



## ABKC Weight Pull Rules & Requirements

February 2012

### PROPER EQUIPMENT IS MANDATORY WHEN HOLDING ABKC SANCTIONED WEIGHT PULL

#### Hosting club(s) must provide:

- a) Weights – Ranging from 60 lbs. and up
- b) Scale – Check weight for scale MUST be certified (stamped) by state or hanging scale is accepted
- c) Regulation stopwatch or a digital stop clock
- d) Rope – for pulling area and holding area
- e) Chalk board/dry-erase board of any type (*large enough for easy viewing by all*) for recording weight.
- f) Ribbon awards: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for each weight class, male & female. Ten (10) classes each for male and female – Twenty (20) total. (Ribbon awards are to be provided by hosting clubs)
- g) Three (3) trophies will be awarded. One for Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight, one for the overall winner of the 75 pound and under classes and one for the overall winner of the of the 76 pound and over classes. (Trophies are to be supplied by hosting clubs.)
- h) ABKC eight pull judges book – (Results MUST be on ABKC approved weight pull forms.)
- i) Current weight pulling rules for handouts.
- j) Weight pull-scoring sheets
- k) Registration entry forms or weight pull

### OFFICIALS AND DUTIES

**Judge:** Must be sanctioned by ABKC and in good standing. Directs the eight pull and settles any disputes. The Judge has the final decision on any questions or procedures. The judge directs the loading of cart, informs scorekeeper of total weight on cart and is in charge of the cart people.

**Scorekeeper #1:** Keeps record of weights pulled and times of pull for each dog. Records fouls.

**Scorekeeper #2:** Announces results and records winners in each weight division.

**Scorekeeper #3:** Keeps results of times and weights pulled on the scoreboard for participants and audience.

**Entrance Monitor:** Controls holding area, has dogs on deck, harnessed and in pulling position. Informs handlers of the weight dogs are pulling.

**Cart People:** Loads and unloads the cart and positions the cart for the next pull.

**The weight pull judge and/or family members cannot enter or pull a dog in a weight pull that he/she is judging unless an alternate judge, judges the entire class the dog is entered in.**

## **ABKC CERTIFIED WEIGHT PULL RULES:**

### **Weigh In:**

- Each dog must be weighed in the same day of the event
  - Weigh in times will be posted and open for 1 hour before pull begins.
  - No dogs will be accepted AFTER weight pull begins
  - All dogs entered must be registered with ABKC (Temp numbers can be purchased)
  - Two officials must be present during the time of weigh in
  - Spayed or neutered dogs **ARE** allowed to enter in an ABKC sanctioned weight pull. All dogs must have, however, both eyes and all 4 legs.
  - No artificial aids or illegal substances may be used to enhance a dog's performance. If the dog appears to be under illegal substance use, the judge will require a substance use test. If found that the dog test positive for illegal substances the owner and the dog will be banned from future ABKC weight pull sanctioned events.
  - All dogs must be one (1) year or over to compete for a title. Dogs nine (9) to twelve (12) months of age may enter as a novice, only on a leash and only up to 10xs their body weight in competition.
  - There is no qualifying pull necessary to enter weight pull
  - Dogs must make a complete pull (a minimum of one round at the minimum required weight) to receive points and awards
1. All dogs must be ABKC registered and no less than nine (9) months of age (to date of birth) to enter.
  2. No bitches in heat will be allowed to enter. If a bitch is allowed to enter deceitfully, the judge will disqualify that dog and no entry fee will be refunded. This includes pregnant and lactating females.
  3. While participating in event(s), leads are to be no longer than 4 feet and attached to a "belt buckle" collar. Collar must be secure. No "quick release" snaps, "choke chains" or "flex" leads will be allowed.
  4. No dogs that are aggressive to humans will be allowed to enter. (Muzzled or not muzzled.) No aggressive action will be allowed by dogs toward handler or any official during pull competition. If a dog of this temperament is allowed to enter in error, the judge will disqualify that dog and no entry fee will be refunded. Excitement is NOT to be interpreted as aggression. Remember, your dog may be handled by persons OTHER than yourself.
  5. All equipment to be used by contestants MUST be checked by judge, prior to use.
  6. The weight pull track must be verified consistently level or at incline by judge before the weight pull begins. The decision of how often the track will be checked throughout the competition is to be determined by the judge.
  7. No artificial aids may be used on dogs' feet, ie carpet, etc. Dog pads are to be clean, free of any stick-em, etc. Cleaning of the dog pads with a dry or water only damp towel is allowed.
  8. Time will begin by a go/pull command or by the handler releasing the dog. The handler must let the judge know before beginning their pull, what command he/she will use and must be consistent. The judge may start the time if the dog begins to pull without handler command. The judge's decision is final.
  9. Dogs designated as an American Bully Weight Pull Champion (ABWPCH) or above can NOT enter regular weight pull competition. No dog is considered an ABWPCH until 100 points have been achieved.

10. Fouls will be called and the entrant will be disqualified in the weight class competing in after three fouls are committed. (Example: Foul, Foul, Foul, then out.) Fouls may be committed intentionally or unintentionally. The following is a list of fouls:
  - a. Touching the cart or dog in any way after time has been started,
  - b. Pushing, dropping or pulling dog after pull has started,
  - c. Aggressive action of handler towards dog during pull competition,
  - d. Running out of time or taking longer than the 60 seconds allowed to begin the pull. If the cart is in continuous forward motion at the end of 60 seconds, the dog is allowed to complete the pull.
11. Alibis – Unintentional circumstances that make a dog unable to complete a pull. The judge will stop time and instruct the handlers to handle their dog and cart. (An example of these circumstances could be: tangling in the traces or harnesses, equipment malfunction, or any outside interference that prevents the dog from completing their pull. Handler may point out a possible alibi, but the judge will have the final decision. Any three alibis = one foul. If a pull is interrupted by a foul or an alibi, the dog is to be immediately taken back to the starting line and pull will begin again. No pull will be valid unless it is an uninterrupted pull. If a dog is disqualified, his last valid pull is his top pull of that class.
12. If a dog completes the pull off the track, it is considered a complete pull as long as no fouls or alibis are committed.
13. There will be ten (10) different weight classes. Separate awards will be given to males and females for 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each weight division. The dogs will be weighed and placed into the following classes:

<b>0 – 35 lbs</b>	<b>Males &amp; Females</b>
<b>36 – 45 lbs</b>	<b>Males &amp; Females</b>
<b>46 – 55 lbs</b>	<b>Males &amp; Females</b>
<b>56 – 65 lbs</b>	<b>Males &amp; Females</b>
<b>66 – 75 lbs</b>	<b>Males &amp; Females</b>
<b>76 – 85 lbs</b>	<b>Males &amp; Females</b>
<b>86 – 95 lbs</b>	<b>Males &amp; Females</b>
<b>96 – 105 lbs</b>	<b>Males &amp; Females</b>
<b>106 – 115 lbs</b>	<b>Males &amp; Females</b>
<b>116 lbs and over</b>	<b>Males &amp; Females</b>

Dogs must be entered in their natural body weight class. If a dog weight is exactly 55 lbs., the owner may enter their dog in the 44 to 55 lb. class. The weight pull is a test of strength and stamina, not brute strength.

14. All weight pull awards will be decided by most weight pulled per pound of body weight, with the lowest common denominator being 40 lbs., regardless of the dog's natural body weight. Dogs weighing in less than 40 lbs. will be calculated as if they weighed 40 pounds.
15. Three (3) trophies will be awarded for Most Weight Pulled per Pounds of Body Weight.
  - a. One (1) for the overall winner of the 75 pound and under classes,
  - b. One (1) for 76 pound and over classes. (Lowest common denominator will be 40 lbs.) Sex is not a factor when determining the winner of these two awards
  - c. One for Most Weight Pulled Overall

*(These weight divisions will give enough latitude that the handler's expertise will be an influential factor for a winning pull. This variance will allow for experimenting in training in order to bring a dog to its most efficient pulling weight. This will also encourage a handler to work and condition the dog and not bring an "off the yard" animal into*

- competition. Remember the saying "crawl before you walk." Take your time and work at your dog's pace.)*
16. Certification will be made by weight pull judge of the club's cart and individual weights to be used. Total weight of cart and traces will be considered as part of the total weight pulled.
  17. Traces must be no less than four (4) feet and no more than six (6) feet long. Handler will allow no more than one (1) foot of slack in the traces.
  18. Harnesses must be supplied by owner of the dog. *(A well-fitting harness is an advantage for your dog. This will encourage handlers and owners to provide their own harnesses made to fit the dog that is pulling and made to weigh as little as possible.)* Any harness used must be a "standard harness." Shocks, springs, etc., cannot be used on a harness. No leashes will be allowed to be attached to the dog, collar or harness while the dog is pulling.
  19. Any surface selected by the club must be as smooth and level as possible. A paved surface is NOT acceptable unless covered by thick carpet in order to protect the dog's feet. *(Every dog is pulling the same cart under the same conditions and surface for that day's competition. Your dog is competing with the dogs of their weight division under equal conditions for that day pulling awards.)*
  20. The holding area should be positioned behind the track so the pulling dogs will not be interfered with.
  21. The pulling track will be roped off or blocked off ten (10) feet on each side of track to prevent spectators from crowding the pulling track and distracting the pulling contestant. **NO SPECTATING DOGS ARE ALLOWED IN SPECTATING AREA.**
  22. Points will be given for 1<sup>st</sup> place (10 points), 2<sup>nd</sup> place (5 points) and 3<sup>rd</sup> place (3 points). Trophy award (10 bonus points)
  23. Males and females will pull with each other, in the same class. Males will pull first. (The judge has checked all bitches or heat before competition.)
  24. Start and finish lines will be marked plainly with the length of pulling surface extending far enough beyond the 16 feet so that the dog may remain on the pulling surface after pull is completed.
  25. Dogs will be called to the holding area where dog's number will be checked. The pull will commence according to the weight divisions. Lightest weight class will pull first.
  26. Dogs must pull the cart and weight a total of 16 feet in 60 seconds.
  27. Ties will be broken by elapsed time it took to complete the pull. In the event of a tie due to club running out of weights, additional weights can be provided in any form as long as the judge & hosting clubs approve it. (Safety and club's liability is first concern when considering this option. Therefore, elapsed time should be used whenever possible to break all ties.) The judge will make the decision as to how ties will be broken. The judge's decision will be final.
  28. The first weight round for all dogs in each class will be determined by the judge, after discussion with the handlers entered in that class. The starting weight will be no less than three (3) times the weight of the heaviest dog in weight class, plus the weight of the cart and traces and ten (10) times the dog's weight in order to earn points. If combining classes, use weight of the heaviest dog in the heaviest class plus the weight of the cart and traces to determine the starting weight. A pull will not be valid unless it is a complete, uninterrupted pull. Fouls or alibis occurring will result in the pull being started over.
  29. The judge will determine the increase in weight to be pulled for each round. The judge's decision is final.
  30. Every dog has the right to sit out on a weight increase no more than three (3) times in a row. (Choose to pull at a weight increase or wait for the next weight increase.) This

need not be done consecutively. Sit-outs will start after a dog has made one (1) complete pull. The handler has the option to pass 1, 2, or 3 times in a row but must pull on the fourth turn. Once the dog is hooked up to the sled/cart the handler may not pass in that round. Passing of up to three (3) times in a row may be done an unlimited number of times throughout the pull.

31. All dogs entered in a weight class will pull to completion (pull out) and awards will be determined before the next weight class begins. Every dog will put to his/her weight limit in the class entered, thereby determining the first, second and third place awards. A process of elimination at increased weights determined by the judge is the only way to eliminate dogs until awards can be given. Weight classes can be combined if holding area can accommodate all the dogs in the class. Extra care must be taken to keep records straight when combining classes.
32. Dogs will pull in turn, but no dog will be required to pull without five minutes allowed between pulls. If the rest period is taken, the pull is to continue with a dog reentering as soon as the rest period is up. Handler may choose to waive the 5-minute rest period.
33. Dogs will be harnessed after being called to get ready and remain harnessed in the holding area until the dog is called to the pulling track. Dog will then be able to complete. Dogs will be eliminated if dog failed to complete the pull or is fouled out, or he will remain at the rear of the line in the holding area for the next pulling round. (Harness may be removed from dog between pulls, as long as contestant does not hold up pull.) The cart will be placed with front wheels directly behind and touching the starting line. The round is complete and time recorded when front wheels first touch the finish line.
34. Two handlers may work the dog if allowed.
35. Baiting of the dog is NOT ALLOWED! Dogs may be treated while in the holding area waiting for their turn to pull. Treats may not be on person while pulling dog. A person caught with treats in their pocket, in their hand, or on their person will be automatically disqualified from remainder of pull and no refund will be made on registration fee.

## **REGULAR WEIGHT PULL CLASSES:**

Awards will consist of:

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for each weight class – Males and females pull together but will have separate placements

### **Three (3) Trophy Awards:**

Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight – 75 lb. & under (15 points)

Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight – 76 lb & over (15 points)

Most Weight Pulled (whole show) (15 points)

(Trophies are to be supplied by hosting club)

*Notice: Any additional FUN SHOW trophies or ribbons may be given at discretion of the club(s) but required ABKC awards MUST be given and ONLY these awards will receive points.*

### **Points for each weight class:**

First Place: 10 points

Second Place: 5 points

Third Place: 3 points

### **Points and Titles:**

- WPC:**           **Weight Pull Champion** - To earn this title dogs must have a total of 100 points
- WPG:**           **Weight Pull Grand Champion** - To earn this title dogs must have a total of 300 points.
- WPGE:**         **Weight Pull Grand Champion Elite** - To earn this title dogs must have a total of 400 points

All Champion and above classes:

- This is a class that is held for dogs that have earned the title of “WPC”
- Only dogs that have a “WPC” title may compete in this class. A minimum of FIVE dogs entered is required to hold this class. Points earned from this class will go towards advancing to the other weight pull titles.
- The weight divisions for the classes:
  - 55 lbs & under
  - 95 lbs & under
  - 96 lbs and over
- The “sit outs” are allowed for each dogs. Champions’ rest period between pulls if five (5) minutes.
- Males and females pull together in weight classes. Weight classes can be combined. Extra care must be taken to keep records straight if combining weight classes.
- The beginning weight to be pulled will be decided by the handlers and judge.
- Champions will be competing for Most Weight Pulled Per Pound of Body Weight 75 lbs and under; and Most Weight Pulled Per Pound of Body Weight 76 lbs and over, trophy awards, along with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards in each weight division.
- All weight pull awards are also decided by the most weight pulled per pound of body weight, with the lowest common denominator set at 40lbs. Sex of winners is not a factor.
- Trophy Awards; 1<sup>st</sup>: 15 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: 5 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 3 points.

*It is fact that the strongest dog is the one that can pull the most weight per body pound. The focus of the WPC class is the same as the non-champion, or regular, class to determine the strongest dog competing within each division of the day’s competition.*

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*ABKC reserves the right to make ANY changes to rules and regulations at any time.*