

Iron Dog Weight Pull Rules

United States

Effective January 1, 2019

*Pulls held between 2018 Championships and December 31, 2018, shall count towards the minimum number of pulls needed to qualify for championships, but will not count for Season Points, since these rules were not in effect until after that date.

Rule changes for Section A through Section G will not take place except after the completion of championships UNLESS they clarify a current rule that is vague or address a safety concern for pullers and/or dogs.

Section A: Pulling Area and Equipment

- I. Wheels:
 - A. The weight pull chute will be at least 8 feet, but no more than 15 feet wide and at least 30 feet long.
 - B. The chute must be open at the end the dog and puller are pulling towards.
 - C. If there is a slope, the dog and puller must pull towards the higher end of the slope.
 - D. Surfaces recommended for wheels are as follows: carpet, grass, or hard packed dirt. Surfaces not allowed are as follows: asphalt, sand, or large gravel.
 - E. There must be barriers to keep the dogs within the designated pulling area. If the barrier is not keeping dogs in the chute (i.e. dogs are going under or over the barrier), a change to the barrier is to be made as soon as it is identified as a problem. If a dog is pulling, a tangle will be called, and the rules for a tangle will be followed once the barrier is fixed. *See Section F number 21 for Tangle rules.*
 - F. The cart used for the pull shall
 1. Be capable of safely holding 4000 lbs.
 2. Have pneumatic tires that are inflated to the pressure recommended by the manufacturer and posted on the tire wall.
 3. Have a spare tire available.
 - G. Other cart information is as follows:
 1. Recommended cart dimensions are 5 feet to 8 feet in length and no more than 6 feet wide
 2. The trace will look like a "V" when attached to the dog and cart. Traces are made of rope or nylon. (They CANNOT be made of chain). The trace is 4 feet to 6 feet in length from snap to the front of the cart. The snap needs to slide freely from side to side.
 3. Smaller carts may be used for dogs 40 lbs and under. The smaller cart(s) must be approved by the judge, and they have no size restrictions. Once the weight of the regular competition cart is achieved, the dog is allowed to switch to the regular competition cart.
 - H. The start and finish line must be clearly marked with a distance of 16 feet between them.
 - I. Weight CANNOT extend beyond the edges of the cart. The host must have an adequate amount of weights at pull to accommodate the surface/competitors. DO NOT OVERLOAD THE CART AND RISK THE SAFETY OF DOGS AND PEOPLE.

II. Rails:

- A. The rail track will be a minimum of 24 inches wide and long enough so that a dog (no matter the size) is pulling on same surface for the entire pull.
- B. Rails can be v-groove, flat, or round. The rail system must have adjustments for leveling or inclining the track.
- C. You may NOT have an incline greater than 8 inches from the start line to the finish line. You must always pull towards the incline. The track CANNOT RUN ON A DECLINE. The judge must verify that the track is either level or inclined by using a level on the track before the pull begins.
- D. Surfaces recommended are carpet or dirt.
- E. The Cart shall
 - 1. Be equipped with a single pull lanyard/trace measuring 4 to 6 feet from the front of the cart. The lanyard/trace can be made of rope or nylon. The lanyard/trace CANNOT be made of chain.
 - 2. Have a loading surface that cannot extend more than 12 inches past any caster.
 - 3. Have a manual or mechanical braking system.
- F. The start and finish line must be clearly marked with a distance of 16 feet between them.
- G. Weight CANNOT extend beyond the edges of the cart. The host must have an adequate amount of weights at pull to accommodate the surface/competitors. DO NOT OVERLOAD THE CART AND RISK THE SAFETY OF DOGS AND PEOPLE.

III. Snow:

- A. The weight pull chute will be at least 8 feet wide, but no more than 15 feet wide and at least 30 feet long.
- B. The chute must be open at the end you are pulling towards.
- C. If there is a slope, you must pull towards the higher end of the slope.
- D. You must have barriers to keep the dogs within the designated pulling area. If the barrier is not keeping dogs in the chute (i.e. a dog is able to go under or over the barrier), a change to the barrier is to be made as soon as it is identified as a problem. If a dog is pulling, a tangle will be called, and the rules for a tangle will be followed once the barrier is fixed. *See Section F number 21 for Tangle rules.*
- E. The Sled shall
 - 1. Be capable of safely holding 3000 lbs.
 - 2. Have runners that are flat with a curve at the front end. They can be steel or p-tex material. Runners will be a maximum of 4 inches wide.
- F. Other cart information is as follows:
 - 1. Recommended sled dimensions are 30 inches to 40 inches wide and 6 feet to 8 feet long.
 - 2. Traces are made of rope or nylon. (They CANNOT be made of chain). The traces will be tied together at a point 2-3 inches in front of sled and will resemble a "Y".
 - 3. Smaller sleds may be used for dogs 40 lbs and under. The smaller sled(s) must be approved by the judge, and they have no size restrictions. Once the weight of the regular competition sled is achieved, the dog is allowed to switch to the regular competition sled.
- G. The start and finish line must be clearly marked with a distance of 16 feet between them.
- H. There will also be a sled breaking line. It will be located 12 inches behind the start line.
- I. Weight CANNOT extend beyond the edges of the cart. The host must have an adequate amount of weights at pull to accommodate the surface/competitors. DO NOT OVERLOAD THE CART AND RISK THE SAFETY OF DOGS AND PEOPLE.

Section B: Eligibility

1. The pulling season for Iron Dog always starts the day after the last day of championships and goes through the completion of the following year's championships.
2. Iron Dog Weight Pull Memberships are valid for the entire pulling season up through championships for that season. Iron Dog Memberships are not required to compete at a regular season pull; however, the entry fee for non-members is higher than it is for members. Iron Dog Memberships are required in order to pull at championships.
 - a. There will be 3 types of membership offered:
 - i. The Junior Handler membership is \$15 per year. A Junior Handler is defined as someone under the age of 18 on the date of the previous year's Championships. For example, if Championships are on September 1st and the handler's 18th birthday is September 2nd, he or she can compete for another year as a Junior Handler. However, if the handler's 18th birthday was on September 1st, he or she would no longer be able to compete as a Junior Handler. Junior Handlers must have a parent and/or guardian present at the pull. The guardian is responsible for them and must be 18 years old or older. (This person does not have to be a member of Iron Dog.) Parents/Guardians of any Junior Handler are required to sign a waiver of liability on the membership form and at each trial/group of trials attended.
 - ii. An Individual membership is \$30 per year. An individual can pull an unlimited number of dogs; however, those dogs must live with the member. If a person is pulling a dog that does not live with him/her, the owner with whom the dog lives primarily (6 or more months of the year) needs to be a member of Iron Dog.
 - iii. A Household membership is \$40 per year. A household is defined as 2 adults and any number of children living in the same house.
 - b. Juniors, Individuals, and/or Households who remain members for 5 consecutive years will receive a \$5 membership discount starting on their 6th year.
3. An Individual/Family can become a member at any point during the season up until 30 days prior to championships. For such members, points will count for any pull from that season (even pulls entered prior to the date of becoming a member); however, those individuals will not receive a refund on the extra entry fees they have paid until that point. *(Hint: if you do 6 pulls in a season with 1 dog, you will have already paid enough for your membership, so why not become a member).*
4. Dogs can be any breed or mixed breed, and registration papers are not required.
5. Dogs must be 9 months of age or older to compete in a regular sanctioned event. Novice dogs can be any age, but it is within the Head Judge's discretion to determine that a dog is too young or needs to stop competing.
6. Dogs that are lame, have open sores, have an obvious medical condition, or are too thin (i.e. have protruding hip bones and/or spine) shall not be allowed to enter. The Head Judge may disqualify dogs that are not fit to pull. If a dog is disqualified for any of the above, the entry fees for that dog shall not be refunded. If a dog has an old injury it has recovered from and a vet has cleared it to compete in weight pull, a veterinary doctor's note dated within 6 months of the pull must be provided at the time of registration.

7. Females who are in heat, obviously pregnant, or nursing are not allowed to enter. If such a dog is allowed to enter deceitfully, the Head Judge shall disqualify that dog and no entry fee shall be refunded.
8. Dogs are to be up-to-date on any vaccine required by law for the state in which the pull is occurring.
9. The use of performance enhancing drugs is STRICTLY prohibited. Random drug testing can be required at any time.
10. Dogs must be kept under control at all times. Any act of aggression toward a person or another dog, which puts the safety of a person or dog at risk will result in the disqualification of the offending dog and immediate removal from the pulling area. No refund of the entry fee will be made.
11. Abuse or aggression towards a dog is not allowed, and the Head Judge will disqualify a handler/competitor and all of the dogs he or she is pulling if this mistreatment occurs. While frustrated or empty threats are not abuse, they are considered unsportsmanlike conduct and present a poor image of the sport. Iron Dog understands that handlers do occasionally get lost in the moment; therefore, the first offense of a "frustrated, empty threat" will result in a warning, but a repeat offense will result in a disqualification. If a handler is disqualified for abuse/aggression or for a second "frustrated, empty threat," entry fees shall not be refunded. In the case of abuse/aggression by a handler/competitor, individual will then be on probation with Iron Dog, meaning if the same behavior happens a second time, the handler will be suspended from pulling by Iron Dog. *More on disqualifications in Section F Number 23.*
12. Handlers must clean up any mess created by them or their dogs.. A warning will be given the first time such a problem occurs at a facility. The second offense will result in a \$25.00 fine paid to the facility. A third offense will result in a \$50.00 fine paid to the facility and a loss of points earned at that pull. Subsequent offenses could result in suspension from pulling with Iron Dog for a one year period.
13. Iron Dog wants to promote good sportsmanship by all in attendance at a weight pull. Any handler or visitor who displays unsportsmanlike conduct (including verbal or physical disruption of the pull) may be disqualified by the Judge. Iron Dog wants to emphasize a family friendly atmosphere that encourages children to enter the sport. Utmost care must be taken by all competitors to be role models for all children present at pulls.
14. Hosts/Organizers/Judges/Facility Owners, etc. cannot refuse to allow a person/handler to compete because of a personal conflict. Iron Dog promotes an "all are welcome to pull" approach to weight pulling.
 - a. The only reasons a person could be denied the ability to compete are as follows:
 - i. If competing is a violation of his/her probation, no trespass order, restraining/peace order (or the like), or any other court order prohibiting the person from being at a certain location, near a certain person/people, or near certain types of activities.
 - ii. The person has been suspended or banned from competing in Iron Dog at the time of the pull.
 - b. Anyone who deceitfully enters a pull despite being ineligible to do so forfeits any entry fees paid, as well as any and all awards, points, and titles. Additionally, said person will be banned from Iron Dog Weight Pull indefinitely. Note: If an individual has a question about a possible legal issue that could keep him or her from being able to attend a pull, he or she should contact the Head Judge prior to the day of the pull..
 - c. Anyone who refuses to allow a person to compete may not be allowed to host future Iron Dog pulls or dual sanctioned Iron Dog pulls until the conflict is resolved.

Section C: Dog Equipment

1. Collars: The following collars are prohibited while a dog is competing: pinch collars, electric shock/vibration collars, or intentionally weighted training collars. [Note: Pinch collars are permitted for weigh-ins only.]
2. Harness: Dogs are required to wear a freight style harness with spreader bar. [Note: Many Hosts will have extra harnesses available in different sizes that can be borrowed. The handler should check with the host beforehand to be sure they are available and in the appropriate size.]
3. Leashes: Only Novice dogs can use a leash. All other leashes must either be carried by the handler out of sight, given to the cart help, put on the cart, or left outside of the end of the track at the exit and out of sight.
4. Miscellaneous: Male dogs who frequently mark can wear a belly band while competing. Females who may leak urine while pulling can use a diaper while competing. Diapers cannot be used to try to conceal the fact that a female is in heat; therefore, the Head Judge can check the diaper at any time to see if a female is in heat. Dogs who easily come out of their harness can use a belly band on the harness.

Section D: Personnel

1. Judges will pay a yearly fee of \$10, and there is a \$5 yearly fee for Junior Judges. Judges are members of the "Board" and help in the decision making process for Iron Dog. Judges do not have to attend championships to remain a Judge; however, they are encouraged to attend. Judges must judge 5 dogs per year in order to remain a Judge. When Judges "renew," there may be an updated rules sheet; therefore, they must sign to verify they understand of any new rules.
2. Event Organizer (required for all pulls)-
 - a. Submits sanctioning request
 - b. Lines up a Head Judge (Organizer and Head Judge can be the same person)
 - c. Finds Sponsors (if they want them)
 - d. Keeps the pull running smoothly
 - e. Submits paperwork and fees after the pull.
3. Head Judge (required for all pulls)
 - a. Oversees weigh-ins. (Notes: When the head judge needs to weigh-in his or her own dog, another Judge, Apprentice Judge, or Junior Judge needs to conduct the weighing-in of the head judge's dog(s). Whenever possible, another Judge should weigh-in any dog co-owned by the judge, unless there are not enough people present at the pull.)
 - b. Supervises the entire weight pull from beginning to end.
 - c. Settles disputes.
 - d. Makes final decisions for anything pull related or any disputes.
 - e. Can disqualify individuals and/or their dogs for rule violations.
 - f. Verifies all paperwork after the pull.
 - g. Notifies the Iron Dog Judges' Supervisor of any disagreements or complaints and does so either during or immediately after the pull.
 - h. Notifies the Iron Dog Judges' Supervisor if anyone is disqualified for any of the reasons in Section F, number 23 within 24 hours of the completion of the pull.
 - i. Note: Head Judges that are pulling their own dogs must be judged by another judge, apprentice judge, junior judge, or junior apprentice judge. Judges cannot time themselves. Whenever possible, Head Judges should not judge dogs that they co-own, unless there are not enough people present at the pull for this to happen.

4. Timer (required for all pulls)- uses a stopwatch, cell phone timer, or the like to time each dog from start to finish (when the same part of the cart that is on the startline crosses the finish line). (Notes: When possible, there should be 2 timers, and the Head Judge will determine who is the “primary” timer. In the event that the timers are 1 second or more different in the time they recorded, an average of those times shall be recorded. (For example, if one timer has 12.00 seconds and the other has 13.00 seconds, the time recorded is 12.50 seconds or $12+13=25/2= 12.50$). The only exception to this guideline is if one of the timers knows that he or she did not time correctly, then the time from the other timer will be used.)
 - a. Time is always recorded to 2 decimal places.
 - b. Note: At championships, 2 timers are required, and the same 1 second difference rule applies.
5. Paperwork/Score Keeper (required at all pulls)
 - a. Writes down the weight being pulled and records the time it takes for the dog to complete the pull or what happened during that pull (Pass, Foul, Handler Withdraws, Tangle(s), DQ, etc.).
 - b. States the order of the dogs pulling and keeps the pull moving by stating who is “up,” “on deck”, and “in the hole”.
 - c. Note: At championships, 2 paperwork/score keepers are required, and the Head Judge verifies that there are not any discrepancies in their results.
6. Cart help/Cart Braker/Cart Hooker
 - a. Cart Help (required at all pulls)- loads and unloads the weight on the cart.
 - b. Cart Braker (required at all pulls)- stops the cart after the judge says “Pull” or “Time” (meaning the pull is complete). Keeps the cart from hitting the dog while pulling. Keeps the cart from rolling backwards by resting a leg against the back of the cart if there is an incline, but does not assist the dog in completing a successful pull. Returns the cart/sled to the start line after the pull is complete. Keeps the cart off starting line for rails or wheels if requested to do so by the handler. Breaks sled prior to pulling. Pushes the cart if asked to do so by the handler to help the dog complete a pull in which he/she was unsuccessful. Turns back to dog and attempt to block to keep him/her from leaving the end of the chute.
 - c. Cart Hooker (optional)- Hooks the dog to the cart/sled and keeps the traces from being twisted. (Note: A handler who wants his or her dog to be hooked by someone else, can ask it to be hooked by the Braker if there is not another person available to do this. If there is a handler who wants to hook his or her own dog to the cart, he or she may do so.
7. Junior Judge (optional)- Under the guidance of a Head Judge or another experienced judge at the pull, does the following: oversees the weighing-in, runs the handlers’ meeting, completes paperwork, oversees timing, calls tangles/fouls, identifies disqualifications and brings them to the attention of the Head Judge, etc. [Requirements: A Junior Judge must be between the ages of 14 and 18 and must have attended at least 20 pulls/trials.]
8. Apprentice Judge or Junior Apprentice Judge (optional)- Under the guidance of a Head Judge oversees the weighing-in, runs the handlers’ meeting, completes paperwork, oversees timing, call tangles/fouls, identifies disqualifications and brings them to the attention of the Head Judge, etc. [Requirements: An Apprentice Judge or a Junior Apprentice Judge must have 2 or more years of pulling experience with any organization.] *More on becoming a Judge, Apprentice Judge, and Junior Apprentice Judge in [Section ?](#)*
9. Note: One person can do multiple jobs at the same time (for example, the Timer, Score Keeper, and Head Judge can all be the same person). Only as a last resort should the person braking the cart, also time a dog.

Section E: Weigh-Ins, Weight Classes/Divisions, and Handler's Meeting

1. Weigh-Ins

- a. Weigh-ins must be held within 4 hours of the beginning of the first pull at a location and on the same day that the dog is competing. [Note: The weigh-in does not need to be repeated if the pull lasts for more than one day at the same location. For example, if the pull is Friday through Sunday, dogs weighed in on Friday do not need to weigh-in again on Saturday or Sunday. The only exception to this guideline is Championships, where dogs may be weighed-in the day before the first day of competition.]
- b. All dogs must be weighed on the same scale by a Judge, Junior Judge, Apprentice Judge, or Junior Apprentice Judge. Dogs that are being pulled by the Judge weighing the dog must have a witness. If the Judge doing the weigh-in is also an owner of the dog, but not pulling the dog, when possible another person should witness the weigh-in.
- c. Dogs may wear either an approved collar or no collar during the weigh-in. Leashes that are no more than 6 feet in length can remain attached to the dog or be removed for the weigh-in. *See Section C number 1 for more information on approved collars.*
- d. A dog can be weighed two times during the weigh-in. The handler chooses which of the two weights to keep for the competition.
- e. Partial pounds are rounded down to the nearest whole pound. For example, a dog weighing 30.9 pounds, would be recorded as weighing 30 pounds.
- f. If another Judge, Junior Judge, Apprentice Judge, or Junior Apprentice Judge has the time to weigh in a dog, a dog can be weighed in at any point during a trial/pull provided the handler or owner adheres to the following:
 - i. The handler/owner must contact the Event Organizer to pre-enter for the pull/trial. The intent to pre-enter and fees for entry are due prior to the start of the Handlers' Meeting. This requirement means, if an individual waits until the last possible minute to enter a pull, he or she must have a way to send funds electronically in order to pay the fees before the Handlers' meeting.
 - ii. On the day of the pull, the person must contact the Organizer(s) to give them an ETA.
 - iii. Paperwork can be sent in with pre-entry or completed at the pull, but the dog(s) cannot compete until the entry paperwork has been received, and the dog has been weighed.
 - iv. No weight can be removed from the cart, so the dog must pull the weight on the cart or more once it gets there. If the dog No Pulls, no entry fees will be refunded.
 - v. If the pull has ended (the last dog has either No Pulled or the Handler Withdrew), no entry fee will be refunded.
 - vi. Dogs who come late forfeit the right to be weighed twice. They will be weighed one time and whatever that weight is will be the weight recorded.

2. Handlers' Meeting:

- a. Those with less than 3 years of pulling experience are required to attend the Handlers' Meeting.
- b. A person with 3 or more years of pulling experience is not required to attend the Handler's Meeting; however, he or she is responsible for knowing any rule changes. All procedures in section F will still be followed for any violations, and no entry fees shall be returned. *The experienced puller must also adhere to the same rules in Section E, part 1f regarding late arrival.*
- c. The pull/trial should begin within 15 minutes of the completion of the Handlers' Meeting.

- d. In the event that there are 2 pulls/trials in one day, a second Handlers' Meeting does not have to be held, unless one or more of the following occurs:
 - i. The Head Judge feels there needs to be a review of the rules.
 - ii. A Handler requests it because he or she is unsure of the rules.
 - iii. There are new pullers who were not at the first pull held on that day.
 - e. At the conclusion of the Handlers' Meeting, the Judge will state if there are any pre-entries that are not present at the pull, who they are, and what class(es) the dog(s) are probably going to be in.
3. Weight Classes/Divisions
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Small Dog Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 10 lbs and under ii. 11-20 lbs iii. 21-30 lbs iv. 31-40 lbs b. Medium Dog Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 41-50 lbs ii. 51-60 lbs iii. 61-70 lbs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Large Dog Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 71-80 lbs ii. 81-90 lbs iii. 91-100 lbs d. Extra Large Dog Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 101 to 110 lbs ii. 111 to 125 lbs iii. 126-150 lbs iv. 151+ (unlimited class) |
|---|---|
4. Junior Handler Classes/Divisions- Junior Handlers will compete in their current age group and against dogs of a similar size. The only exception to this guideline is the last year a Junior competes, since Juniors can compete in their final season at the age of 18 if they turned 18 after the previous season's championships. In that case, they compete in the ages 14-17 class.
- a. Handler ages 5 to 9 years old
 - i. Small Dogs (0 to 40 lbs)
 - ii. Medium Dogs (41 to 70 lbs)
 - iii. Large Dogs (71 to 100 lbs)
 - iv. Extra Large Dogs (101+ lbs)
 - b. Handler ages 10 to 13 years old
 - i. Small Dogs (0 to 40 lbs)
 - ii. Medium Dogs (41 to 70 lbs)
 - iii. Large Dogs (71 to 100 lbs)
 - iv. Extra Large Dogs (101+ lbs)
 - c. Handler ages 14 to 17 years old
 - i. Small Dogs (0 to 40 lbs)
 - ii. Medium Dogs (41 to 70 lbs)
 - iii. Large Dogs (71 to 100 lbs)
 - iv. Extra Large Dogs (101+ lbs)

Section F: Procedure

1. It is recommended that at regular season pulls, the order of go is from lightest weight dog to heaviest weight dog. If a handler has 2 dogs that weigh the same and/or have similar weights, the Head Judge can put another dog in between them so that the same handler is not pulling back-to-back.
2. Pulls will have a holding area for crating. If it does not impede with the progress of the pull, dogs who are still competing can be kept outside of the holding area as long as they are at least 10 feet or more from any point of the track and there is a barrier between them and the dog pulling on the track (i.e. they are in a crate, behind a wall, in a car, etc.).

3. Handlers choose what weight they want to start their dog at, but weight cannot be taken off the cart once it has been added unless there is a mistake made by the judge (such as, a dog was unintentionally skipped or the weight added to the cart was incorrect, etc.). [Note: Owners/handlers should choose the starting weight wisely because if a dog does not have at least one successful pull, the dog is done competing and entry fees will not be refunded.]
4. The amount of weight added to the cart/sled each round does not have to be the same each round. The Head Judge needs to take into consideration the experience and ability of the competitors remaining and suggest how much weight he or she thinks should be added. If a Handler wants to pull less than the suggested amount, he or she needs to tell the Judge prior to the weight being added. If a Handler wants to pull more than the weight suggested, he or she can Pass that round.
5. Unlimited Passes are allowed. A pass is when a dog does not pull a certain round of weight. A person can choose to pass up to point where the dog's harness is attached to the cart. Once the dog's harness is attached to the cart, the handler can no longer pass.
6. A Handler may request the cart/sled be re-positioned anywhere parallel to the start line one time per round. (A round is defined as one increment of weight during a pull.). If there is more than one dog who wants the cart in the same or similar positions (for example to the right side of the chute), the order of go can be changed to accommodate this request so that the cart is not being moved back and forth each pull.
7. No test rolling of the cart shall be allowed.
8. Dogs will be ready to pull when called up. If the Handler does not notify the Judge that he or she is getting the dog when he or she is called, the Judge may pass that dog.
9. Dogs can enter the chute/track from either end regardless of surface.
10. Releasing the dog on Rails or Wheels:
 - a. Once a dog is hooked, the Handler cannot release the dog until he/she is **at least** half the length of the trace away from the beginning of the cart. (For example, if the trace is 5 feet long, the ring on the dog's harness must be at least 2.5 feet away from the front of the cart.) This distance can be marked on the track if need be. If after being released, the dog backs up on its own, behind this point, that is okay.
 - b. The Handler also cannot release any later than the point at which the hook is no longer touching the ground. Once the cart hook is no longer touching the ground, the Handler cannot be touching the dog. The point at which the trace is straight out and flat with the hook touching the ground can also be marked on the track if need be.
 - c. Between those two points (halfway point on trace and end of trace with hook) the following are allowed:
 - i. The dog can walk or run into the start.
 - ii. The handler can hold onto the collar, harness, or spreader bar to walk/move the dog forward, but must be sure that he/she has let go of whatever part he or she is touching prior to the hook leaving the ground. If the back of harness/spreader bar or hook is dropped, the handler must ensure there is enough slack for the hook to touch the ground before the dog engages the cart.
 - iii. The handler can let go of the dog and retouch the dog as long as he or she has not instructed (neither through verbal or non-verbal commands) the dog to start pulling, AND the hook has not left the ground

11. Releasing/Procedure on Snow:

- a. The sled will start at Break Line, and the trace will be laid out straight and flat on the ground as the dog and Handler enter the chute.
 - b. The Handler and/or Cart Help will hook dog to sled with the hook touching the ground.
 - c. When the Handler is ready, he or she will tell the sled Braker to "Break the sled." The sled will then be moved from the Break Line to the Start Line.
 - d. When the sled is on the Start Line and still/no longer moving, the Judge will say "Ready." At any point once the Judge begins to say "Ready," the Handler can do any of the following:
 - i. Let go of the dog who can then walk or run into the start.
 - ii. Hold onto the collar, harness, spreader bar to walk/move the dog forward, while being sure that he or she has let go of whatever part he or she is touching prior to the hook leaving the ground/snow. If the back of harness/spreader bar or hook is dropped, the Handler must ensure there is enough slack for the hook to touch the ground/snow before the dog engages the cart.
 - iii. The Handler can let go of the dog and retouch the dog as long as he or she has not instructed (through verbal or non-verbal commands) the dog to start pulling, and the hook has not left the ground.
12. If the dog does not engage the cart and the Handler does not call the dog, the timer will be automatically be started after 30 seconds from when the Handler releases the dog. The person timing the dog will notify the person that "Time has started." The dog has 60 seconds from this point to complete the pull.
13. Time starts when dog initiates movement of the cart/sled (i.e. the point at which the hook is no longer on the ground) or the handler calls/signals the dog to pull (whichever comes first). Time stops when Judge calls a completed pull at the 16 foot mark.
14. The Handler can be anywhere in relation to the dog (in front, beside, or behind dog) and as close as he or she wants as long as he or she is not touching the dog or equipment (harness, trace, or cart/sled). Handlers who go over the trace or in between the trace are doing so at their own risk.
15. Dogs must pull the 16 feet in 60 seconds. If at 60 seconds the cart is moving forward, the dog may continue pulling, and as long as the forward momentum of the cart does not stop at any time prior to the finish line, it will be recorded as a successful pull. If at any point the cart stops forward momentum after the 60 seconds, it is an unsuccessful pull.
16. The Judge will do his or her best to notify the Handler when he or she has 30 seconds left, 15 seconds left, and 5 seconds left. The Judge will say TIME when 60 seconds has been reached if the cart is not moving forward to notify the Handler he or she has exceeded the 60 seconds allowed.
17. The Judge is the only one to make the determination that the pull is complete, and the Judge will notify the Handler immediately. This notification is usually signified by yelling "Pull"; however, the Judge can say something different as long as he or she notifies the Handlers what the word will be at the Handlers' Meeting.
18. As weights increase and the number of participants decrease, dogs may be pulling more frequently. Handlers have the option of requesting a 5-minute break between rounds in order to rest their dogs. The 5 minute break begins once the dog returns to his or her crate or waiting area (provided the dog is returned there directly after completion of the pull). If a person waits to request this break, the Judge will do his or her best to determine how much of the 5 minute break is left erring on the side of less time if unsure. Since this option could end up being an underestimate of the 5 minute break, it is in the Handler's best interest to request this break as soon as he or she leaves the chute so the Judge is aware and starts the time once the dog enters its waiting area. At the end of the 5-minutes, the dog must be removed from its crate/waiting area and return to chute as quickly as possible.

19. Double handling is not allowed. Spectators can clap, cheer, call a dog's name, give work commands, encourage the dog and Handler, but they must remain at least 10 feet from any portion of track. Such support is not double handling. Advice can be given to the Handler within the 10 feet provided the individuals giving the advice are only addressing the Handler. If a person does not want his or her dog cheered for, the Handler must notify the Judge as he or she goes into the chute, so the Judge can let spectators know not to cheer.
20. Handlers can be switched at any time during the pull other than the following:
 - a. Once dog is attached to the cart. [Note: If a change is made in the chute prior to attaching the dog to the cart, the other handler MUST be at least 10 feet from the track before the other handlers signals the dog to pull].
 - b. After the first tangle in a round.
21. Tangles:
 - a. The Judge is the only person who can call a Tangle. The handler may point out what they feel is a tangle, but the Judge will have the final decision.
 - b. A single tangle in one round is not a foul. Tangles do not carry over from one round to the next.
 - c. The following are considered a Tangle:
 - i. Cart/Sled gets stuck on barrier.
 - ii. Wheel or caster runs over trace or the trace gets caught on wheel.
 - iii. Dog gets his or her leg stuck in harness or trace.
 - iv. Dog could injure him or herself on equipment, barrier, or something on the track.
 - v. Dog gets out of the barrier (i.e. the dog goes over or under it) or the dog goes around (and out of) the barrier at the beginning of the chute.
 - vi. Equipment failure-- including, but not limited to, the trace breaks; the hook comes off the harness, trace, or cart; there is a single flat tire on the cart; there is a broken caster; or the track goes from level to decline, etc.
 - vii. Something extremely distracting or unsafe occurs outside of the track while the dog is pulling (extremely loud/unexpected noise, another dog gets loose, someone with dogs not competing in the pull walks too close to the track, a strange animal (cat, chicken, etc.) appears out of nowhere, or anything else the Head Judge feels would be unfair conditions to expect any dog to pull under.
 - d. When a tangle occurs, the pull is stopped and the cart/sled is returned to the start line. The Handler of the dog should return to the dog and stop it from pulling as soon as possible, so that he or she does not waste energy pulling the cart when the pull will not count. Even though the dog is unhooked from the cart during a tangle, the Handler cannot be switched and must remain the same for the "re-pull."
 - I. If a tangle is called for reason i, ii, iii, and iv above, the dog will immediately restart the pull once the cart has returned to the start line. When the dog pulls again, all rules still apply as though it were the dog's first time in the chute for that round. If the dog tangles a second time in the same round for any of the reasons i, ii, iii, or iv, it is considered a Foul.
 - II. If a tangle is called for reason v or vi, the barrier or equipment will be fixed and then the pull will resume. Once the pull is ready to resume, the Handler/dog who was up at the time of the issue has the choice of passing the weight, going again right away, or waiting until the end of the round. Once the competition resumes and the dog pulls again, all rules still apply as though it were the dog's first time in the chute for that round. An unlimited number of tangles for reason vi or vii in one round can occur without being considered a foul.

- A. If an equipment failure occurs that could potentially impact the results of the pull (e.g. new caster(s), new tire(s), track on a decline, etc.), the pull will be stopped and a Handler's Meeting will be held. Handlers and Judges will discuss the most fair way to fix the problem. If there is more than one idea that people agree could be used to fix the problem, a vote will be held, and the majority wins. In the case of a tie, the Head Judge will be the deciding vote. Additionally, a discussion of the most fair way to get dogs "warmed up" (in the event that it takes longer than 30 minutes to remedy the problem and resume the pull), should also occur. If there is more than one idea that people agree could be used to warm the dogs back up, a vote will be held, and the majority wins. In the case of a tie, the Head Judge will be the deciding vote. In the event of an issue like what is described above, "anything goes" as a solution if it is within reason. For instance, if the consensus is to take some weight off of the cart and let dogs take a warm-up rep, that can be allowed, even though normally this would be a rule violation.
- III. If the tangle is called for reason vii, once the issue is remedied (i.e. once the strange animal has been removed, the person with dogs has gotten 10 feet or more from track, etc.) the Handler has the choice of passing the weight, going again right away, or waiting until the end of the round. An unlimited number of tangles for reason viii can occur in one round without being considered a foul.

22. Fouls:

- a. One foul is permitted per dog for each trial. If a second foul occurs at any time with any Handler, the dog is eliminated from competition for that trial.
- b. After one foul is committed, a Handler can elect to switch Handlers during the same round to attempt the weight in which the foul occurred. If the dog fouls a second time, he or she is done competing for that trial/pull.
- c. The following are considered a Foul:
 - i. If time of 60 seconds expires without completing the pull and/or the cart stops rolling forward after 60 seconds.
 - ii. Intentionally or unintentionally touching the dog after signaling it to start pulling or after the cart is engaged (the hook has left the ground) [Note: Anything connected to the Handler that touches the dog is considered touching the dog (such as sweatshirt strings, shoe laces, etc.). Something that falls off of the Handler and touches the dog on the way down is considered touching the dog. However, if something falls off of Handler's person (e.g. sunglasses) and hits the ground prior to touching the dog, this is not considered touching the dog even if the dog touches it once it is on the ground as he/she pulls past it.]
 - iii. Intentionally or unintentionally touching equipment (harness, traces, or cart/sled).
 - iv. Dog touching the Handler (e.g. steps on his or her foot after release, licks him or her, etc.).
 - v. Intentionally fouling.
 - vi. Dog coming completely out of its harness after being hooked to the cart. [Note: Belly bands or the like are allowed to prevent this from happening.]
 - vii. Using bait (toys or treats) of any kind in the chute or within 10 feet of the chute.
 - viii. Double-handling within 10 feet of the chute.
 - ix. Tangling twice during the same round (*as stated in Number 21 in this section*). [Note: If a dog tangles a 3rd time in the same round, he or she is eliminated.]
 - x. Eliminating urine or feces on the track.

- d. When a foul occurs, the handler can choose to go again right away or wait until the end of the round. *If the dog is the last dog in the round, he/she may request a 5 minute break in accordance with rule Number 18 in this section.*
- e. When a foul occurs, time is stopped at the point of the foul and that time is recorded. If the foul happens immediately upon releasing the dog or at any point prior to 10 seconds elapsing (e.g. the dog steps on handler's foot), the time that elapsed is recorded as 10 seconds. The greater amount of elapsed time is always the one recorded. If the dog successfully completes the pull on his or her re-try, the amount of time it takes to complete the re-try and amount of elapsed time on the round where the foul occurred are added together.

For example:

- 1. If a dog times out without completing the pull, but then during the re-try completes the pull in 20.00 seconds, the time recorded for the pull for purposes of scoring/placing will be 80.00 seconds (60.00 + 20.00).
- 2. If a person touches the dog after 30.00 seconds and then on the re-try completes the pull in 40.00 seconds, the time recorded for the pull for purposes of scoring/placing will be 70.00 seconds (30.00 + 40.00).
- 3. If the dog accidentally steps on the Handler right after releasing the dog (or before 10 seconds elapse) and then on the re-try the dog completes the pull in 15.00 seconds, the time recorded for scoring/placing purposes is 25.00 seconds (10.00 + 15.00).
- 4. If a dog tangles for a 2nd time and the tangle is called at 15.00 seconds and then on the re-try the dog completes the pull in 20.00 seconds, the time recorded for purposes of scoring/placing is 35.00 seconds (15.00 + 20.00).
- f. Disqualifications should not be confused with fouls. If a dog or Handler is DQ'd, he or she will not be given a foul and is eliminated from the competition. When a dog fouls out of competition, he or she still earns points and placings; however, when a dog is disqualified, he/she does not earn points. *See below, number 23 for more information.*

23. Disqualifications:

- a. When a Handler is disqualified, all of the dogs that he or she is pulling on that day are also disqualified.
- b. When a dog is disqualified, he or she does not earn points for a given trial, but if the dog has completed a successful pull prior to being disqualified, other dogs can earn points from defeating that dog as a dog they defeated.
- c. The following are reasons for disqualification
 - i. Abuse/Aggression towards a dog (may result in suspension from future Iron Dog pulls).
 - ii. Handler aggression towards another person. If a person with a handler becomes aggressive, he/she will be asked to leave, but does not impact the handler unless the handler is also acting in an aggressive manner.
 - iii. Aggressive or uncontrollable dog
 - iv. Attempts to cheat, e.g. performance enhancing drugs, intentionally using bait in the chute while competing, etc.
 - v. Unsportsmanlike conduct after a warning.
 - vi. Unhealthy dog, including, but not limited to, injured/lame (without doctor's note clearing the dog), sick, too skinny, obviously pregnant, in heat, nursing, etc]
 - vii. Attempting to attend a pull when suspended from Iron Dog at the time of the pull.

- d. Disqualifications may result in suspension from future pulls depending on the severity of the situation. Each situation will be looked at individually and then a course of action will be decided upon. Handlers will be informed if they are receiving a suspension, how long the suspension will be, and what (if any) is the process to become reinstated in good standing with Iron Dog once the suspension is lifted.
- 24. Reasonable concessions will be made for any Handler with a disability. Those concessions will be shared at the Handlers' Meeting and any changes to further accommodate disabled pullers will be announced by the Head Judge.
- 25. Water is only substance that can be used on a dog's feet.
- 26. Handlers cannot have treats or toys on them while they are in the chute. Dogs can be rewarded with treats or toys at any time as long as they are at least 10 feet from any point of the track. Drinking water is allowed at all times except while the dog is in the chute.
- 27. The winner of each class is determined by MWP for pulls on Wheels and Snow and by MWPP for pulls held on rails. In the event of a tie, the fastest time will be used. If there is still a tie, the lightest dog with MWP beats the heavier dog on Wheels and Snow, and the heavier dog with MWPP beats the lighter dog on Rails.
- 28. The percent a dog pulls is determined by dividing the highest weight pulled by the weight of the dog and then rounding to the nearest hundredth (two-decimal places). Example: A 57 lbs dog pulls 3,210 lbs. $3210/57 = 56.3157$ which would be rounded to 56.32%.
- 29. It is at the Head Judge's discretion whether or not to permit warnings for certain rule violations prior to giving a foul, especially those violations committed by inexperienced pullers or those committed at the beginning of the pull. The judge must be consistent with whatever he/she chooses to do.
- 30. Additional Novice Rules
 - a. In order for a Novice pull to be considered a success (and earn a time on the score sheet), the dog may have a leash on but must complete the pull on it own (i.e. the cart cannot be pushed and/or the dog cannot be forcefully pulled on the leash for more than half the distance from start line to finish line). When the time is recorded on the score sheet, an "N" will be recorded next to it. If a dog does not meet the requirements of a successful pull on that round, it is recorded as a "Foul" the first time. The next time the dog does not meet the requirements of a successful pull, it is recorded as a "No Pull".
 - b. Novice placings are determined by weight class and based on the last successful pull completed, before having a "No Pull" (as defined above in "a").
 - c. After a Novice dog has a "No Pull", he/she can still continue to practice, but the pulls will not count towards awards.
 - d. A handler must determine whether they are competing in Novice or Regular prior to the beginning of the pull. If a dog starts out in the Regular pull, but is eliminated from competition, he/she can continue to pull for practice (with or without a leash), but cannot count those as Novice pulls. Meaning, he/she **does not** get placed in the Novice class or get points for Novice titles, because he/she started out competing in the "Regular" pull.

Section G: Points and Titles

1. Points are earned at any regular season pull up until 2 weeks prior to the first day of Championships. The two week prior mark is considered the end of the Points Season.
2. Points only count from 2 pulls a day and no more than 5 pulls in 3 consecutive days. If a person chooses to attend pulls in multiple locations on the same day, only the points from the top two pulls from that day will count towards the season points. If a person chooses to attend pulls in multiple locations over 3 consecutive days where the dog earns points from more than 5 total pulls and/or more than 2 pulls in one day, the points earned from all pulls will be lost and no points will count towards the season points. This regulation is for safety purposes and the best interests of the dog so that people do not push their dogs to do too much. Additionally, if a dog pulls in 5 pulls over a 3 consecutive day period, the dog cannot earn points for any pulls 3 days before the first day of the pull or 3 days after the last day of pulling.
3. All points earned will be totaled together regardless of the surface in which the dog competes.
4. Points do not have to be figured out by the Organizer. Iron Dog will figure them out.
5. Each Dog earns his or her own set of points and titles. Dogs pulled by Junior Handlers earn Junior Titles and dogs pulled by non-junior handlers earn Regular Titles. Novice dogs earn Novice Titles. Titles are always earned by the dog, not the Handler.
6. For non-Novice dogs, all dogs with at least one successful pull will earn 4 sets of points per pull they attend and those points are added together. These points are considered Regular Points and are used to earn Regular Titles. (An example of points will be located on the website if a person wants to figure out how many points his/her dog earned at a specific trial.)
 - a. Overall MWP- Dogs will be ranked from First to Last based on MWP for all dogs competing at the pull (regardless of weight class). Each dog will earn 1 point for having a successful pull and then 1 point for each dog it beats (that had at least one successful pull). Novice only dogs do not earn Regular points or contribute points to dogs competing for Regular points.
 - b. Overall MWPP- Dogs will be ranked from First to Last based on MWPP for all dogs competing at the pull (regardless of weight class). Each dog will earn 1 point for having a successful pull and then 1 point for each dog it beats (that had at least one successful pull). Novice only dogs do not earn Regular points or contribute points to dogs competing for Regular points.
 - c. Class MWP- Dogs will be ranked First to Last based on MWP in their class. Each dog will receive 1 point for having a successful pull and 1 point for each dog in its class that it beats (that had at least one successful pull). Novice dogs are not included in these points. Novice only dogs do not earn Regular points or contribute points to dogs competing for Regular points.
 - d. Class MWPP- Dogs will be ranked First to Last based on MWPP in their class. Each dog will receive 1 point for having a successful pull and 1 point for each dog in its class that it beats (that had at least one successful pull). Novice dogs are not included in these points. Novice only dogs do not earn Regular points or contribute points to dogs competing for Regular points.
7. Junior Handlers will earn an additional 2 sets of points in addition to the points earned by All Handlers. Junior Handlers will combine their Junior Handler points and Regular Points together and those points will be added together to earn Junior Titles.
 - a. Class MWP for Juniors- Each Junior Handler Class (*as listed in Section E number 4*) will be ranked First to Last based on MWP. Each dog will earn 1 point for having a successful pull and then 1 point for each dog in that class that it beats (that had at least one successful pull).
 - b. Class MWPP for Juniors- Each Junior Handler Class (*as listed in Section E number 4*) will be ranked First to Last based on MWPP. Each dog will earn 1 point for having a successful

- pull and then 1 point for each dog in that class that it beats (that had at least one successful pull).
8. Dogs handled by Junior Handlers will earn points toward Junior Titles and will not earn Regular Titles. When a Junior Handler ages out of being a Junior, his or her points start over at zero and then the Handler starts earning Regular titles. If in a single trial a dog is handled by a Junior Handler and an Adult Handler, the dog will only earn Regular Points, and no Junior Handler points will be earned.
 9. Novice Titles are only earned by dogs pulling as a Novice.
 - a. Novice Overall MWP- Novice dogs will be ranked from First to Last based on MWP for all Novice dogs competing at the pull (regardless of weight class). Each dog will earn 1 point for having a successful pull and then 1 point for each dog it beats (that had at least one successful pull).
 - b. Novice Overall MWPP- Novice dogs will be ranked from First to Last based on MWPP for all Novice dogs competing at the pull (regardless of weight class). Each dog will earn 1 point for having a successful pull and then 1 point for each dog it beats (that had at least one successful pull).
 - c. Novice Class MWP- Novice dogs will be ranked First to Last based on MWP in their novice weight class. Each dog will receive 1 point for having a successful pull and 1 point for each dog in its class that it beats (that had at least one successful pull).
 - d. Novice Class MWPP- Novice dogs will be ranked First to Last based on MWPP in their novice weight class. Each dog will receive 1 point for having a successful pull and 1 point for each dog in its class that it beats (that had at least one successful pull).
 10. There is no limit to the number of Iron Dog Regular Titles, Junior Titles, and Novice Titles that can be earned. Every 100 points is a new title.

Regular Titles:

- a. IDWP1- 100 points
- b. IDWP2- 200 points
- c. IDWP3- 300 points
- d. IDWP4- 400 points
- e. And so on...

Junior Titles:

- a. JIDWP1- 100 points
- b. JIDWP2- 200 points
- c. JIDWP3- 300 points
- d. JIDWP4- 400 points
- e. And so on...

Novice Titles:

- a. NIDWP1- 100 points
- b. NIDWP2- 200 points
- c. NIDWP3- 300 points
- d. NIDWP4- 400 points
- e. And so on...

Section H: Championships

1. Only members can pull at championships.
2. Dogs must participate in a minimum of 5 pulls (weight class and surface do not matter) during the year in order to qualify for Championships. If a dog does 5 Novice pulls throughout the year and the dog is then 9 months old or older on the day of Championships, it may compete at championships. Note: There will be no Novice classes at Championships (at this time).
3. Every effort will be made for Championships to be held in the same location each year using the same or similar equipment. ([Looking into the Western PA area at this time](#))
4. Rails and Wheels will always be held at championships, and when possible, snow. As long as a dog competes in 5 total pulls/trials and the owner is a member, he or she can compete on any and all surfaces.
5. **Points leader(s) in each class at the end of the points season (2 weeks before championships) who are Iron Dog members, will receive money to help them to attend championships. The amount of money will be based on the total amount Iron Dog brought in for that season. The number of dogs per class that will be given money will depend on the number of dogs who competed in that class for the season (larger classes will have more dogs who receive money). The amounts will be staggered based on placing in the class (more money for higher placing). The amount of money shall be told to each member/dog combination at least 10 days prior to the American championships. If a dog that won money does not attend championships, he or she forfeits the money and Iron Dog keeps the money to put towards other expenses for championships and/or to be included in the amount distributed the following year. Exceptions to this would be in the case where the Handler attends championships and the dog does not because the dog has been injured or has passed away or it's a female dog in heat/pregnant. Those handlers who attend championships with those dogs who cannot attend because of something out of the handler's control, will still receive the money they earned from their Season Points Standings to attend championships. Money won will be given at championships and not before championships.**
6. Dogs who are Season Points Champions as of the 2 week cut off prior to Championships, who also win 1st place in the same weight class on either surface in which they were season points champion will receive a Bonus. Dogs who are Season Points Champions as of the 2 week cut off prior to Championships, who also win 1st place in the same weight class which they were season points champion on rails AND wheels will receive a Bonus. The Bonus itself is TBD at this time; however, the bonus will be determined prior to championships and told to members. The bonus will most likely be monetary.
7. A dog can compete in any weight class at championships regardless of whether or not it earned points in that class. In addition, it will still receive the money it earned for its Season Points Standing, but **will not** be eligible for any Bonus (*See number 6 for information on winning a Bonus*).
8. There will be no refunds for any dog that "no pulls" at Championships.
9. Order of go will be determined by a lottery system. Divisions may be run together or separate. There may also be multiple tracks at championships; however, all dogs being judged against each other will compete at the same time on the same track.
10. There will be two special awards given each year, that can be nominated by other Handlers, Judges, etc. The person to receive the award will be voted on by the Judges
 - a. Junior Handler of the Year- This is awarded to the Junior Handler who exemplifies what it is to be a Junior Handler. This Handler does not have to have the most points or pull the most dogs; instead, he or she must simply be a good Handler, show good sportsmanship at all times, and want to become a better handler.

- b. Sportsmanship Award- This is awarded to a Handler (who is not a junior) who demonstrates good sportsmanship and is a good role model for all pullers. This individual goes above and beyond to help out at pulls and/or help people who are new to the sport.
- 11. Drug testing information for championships will be added soon.
- 12. Note: More Information about Championships will be coming soon.

Section I: Sanctioning/Hosting a Pull

1. There is no fee for sanctioning (hosting) an Iron Dog weight pull..
2. Sanctioning requests must be made at least 2 weeks prior to the first day of competition.
3. Sanctioning requests are made by the Event Organizer who may or may not be a member of Iron Dog; however, the Head Judge must be an approved judge for Iron Dog.
4. The Event Organizer is ALWAYS responsible for any fees associated with the venue where the pulls/trials are being held. Iron Dog is NEVER responsible for paying such fees, including but not limited to, fees to host pulls at expos
5. Requests can be submitted online or in an email and shall include:
 - a. Name of Pull(s)
 - b. Date(s) of Pull(s)
 - c. Number of Pulls per day
 - d. Location and Event Address
 - e. Surface of Pull (Rails, Wheels, or Snow)
 - f. Time for Weigh-In
 - g. Time Handlers' Meeting will start
 - h. Whether or not the pull is dual sanctioned
 - i. Name of Organizer and Contact Info
 - j. Name of Head Judge and, if known, any other judges, junior judges, apprentice judges, or junior apprentice judges.
 - k. Cost for members and non-members (including whether or not there are going to be any pre-entry discounts and any rules for those pre-entries, such as a cut off time for the discount, etc). **It is required that there be a \$5 difference in the cost for members and non-members so that Iron Dog members are being given a \$5 price break in the price of entries for each dog entered in each trial.**
 - l. Awards (including any special awards or requirements to be awarded- such as a minimum number of dogs needed to compete in order for a special award to be given)
 - m. Name(s) of any sponsor(s)
 - n. Lodging Information (optional)
 - o. Directions (optional)
 - p. Any other Important Information
6. Pulls/Trials can be held any day of the week. There is a limit of 2 pulls per day and no more than 5 pulls/trials in a consecutive 3 day period.
7. Pulls/Trials may be sanctioned up until 2 weeks prior to championships. No pulls/trials can be held between that point and championships in order to allow time for points and awards for Season Points Standings to be calculated.

8. The organizer is responsible for sending \$5 per dog per trial for each regular or novice dog that competes (has at least ONE successful pull) and is a member of Iron Dog. Additionally, the organizer is responsible for sending \$10 per regular or novice dog per trial for non-members (regardless of whether or not they have a successful pull).
 - a. These fees can be sent via electronic payment or check. Any fees incurred for payment MUST be paid by the Organizer. For example, if fees are taken out for an electronic payment, those must be paid by the Organizer so Iron Dog ends up with the entire \$5/\$10 per dog after fees. If a check is returned, the returned check fee is the responsibility of the Organizer and he or she will not be able to host a pull again until those have been paid in full. Additionally, any points earned at other Iron Dog pulls by an Organizer with an outstanding balance owed to IronDog, will not count until the outstanding balance has been paid in full.
 - b. Iron Dog Member benefits for Organizers: If the Organizer is an Iron Dog Member or has a child that is an Iron Dog Member, the \$5 per dog fee does not have to be sent to Iron Dog for any Iron Dog Member's dog that "No Pulls." It is at the Organizer's discretion if he or she wants to refund that \$5 to the members of Iron Dog with a dog(s) who "No Pull," give the member a credit towards the next pull in which he or she competes, or if the Organizer wants to put it towards his or her own expenses. Organizers can advertise that they will refund the \$5 for any Iron Dog Member's dog that "No Pulls," so that Iron Dog Members with additional inexperienced dogs or dogs who have been recently cleared from a medical issue may decide to try pulling with them. The only exception to this rule is at Championships.
9. Dual sanctioning:
 - a. Is allowed, but must be included on the Sanctioning Request.
 - b. Fees sent to Iron Dog are the same as *Rule 8* from above with the following exception:
 - i. Iron Dog Member Benefits for Organizers: If the Organizer is an Iron Dog Member or has a child that is an Iron Dog Member and a pull is dual sanctioned, the per dog per pull fee paid to Iron Dog is \$4.50 for the dogs that are competing belonging to Iron Dog members and \$9 for dogs competing belonging to non-members.
 - c. When a pull is dual sanctioned, the rules for the other organization will be followed for everything except class placements (if the second sanctioning group has different weight classes than Iron Dog). Dogs competing at dual sanctioned events can choose to compete in Iron Dog only, the other sanctioning organization only, or both organizations. Points can be earned at dual sanctioned events toward Season Points and Points Titles, but only from dogs competing in both organizations or Iron Dog only. Points are not earned off of dogs competing only in the other sanctioning organization.
10. All monies owed to Iron Dog for an Iron Dog pull or a Dual sanctioned pull, including membership fees collected, as well as all paperwork, must be received by **Iron Dog** no later than 10 business days following the last day of pulling. In the case of mailing results and money, doing so must be done early enough for it to arrive on or before the 10th business day. Organizers who send paperwork and/or fees in after the 10 calendar day period will have the following consequences:
 - i. 1st Offense: Warning
 - ii. 2nd Offense: \$25 fine
 - iii. 3rd Offense: \$50 fine and suspension of privileges in hosting future pulls for the remainder of the season
 - iv. Each season will start with a clean slate; however, those who have 3 offenses per year for 2 consecutive years, will be suspended from hosting future pulls for the remainder of the season plus one calendar year from the end of that season. For those who are suspended an additional calendar year because of two consecutive years with 3 offenses, upon the completion of the suspension the organizer will be

placed on probation for 1 year. During the probation, if that individual organizes a pull and does not send in the paperwork and/or money in on time while on probation, he or she will not be able to host pulls indefinitely.

- v. Organizers who have been suspended from organizing can still compete at pulls; they just cannot organize them.

11. Note: Results and monies from pulls/trials held within 30 days of championships must be received within 48 hours of the the last day of competition. If the results and money are mailed, they need to be overnighted in order to arrive in time.

12. Additional notes: Iron Dog prefers electronic submission of results via email to irondogwp@gmail.com. Those who cannot email results can mail them to Jenna Starr, 3611 S. Mountain Rd. Knoxville, MD 21758. Iron Dog also prefers electronic payment via paypal to account irondogwp@gmail.com.

13. Award requirements

- a. If an organizer chooses to only charge the amount of money being sent to Iron Dog per dog who pulls (\$5 for members and \$10 for non-members), he or she does not have to offer any awards.
- b. If an organizer charges more than the fees being sent to Iron Dog, he or she must provide something for class placements and something for Overall Awards per trial.
 - i. Class placements should receive something such as a ribbon or certificate for at least 1st place through 3rd place in all regular classes/divisions. An organizer can choose to award more placements, give separate awards for juniors and/or novice, or give some type of participation award.
 - ii. Individual Pull Overall Awards should be something “better” than what is awarded for class placements (examples: Larger ribbon/rosette, framed certificate, trophy, plaque, medal, gift card or other prize, etc.). At least one of the of the following award options is required for Individual Pull Overall Awards:
 - 1. MWP and MWPP Overall
 - 2. MWP and MWPP 70 lbs & under and 71 lbs & over
 - 3. MWP 70 lbs & under and 71 lbs & over; MWPP per division (Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large)
 - 4. MWP and MWPP per division (Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large)
- c. An organizer must advertise what type of Individual Pull Overall Award he or she is giving including any special requirements (such as a certain number of dogs needed for certain awards to be given). An organizer can offer multiple options for the Individual Pull Overall Award, based on different (tiered) requirements.
 - i. For example (these are an example and can be done with different requirements or none at all):
 - 1. MWP and MWPP Overall- **no requirements**
 - 2. MWP and MWPP 70 lbs & under and 71 lbs & over- **If 15 or more total dogs competing**
 - 3. MWP 70 lbs & under and 71 lbs & over; MWPP per division (Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large)- **20 or more total dogs competing**
 - 4. MWP and MWPP per division (Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large)- **30 or more**

14. Optional Awards

- a. An organizer can get as creative as he or she likes with these awards. For example, Junior Handler awards, Beginner Puller awards, Novice Dog awards, Veteran Dog awards, etc., but must advertise the requirement for the awards in the sanctioning request so people know the requirements to earn specific awards (for example, the dog must pull in all pulls in order to be eligible for the award or must have at least 5 veterans to award a “Best Veteran”, etc.)
- b. Combined Overall Awards (optional) and are at the discretion of the organizer. These awards could be awarded for
 - i. MWP and MWPP Overall
 - ii. MWP and MWPP 70 lbs & under and 71 lbs & over
 - iii. MWP 70 lbs & under and 71 lbs & over; MWPP per division (Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large)
 - iv. MWP and MWPP per division (Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large)

Becoming a Judge/Junior Judge

Coming Soon

Grievances

Coming Soon