowed two passes before being required to pull again.

Performance Listing (PL) Program. *Previously known as the Limited Privilege (LP) Program.* This program is open to mixed breed dogs, purebred dogs of unknown pedigree or not recognized by UKC, and purebred dogs with disqualifying faults as described in the UKC breed standard. All Performance Listed dogs are eligible for UKC performance events.

Performance event. Events where the dog is judged on the basis of performance rather than their structure and conformation.

Pre-entry. UKC clubs will sometimes offer pre-entry in addition to day-of-pull entry. Pre-entries must be submitted by a specific published date, and are normally lower in price than day-of-pull entries.

Pre-entry only. Some UKC clubs do not allow day-of-pull entries and require that all entries be submitted by a specific published date. These pulls are described as “Pre-entry Only” (PE).

Qualifying Pull/Score. A dog earns a qualifying pull/score by completing an uninterrupted pull of a minimum weight per their body pound on a weighted vehicle for 16 feet within 60 seconds.

Round. A cycle of competition in a weight pull contest, in which each eligible dog gets to pull at the current weight set for the weighted vehicle.

Slingshot start. Dogs that are released with more than 1 foot of slack in the trace running in to start.

Sportsmanship. Conduct that demonstrates proper consideration for fairness, ethics, respect and a sense of fellowship with one’s competitors; while exhibiting, responsibility, self-control and respect for both authority and opponents.

Temporary Listing (TL) number. A Temporary Listing number may be used to enter a dog in UKC events before the dog is registered or receives its Performance Listing number with UKC. For current Temporary Listing rules and regulations visit the UKC website at www.ukcdogs.com.

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

Traces. Traces is the term applied to the rope that connects the dog to the weighted vehicle.

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.

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.

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

Veteran. A dog who is 7 years or older on the day of the event.

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.
- c. Switching, wrongfully using or attempting to use a UKC Registration Certificate, Pedigree, UKC Easy Entry™ Card or any other UKC document.
- d. Selling or attempting to sell a dog with false or incorrect UKC Registration Certificate or Pedigree.
- e. 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:

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 any UKC publications and on the UKC website.

Anyone aware of any persons currently involved in such activities as are listed above should report them to United Kennel Club.

**Published by
UNITED KENNEL CLUB
100 East Kilgore Road
Kalamazoo MI 49002-5584
Tel: (269) 343-9020
www.ukcdogs.com**