

Down East Sled Dog Club, Inc.

By-Laws

I. Name

The name of the club shall be the Down East Sled Dog Club, Inc. hereinafter to be known as DESDC, Inc.

II. Object

The object of the club shall be:

- A. To promote public interest in, and the understanding of the sport of sled dog racing.
- B. To promote the humane and responsible breeding, care, training, and driving of sled dogs.

III. Membership

- A. Any person who supports and promotes the purposes of the club shall be eligible for membership
- B. The Board of Directors or the membership shall refuse membership to anyone or eject for cause.
- C. There shall be two types of membership: racing and associate.

IV. Officers

- A. The officers of the club shall be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.
- B. The President presides at all meetings, appoints all committees, preserves order, makes parliamentary decisions and rulings, votes only to break a tie in a voice or roll call vote, votes as any other member in a ballot vote, and leaves the chair to debate-never debates from the chair.
- C. The Vice President, in the absence or inability of the President to serve, must take over the duties of the President. The Vice President will act as trophy and point chairman and maintain the club scrapbook.
- D. The Recording Secretary shall preserve the records and past proceedings of the club, and keep a true and accurate record of meetings and decisions of the club during his or her tenure of office.
- E. The Corresponding Secretary shall notify the members of meetings, and maintain all club correspondence, including but not limited to a club newsletter.
- F. The Treasurer shall take and keep possession of the stock and other property of the club, keep a true and accurate record thereof, receive all monies from the hands of club members, and pay all approved debts of the club. The Board of Directors shall have the ultimate authority to approve the payment of debts and to authorize the expenditure of club funds.
- G. The Assistant Treasurer, in the absence or inability of the Treasurer to serve, must take over the duties of the Treasurer.
- H. In the event that the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are absent from a function, the President is hereby authorized to sign checks and will designate someone to accept monies and keep such records as are necessary at said function
- I. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the club, the immediate past President of the club, and eight (8) other members elected by the club, one of which will be a junior member, under the age of 18. Their duties shall consist of formulating plans for accomplishing the purposes of the club and they shall be authorized to act in the name of the club in time of emergency or need. The term of office for the Board of Directors shall be their tenure as an officer of the club. The past President shall serve for one year. The members of the Board elected by the club shall serve for three years. The President of the club shall serve as Chairperson of the Board.
- J. Any officer who fails to attend two consecutive meetings shall relinquish his honor.

V. Committees

- A. A Racing Committee voted on by the members at the annual meeting, or appointed by the Board of Directors shall consist of:
 1. Race Marshall and or Race Manager
 2. Chief Judge
 3. Chief Timer
 4. Club President
 5. Club Vice-President
 6. (1) Board Member At Large (to be appointed by the race committee)
 7. Race Liaison

- B. A Publicity Committee shall be voted on by members at the annual meeting, or appointed by the Board of Directors.
- C. An Animal Welfare Committee shall be voted on by members at the annual meeting, or appointed by the Board of Directors.

VI. Meetings

- A. Since the fiscal year begins May 1 and ends April 30, the annual spring meeting will be held in April at which time officers and committees will be elected for the ensuing year. The annual meeting will be held on the last Sunday in April. At least one other regular meeting will be held; usually in conjunction with the fall rig race the last Sunday in October. Other meetings shall be held as deemed necessary by the President, with the Corresponding Secretary providing at least ten (10) days notice to all members in good standing.
- B. Notices of meetings shall be sent to all regular members. Twenty percent (20%) of the membership shall constitute a quorum. All questions will be decided by majority vote.

VII. Dues

- A. Dues shall be \$10.00 per year for Racing members, and \$5.00 per year for associate members.
- B. Honorary or Lifetime members shall not pay dues and will be allowed one vote. Any person may be elected an Honorary or Lifetime member by unanimous vote of the members of DESDC, Inc.

VIII. Amendments

A written request for a change to the bylaws will be made during a club meeting. The request will be read at the meeting and voted on at the next meeting, after a recommendation of the Board of Directors. A written copy will be submitted to the membership in the meeting notice. A vote by the majority of the members present, providing they constitute a quorum will be needed for the change.

IX. Awards and Points

- A. Professional, Sportsman, & Junior Championships
 - 1. A **Club Championship** will be awarded for the Professional and Sportsman divisions of the Unlimited, 6 dog, 4 dog, and 1 dog and 2 dog skijoring.
 - 2. The **Maine State Championship** will be awarded to the Maine resident driver who has the highest number of points for the season in each class.
 - 3. A club **Junior Championship** will be awarded to the Junior driver (14 years of age or younger) with the highest number of points in the 2-3 dog Junior class for the season.
 - 4. The **Nolke Trophy** will be awarded to the Maine resident 8-dog driver with the highest number of points for the season.
 - 5. The **Peggy Grant Award** will be given to the 4 dog Sportsman driver with the highest number of points for the season.
 - 6. The **Nooksack Trophy** will be awarded to the Maine resident Junior driver with the highest number of points for the season
 - 7. The **Ogatai Award** will be given to the 1 dog driver with the highest number of points for the season.
 - 8. Plaques or trophies will be awarded at the annual meeting for the Professional, Sportsman, and Junior drivers of the year.
 - 9. Points will be awarded as follows:

1 st place = 10 points + 5 bonus	6 th place = 5 points + 5 bonus
2 nd place = 9 points + 5 bonus	7 th place = 4 points + 5 bonus
3 rd place = 8 points + 5 bonus	8 th place = 3 points + 5 bonus
4 th place = 7 points + 5 bonus	9 th place = 2 points + 5 bonus
5 th place = 6 points + 5 bonus	10 th place = 1 point + 5 bonus

All other drivers competing and finishing all heats of the race will receive 5 points.
 - 10. One (1) point will be awarded to members who attend the fall gig race and/or Blanchard, either as a racer or event volunteer. In order to receive the point(s) the member must check in with the Vice President or designated representative at the race. The point(s) will be applied to the class that the given driver enters at their first snow race. In the event that the driver is running multiple teams or wishes the point(s) to be applied elsewhere, the driver must inform the Vice President or designated representative as to where they wish the point(s) be applied. The designation of the point(s) must be made prior to the drivers' meeting of the member's first snow race. The point(s)

is not transferable to another person, nor can it be credited to another class once the initial designation has been made.

B. Dr. Roland Lombard Award

1. This award will be presented annually to the club member in good standing who fulfills the following criteria:
 - a. Sportsmanship
 - b. Club Participation
 - c. Public image in the sport
2. These nomination criteria will be included in the notice of the Spring meeting.
3. Nominations will be made in writing with a narrative to the club Vice President by the annual spring meeting. This narrative will include a short explanation of the person's qualifications as listed above.
4. A vote will take place by secret ballot at the Fall meeting, the award will be presented upon completion of the vote.

C. Scholarship

1. DESDC, Inc. will sponsor a scholarship annually that will be awarded to the member that fulfills the following criteria:
 - a. must be a member in good standing
 - b. member must demonstrate a history of club service
 - c. have completed 12 credits of higher education
 - d. has a minimum of a 2.0 GPA
 - e. submits an essay of at least 500 words describing how dog mushing has prepared them for higher education
 - f. submits a transcript of their grades
2. The application must be received by July 15th annually
3. The DESDC, Inc. Board of Directors will comprise the Scholarship Selection Committee, the Committee will make its decision based on the quality of the applications submitted.
4. There is no limit to the number of times a person can apply for, or receive the scholarship, however a new application must be submitted each time.
5. Monies from the scholarship fund will be dispersed in time for the fall semester.

D. 50/50 Raffle

The DESDC, Inc. will hold a 50/50 Raffle at each of its events. Tickets will sell for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Half the proceeds will go to the winner and the other half will go to the club treasury. Of the portion going to the club treasury 40% will go to the scholarship fund and another 40% will go towards trade fair and seminar cost

X. Racing Rules

The DESDC, Inc. adopts the race rules promulgated by the International Sled Dog Racing Association (ISDRA) subject to the following additions or modifications. In the event of any inconsistencies between the current ISDRA rules and the local rules, the local rules shall control. The Race Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that a current copy of the ISDRA race rules and local rules are provided to the Chief Judge at least one week in advance of any race, and that a copy of all applicable rules are available for review by drivers at the race site.

A. Local Sprint Race Rules

1. All drivers must be members of the DESDC in good standing
2. The Race Committee may choose to exercise the right to mark dogs for identification.
3. The Chief Judge at each race has the power to take disciplinary action against drivers or handlers upon entering the race site and until leaving. Unruly behavior either on the trail or in the parking area could be cause for removal.
4. Whips are prohibited.
5. Any abuse of dogs, with or without an instrument is prohibited.
6. Dog bags are mandatory for any sled race. A bag big enough to hold or cover a dog must be used. Any dog carried on the sled must be humanely and securely fastened onto the sled whether in or out of the bag. A severely injured or expired dog must be carried in the dog bag.
7. The club shall offer the following race classes (no dog shall be run in more than one class during a particular race with the exception of the 1 dog class).

- a. 1 dog skijoring
 - b. 2 dog skijoring
 - c. 2 to 4 dog Sportsman and Professional-not to exceed 6 miles
 - d. 4 to 6 dog Sportsman and Professional-not to exceed 8 miles
 - e. 8 dog Sportsman class-not to exceed 8 miles
 - f. 8 dog Professional-not to exceed 20 miles- will be run within the Unlimited class, starting 2 minutes after the last Unlimited team and will run the same course. On Sunday the 8 dog and Unlimited starting order will be determined by overall finish time from Saturday's heat regardless of the number of dogs run. The 8 dog will be considered a separate class for all purposes except purse distribution, in which case it will be included with the Unlimited.
 - g. Unlimited Professional-not to exceed 20 miles
 - h. 2 to 3 dog Junior-will be run between the 2 to 4 dog Professional and Sportsman, class is for individuals up to and including 14 years of age, with the youngest entrants at the discretion of the Chief Judge
 - i. The Race Committee may, if there is sufficient demand, opt to offer a 1- dog class for individuals up to 12 years of age, with the youngest entrants at the discretion of the Chief Judge.
8. A Sportsman class will be offered for drivers not competing in a Professional class during the same weekend. Drivers who run a Professional class, but want the opportunity to train another team may do so at the end of the Sportsman in the 4 and 6 dog classes. These drivers will run non-competitively, pay the same entry fees as regular Sportsman drivers, receive finishing times but will not be included in any published results. Saturday's starting order will be reversed on Sunday for all Sportsman classes (Pro drivers at the back of the 4 and 6 dog will have their order reversed as well and will start 1 min after the last official Sportsman team). Drivers are reminded that this is a Sportsman class and the values of good sportsmanship should prevail. In this atmosphere, we hope to encourage and develop new drivers and teams; any veterans of racing should be courteous and helpful toward this end.
 9. The order of classes will be: 1 and 2 dog skijoring, 2-4 dog Pro, 2-3 dog Junior, 2-4 dog Sports, Unlimited, 8 dog, 1 dog, 6 dog Pro, 6 dog Sports, and the 8 dog Sports. The order of classes and time between them will be left to the discretion of the Race Committee and may be changed without notice for cause.
 10. Entries must be received no later than 9:00 pm EST the Thursday prior to the race. Entries received after this deadline will be considered late and subject to a double fee, entrants will also be placed at the end of the start order of their respective class. No entries will be accepted after the drivers' meeting.
 11. The drivers' meeting will be at least one half hour prior to the start of the first class on the first day the of the race.
 12. The draw for starting positions will be held prior to the start of the race. Such drawing is to determine the start positions of the drivers entered. If a very large number is entered, a Friday night draw will be done. Late entries will be added at the end of the class in the order received. Changing drivers on the second day of the race will only be done with prior approval from the Race Marshall.
 13. New drivers must meet with the Chief Judge or his representative 15 minutes prior to the drivers' meeting on the first day of the race for a briefing on local rules and an equipment check.
 14. When the race course requires head-on passing, there will be a 15 minute interval between the Professional, Junior and or Sportsman classes.
 15. If a team is late to the line, they will start at the end of the class, be timed on a regular basis, but receive a one (1) minute penalty in the skijoring, 2-3 dog junior, and 4 & 6 dog classes. Unlimited drivers will receive a 2-minute penalty.
 16. The Board of Directors will designate a race as the Maine State Championship Race by November of each year.
 17. Two races will constitute a minimum to be considered a season for awarding year end *Championship* trophies.

B. Skijoring

1. The draw shall be by 1 and 2 dog separately.

2. For multiple heats the starting order will be reverse order of overall finish time regardless of the number of dogs run.
3. The team must be attached via harness and towline to the skijorer's belt in a safe and secure manner, leaving the skijorer's hands free of the line. The towline shall be 8-12 feet long with a quick point of detachment within arms length of the skijorer.
4. Skijorers need not come to a full stop, but must slow, and immediately yield the right-of-way upon demand. In the event that the skijor team passed shall hang on for two minutes or one half mile, he/she shall have the right to demand trail. Unless passing or in the finishing chute, a competitor must maintain a minimum of 20 feet between his/her dog(s) and the skijorer in front.

C. Rig Race

1. In the event that the Board of Directors schedules a rig race in the fall or any time there is no snow, the ISDRA rig race rules apply. Rigs are defined and used legally in such races:
 - a. 3 or 4 wheeled cart w/steering and locking break, able to hold one dog, and must carry snub line or hook
 - b. 3 or 4 wheeled ATV-no engine
 - c. motorcycle-large frame only, when laid down able to hold one dog-up to the discretion of Chief Judge
2. Entrants will pay standard club entry fees for each class. Fifty percent of the entry fees will be distributed to the first place driver in each class. The remainder of the fees will go to the club treasury.

D. Local Distance Rules (see separate cover)