



ALASKAN MALAMUTE CLUB OF AMERICA

WORKING DOG CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (ALL WORKING TITLES)

WEIGHT PULL DOG CERTIFICATION RULES

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To encourage people to work their Alaskan Malamute in the pursuits for which they were intended.
- 1.2 To provide Certification for those Alaskan Malamutes proven in these pursuits.
- 1.3 To thus encourage the breeding of a better Alaskan Malamute.

2.0 ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 The Alaskan Malamute shall be registered or registerable with a recognized kennel club (AKC, CKC, etc.). An ILP registration number is also permitted.
- 2.2 Deceased Alaskan Malamutes meeting registration requirements and having fulfilled all legs of certification after January 1st, 1980 are eligible for Working Dog Certification. All necessary paperwork must be completed and submitted for review to the Working Dog Committee.

5.0 BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 All races or weight pull events entered shall be open events and must meet requirements in this document.
 - 5.1.1 Open events are those, which are not restricted to club members only and are sufficiently advertised so that non-club member may participate for a nominal fee.
- 5.2 It is the responsibility of the dog owners to make sure that their dogs are sufficiently trained and conditioned that they pose no hazard to the health or welfare of themselves or other dogs participating in the event. Any team proven a hazard to other teams or mushers shall be disqualified from certification. Any driver/handler who displays poor sportsmanship or abuses his dogs shall be disqualified from certification.
- 5.3 It is the responsibility of the dog owner to obtain and mail all the necessary documents, signatures and otherwise complete all requirements to get their dogs certified by AMCA.

6.0 CERTIFIED DOGS

- 6.1.1 Any dog certified by AMCA shall be privileged to use the title in any AMCA literature.

WEIGHT PULL DOG

- A) A dog must qualify in 4 separate events. Dogs must be weighed before each event.
 1. On natural surfaces such as snow or dirt the weight pulled must equal or exceed 8 times the dog's weight.
 2. On artificial surfaces such as concrete, carpet, etc., the weight pulled must equal or exceed 12 times the dog's weight.
- B) ISDRA, AMCA or IWPA rules must be used in qualifying for a weight pull certificate.

APPROVED; SEPTEMBER 1992 EFFECTIVE; OCTOBER 1992

WORKING DOG EXCELLENT RULES WEIGHT PULL

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Working Dog Excellent (WDX) program shall be to test the Alaskan Malamutes' working ability in as natural a situation as possible in order to ascertain his willingness to work in difficult situations over a period of time. These accomplishments should reflect endurance, attitude and training above and beyond that of the average working dog. The certification committee has the right to reject any applications, which do not reflect the spirit of the program. A dog need not have earned a WD certificate in order to apply for a WDX certificate.



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WORKING DOG CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (ALL WORKING TITLES)

3.0 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

3.1 General Rules

- A. Competitive events must be open events. Open events are those not restricted to certain breeds or clubs and are sufficiently advertised so that the public has the opportunity to participate. Exceptions to this will be events sponsored in conjunction with an AMCA or AKC event and therefore limited to a given breed(s) of dog(s).

3.2.1 Working Weight Pull Dog Excellent

- A. ISDRA, AMCA, IWPA or other previously approved nationally recognized rules shall be used.
- B. All dogs must be weighed at each event.
- C. Dogs must qualify in 5 competitions by:
1. Pulling 14 times his body weight on snow with a sled.
 2. Pulling 16 times his body weight on any other natural surface with a wheeled cart.
 3. Pulling the following weights by weight class, on a man made surface:
80# and under class 23 times the dog's weight
81-100# class 21 times the dog's weight
101# and over class 19 times the dog's weight
(All weights are rounded down to the nearest whole #)
 4. In addition to requirements 1,2 or 3 the dog must place in the top 1/3 of his weight class in each event. In the event the top 1/3 comes out as a fraction, that dog will qualify.
 5. If at a competition over 75% of the dogs pull the required weight, that pull will be disallowed.

REVISED; JUNE 1996 EFFECTIVE; OCTOBER 1992

WORKING DOG CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (All working titles)

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To encourage people to work their Alaskan Malamute in the pursuits for which they were intended.
- 1.2 To provide Certification for those Alaskan Malamutes proven in these pursuits.
- 1.3 To thus encourage the breeding of a better Alaskan Malamute.

2.0 SCOPE

- 2.1 To establish criteria for certification of the Working Malamute.
- 2.2 To establish those specialties for which a Malamute may receive certification.
- 2.3 To establish the rules for certification.
- 2.4 To revise the criteria as required to improve the certification program.
- 2.4.1 The criteria may be modified, amended, corrected, or otherwise changed, or the program may be discontinued upon the recommendation of the majority of the Committee upon approval of the AMCA Board.
- 2.5 The Working Dog Certification Program shall be self-supporting and thereby not be a burden to AMCA. Certification charges shall be sufficient to pay for printing and mailing of certificates and any unforeseen costs.

3.0 FIELDS OF CERTIFICATION

- 3.1 Working Team Dog
- 3.2 Working Lead Dog
- 3.3 Working Weight Pull Dog
- 3.4 Working Pack Dog



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WORKING DOG CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (ALL WORKING TITLES)

4.0 ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 The Alaskan Malamute shall be registered or registerable with a recognized kennel club (AKC, CKC, etc.). An ILP registration number is also permitted.
- 4.2 Deceased Alaskan Malamutes meeting registration requirements and having fulfilled all legs of certification after January 1st 1980 are eligible for Working Dog Certification. All necessary paperwork must be completed and submitted for review to the Working Dog Committee.

5.0 BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 All races or weight pull events entered shall be open events and must meet requirements in this document.
 - 5.1.1 Open events are those, which are not restricted to club members only and are sufficiently advertised so that non-club member may participate for a nominal fee.
- 5.2 It is the responsibility of the dog owners to make sure that their dogs are sufficiently trained and conditioned that they pose no hazard to the health or welfare of themselves or other dogs participating in the event. Any team proven a hazard to other teams or mushers shall be disqualified from certification. Any driver/handler who displays poor sportsmanship or abuses his dogs shall be disqualified from certification.
- 5.3 It is the responsibility of the dog owner to obtain and mail all the necessary documents, signatures and otherwise complete all requirements to get their dogs certified by AMCA.
- 5.4 Dog does not have to run on an all Malamute team.

6.0 CERTIFIED DOGS

- 6.1 Any dog certified by AMCA shall be privileged to use the title in any AMCA literature.

7.0 PROTESTS

- 7.1 Any person wishing to protest the eligibility of a dog or dog team, the qualification of an event for certification purposes, or protest any violation of race rules or certification requirements, must do so immediately following the conclusion of the event. The protest may be verbal but must be followed by a written statement to the race marshal or chief judge of the event within 10 days with a copy to the certification committee. The committee shall notify the concerned parties of the protest in order that they may file a rebuttal. It shall be the responsibility of the certification committee to decide whether or not the protest is valid by a 2/3-majority vote.

8.0 DOCUMENTS AND PROCESSING

- 8.1 Any person found guilty of willingly falsifying documents in order to certify a dog shall be ineligible for certification. (Falsifying records may consist of a dog's name, forging documents or otherwise making false claims to certify a dog.
- 8.2 The Working Dog Award Committee shall consist of three AMCA members, appointed by the Board of Directors, each from a different geographic location.
- 8.3 Certification applications forms may be obtained by writing to the Working Dog Committee Chairperson whose name will be listed in the AMCA Newsletter. The completed forms shall be returned to the Committee for review.

9.0 OFFICIALS

- 9.1 Judges, or other necessary officials, may be AMCA members or other persons the Committee recognized and accepts as having necessary qualifications. Application from competitive events must be signed by an event official.
- 9.2 Officials for approving a sledding or packing excursion shall be impartial persons accepted by the Committee as having the necessary qualifications and integrity. If a club event, the witness may be a club officer or event organizer. If an individual event, the witness may be a park official, forest ranger or similarly qualified person. The mailing address of the official must be provided on the application form.



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9.3 DEFINITIONS

RACE MARSHALL is appointed by and reports to the race-giving club, but has complete and full charge and responsibility for the race from the time it starts through to its completion. All officials report directly to him and are responsible to him in all matters. He has the final word and the power to cancel or stop the race under extenuating circumstances, weather or trail conditions. Can disqualify or refuse teams at the start, at his discretion. He must be experienced, capable and a responsible expert in the sport of dog racing. He will chair the drivers meeting, officials meeting and protest committee.

TIME RECORDER is responsible for the recording of the time made by all teams during the race. He may have an assistant known as a recorder. He is responsible to the race marshal. It is his responsibility to use proper and adequate chronographs for this purpose, and be completely familiar with their use. He shall act on the protest committee.

CHIEF JUDGE shall report and be responsible to the race marshal. He shall be in charge of the Judges, the Dog Marker and his assistants. He shall deal directly with all drivers and will receive any protests or complaints. He shall be in charge of starting and finish line, and remain at this position during all heats of the race. He will examine teams at the start and finish, and has power to disqualify dogs unfit to run in his opinion.

TRAIL JUDGE shall report directly to the race marshal and is responsible for laying out, preparation of, and marking the race trail. He should be familiar with the requirements of a race trail suitable for dog teams, and do his utmost to prepare a trail that will not have dangerous corners, road crossings, etc., that can be hazardous to dogs and driver. He is responsible for patrolling the race trail during the race, and placing the trail stewards at locations as may be required.

PROTEST COMMITTEE shall consist of Race Marshall, Chief Judge, Trail Judge, and timekeeper to settle all disputes, complaints and protests. To levy all penalties and disqualification's. Decisions of this committee are final and irrevocable.

SPOTTER OR TRAIL STEWARD is a person located at corner or intersection of trail, responsible for directing teams in corrections and reporting any incorrect occupancy to Trail Judge.

RACER is a person participating in a race or races.

TRAINER is a person who trains sled dogs for racing, freighting, or weight pulling.

10.0 SLEDDING EVENT RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

- 10.1 Sledding – snow or wheeled cart.
- 10.2 Races shall be held under ISDRA rules plus any amendments created by the officiating club's race rules, as long as they do not change the basic requirements of ISDRA rules.
- 10.3 The applicant shall pay the costs of entries plus payment to the AMCA for certification processing.

11.0 WORKING TEAM DOG

- A. Vehicle may be snow sled or wheeled cart.
- B. Team does not have to be all Malamutes.
- C. Dog does not have to run on same team each time.
- D. Certification may be achieved by any one of the following three methods.



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- 11.1 Method 1 – Racing or Cross Country
- A. Dog must qualify in three different races. The races may be any class. The dog may run in any combination of three races. Minimum number of teams competing is three. Races must be run under ISDRA rules or the Committee must have approved the rules. Each heat may count as a race as long as it fulfills the above requirements.
 - 1. The team must complete the race in an acceptable speed as determined by the committee. Under normal conditions this will be 9 MPH for the sprint classes and 7-MPH for freight and cross-country races. Under conditions of extreme weather or terrain, the Committee may accept a slower average time.
 - 2. Or the team must complete the race in the top 30% of the competition.
 - B. Required distances will be determined by the class in which the dog is running. Required distances will be 1 mile for each dog on the team with a minimum of 3 miles required. The freight class shall be a minimum of 5 miles with a minimum of 50 pounds per dog added to the weight of the sled.
- 11.2 Method 2 – Racing
- A. Dog must accumulate a minimum of 25 race miles. The dog must have completed the course in all races considered. Races must be a minimum of 5 miles if a freight race. Distances of Method 1 apply.
 - B. The dog must complete all races in an acceptable amount of time as determined by the Committee.
 - C. All events must be certified by a race official or an impartial witness.
- 11.3 Method 3 – Excursion
- A. Dog must accumulate a minimum of 40 sledding excursion miles. Dog or dogs must pull sled a minimum of 10 miles per excursion. An impartial witness must sign the form to be sent to the Committee verifying proof of distances and dog or dog competing.
- 11.4 Method 4 – Combination Racing and Excursion
- A. One or two 10 mile or longer races may count towards the total of 40 excursion miles.
- 11.5 Addenda
- A. Each heat shall be counted as a race for the following reasons.
 - B. Heats are occasionally run to establish the top teams in each heat. The top teams or team then run in a final heat.
 - C. Occasionally the first heat is completed, but musher, dogs or equipment may be too damaged to compete in the next heat or heats.
 - D. A change in weather or other conditions may cause heats to be canceled.
 - E. When certifying by accumulating 25 race miles, completing one race of 25 miles or more is qualifying.

WORKING LEAD DOG

- A. DOGS MUST RUN SINGLE LEAD on a team consisting of 3 dog minimum.
- B. Lead dog requirements are identical to those for working team dog.
- C. Dog does not have to lead the same team each time to qualify.
- D. Dog must run on the LEADING team if 2 or more teams are traveling together.

WEIGHT PULL DOG

- A. A dog must qualify in 4 separate events. Dogs must be weighed before each event.
 - 1. On natural surfaces such as snow or dirt the weight pulled must equal or exceed 8 times the dog's weight.
 - 2. On artificial surfaces such as concrete, carpet, etc., the weight pulled must equal or exceed 12 times the dog's weight.
- B. ISDRA, AMCA or IWPA rules must be used in qualifying for a weight pull certificate.



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PACK DOG

- A. Dog must carry a daily initial weight equal to a minimum of 30% of the dog's weight. This weight shall not decrease except by normal consumption of items such as food and water.
- B. Pack trips must be done on natural terrain such as hiking trails or cross-country.
- C. Option 1
Dog must pack a minimum of 30 miles. Each trip must be a minimum of 10 miles per day or an overnight camp out with a minimum of 5 miles in and 5 miles out. A minimum of one trip must include an overnight camp out.
- Option 2
Dog must pace a minimum of 40 miles. Each trip must be a minimum of 10 miles per day.
- D. Elevation gain may be substituted for mileage in the following manner: 1000 feet of elevation is equivalent to 1 mile of flat terrain. Elevation gain will be figured as the difference between the highest and lowest points of the trip.
- E. Packing requirements shall be spread out over a minimum of 2 trips.
- F. An impartial witness must sign the form to be sent to the Committee verifying proof of distances and dog competing.

EFFECTIVE; OCTOBER 1992

AMCA WORKING DOG EXCELLENT RULES

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Working Dog Excellent (WDX) program shall be to test the Alaskan Malamutes' working ability in as natural a situation as possible in order to ascertain his willingness to work in difficult situations over a period of time. These accomplishments should reflect endurance, attitude and training above and beyond that of the average working dog. The certification committee has the right to reject any applications, which do not reflect the spirit of the program. A dog need not have earned a WD certificate in order to apply for WDX certificate.

1.0 ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 The Working Dog Excellent Program (WDX) shall be a continuation of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America's Working Dog Certification rules unless otherwise stated those rules and definitions will apply.
- 1.2 The WDX committee shall be made up of three AMCA members from different geographical region. Recommendation for the chairperson of the WDX committee will be made to the Board of Directors by the Chairperson of the Working Dog Committees. The WDX chairperson shall then appoint two committee members of his or her choice from different geographical areas. It is recommended that all committee members have worked a dog to the WDX level and that the committee represents all aspects of the program.
- 1.3 Rules changes. The WDX rules may be modified, amended, corrected, changed or discontinued upon recommendation of a majority of the WDX committee and upon approval of the Board. If the Board deems it necessary, the change may go to the membership for a vote.

2.0 FIELDS OF CERTIFICATION

Dogs may earn certification in the following fields:
Working Weight Pull Dog Excellent (WWPDX)
Working Pack Dog Excellent (WPDIX)
Working Team Dog Excellent (WTDIX)
Working Lead Dog Excellent (WLDIX)



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Special working dog excellent certification for search and rescue, guide dog, skijoring or the like shall be considered by special application to the WDX committee on an individual basis.

3.0 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

3.1 General Rules

- A. Competitive events must be open events. Open events are those not restricted to certain breeds or clubs and are sufficiently advertised so that the public has the opportunity to participate. Exceptions to this will be events sponsored in conjunction with an AMCA or AKC event and therefore limited to a given breed(s) or dog(s).
- B. Witnesses
 1. Witnesses for competitive events or club-organized excursions shall be an event official or organizer.
 2. Witnesses for non-competitive sledding and packing excursions shall be impartial, which excludes family members, residents of the same household as the applicant, the dogs' breeder and the like.
- C. Documentation
Documentation for backcountry packing and sledding trips may be difficult to obtain in some situations, but the applicant must provide sufficient evidence that the trip has taken place as stated. Maps such as USGS topographic maps for Forest Service maps with the route designated on it must be included with the application. Other documentation must include the signature(s) of an impartial witness(es) encountered on the trail and a statement verifying that the applicant was at the stated location on a given date, OR verifiable photographs of the applicants' team or pack dog at a specified location (for example at a trail sign).
- D. Variations
Anyone planning a trip or race that they are not sure will qualify under the WDX rules should check with the committee prior to the event.
- E. Sportsmanship
Common courtesy and good sportsmanship shall prevail during all events and trips. Any applicant who is abusive to his dogs or other people shall not be eligible for a WDX award for his dogs. Dogs must present a good example for the breed, being manageable, non-aggressive workers and not posing a threat to other dogs or people.

3.2 WORKING WEIGHT PULL DOG EXCELLENT

- A. ISDRA, AMCA, IWPA or other previously approved nationally recognized rules shall be used.
- B. All dogs must be weighed at each event.
- C. Dogs must qualify in 5 competitions by:
 1. Pulling 14 times his body weight on snow with a sled.
 2. Pulling 16 times his body weight on any other natural surface with a wheeled cart.
 3. Pulling the following weights by weight class, on a man made surface.

80# and under Class	-23 times the dog's weight
81-100# Class	-21 times the dog's weight
101# and over Class	-19 times the dog's weight

(All weights are rounded down to the nearest whole #)
 4. In addition to requirements 1, 2 or 3 the dog must place in the top 1/3 of his weight class in each event. In the event the top 1/3 comes out as a fraction, that dog will qualify.
 5. If at a competition over 75% of the dogs pull the required weight, the pull will be disallowed.

3.2 WORKING PACK DOG EXCELLENT

- A. The dog's weight and the weight of his pack must be verified by an impartial witness or trip official prior to the start of each trip. A dog shall carry a daily initial load of at least 30% of his



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- body weight. The weight carried shall not decrease except by the normal consumption of items in the pack such as food and water.
- B. Pack trips shall be backcountry trips with dogs carrying equipment and supplies necessary for the trip. Backcountry is a remote area, inaccessible and unsuited to vehicular traffic at the time of the trip and where support is not generally available. Campouts will be necessary due to the distance requirements. Campouts will take place in the backcountry, not at trailheads, roadside campgrounds and the like. Suitable locations for pack trips are National Forests, State Parks, hiking trails and undeveloped natural terrain.
 - C. A total of 120 miles shall be completed in 1 to 3 trips.
 - D. Each trip shall be a minimum of 40 miles with an average of 10 miles per day on traveling days under normal conditions such as maintained trails and normal weather conditions. Day trips from the base camp must adhere to the weight requirements unless the applicant does not wish to include those miles in the trip total.
 - E. Because some trips will take place in mountainous terrain, each 1,000 feet of elevation gain may be substituted for a mile of the total mileage requirement.

3.3 WORKING TEAM DOG EXCELLENT

- A. Race rules shall be ISDRA, other nationally recognized rules, or rules previously approved by the WDX committee.
- B. Dogs may run on any size team and need not run on the same team for each event. Sledding may be Alaskan style or Nordic style (single file team pulling a pulk).
- C. Total mileage for all applicants shall be 180 miles.
 - 1. Races must be a minimum of 60 continuous miles or two or more heats of at least 40 miles where the applicant has completed at least two consecutive heats.
 - 2. Backcountry excursion trips shall be a minimum of 60 miles. They shall take place in remote areas inaccessible at that time of year to motor vehicles excepting snowmobiles. The team must travel as a self-sufficient unit hauling supplies necessary for the trip. Examples of suitable places are National Forests, parks or other areas where trail and roads are not maintained for winter use by vehicles excepting snowmobiles. If the trip takes place in a Wilderness type area where there are no defined trails and dogs may be expected to break trail, the trip must be a minimum of 40 miles

3.4 WORKING LEAD DOG EXCELLENT

- A. The WLDX award shall be for dogs who have completed requirements for the WTDX, who have completed at least half those requirements running single lead in a team of at least three dogs, where that team is also the lead team for approximately 50% of the time, if several teams are traveling together.

REVISED; JUNE 1996 EFFECTIVE; OCTOBER 1992