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# **Saint Bernard Club of America Weight Pull Regulations**

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# **Saint Bernard Club of America Weight Pull Regulations**

## **Introduction**

The Saint Bernard Club of America (SBCA) Weight Pulls are a series of events designed to develop and demonstrate the natural abilities of the purebred Saint Bernard dog in a capacity involving heavy-duty freight hauling that the breed displayed during the days of the Alaska Gold Rush. Performance in weight pull events are intended to demonstrate skills resulting both from natural ability and training that are applicable to realistic work situations. Efficiency in accomplishment of tasks is essential, evidenced by showing a willingness and enjoyment of the dog's work in a combination of controlled teamwork with their handler.

In conducting weight pull events, the SBCA intends to give official recognition to the Saint Bernards that have achieved a certain level of performance in the field of weight pulling and to award SBCA titles to such dogs, which they may use in any Saint Bernard Club of America activity.

SBCA recognition of weight pulling achievements and the awarding of SBCA weight pulling titles will be limited to weight pulling events sanctioned by the Saint Bernard Club of America Working Dog Committee (SBCA WDC) or to those sponsored by other organized Weight Pulling groups granted recognition by the SBCA WDC; except that recognition of achievements accomplished during events sponsored by other organizations is conditional upon the criteria established by the SBCA WDC.

## **Section 1 - Application for Weight Pulls**

A Weight Pull Committee from a recognized local area Saint Bernard Specialty Club or an Independent Weight Pull Committee may apply to the Saint Bernard Club of America Working Dog Committee (SBCA WDC) for permission to sponsor a Weight Pull Event. The application must be made using an approved SBCA WDC Application Form. Application Forms are available from the SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary. A completed application, which includes the judge's acceptance form and the fee specified on the application (payable to SBCA), must be sent to the SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary a minimum of 30 days, but preferably four months, prior to the date of the proposed Weight Pull. The SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary usually communicates approval or rejection of the Weight Pull Application to the Weight Pull Chair within twenty days following the receipt of the completed application. When the SBCA Working Dog Committee is considering the applying group's application for an SBCA Weight Pull, the committee considers any past violations of the Regulations at its previous Weight Pulls.

The SBCA WDC recommends that Weight Pull dates be coordinated with neighboring Saint Bernard Breed Clubs and other local Weight Pulls to avoid conflicting dates.

An application that is received after the deadline will not be approved. In the event the SBCA WDC denies permission to hold the Weight Pull Event, the Weight Pull Committee may appeal to the SBCA Board. The SBCA WDC shall supply the SBCA Board with their reasons, in writing, for not approving the requested Weight Pull. The final decision shall be that of the SBCA Board.

## **Section 2 - Duties of the Weight Pull Committee**

The Weight Pull Committee will function as the official representative of the SBCA WDC and must enforce the Regulations. If there are any violations of these Regulations, the Weight Pull Committee should report it in writing and attach it to the Weight Pull Committee's report to the SBCA WDC. The Weight Pull Committee will print a Premium List and make it available, either through a mailing and/or a web site, to Saint Bernard owners potentially interested in entering their dogs in the proposed Weight Pull.

Premium List must include the following information:

1. The date, weigh-in time, start time, and location of the Weight Pull Event
2. The names and contact information of the committee members
3. The entry limit, minimum and maximum, if there are any
4. The beginning date for accepting entries
5. The closing date and time that the Weight Pull Secretary must receive entries for them to be accepted
6. The approval date of the SBCA Weight Pull Regulations being used at the SBCA Weight Pull
7. A statement regarding the entrant's responsibility for obtaining the SBCA Weight Pull Regulations
8. The name and contact information of the SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary from whom entrants can order the SBCA Weight Pull Regulations or a notification that the Regulations are available on the SBCA website
9. The name, address, and email of the Weight Pull Secretary to whom the entries shall be sent (If using pre-entries)
10. Entries must be made on an official SBCA Certification Form, which includes the Agreement
11. Suggested additional information such as the following: officers and board of directors of the sponsoring local Saint Bernard Specialty Club, awards, accommodations, directions to the Weight Pull, a statement about dog safety, advertising, meals, any special events, and additional activities

The Premium List must not be made public before the Weight Pull Committee receives approval from the SBCA WDC to conduct the pull(s).

The Weight Pull Chair or Secretary must keep the judge up to date on things such as hotel/travel information. The judge should be sent a Premium List, exchange cell phone numbers with someone on the Weight Pull Committee. The Weight Pull Secretary will keep a copy of the current SBCA Weight Pull Regulations at the pull site for reference. The Weight Pull Secretary should send a reminder to all handlers about sending in test evaluations if not turned in at the Weight Pull.

The Weight Pull Chair must submit reports to the SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary within 30 days after the event. The Weight Pull Chair's report will be sent electronically and include a description of the pull, descriptions of any problems or complaints registered with the Weight Pull Committee, the Weight Pull Certification Forms with registration numbers, a copy of the Premium List, a copy of the Weight Pull Chart, and any other information requested by the SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary.

The Weight Pull Chair will be responsible for ensuring that no unentered dogs are permitted in any of the pull areas at a Weight Pull.

The Weight Pull Chair will remind handlers to check on their dogs often and announce to handlers that dogs are not allowed to be kept in closed vehicles, even if the air conditioning is running. If a dog is in a vehicle, the vehicle must have at least one open window, door, or hatchback. **It is not the Weight Pull Committee's or Weight Pull Chair's responsibility to keep a dog safe.** Rather, it is the responsibility of whoever is charged with caring for the dog on that day, whether it be the handler or owner. The Weight Pull Chair's job is only to remind handlers of their responsibility. If possible, the Weight Pull Chair or other designated personnel should check on vehicles in the parking area throughout the day to be sure that no vehicles with dogs are totally closed and no vehicles with dogs are in the sun without sun protection.

The Weight Pull Chair or judges will ask handlers during the Handlers Meeting if there are any issues of which the Committee and judges should be aware such as severe allergies, heart condition, accommodations for a disability, or anything that the handler may want to share. In case of severe allergy, someone on site should know the location of the person's EpiPen. They should also announce that the Weight Pull Secretary has directions to the closest human and veterinary hospitals should they be needed. The Weight Pull Chair should also be sure that a tool made for breaking vehicle windows is available on site for vehicle owners to use, if necessary.

### **Section 3 - Dogs Eligible to Compete**

The National Specialty Weight Pulls are open only to purebred Saint Bernard dogs at least twelve months old and must have one of the following: AKC Registration number, ILP/PAL Number, Foreign Registration number and country of registration for an unregistered imported dog or an identification number issued by the AKC. The word "dog" in the SBCA Weight Pull Regulations refers to either sex.

All other Weight Pulls are open to purebred Saint Bernard Dogs and, at the discretion of the Weight Pull Chair, any other dogs that have one of the following: AKC registration number, ILP/PAL number, Foreign Registration number and country of registration or an identification number issued by AKC and dogs having an AKC Canine Partners Listing.

Dogs less than twelve months of age will not be eligible to earn titles. If dogs under twelve months of age participate in an SBCA Weight Pull, they must be in a class by themselves and not be allowed to pull over 8x their body weight.

Puppies and dogs other than purebred Saint Bernard Dogs must be recorded on a separate Weight Pull Chart.

Dogs that are entered in an SBCA Weight Pull and are between the ages of 12 and 18 months old will not be allowed to pull 12x or more of their body weight.

### **Section 4 - Dogs that May Not Compete**

Lame dogs or dogs that have been taped or bandaged in any way, or have anything attached to them for medical purposes, shall be ineligible to pull.

### **Section 5 - Bitches in Season**

Bitches in season may participate in SBCA Weight Pulls if the handler uses extra care to avoid problems with other dogs. When not in the Weight Pull Chute, bitches in season must be contained in a designated area well away from male dogs and the official Weight Pull areas.

The rules on Bitches in Season (BIS) apply to both intact bitches and those bitches who have received an Ovary Sparing Spay (OSS) and who are in season.

- BIS must compete in clean, dry, snugly fitting panties specifically designed for the purpose of preventing/containing discharges. The interior of the panties must be lined with an absorbent pad. Panties with shoulder/harness straps are not allowed. BIS with dirty, wet, and/or overly loose panties will be excused. If the situation is rectified the BIS may continue to pull

## **Section 6 - Un-entered Dogs**

The Weight Pull Chair will be responsible for ensuring that all un-entered dogs are kept outside and away from the main pull area.

## **Section 7 - Entering at Own Risk**

Entrants participate in an SBCA Weight Pull at their own risk. Entrants agree to abide by the SBCA Weight Pull Regulations and the Constitution and By-laws of the SBCA and the AKC Code of Sportsmanship.

## **Section 8 - Test Excusal and Ineligibility**

The Judge must immediately excuse and remove from competition a handler and dog for any of the following reasons:

- Any dog that attacks a person or dog on the event grounds
- Any handler who deliberately interferes with another handler or dog
- Any handler that behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner in or outside the weight pull area (Unsportsmanlike behavior includes directing angry, abusive language at a person or dog; mistreating a dog; showing discourtesies to judges, weight pull officials, or others)
- Any dog that is lame or wears corrective bandages or has anything attached to them for medical purposes

The Weight Pull Secretary will mark the dog excused on the Weight Pull Chart. The Weight Pull Chair will submit the Weight Pull Chart and the reason for the excusal to the SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary along with the Weight Pull Report.

## **Section 9 - Entries**

The Weight Pull Committee may decide on a minimum and/or maximum number of entries. If there are limits to the entry it must be published in the Premium List. Under no circumstances can the published entry limit be changed.

### **Accepting Entries**

The opening date is the earliest date an entry can be sent as indicated by the postmark or electronic date of the entry. There may be two closing dates, one for pre-entries and one for day of the weight pull entries. Pre-entries will be accepted by mail or an electronic entry system, must show a postmark or electronic entry date between the opening and closing date, and must be received by the Weight Pull Secretary by the closing date for pre-entries. The closing date for pre-entries is the last day an entry can be received by the Weight Pull Secretary and is unrelated to the postmark. The Weight Pull Secretary will not officially close the Weight Pull until the published final closing date and time of the event unless entries exceed the limit (if any) before the final closing date.

### **Withdrawing Entries and Refunds**

To withdraw an entry, the handler must notify the Weight Pull Secretary by telephone, email, or U.S. Mail. This should be done, if possible, early enough so that the Weight Pull Secretary receives the notification before the Weight Pull. The Weight Pull Secretary must confirm receipt of such notifications. The handler will receive a

full refund of the entry fee if the notification is received prior to the final closing date and time for entries. After the closing date and time has passed, no refunds will be given.

## **Section 10 - Change of Judges, Weight Pull Officials or Site**

If a Weight Pull Committee is informed, any time prior to the opening of its Weight Pull, that an advertised judge cannot fulfill their engagement to judge, the Weight Pull Committee will substitute a judge who meets the approved qualifications. The substitute judge must meet the approval of the SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary. If the Weight Pull Committee cannot contact the SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary, then it shall call the SBCA WDC Chair. If neither of these people is available, then contact any available member of the SBCA WDC.

The SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary may be notified by telephone or electronic means. This same policy applies to an emergency change of site, Weight Pull Chair, or Weight Pull Secretary. If the request is made by phone, a follow-up letter must be sent to the SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary by electronic means with a full explanation. The SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary must notify the SBCA WDC members of the changes and reasons for the request. (If time permits, a written notice should be sent to all exhibitors).

In the unlikely event that a judge becomes ill or is unable to fulfill the judging assignment on the day of the pull, the Weight Pull Committee may substitute an approved Weight Pull Judge who attends the pull to fulfill the assignment. If an approved judge is not available, a qualified person with considerable Weight Pull training and exhibiting experience may be appointed by the Weight Pull Committee to fulfill the assignment. A full explanation for the substitution, including the qualifications of the substitute judge, must be included in the Weight Pull Chair's report. Prior to the start of the pull, if there has been a substitution in the judging assignment(s), the judging change must be posted. Exhibitors have the right to withdraw their entry if they choose not to exhibit under the substitute judge and their entry fee will be refunded.

In the event a site must be changed, the Weight Pull Committee should make every effort to secure a suitable site within 25 miles of the original site.

If, because of natural disasters, civil disturbances, or other acts beyond the control of the weight pull giving club, it is impossible to start or complete the pull, no refund of entry fees will be made.

## **Section 11 - Emergency Provisions**

The Weight Pull Committee should take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of everyone involved. It is recommended that the services of a veterinarian be available during a Weight Pull. The veterinarian may be 'on call' if the office is within a reasonable drive and a telephone is available at the Weight Pull site. First aid equipment must be available to handle injuries. A backboard is recommended. A tool made for breaking vehicle windows should be available on site.

## **Section 12 - Titles**

The following titles shall be offered by the SBCA to all eligible Saint Bernards:

**WEIGHT PULLER** is based on a minimum level of performance. A dog that competes in three Weight Pulls and pulls a load of a minimum of 8 times its weight on snow or 10 times its weight on wheels, is entitled to use the title "**WEIGHT PULLER**" in any SBCA activity. The abbreviation for this title shall be "**WP**". Dogs must be at least 12 months of age before entering these trials.

**WEIGHT PULL EXCELLENT** is based upon an increase in difficulty. A dog that competes in at least three additional Weight Pulls, after achieving the Weight Puller Title and pulls a load of at least 10 times its weight on snow or 12 times its weight on wheels. Dogs must be at least 18 months of age before entering these trials. The dog is then entitled to use the title "**WEIGHT PULL EXCELLENT**" in any SBCA activity. The abbreviation for this title shall be "**WPX**".

**WEIGHT PULL SUPERIOR** is based upon further increasing difficulty. A dog that competes in at least three additional Weight Pulls after obtaining the Weight Pull Excellent title and pulls a load of at least 12 times its weight on snow or 14 times its weight on wheels. The dog is then entitled to use the title "**WEIGHT PULL SUPERIOR**" in any SBCA activity. The abbreviation for this title shall be "**WPS**".

**WEIGHT PULL CHAMPION** is based upon further increasing difficulty. A dog that competes in at least three additional Weight Pulls after obtaining the Weight Pull Superior title and pulls a load of at least 14 times its weight on snow or 16 times its weight on wheels. The dog is then entitled to use the title "**WEIGHT PULL CHAMPION**" in any SBCA activity. The abbreviation for this title shall be "**WPCH**".

**WEIGHT PULL GRAND CHAMPION** is based upon further increasing difficulty. A dog that competes in at least three additional Weight Pull Trials after obtaining the Weight Pull Champion title and pulls a load of at least 16 times its weight on snow or 18 times its weight on wheels. The dog is then entitled to use the title "**WEIGHT PULL GRAND CHAMPION**" in any SBCA activity. The abbreviation for this title shall be "**WPGC**".

**WEIGHT PULL GRAND CHAMPION BRONZE** is based upon further increasing difficulty. A dog that competes in at least three additional Weight Pulls after obtaining the Weight Pull Grand Champion title and pulls a load of at least 18 times its weight on snow or 20 times its weight on wheels. The dog is then entitled to use the title "**WEIGHT PULL GRAND CHAMPION BRONZE**" in any SBCA activity. The abbreviation for this title shall be "**WPGB**".

**WEIGHT PULL GRAND CHAMPION SILVER** is based upon further increasing difficulty. A dog that competes in at least three additional Weight Pulls after obtaining the Weight Pull Grand Champion Bronze title and pulls a load of at least 20 times its weight on snow or 22 times its weight on wheels. The dog is then entitled to use the title "**WEIGHT PULL GRAND CHAMPION SILVER**" in any SBCA activity. The abbreviation for this title shall be "**WPGS**".

**WEIGHT PULL GRAND CHAMPION GOLD** is based upon further increasing difficulty. A dog that competes in at least three additional Weight Pulls after obtaining the Weight Pull Grand Champion Silver title and pulls a load of at least 22 times its weight on snow or 24 times its weight on wheels. The dog is then entitled to use the title "**WEIGHT PULL GRAND CHAMPION GOLD**" in any SBCA activity. The abbreviation for this title shall be "**WPGG**".

**WEIGHT PULL GRAND CHAMPION PLATINUM** is based upon further increasing difficulty. A dog that competes in at least three additional Weight Pulls after obtaining the Weight Pull Grand Champion Gold title and pulls a load of at least 24 times its weight on snow or 26 times its weight on wheels. The dog is then entitled to use the title "**WEIGHT PULL GRAND CHAMPION PLATINUM**" in any SBCA activity. The abbreviation for this title shall be "**WPGP**".



## **Section 13 - Awards**

The following awards shall be offered at a SBCA Weight Pull to eligible Saint Bernards:

### **Highest Percentage Pulled**

The dog pulling the Highest Percentage (weight/load ratio or weight pulled divided by the dog's body weight) of all Saint Bernard entrants will earn the award "Highest Percentage Pulled." If the percentage is the same (calculation taken to the 0.00001), time will be the deciding factor on which dog earns the award. If 2 or more dogs pull the exact same percentage, the dog with the faster time is considered "Highest Percentage Pulled". If the percentages and times are the same, then the percentage and times from the previous round of pulls is used.

### **Highest Weight Pulled**

The dog pulling the Highest Weight of all Saint Bernard entrants will earn the award "Highest Weight Pulled." If 2 or more dogs pull the same weight, the dog with the faster time is considered "Highest Weight Pulled". If the weights and times are the same, then the weight and times from the previous round of pulls is used.

### **Qualifying legs**

Any dog pulling a qualifying leg for a title will earn the award "Qualifying Pull."

## **Section 14 – Weight Pull Chute and Holding Area**

### **Snow**

The weight pulling chute shall be in an area not less than ten (10) feet no more than twenty (20) feet wide, and not less than thirty-five (35) feet long. The chute will open on the end toward which the pull is made. The chute shall be as level as hard packed snow permits. If there is any perceptible slope to the chute, the direction of the pull shall be toward the higher end. There shall be at least one (1) physical barrier separating the crowd from the chute. Dogs shall achieve traction on the same surface as that on which the sled rides.

### **Wheeled**

The dimensions and the description of the weight pull chute shall be the same for wheeled pulls as for snow pulls. The chute shall be as level and firm as conditions permit. If there is any perceptible slope to the chute, the direction of the pull shall be toward the higher end. Acceptable surfaces shall be natural conditions of grass, hard dirt, gravel, or carpeting on man-made surface. Dogs shall achieve traction on the same surface as that on which the cart rides.

### **Holding Area**

A safe and adequate holding area shall be provided for both snow and wheeled pulls. All competing dogs shall remain in a marked or designated holding area. The holding area shall adequately and safely hold the number of dogs in competition.

## **Section 15 – Equipment Requirements**

### **Snow**

The sled must be capable of safely carrying a load of 3500 lbs. The two runners must be flat, 2 to 4 inches wide, and at least seven feet long on the contact surface and curved at the front and rear ends in a reasonable manner for a sled. The runners shall consist of a p-tex material or steel runners. It is suggested that the sled platform be between 30 and 48 inches in width and the platform length should be approximately 72 inches.

## **Wheeled**

If the pull is held on a surface other than snow, a wheeled cart shall be used. It must be capable of safely carrying a load of 3,500 pounds without any significant deflection, distortion, or deformation; that is, the cart must be designed so that no component bends, sags, twists or undergoes any perceptible change when the cart is loaded. **NOTE:** The stiffness is the most important characteristic of such carts, since imperceptible changes in cart geometry (that is; relationships of one part to another) can have a negative impact on the force required to move the cart. This will impact the dog's weight-to-load ratios and penalize the heavier dogs that would have to overcome a greater resistance to movement in addition to the heavier weight. It is suggested that the cart platform be between 30 and 48 inches in width and the platform length should be approximately 72 inches.

## **Tires**

The Wheeled Cart must have four pneumatic tires which must all have the same air pressure prior to the event. The Wheeled Cart must be fitted with four pneumatic tires, which must all have the same air pressure prior to the event; with the inflated tire diameter being between 8 and 18 inches. A spare tire for the cart or adequate repair kit should be available at the pull site.

## **Tug line**

The sled or cart shall be provided with an adequate tug line of total length so that the point of attachment to the dog's harness will be a minimum of 6 feet, but no longer than the length of the sled. The tug line shall be made of rope or nylon. Chains or cables will not be allowed.

## **Break line**

The rear of the sled will be equipped with a 6 foot or longer brake line. The break line shall be made of rope or nylon. Chains or cables will not be allowed.

## **Bridle**

The **snow sled** may be provided with a bridle and tug line of total length so that the point of attachment to the dog's harness will be a minimum of 6 feet, but no longer than the length of the sled. The bridle shall be made of rope or nylon. Chains or cables will not be allowed. The sled bridle shall be tied together at a point 2 to 3 feet in front of the sled. The bridle will look like a Y.

The wheeled cart may be provided with a bridle of total length so that the point of attachment to the dog's harness will be a minimum of 6 feet, but no longer than the length of the sled. The bridle shall be made of rope or nylon. Chains or cables will not be allowed. The cart bridle shall not be tied. The snap should be able to slide freely from side to side. This bridle will look like a long V.

## **Freight Material**

Weighted material must be available for both snow and wheeled events. An adequate supply of inert material suitable for safe, stable stacking shall be provided. **NOTE:** The vehicle weight is to be added to the load weight when recording "weight pulled".

## **Barriers**

The chute barrier shall be a minimum of 3 feet high and not less than 35 feet long. The chute barrier shall be located at the very edge of the pulling pad, within the chute area. The best possible barriers shall be encouraged, but any one material shall not be mandatory. The following would be considered appropriate chute barriers: plywood, wood planks, hog panels and other materials that possess a bouncing-off or glancing ability when struck by the sled/cart, snow fence is not an acceptable barrier. (If the sled or cart becomes stuck or lodged on a barrier, it would then be considered a tangle). A crowd barrier is required to separate the spectators a minimum distance of 3 feet from the pulling chute. A rope barrier is considered adequate for this purpose.

## **Scale**

The scale must be large enough to weigh the dogs, freight material, and sled/cart.

## **Stopwatch or Timing Device**

The Weight Pull Committee shall provide a stopwatch or device capable of timing to at least 100th of a second.

## **Section 16 – Registration, Check-in, and Weigh-in**

### **Registration and Check-in**

At the published Registration or Check-in time, entrants will need to make sure their Weight Pull Certification Form is fully and properly filled out and entry fees paid. Entry fees are non-refundable except by approval of the Weight Pull Chair. After the Weight Pull Certification Form is submitted and the entry fee paid, the dog will be weighed.

### **Weigh-in**

The dog's weight for the pull shall be according to the official readings on the equipment provided. All recorded dog weights *must* be rounded to the lowest whole pound. All weigh-ins will be overseen by the Weight Official and all dogs will be weighed in on the same scale provided for the pull. Only one weighing will be done. During the weight reading the dog must not be subject to vertical or horizontal pull or pressure. During the weight reading, if the dog does not remain quiet for the reading within a reasonable time the Weight Official will make a conservative judgment of the weight reading. An alternate official should weigh any dog handled by the Weight Official.

The cart and freight material shall be weighed on the same scale as the dogs. All recorded weights *must* be rounded to the lowest whole pound. The uniform freight material weight can be estimated by loading a multiple of weight and dividing by the number of items. (Example: 5 blocks weigh 177 lbs.  $177/5=35.4$ , the blocks will each weigh 35 lbs.)

## **Section 17 – Weight Pull Officials and Their Duties**

### **The Weight Pull Judge**

The judge shall supervise the overall event. They will make all final decisions in any protest or dispute, before, during and after the event, unless it conflicts with the SBCA Weight Pull Regulations. The judge has the right to excuse any dog or handler for any violation of the regulations or unsportsmanlike conduct, before, during and after the event. The SBCA WDC believes that the Weight Pull Judges should thoroughly understand Weight Pulls and the physical conditioning necessary for Weight Pulling. Judges selected by a Weight Pull Committee for a SBCA Weight Pull should be chosen for their ability to judge a Saint Bernard working in harness. Judges should possess thorough knowledge of the Weight Pull Regulations, a sense of fairness and consideration for the efforts and safety of dogs and handlers. Before the Weight Pull Committee applies for permission to sponsor an SBCA Weight Pull, it must select a judge that meets the qualifications approved by the SBCA WDC. An approved list of qualified judges is available from the SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary.

### **The Weight Pull Secretary**

The Weight Pull Secretary will be responsible for the completion of all forms and information required by the SBCA WDC. The forms will be used for official SBCA WDC records and to publish results of the event.

- After the handlers meeting, the dogs' names and weights will be placed on the weight pull chart in pull order. The pull order should be randomized. Any handler with more than one dog may be separated by other entrants in the pull order

- The weight pull chart will show the weight pulled and under the weight pulled will be recorded the results of the pull. Pull times for a completed pull. Pass (P) for a handler deciding to skip or not pull a particular round or weight. Did Not Pull (DNP) for when a dog is unable to complete the pull within the time limit. Non-Qualifying Pull (NQ) for a dog or handler who either accrues a second tangle on a pull round or fouls out. Excusals (EX) are covered in Section 9 - Test Excusal and Ineligibility
- The weight pull secretary will calculate the "weight/load ratio" (weight pulled divided by the dog's weight) as dogs are eliminated from competition
- The weight pull secretary will monitor the order of calls to the weight pull chute, on deck calls, pass announcements, etc., and notify the announcer if there is confusion. The weight pull chart will be the basic guide should confusion develop
- The weight pull secretary will notify the announcer of the "on deck", next dog waiting to pull, or dogs passing

### **The Timer**

The timer should position themselves to see and judge the start and finish lines. The timer is responsible for starting and stopping the time according to the procedures delineated in Section 18 – Procedures for The Weight Pull Event. When the pull is completed successfully, the timer announces the seconds elapsed, leaving it registered on the stopwatch or timing device until the weight pull secretary has recorded it. "Did Not Pull (DNP)" is announced for an incomplete pull. The timer should announce appropriate time lapses during the pull as a warning to the handler.

## **Section 18 – Procedures for The Weight Pull Event**

### **Handlers Meeting**

A handlers' meeting will be held at the start of the Weight Pull. The Judge will answer any question applicable to the Weight Pull Regulations.

### **Weight Pull Round**

For each round, each dog competing in that round shall be required to pull a loaded sled/ cart a measured 16 feet within 60 seconds. If the sled/cart is in *continuous forward* motion when time expires, the dog shall be allowed to complete the pull and the actual time required to make the pull shall be recorded. The time begins when the handler has released the dog and the dog first begins to pull, or when the handler has released the dog and calls or signals the dog to pull.

### **Handling the Dog**

The handler shall be allowed to position their dog anywhere in front of the sled/cart at the end of the extended tug line/bridle. There must not be any slack in the tug-line or bridle, however the tug-line/bridle can either lie on the ground with all the slack removed or suspended in the air with just enough slack in the tug line/bridle to prevent the dog from inadvertently moving the sled/cart. No dog will be allowed to begin its pull until it has been positioned at the end of the tug line in front of the sled/cart. Dogs may be handled from any position in the pull area, front, side, or back.

- Slingshot starts will not be permitted. A slingshot start is when there is so much slack in the tug-line/bridle that when the dog attempts the pull, they are jerked backwards when they hit the end of the tug-line/bridle.
- Walking the dog into the start will not be permitted. All of the dog's feet must be on the ground before the handler releases the dog, AND a momentary stop in forward motion once slack has been taken out of the line. NO "turn and burn" starts.

- No physical handling of the dog shall be allowed once the dog is in position in front of the sled/cart. Handling consists of anyone touching the dog, its harness, the sled or cart, or any other part of the equipment or load once the handler signals the start of the pull.
- Only one handler is allowed to communicate with the dog with appropriate commands during the dog's pull.

### **Starting Weight and Weight Increments**

The official starting weight is at least 500 pounds. Weight increments must be at least 100 lbs, as determined by a consensus of the handlers.

### **Passing**

The handler has the option of passing as many times as desired, including the starting weight.

### **Tangles**

Tangles are called at the Judge's or Handler's discretion. A tangle shall be called by the judge/handler only if the dog or any of the equipment in use becomes entangled in such a way that it could possibly cause injury to the dog. In the event of a tangle, the timer will pause time and the handler must realign the dog and harness before the pull is resumed. Two tangles on the same round will constitute a "Non-Qualifying (NQ)" pull.

If any part of the harness or other equipment malfunctions, including but not limited to cart, barriers, or weight, the handler may repeat the pull after repairs. Weights falling off the sled/cart will be considered an equipment malfunction. They may also choose to accept this interrupted pull as a pass.

### **Treats**

The handler may treat their dog between rounds with rewards. But they can NOT be on the handler in the weight pull chute. Handlers may NOT use leashes as toys or bait. They may NOT use their arm as "bait" like a bite sleeve to get the dog to pull. No whips, noisemakers, muzzles, pinch collars, electric collars, or other related aids will be allowed at any time before, during or after the weight pull event.

### **Additional Procedures**

No dogs, including those not entered in the competition, shall be allowed in the area ahead of the starting line except for the dog that is pulling.

ALL members of the dog's family, co-owners and trainers must remain behind the starting line and 10 feet from the weight pull chute.

If the timer neglects to time a pull and the pull is successful, it will be called a successful pull. If the time is required to break a tie, the time of the previous pull will be used.

Leads must be removed before the pull attempt.

When called on deck the handler may call out "pass" to skip a turn.

The handler may request weight/load ratio calculations before attempting greater weights.

If the position of the cart is changed, the wheels must be perpendicular to the start line. No test rolling of the cart shall be allowed. If the Weight Pull Committee decides to re-position the cart, it will be the responsibility of the Judge to assure that all dogs compete under the same conditions. The cart must remain in proximity to the same track until all dogs pulling that weight have completed their pull. The cart may then be moved to another

location in the chute only if, in the opinion of the judge or a consensus of the handlers, it is determined that the track has been damaged.

**Section 19 – Protests**

Discipline for violations of the SBCA Weight Pull Regulations will be under the provisions of the SBCA Constitution and By-Laws. Complaints must be registered in writing with the Weight Pull Chair no later than 30 minutes following the announcement of awards.

**Section 20 – Weight Pull Year**

For statistical purposes, records shall be kept based on a weight pull year. The weight pull year shall run from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year.

**Section 21 – Earning Weight Pull Legs and Titles with Other Organizations**

For a fee, the SBCA WDC will accept legs pulled with other organizations to count towards SBCA Weight Pull titles. For a list of approved organizations, please contact the SBCA WDC Weight Pull Secretary.

End of SBCA Weight Pull Regulations

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Copies of the SBCA Weight Pull Regulations and Weight Pull Applications may be obtained from SBCA Weight Pull Secretary via e-mail or from the SBCA Web page

SBCA Working Dog Committee

Chair

Vicki Graves

[Vidory@msn.com](mailto:Vidory@msn.com)

Weight Pull Secretary

Kristen Scott

[Jeulkreek@gmail.com](mailto:Jeulkreek@gmail.com)

SBCA WDC Drafting Secretary

Neil Hall

[Cascadesaintbernards@gmail.com](mailto:Cascadesaintbernards@gmail.com)

WDC Members

Rachel Brown

[Rkb7905@yahoo.com](mailto:Rkb7905@yahoo.com)

Jann Hayes

[Saintmom@sonic.net](mailto:Saintmom@sonic.net)

Beth Horn

[Gspwillow@gmail.com](mailto:Gspwillow@gmail.com)

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