IRON DOG SPORTS ASSOCIATION

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WEIGHT PULL RULEBOOK

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Section 1: Weight Pull Season

The weight pull season runs from February 1st to January 31st and is referred to as the qualifying season. A National event will be held between March 1st and April 30th following the close of each qualifying season.

Section 2: Eligibility of Handlers and Dogs

Registration is required to compete in Iron Dog Weight Pull events. You may either permanently register your dog online for $10.00 or apply for a temporary registration number free of charge. Both options are available at **www.irondogsports.org**.

All handlers must complete both the IDSA Weight Pull Event Entry Form and the IDSA Weight Pull Event Waiver before participating in any event. These forms must be filled out completely and legibly. Failure to submit acceptable documentation will result in denial of participation.

1) Eligibility of Owners and Handlers
   a) Eligibility: Anyone at least 5 years of age that is interested in competing with their dogs.

2) Eligibility of Dogs
   a) Registration: Dogs must have a Permanent or Temporary Registration Number with IDSA.
   b) Age: Dogs 9 months of age and older are eligible to compete in events.
      i) For dogs over 12 years of age, an annual letter from a licensed veterinarian confirming the dog's fitness to compete in weight pull is required.
   c) Health: Dogs must be free from any communicable disease, illness, injury, stitches, wound drains, open wounds, or active bleeding and must be current on all vaccinations required by the local government.
   d) Reproductive Status: Dogs that are pregnant, whether the pregnancy is confirmed, suspected, or unknown, are not permitted to participate in any event. Female dogs that are nursing or lactating, have a litter under 8 weeks of age, or are in season are also prohibited from participation. Female dogs that are in season are not permitted on event grounds.
   e) Prohibited Substances: Dogs may not be given any performance-enhancing substances, including but not limited to stimulants, depressants, controlled substances, steroids, or related compounds. Owners and handlers are expected to know the condition of their dogs and may face disciplinary action for presenting a dog under the influence of performance-enhancing drugs. If there is reason to believe that a dog has been administered such substances, a drug test will be required. Failure to comply with drug testing requirements will result in a one-year suspension.

3) Investigating Eligibility
   a) Eligibility Authority: The Chief Judge reserves the right to investigate the eligibility of any dog or handler at any time. This may include a hands-on physical exam and a vaginal swipe. The Chief Judge retains the final authority on eligibility decisions at any given event.

Section 3: Handler Conduct and Control of Dogs

1) Handler Conduct
   a) General Requirement: Handlers are responsible for the control and conduct of their dog(s), family, children, guests, and self at all times while on event grounds.
   b) Sportsmanship and Behavior: Unsportsmanlike conduct, including rude, disrespectful, or inappropriate behavior toward dogs, spectators, handlers, judges, volunteers, event hosts, equipment, or the venue, is strictly prohibited.
   c) Respect for Venue: Handlers must clean up all trash and dog waste caused by themselves, their dog(s), their family, or their guests.
   d) Control of Dogs: Handlers must always maintain physical control of their dog(s) including proper crating (in vehicle or kennel), leash control, maintaining safe distances from other dogs, handlers, judges,

spectators, and any other person or animal on the event grounds. Specific containment requirements may be set by the event host.

e) Children at Events: Children must always remain under the direct supervision of their responsible adult. The responsible adult is fully liable for the child's actions and safety while on event grounds. Children may not interact with any dog unless both the dog's handler and the child's parent have given explicit permission. Such interactions are at the sole discretion and risk of the handler and parent. Children must not disrupt or interfere with competition activities. Access to the chute or the Judge's Table is strictly prohibited unless the child is actively competing as a Junior Handler or participating in the Junior Judge Apprentice Program.

2) Control of Dogs
   a) Handler Responsibility and Control: All dogs must always remain under the control of a competent human while on event grounds. During movement around the event grounds, dogs must be leashed and under direct physical control of their handler.
   b) Interactions: Dogs may not approach or interact with other humans or dogs without the express permission of both handlers. Such interactions occur solely at the discretion and risk of the handlers involved.
   c) Behavior and Safety Enforcement: Dogs must not display vicious behavior or unmanageable reactivity. Any incident involving a dog attempting to harm another human or dog will be subject to immediate investigation by the Chief Judge and may result in disqualification and removal from the event.

Section 4: Junior Handler Program

1) Overview: IDSA supports youth participation in weight pull through a Junior Handler Program, in which all junior handlers compete in the weight class according to their dog's weigh in.

2) Age Divisions & Rules

   a) For Novice Handlers, ages 5 to 7, close adult assistance is required for both safety and learning. In these cases, a parent or designated assistant must escort the junior into the chute and take responsibility for hooking the dog to the trace line. Only after the adult exits through the back of the chute and is behind the start line, or otherwise out of the dog's line of sight, may the dog be released. The adult can provide coaching, as long as they do not use the dog's name during instruction.

   b) Emerging Handlers, ages 8 to 10, are encouraged to develop independence but may still benefit from some guidance. An adult can assist with preparation in the crating or on-deck area and walk with the junior up to the chute. Once at the chute, the junior is solely responsible for handling and releasing the dog, while the adult remains behind the start line, or otherwise out of the dog's line of sight, providing only limited verbal coaching, again without using the dog's name.

   c) For Developing Handlers, ages 11 to 14, juniors are expected to independently complete all preparation, enter the chute, and handle their dog with minimal supervision. While a parent or assistant may be present outside the chute or behind the start line, their role shifts to observation rather than involvement, with encouragement limited to before or after the pull. Any detailed instruction or feedback should be reserved until the junior's pull is complete and they have returned to the crating area.

   d) Independent Handlers, ages 15 to 17, must fully manage their preparation, entry into the chute, and all aspects of dog handling without any direct assistance. Parents or assistants are to spectate only and avoid coaching during the competition. Feedback and instructional support should occur only after the pull has concluded and outside the competitive setting.

3) Throughout all divisions, juniors may handle a dog and are eligible for Junior Handler Regional Rankings *(see Section 24)*. For points to count toward these rankings, the junior must be the handler of the dog. If at any time an adult takes over handling the dog, the dog's Junior Handler Regional Rankings end at that point, and no additional points earned with the adult handler will count toward junior rankings.

4) Judges are reminded that a junior-handled dog should not be unhooked from the trace line until the junior confirms that they have control of their dog. Should the junior be unable to maintain control, an adult assistant may enter the chute to assist only after the pull has concluded.

Section 5: Acceptable Surfaces

1) Rails
2) Wheels
   a) Artificial: Carpeting must be placed over concrete, asphalt, or rubber mats, and must extend the full length of the chute to ensure continuous traction.
   b) Natural: Acceptable surfaces include hard-packed dirt, small stone, or grass. These surfaces must be free of loose material that could compromise traction or safety.
3) Snow
   a) Artificial: Ice shavings or man-made snow (e.g., from an ice arena or snow machine) that may be spread outdoors on the ground or indoors on an ice surface.
   b) Natural: Snow formed naturally through weather conditions.

Section 6: Dog Equipment

Each dog must wear a properly fitted weight-pull harness with a rear spreader bar to prevent rubbing or pinching of the hind legs during pulling. All harnesses must be in good condition or repair.

A detachable band may be fitted around a dog's abdomen to prevent the dog from backing out of its harness. Dogs may pull while wearing coats, provided the coat fits properly and does not interfere with the harness's fit or function, whether the coat is worn over or under the harness.

Section 7: Failures of Equipment

1) Dog Equipment Failure: If a dog's harness breaks or becomes faulty during competition, the handler will have up to five (5) minutes to replace it. If the harness is not ready within that time, a pass will be used.

2) Chute, Track, or Other Equipment Failure: If the chute, track, cart, sled, or other equipment fails during a pull in progress, the handler may either take the block drop as a pass or wait for the issue to be corrected and reattempt the pull. During repairs, the dog and handler may leave the chute.

3) Equipment failures are not fouls. Equipment failures in events include, but are not limited to, situations where the cart or sled becomes stuck on the chute barrier, the chute barrier collapses, the track begins pulling downhill or becomes unstable, the wheel, caster, or runner malfunctions, or the trace line breaks or disconnects. Any condition that could result in injury to the dog, create unfair pulling conditions, or cause unsafe circumstances may also be deemed an equipment failure or at the Chief Judge's discretion, and if a dog repeatedly experiences the same issue (for example, consistently pulling into the chute barrier), the Chief Judge may instead determine that the situation constitutes a foul.

Section 8: Weight and Stacking

1) Primary Weight Material: The primary weight material is typically concrete blocks (with or without holes) due to their uniform shape, stability, and safety. Other inert materials are allowed so long as they are suitable for safe, stable stacking.
2) Supplemental Weight Materials: Used for transitioning from small to large carts/sleds or for odd increments. During these transitions, or when precise weight adjustments are required, additional inert materials may be

utilized. All supplemental materials must be weighed and verified on a scale prior to use. Acceptable examples include bagged sand, iron weightlifting plates, and water jugs.

3) Prohibited Weight Materials: Dogs and humans may never be used as weight.
4) Placement and Consistency: All weight must be securely placed and balanced to prevent movement or falling during pulls. To ensure stable stacking, weight materials should be uniform in size and weight whenever possible.
5) Weight Stacking: All weight must be stacked evenly on the cart or sled. The full surface area should be used without materials hanging over the edges, and stacks must be square and stable to ensure safety as height increases.

Section 9: Entering an Event

If all eligibility requirements are met, you can enter an event either by contacting the event host in advance or by appearing on the day of the event. Upon entry, you will be required to complete the IDSA Weight Pull Entry Form and IDSA Weight Pull Event Waiver. Event entry fees are determined by the event host and must be paid at the time of entry. Participants are required to follow all guidelines outlined in the IDSA Weight Pull Rules and Regulations.

Section 10: Weigh-In

1) Scale Requirements: All dogs of the same weight class must be weighed on the same scale, which may be a walk-on or hanging scale.
2) Weigh-In Procedure: All weigh-ins must be witnessed by a Judge, who may appoint an Apprentice Judge to assist. Judges may not weigh their own dogs unless an impartial witness is present. Judge decisions are final.
3) Weigh-In Timing and Availability: Dogs must be weighed no earlier than 24 hours before their first scheduled pull. Each dog may be weighed a maximum of three times per day, and all weigh-ins must occur during posted weigh-in hours. The handler will choose which weight they wish to be recorded.
4) Weigh-In Condition and Prohibited Practices: Dogs must be weighed in their natural condition and may wear only a standard collar, along with a leash, during weigh-in. Dogs may not compete if they show signs of being excessively "dried out" or dehydrated, such as a sunken or "sucked up" appearance, dry gums, or other signs of significant fluid loss. This rule is intended to prevent handlers from overworking their dogs or restricting water to achieve a particular look or weight, and to ensure that only dogs in healthy, well-hydrated condition are allowed to pull.
5) Weight Recording: All dog weights must be recorded in whole pounds only. If a weight falls exactly on the border between two classes, the decimal is dropped rather than rounded (e.g., 80.9 lbs = 80 lb class; 81.0 lbs = 90 lb class).

Section 11: Divisions

Handlers may elect to compete with their dog in any division, unless otherwise stated.

1) **Novice Division:** Dogs competing in this division without the use of a leash at any time are eligible to earn Novice Division titles. Handlers may continue competing in this division until their dog earns either a Surface Novice or Versatility Novice title.
   a) *Notes for the Novice Division:*
      i) Handlers may ask the Judge for pointers during the pull.
      ii) Dogs may make brief unintentional contact with their handler; however, if the handler initiates contact, it will be counted as a foul.
      iii) Handlers may use a leash if they choose, but any pull completed with a leash does not qualify toward Novice titles. Handlers using a leash may only complete a maximum of ten pulls, at the discretion of the Chief Judge.
      iv) Dogs that have earned a Standard or Advanced Surface or Versatility titles are not eligible to compete in the Novice Division. A dog having earned one of these titles may request to remain in the Novice

Division if their performance does not support moving up. All requests should be made to general@irondogsports.org.

2) **Standard Division:** Dogs competing in this division are eligible to earn Standard Division titles. Dogs that have earned an Advanced Surface or Versatility title are not eligible to compete in the Standard Division. A dog having earned one of these titles may request to move to the Standard Division if their performance does not support remaining in the Advanced Division. All requests should be made to general@irondogsports.org.
3) **Advanced Division:** Dogs competing in this division are eligible to earn Advanced Division titles. Dogs may remain in this division indefinitely.

Section 12: Weight Classes

Dogs Weight	IDSA Weight Class	Example Weight Range
Up to 10 lbs	10 lb Class	1.0 to 10.9 lbs
11 - 20 lbs	20 lb Class	11.0 to 20.9 lbs
21 - 30 lbs	30 lb Class	21.0 to 30.9 lbs
31 - 40 lbs	40 lb Class	31.0 to 40.9 lbs
41 - 50 lbs	50 lb Class	41.0 to 50.9 lbs
51 - 60 lbs	60 lb Class	51.0 to 60.9 lbs
61 - 70 lbs	70 lb Class	61.0 to 70.9 lbs
71 - 80 lbs	80 lb Class	71.0 to 80.9 lbs
81 - 90 lbs	90 lb Class	81.0 to 90.9 lbs
91 - 100 lbs	100 lb Class	91.0 to 100.9 lbs
101 - 110 lbs	110 lb Class	101.0 to 110.9 lbs
111 - 125 lbs	125 lb Class	111.0 to 125.9 lbs
126 lbs and over	Unlimited Class	126.0 lbs and over

Section 13: Handler's Meeting

1) Handler's Meeting: A Judge must hold a Handler's Meeting before the start of each pull. This meeting should explain appropriate starting weights, how fouls may be assessed, any important host rules, and, if necessary, include a vote on the block drop. Attendance is strongly recommended. Handlers who do not attend forfeit the right to claim lack of knowledge regarding fouls or block drop procedures. All attendees must sign the Handler's Meeting Log to confirm participation.

2) Block Drops: There are two methods for determining block drops. The method being used at a specific event will be listed in the event premium:

   a) *Handler-Elected Block Drops:* Block drops are not preset. After each pull, the Judge will recommend the next block drop. Handlers may request a lower or higher drop if they prefer. For example, if the Judge suggests a two-block drop, but one handler requests a one-block drop and others prefer a three-block drop, the one-block drop will occur first. Any handler wishing to participate at that block drop may do so. After that pull, the process repeats with the next lowest elected drop. The Judge is responsible for overseeing and managing this process while monitoring dog welfare, equipment condition, track quality, and weather to maintain fairness and safety.

   b) *Pre-Determined Block Drop Options:* The Judge provides at least two block drop options for each weight class, taking into account the dogs' experience levels, available equipment, track conditions, and weather. The Judge then facilitates a vote within each weight class. The majority vote determines the final block drop selection. In the event of a tie, the Chief Judge may propose a balanced option for group agreement. If a consensus cannot be reached, the Chief Judge will cast the deciding vote, choosing the lower block drop to promote fairness and accessibility for all dogs.

Section 14: Pulling Order

All dogs from every weight class will pull together in the same block drop, provided they are pulling at the current weight. At the start of each block drop, a Judge will announce all eligible dogs by weight class, beginning with the smallest and progressing to the largest (e.g., "New Weight, 20 lb Class: Dog A, Dog B; 40 lb Class: Dog C, Dog D"). Handlers whose dogs are participating in that block drop must be prepared to enter the chute when called. The Judge will announce the dog currently in the chute, the dog on deck, and the dog in the hole.

Section 15: Starting Weight and Passing

1) Starting Weight: Handlers may begin pulling at any weight of their choice. There is no minimum or maximum starting weight requirement.
2) Passing Rules: Handlers may choose to pass any number of times. Handlers may pass or rescind passes at any time, provided such actions do not interfere with the judges or disrupt the smooth operation of the event. It is recommended that all passing decisions be determined before the start of a block drop because repeatedly changing passing decisions during a block drop is considered disruptive.
3) No Passing after Hooking: Once a handler has hooked their dog to the trace line, they may not pass on that block drop.

Section 16: General Weight Pull Rules

1) Cart/Sled Alignment, Positioning, and Trace Line: All carts and sleds must be positioned perpendicular to the start line at the beginning of each pull. Handlers should not cross over the trace line at any time.
2) Authorized Equipment: While a dog is actively pulling, all equipment must be removed except a properly fitted weight-pull harness, flat collar, muzzle, goggles, coat, belly band, or diaper.
3) No Pull Zone: The "No Pull Zone" refers to the area between the front of the cart/sled and the base of the dog's tail during a pull in progress. If the handler enters this zone for more than three continuous seconds, a foul will be assessed.
4) Handler Changes: Handlers may not be changed after the dog has entered the chute.
5) Time Management: Handlers may request up to five minutes of rest for the dog between pulls, provided this is not used excessively. Any rest request must be made prior to or while exiting the chute. Judges may also suggest or require rest breaks based on temperature, conditions, or concerns for the dog's welfare.
6) Rewards: Rewards are strictly prohibited in the chute at all times, including before, during, and after a pull, and must remain behind the start line or in the crating area. Possession of any such items in the chute will result in disqualification. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to, noisemakers, clickers, treats, and toys.
7) Baiting: Baiting is strictly prohibited in the chute. "Baiting" refers to attempting to motivate or coax the dog to pull by using food, treats, toys, a bite sleeve, or the appearance of such items. *(See FAQ)*

Section 17: Surface-Specific Pulling Procedure

1) Pulling Procedure on Rails and Wheels
   a) Cart Placement: Cart help will position the cart so that its front edge touches the start line, or alternatively, place the front wheels, casters, or axle on the start line. This point will also serve as the finish line marker. Whichever starting point is chosen should be used consistently for the entire pull.
   b) Hooking: The handler or a designated hooker will hook the dog to the trace line. If a hooker is used, they will quickly and quietly step away from the chute, moving behind the start line, ensuring they do not enter the path of the cart. The dog may be unhooked once, at the handler's discretion, provided the handler maintains continuous physical contact with the dog, harness, or collar.
   c) Removal of Equipment: Only authorized equipment may remain on the dog while actively pulling. Any unauthorized equipment must be removed and either handed to the cart help or placed on the cart.

d) Prepare for Release: Before releasing the dog, ensure that the dog has made contact with the ground, the judge is ready, all unauthorized equipment is removed, the D-ring on the dog's harness is beyond the designated marker and touching the ground, and that the cart is completely stationary.

2) Pulling Procedure on Snow
   a) Sled Placement: Sled help will position the sled so that the tips of both runners touch the break line while the dog and handler enter the chute.
   b) Hooking: The handler or a designated hooker will hook the dog to the trace line. If a hooker is used, they will quickly and quietly step away from the chute, moving behind the start line, ensuring they do not enter the path of the sled.
   c) Removal of Equipment: Only authorized equipment may remain on the dog while actively pulling. Any unauthorized equipment must be removed and either handed to the cart help or placed on the sled before the sled is moved to the start line.
   d) Brake Line and Moving the Sled to the Start Line: The Judge will confirm readiness with the handler and instruct the sled help to move the sled so that the runner tips are on the start line, ensuring a "clean break."
   e) Prepare for Release: Before releasing the dog, ensure that that dog has made contact with the ground, all unauthorized equipment is removed, the D ring on the dog's harness is beyond the designated marker and touching the ground, and that the sled is completely stationary.

Section 18: Qualifying Pulls and Timing

1) Qualifying Pull: The cart or sled must travel 16 feet within 60 seconds without incurring any fouls. If the cart or sled is still in forward motion when the 60-second limit is reached and continues moving without fouls until it crosses the finish line, the pull will be considered qualifying. For example, if the cart begins moving at 55 seconds and crosses the finish line at 64 seconds without fouls, 64 seconds will be recorded, and the dog will advance to the next block drop.
2) Recording Time: The timer will begin only when one of the following occurs: the handler gives a verbal command, hand signal, or any other clear cue to the dog; or the dog independently initiates the pull by the D-ring leaving the ground. All recorded times will use the first two decimal places and will not be rounded up or down.

Section 19: Fouls, Eliminations and Disqualifications

1) Fouls:
   - Failure to complete a qualifying pull. *(See Section 18)*
   - Improper release of your dog. *(See Section 17)*
   - Slingshot starts *(See FAQ)*
   - Contact with the dog, harness, equipment, or trace line while the pull is in progress.
     a. *Exception for Novice Division (See Section 11)*
   - Handler entering and remaining in the No Pull Zone for more than 3 seconds *(See Section 16)*
   - Tangle *(See FAQ)*
   - Overly harsh verbal or physical action toward the dog in the chute. *(See FAQ)*

2) Elimination from Pull in Progress: The last completed qualifying pull will be recorded.
   - Accumulation of two fouls.
   - Handler withdrawal.
   - Change in the dog's eligibility to compete. *(See Section 2)*
   - Dog urinates, defecates, vomits, or exhibits blood in the chute.

3) Disqualification: Violations that result in immediate disqualification from the pull in progress and/or from any remaining pulls in that event, as outlined below. In such cases, entry fees are forfeited and non-refundable. All points and awards earned will be nullified: if disqualified from pull in progress, no points are recorded for that

pull; if disqualified from the event, no points are recorded for any pulls within that event. Judges found to have committed such violations will be subject to review and may face suspension or revocation of judging certification, depending on the severity of the offense.

a. Disqualification from Pull in Progress:
   - Possession or use of prohibited rewards or training aids in the chute.
   - Baiting your dog in the chute. *(See Section 16)*
   - Double handling. *(See FAQ)*
   - Any outside influence, whether intended to gain an advantage or to disrupt another competitor, that alters a dog's behavior while the dog is in the chute. *(See FAQ)*

b. Disqualification from Event:
   - Possession or use of prohibited rewards or training aids in the chute, following a prior disqualification at any previous event.
   - Any incident in which a dog or its handler injures another person or dog.
   - Misrepresentation of dog or handler eligibility.
   - Use of performance enhancing substances.
   - Severe threatening, intimidating, or harsh physical action toward the dog in the chute. *(See FAQ)*

Section 20: Class Placements

Class Placements are based on Most Weight Pulled Percentage (MWPP), and are awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place within each weight class in each division. In the event of a tie, the order will be decided by the faster time. If both placements are tied by MWPP and time, then the order will be decided by Most Weight Pulled (MWP), with the higher weight prevailing. To qualify for class placements, a dog must complete at least one qualifying pull.

Section 21: Performance Titles

General Rules for All Titles: Dogs are not permitted to be on leash while pulling when earning title legs. Titles do not need to be earned in any specific order, unless otherwise noted. A nominal fee of $5.00 applies for issuance of Title certificates. Handlers must submit an appropriate, legible, completed Title Application Form and fee via check, Zelle, PayPal, or Venmo. Handlers are strongly encouraged to track their dog's points at each event, including the dog's weight, the amount pulled, the percentage pulled, the recorded time, and any placements earned.

1) **Novice Division Titles:** Titles are awarded to dogs that achieve the required minimum percentage of body weight pulled and complete the specified number of qualifying pulls on a designated surface. Handlers may submit any qualifying attempts that meet or exceed the established criteria for the desired title. Titles are designated as Level I through Level III, each paired with a surface letter (e.g., Iron Dog Novice + Surface Letter-I).

Surface	Title	Percentage of Body Weight	Qualifying Pulls Needed
Rails	IDNR-I	5 times	3
	IDNR-II	10 times	3
	IDNR-III	15 times	3
Wheels (Artificial/Natural)	IDNW-I	3 times	3
	IDNW-II	5 times	3
	IDNW-III	7 times	3
Snow (Artificial/Natural)	IDNS-I	1 times	3
	IDNS-II	3 times	3
	IDNS-III	5 times	3

a) **Iron Dog Novice Performance Points:**
   i) Formula: Percentage of body weight pulled ÷ 2 = Novice Performance Points earned. Only whole numbers are counted (rounding down).
      (1) Example: 15.98% divided by 2 = 7 Novice Performance Points earned.
   ii) To qualify for Novice Performance Points, a dog must have earned a Level III title on that surface.
b) **Iron Dog Surface-Novice Title:** Iron Dog Surface-Novice (ID__-N) will be awarded when a dog accumulates 100 Novice Performance Points on a single surface.
c) **Iron Dog Versatility-Novice Title:** Iron Dog Versatility-Novice (IDV-N) will be awarded when a dog accumulates 100 total Novice Performance Points combined from at least two of the three surfaces.

2) **Standard Division Titles:** Titles are awarded to dogs that achieve the required minimum percentage of body weight pulled and complete the specified number of qualifying pulls on a designated surface. Handlers may submit any qualifying attempts that meet or exceed the established criteria for the desired title. Titles are designated as Level I through Level V, each paired with a surface letter (e.g., Iron Dog Standard + Surface Letter-II).

Surface	Title	Percentage	Pulls
Rails	IDSR-I	10 times	3
	IDSR-II	20 times	3
	IDSR-III	30 times	3
	IDSR-IV	40 times	3
	IDSR-V	50 times	3
Wheels (Artificial/Natural)	IDSW-I	5 times	3
	IDSW-II	10 times	3
	IDSW-III	15 times	3
	IDSW-IV	20 times	3
	IDSW-V	25 times	3
Snow (Artificial/Natural)	IDSS-I	3 times	3
	IDSS-II	5 times	3
	IDSS-III	7 times	3
	IDSS-IV	10 times	3
	IDSS-V	12 times	3

a) **Iron Dog Standard Performance Points:** To qualify for Standard Performance Points, a dog must have earned a Level III title on that surface.
   i) Rails Formula: Percentage of body weight pulled ÷ 4 = Standard Rails Performance Points earned. Only whole numbers are counted (rounding down).
      (1) Example: 36.38% divided by 4 = 9 Standard Rails Performance Points earned.
   ii) Wheels Formula: Percentage of body weight pulled ÷ 2 = Standard Wheels Performance Points earned. Only whole numbers are counted (rounding down).
      (1) Example: 18.79% divided by 2 = 9 Standard Wheels Performance Points earned.
   iii) Snow Formula: Percentage of body weight pulled ÷ 1 = Standard Snow Performance Points earned. Only whole numbers are counted (rounding down).
      (1) Example: 10.81% divided by 1 = 10 Standard Snow Performance Points earned.

b) **Iron Dog Surface Titles:** Iron Dog Surface (ID__) will be awarded when a dog accumulates 100 Standard Performance Points on a single surface.
   i) For every additional 100 points, a number is added to the title.
      (a) Example: IDS → IDS2 → IDS3 → etc.

c) **Iron Dog Versatility Titles:** Iron Dog Versatility (IDV) will be awarded when a dog accumulates 100 total Standard Performance Points combined from at least two of the three surfaces.
   i) For every additional 100 points, a number is added to the title.
      (a) Example: IDV → IDV2 → IDV3 → etc.

d) **Iron Dog Versatility Supreme Titles:** Iron Dog Versatility Supreme (IDVS) will be awarded when a dog accumulates 100 Standard Peformance Points on each of the three surfaces.
   i) For every additional 100 points earned on all three surfaces, a number is added to the title.
      (1) Example: IDVS → IDVS2 → IDVS3 → etc.
      (2) Example: IDVS2 is 200 points earned on each of the three surfaces.

3) **Advanced Division Titles:** Titles are awarded to dogs that meet the required minimum percentage of body weight pulled and complete the specified number of qualifying pulls on a designated surface within their respective weight division. Handlers may submit any qualifying pulls that meets or exceed the established criteria for the desired title. Titles are designated as Level I through Level V and include a surface letter identifier (for example, Iron Dog Advanced + Surface Letter–III).

Small Dog (1 – 30lbs)

Surface	Title	Percentage	Pulls
Rails	IDAR-I	60 times	3
	IDAR-II	70 times	3
	IDAR-III	80 times	3
	IDAR-IV	90 times	3
	IDAR-V	100 times	3
Wheels	IDAW-I	35 times	3
	IDAW-II	40 times	3
	IDAW-III	45 times	3
	IDAW-IV	50 times	3
	IDAW-V	55 times	3
Snow	IDAS-I	17 times	3
	IDAS-II	20 times	3
	IDAS-III	22 times	3
	IDAS-IV	25 times	3
	IDAS-V	27 times	3

Medium Dog (31 – 60lbs)

Surface	Title	Percentage	Pulls
Rails	IDAR-I	50 times	3
	IDAR-II	60 times	3
	IDAR-III	70 times	3
	IDAR-IV	80 times	3
	IDAR-V	90 times	3
Wheels	IDAW-I	30 times	3
	IDAW-II	35 times	3
	IDAW-III	40 times	3
	IDAW-IV	45 times	3
	IDAW-V	50 times	3
Snow	IDAS-I	15 times	3
	IDAS-II	17 times	3
	IDAS-III	20 times	3
	IDAS-IV	22 times	3
	IDAS-V	25 times	3

Large Dog (61 – 90lbs)

Surface	Title	Percentage	Pulls
Rails	IDAR-I	40 times	3
	IDAR-II	50 times	3
	IDAR-III	60 times	3
	IDAR-IV	70 times	3
	IDAR-V	80 times	3
Wheels	IDAW-I	25 times	3
	IDAW-II	30 times	3
	IDAW-III	35 times	3
	IDAW-IV	40 times	3
	IDAW-V	45 times	3
Snow	IDAS-I	12 times	3
	IDAS-II	15 times	3
	IDAS-III	17 times	3
	IDAS-IV	20 times	3
	IDAS-V	22 times	3

Extra Large Dog (90+ lbs)

Surface	Title	Percentage	Pulls
Rails	IDAR-I	30 times	3
	IDAR-II	40 times	3
	IDAR-III	50 times	3
	IDAR-IV	60 times	3
	IDAR-V	70 times	3
Wheels	IDAW-I	20 times	3
	IDAW-II	25 times	3
	IDAW-III	30 times	3
	IDAW-IV	35 times	3
	IDAW-V	40 times	3
Snow	IDAS-I	10 times	3
	IDAS-II	12 times	3
	IDAS-III	15 times	3
	IDAS-IV	17 times	3
	IDAS-V	20 times	3

a) **Iron Dog Advanced Performance Points:** To qualify for Advanced Performance Points, a dog must have earned a Level III title on that surface.

i) Rails Formula: Percentage of body weight pulled ÷ 6 = Advanced Rails Performance Points earned. Only whole numbers are counted (rounding down).
   (1) Example: 55.17% divided by 6 = 9 Advanced Rails Performance Points earned.
ii) Wheels Formula: Percentage of body weight pulled ÷ 4 = Advanced Wheels Performance Points earned. Only whole numbers are counted (rounding down).
   (1) Example: 35.25% divided by 4 = 8 Advanced Wheels Performance Points earned.
iii) Snow Formula: Percentage of body weight pulled ÷ 2 = Advanced Snow Performance Points earned. Only whole numbers are counted (rounding down).
   (1) Example: 19.34% divided by 2 = 9 Advanced Snow Performance Points earned.

b) **Iron Dog Surface-Advanced Titles:** Iron Dog Surface-Advanced (ID__-A) will be awarded when a dog accumulates 100 Advanced Performance Points on a single surface.
   i) For every additional 100 points, a number is added to the title.
      (1) Example: IDR-A → IDR2-A → IDR3-A → etc.

c) **Iron Dog Versatility-Advanced Titles:** Iron Dog Versatility Advanced (IDV-A) will be awarded when a dog accumulates 100 total Advanced Performance Points combined from at least two of the three surfaces.
   i) For every additional 100 points, a number is added to the title.
      (a) Example: IDV-A → IDV2-A → IDV3-A → etc.

d) **Iron Dog Versatility Supreme-Advanced Titles:** Iron Dog Versatility Supreme-Advanced (IDVS-A) will be awarded when a dog accumulates 100 Advanced Performance Points on each of the three surfaces.
   i) For every additional 100 points earned on all three surfaces, a number is added to the title.
      (1) Example: IDVS-A → IDVS2-A → IDVS3-A → etc.
      (2) Example: IDVS2-A is 200 points earned on each of the three surfaces.

Section 22: Iron Dog Champion Titles

1) **General**: Champion Points are awarded in two categories, Overall MWPP (Most Weight Pulled Percentage) and Overall MWP (Most Weight Pulled), based on the number of dogs entered. In both categories, dogs are ranked from first to the final placement awarded for that pull. Each dog earns one Champion Point for successfully completing a pull, plus one additional Champion Point for every other dog it places ahead of that also completed at least one successful pull, up through the last designated placement. Novice Division is ineligible for Champion Points and dogs competing in Novice Division do not contribute toward Champion Points.

   a) 1-10 dogs competing: Points are awarded for 1st through 2nd place.
      i) Maximum Points per Category: 2
   b) 11-20 dogs competing: Points are awarded for 1st through 4th place.
      i) Maximum Points per Category: 4
   c) 21-30 dogs competing: Points are awarded for 1st through 6th place.
      i) Maximum Points per Category: 6
   d) 31-40 dogs competing: Points are awarded for 1st through 8th place.
      i) Maximum Points per Category: 8
   e) 41-50 dogs competing: Points are awarded for 1st through 10th place.
      i) Maximum Points per Category: 10
   f) For each additional 10 dogs competing, 2 additional placements will be awarded.

2) Iron Dog Champion Titles:
   a) There is no limit to the number of Iron Dog Champion (IDCH) titles a dog can earn. A new title is awarded for every 100 points achieved. Titles progress as follows:

100pts	200pts	300pts	400pts	500pts	600pts	700pts .. +
IDCH	IDCH2	IDCH3	IDCH4	IDCH5	IDCH6	IDCH7 .. +

Section 23: Regional Rankings

1) **General**: Regional Rankings are determined by weight class, division, and region, based on each dog's cumulative performance throughout the qualifying season. Points are earned from all licensed events and are awarded according to Class Placements and Bonus Points as described below. Total points are cumulative and represent consistent success across multiple events.

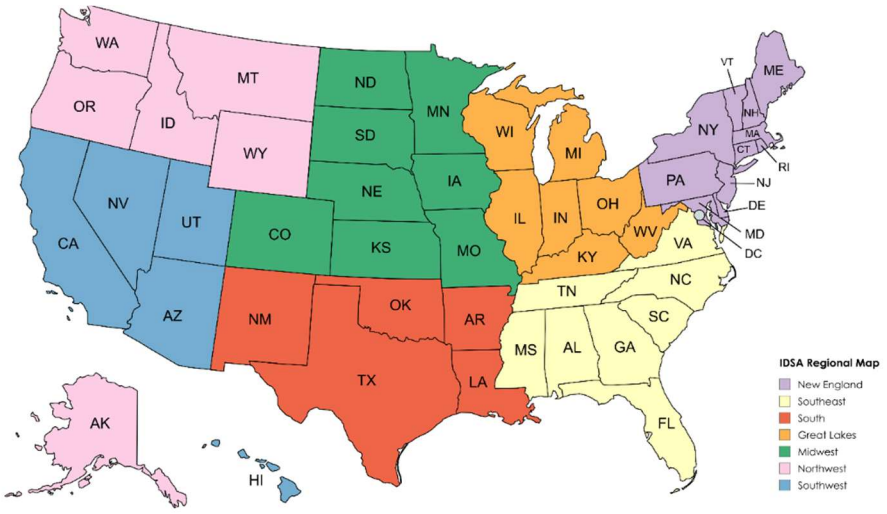
   a) Class Placements:
      i) Dogs will be ranked from 1st to last within their weight class in their respective division based on MWPP. Each dog earns 1 point for completing a successful pull, plus 1 additional point for each dog in its class that completes a successful pull and that it outperforms.

      ii) Dogs will be ranked from 1st to last within their division and weight class based on MWP. Each dog earns 1 point for completing a successful pull, plus 1 additional point for each dog in its class that completes a successful pull and that it outperforms.

   b) Bonus Points:
      i) All dogs at the pull, regardless of division or weight class, will be ranked from 1st to last based on MWPP. Each dog earns 1 point for completing a successful pull, plus 1 additional point for each dog that completes a successful pull and that it outperforms.
      ii) All dogs at the pull, regardless of division or weight class, will be ranked from 1st to last based on MWP. Each dog earns 1 point for completing a successful pull, plus 1 additional point for each dog that completes a successful pull and that it outperforms.

2) **Medals:** Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals will be awarded by weight class, division, and region, based on each dog's cumulative performance throughout the qualifying season.
   a) Dog must complete five qualifying pulls to be eligible for Regional Rankings Medals.

3) **Regions:**



Section 24: Junior Handler Regional Rankings

1) **General**: Junior Handler Regional Rankings recognizes and rewards juniors for participation, dedication, improvement, and sportsmanship throughout the qualifying season. Medals are awarded by age group and region. Rankings reflect consistent effort, growth, and contribution, not just competition results. Points are earned as described below.

a) Junior Points System:

Category	Criteria	Points
Handling Dedication	Handles the same dog all season (not per dog)	Up to 20
Personal Improvement	Achieves personal best in percentage or weight	2 per pull (max 20 pts)
Milestone Achievement	Dog reaches new title (all legs earned by Junior)	5 per title
Performance Placement	1st/2nd/3rd in weight class	5 per occurrence
Novice Bonus *(See FAQ)*	Handles a novice dog in the Novice Division	5 per pull
Feedback Participation	Provides self-evaluation of event participation	Up to 5 per pull

2) **Junior Handler Medals:** Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals will be awarded by age group and region.
   a) A junior must complete five qualifying pulls with any dog to be eligible for Junior Handler Regional Rankings medals.

3) **Regions:** See Section 23, subsection 3.

Section 25: Performance Milestones

1) **Standard Performance Milestones:** A dog that achieves any of the designated performance milestones will receive a Standard Performance Milestone. These awards may be earned at any IDSA event and are presented at the Nationals Awards Banquet.

Surface	Award	Dog Pull Requirements
Rails	Iron Force	60x body weight
Rails	Iron Power	4,200 lbs
Wheels	Road Force	30x body weight
Wheels	Road Power	2,100 lbs
Snow	Frost Force	15x body weight
Snow	Frost Power	1,050 lbs

2) **Advanced Performance Milestone:** A dog that achieves any of the designated performance milestones will receive an Advanced Performance Milestone. These awards may be earned at any IDSA event and are presented at the Nationals Awards Banquet.

Surface	Award	Dog Pull Requirements			
		0 – 30 lbs	31 – 60 lbs	61 – 90 lbs	91 lbs & Over
Rails	Iron Force	140x body weight	120x body weight	100x body weight	80x body weight
Rails	Iron Power	3,500 lbs	6,000 lbs	8,000 lbs	10,000 lbs
Wheels	Road Force	60x body weight	55x body weight	50x body weight	45x body weight
Wheels	Road Power	1,500 lbs	2,500 lbs	3,500 lbs	4,500 lbs
Snow	Frost Force	30x body weight	27x body weight	25x body weight	22x body weight
Snow	Frost Power	1,000 lbs	1,500 lbs	2,000 lbs	2,500 lbs

3) **Tri-Milestone Award:** This award recognizes dogs who earn any combination of three Standard or Advanced Performance Milestone Awards. This prestigious honor can be achieved at any IDSA event and is presented at the Nationals Awards Banquet.

4) **Force Masters Award:** This award recognizes dogs who earn a Standard or Advanced Force Award on each of the three surfaces: rails, wheels, and snow. This prestigious honor can be achieved at any IDSA event and is presented at the Nationals Awards Banquet.

5) **Power Masters Award:** This award recognizes dogs who earn a Standard or Advanced Power Award on each of the three surfaces: rails, wheels, and snow. This prestigious honor can be achieved at any IDSA event and is presented at the Nationals Awards Banquet.

6) **Tri-Surface Masters Award:** This award recognizes dogs who earn a Standard Power and Force Award or an Advanced Power and Force Award on each of the three surfaces: rails, wheels, and snow. This prestigious honor can be achieved at any IDSA event and is presented at the Nationals Awards Banquet.

Section 26: Nationals

1) **General:** IDSA Nationals embodies strength, determination, and shared achievement. It reflects the spirit of friendly competition and the satisfaction that comes from hard work and dedication by both dogs and their handlers. The event celebrates the courage to face challenges, the teamwork required to overcome obstacles, and the pride found in victory achieved through skill and perseverance. Nationals also represents the tradition and prestige of the sport, honoring the commitment, excellence, and respect earned at this highest level of competition.

2) **Qualifications:**
   a) A dog qualifies to compete on one surface of the handler's choosing, by completing four (4) qualifying pulls at or above the Level III performance percentage within either the Standard or Advanced Division during the qualifying season.
   b) A dog qualifies to compete on all three surfaces by completing eight (8) qualifying pulls at or above the Level III performance percentage within either the Standard or Advanced Division during the qualifying season.
   c) A dog must compete in the Division in which it qualified in.
      i) If a dog qualifies in multiple Divisions, it must compete in the higher Division.

3) **Nationals Awards:** These distinctions are earned by competitors whose achievements during Nationals mark them as champions of valor and endurance.

   - **MWPP** and **MWP** for each Surface, in each Division.
   - **Canine Force Excellence Award at Nationals**: Awarded to the dog that achieves the highest combined percentage pulled at Nationals. Participation on all three surfaces is required.
   - **Canine Power Excellence Award at Nationals**: Awarded to the dog that achieves the highest combined total weight pulled at Nationals. Participation on all three surfaces is required.
   - **Veteran Excellence Award**: Awarded to the senior dog (aged 7 years or older) that achieves the highest cumulative ranking points at Nationals. Participation on all three surfaces is required.
   - **Junior Handler Excellence Award**: Awarded to the Junior Handler that achieves the highest cumulative ranking points at Nationals. Participation on all three surfaces is required.

4) **Annual Awards:** These honors celebrate individuals who have made an outstanding impact in their first years of participation. Awards are based on nominations recognizing a novice dog, novice junior handler, or novice handler who consistently demonstrates exceptional sportsmanship, provides meaningful support at events, and promotes weight pull in a positive, encouraging way. Nominations should include specific examples showing how the nominee meets these criteria. The awards are presented at the Nationals Awards Banquet. If a recipient is unable to attend, a friend or family member may accept the award on their behalf.

   - **Novice Dog of the Year:** Any dog in its first year of weight pull, having participated in the qualifying IDSA season, is eligible for nomination.
   - **Novice Junior of the Year:** Any Junior Handler in their first year of weight pull, having participated in the qualifying IDSA season, is eligible for nomination.
   - **Novice Handler of the Year:** Any Handler in their first year of weight pull, having participated in the qualifying IDSA season is eligible for nomination.

Section 27: Iron Dog Elite Circle

Induction into the Iron Dog Elite Circle is regarded as a lifetime honor, celebrating outstanding, versatile, and enduring excellence displayed across multiple seasons and surfaces.

1) **General Rules:** Qualifications may be accumulated over any span of months or seasons. IDSA is responsible for maintaining official records and documentation. If a handler believes their dog has met the requirements for induction but no announcement has been made, the handler must provide proof of accomplishment for verification. No fees are required for Iron Dog Elite Circle induction. You must be inducted into the prior Elite Circle before you can qualify for the next.

2) Requirements:
   a) **Elite Circle Copper** (250 points + all of the following):
      i) Earn a total of 4 Regional Rankings medals;
      ii) Earn a class placement at Nationals; and
      iii) Earn one Performance Milestone Award.

   b) **Elite Circle Bronze** (500 points + all of the following):
      i) Earn a total of 8 Regional Rankings medals, at least 2 Gold;
      ii) Earn a class placement at Nationals three times; and
      iii) Earn two Performance Milestone Awards.

   c) **Elite Circle Silver** (750 points + 4 of the following):
      i) Earn a total of 12 Regional Rankings, at least 4 Gold;
      ii) Earn a Standard or Advanced Versatility Title;
      iii) Earn a Tri-Milestone Award;
      iv) Win your class once at Nationals;
      v) Earn MWPP or MWP at Nationals; or
      vi) Earn an Excellence Award at Nationals.

   d) **Elite Circle Gold** (1,000 points + 4 of the following):
      i) Earn a total of 6 Gold Regional Rankings medals;
      ii) Win your class three (3) times at Nationals;
      iii) Earn a Power Masters Award;
      iv) Earn a Force Masters Award;
      v) Earn MWPP or MWP a total of 2 times at Nationals; or
      vi) Earn a total of 2 Excellence Awards at Nationals.

   e) **Elite Circle Platinum** (1,250 points + all of the following):
      i) Earn a Versatility Advanced Supreme Title;
      ii) Earn MWPP or MWP a total of 4 times at Nationals;
      iii) Earn a total of 4 Excellence Awards at Nationals;
      iv) Earn a Tri-Surface Masters Award.

3) **Elite Circle Points**

Achievement	Points
MWPP or MWP (Season)	10 each
Performance Titles (each)	Novice = 5; Standard = 10; Advanced = 15
Surface Titles (each)	Novice = 10; Standard = 15; Advanced = 20
Versatility Titles (each)	Novice = 15; Standard = 20; Advanced = 25
Versatility Supreme Titles (each)	Standard = 25; Advanced = 30
Record (Season)	10 each

Record (Nationals)	15 each
Regional Rankings medals	Gold = 15; Silver = 10; Bronze = 5
Performance Milestones	Standard = 15; Advanced = 20
Tri-Milestone Award	30
Force Masters Award	50
Power Masters Award	50
Tri-Surface Masters Award	75
Nationals Class Placements	Gold = 25; Silver = 20; Bronze = 15
MWP or MWPP at Nationals	35 each
Excellence Awards at Nationals	50 each

Section 28: Hosting an IDSA Licensed Weight Pull Event

1) **Equipment:** Review *Section 32 (Chute Requirements)* and *Section 33 (Track and Equipment Requirements)* of this document to confirm your equipment meets IDSA specifications. If your equipment does not comply, email events@irondogsports.org to discuss if adjustments are required.

2) **Fees:** To host an IDSA Licensed Event, the applicant must submit a non-refundable $50.00 deposit at the time of application. This deposit is applied to the event fees, which are calculated at $5.00 per dog, per pull, and are due within 10 days of the event's conclusion.
   a) Example: You submit your application with the $50.00 deposit. You host a 2-day event with 4 pulls total, and 10 dogs participate in each pull. The event fee is $5.00 × 10 dogs × 4 pulls = $200. After applying your $50.00 deposit, you owe IDSA $150.

3) **Event Limits and Scheduling:** A maximum of two pulls per day may be approved, and multiple surfaces can be used on the same day. No more than eight pulls will be approved over a four-day period. The official start time of a pull is marked by the beginning of the Handler's Meeting.

4) **Submitting a Licensed Event Application:** If your equipment meets all specifications, submit the IDSA Licensed Event Application *(see Forms)* to: events@irondogsports.org.
   a) Applications must be received no later than two (2) weeks prior to the Event start date.
   b) Include a non-refundable $50.00 deposit, which will be credited toward the $5.00 per dog, per pull fee.
      i) Check or Money Order made payable to: Iron Dog Sports Association
      ii) Zelle: IDSAgeneral@gmail.com
      iii) PayPal: IDSAgeneral@gmail.com
      iv) Venmo: @irondogsports
   c) Following receipt, IDSA will list your event and information contained within the Licensed Event Application at www.irondogsports.org

5) **Before the Event**
   a) The Host of the Event is responsible for any and all fees Event-related costs, including, but not limited to, licensing, venue, awards, equipment, insurance, and advertising.
   b) Cancellations: Notify IDSA as soon as possible if the event must be cancelled.

6) **During the Event**
   a) The Host must follow all IDSA Rules and Regulations, available at www.irondogsports.org.
   b) The Host must use all IDSA-approved forms, including the Weight Pull Event Entry Form, Weight Pull Event Waiver, Weigh-In Sheet, and Scoresheet *(see Forms)*.
   c) The Host is responsible for managing all aspects of the Event, including, but not limited to, setup, teardown, safety, sourcing of Judges and volunteers, and enforcement of IDSA Weight Pull Rules and Regulations.

7) **After the Event**

a) Submit a $5.00 per dog, per pull fee to IDSA, minus the deposit paid at the time of application (using any payment method listed above) within 10 days of the Event's conclusion.
b) Email or mail all completed IDSA Entry Forms, Event Waivers Weigh-In Sheets, and Event Results within 10 days to:
   i) Email: events@irondogsports.org
   ii) Mail: Attn: Sarah Szymanski, 3099 William Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Section 29: Dual-Licensed Events

1) IDSA is proud to announce collaborations with the following organizations:
   a) American Pulling Alliance (APA)
   b) Global Canine Registry (GCR)
   c) International Weight Pull Association (IWPA)
   d) Unified Pulling Federation (UPF)

2) Dual-licensed events may be conducted in one of the following three formats:
   a) **Separate Format:** Each organization operates independently. Dogs may compete in one or both organizations. When competing in both, the collaborating organization's rules will apply. Two separate score sheets are maintained. If a dog is eliminated under the collaborating organization's rules, a foul will be assessed for IDSA, and the dog may continue competing under IDSA rules until a second foul or elimination occurs. Awards and fees are determined at the host's discretion and will be detailed in the event premium.
   b) **Joint Format:** Both organizations function jointly, and all dogs must compete under both. A single score sheet is used. If a dog is eliminated under either organization, it is eliminated from both. Awards and fees are determined at the host's discretion and will be detailed in the event premium.
   c) **Primary Organization Format:** One organization (either IDSA or the collaborating organization) is designated as the primary. All participants must enter the primary organization, with the option to pay a nominal additional fee to compete with the secondary organization. A single score sheet or separate score sheets may be used, however, it should be clear which dogs competed with IDSA. Awards and fees are determined at the host's discretion and will be detailed in the event premium.

3) Judges from each organization are responsible for knowing which dogs fall under their jurisdiction and which rule sets applies. IDSA recommends maintaining separate score sheets for each organization that a dog is participating in.

Section 30: Awards

1) Event hosts may purchase IDSA awards and class placement ribbons at a discounted price from www.irondogsports.org. Alternatively, hosts have the option to purchase or create their own awards.
2) If class placement awards are offered, they must be issued consistently across all three divisions. Similarly, if MWPP or MWP awards are offered, they must be provided for at least the Standard and Advanced Divisions.

Section 31: Breed Club Recognition

1) IDSA is proud to announce collaborations with the following Breed Clubs:
   a) Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America
   b) Saint Bernard Club of America

2) Breed Clubs may choose to recognize IDSA events for their own purposes, but all IDSA events must be conducted strictly under this IDSA Weight Pull Rulebook. IDSA will only license and record IDSA-licensed events. Breed Clubs seeking recognition for specialty events should contact IDSA at events@irondogsports.org for guidance.

Section 32: Chute Requirements

1) Chutes are required for snow, recommended for wheels, and optional for rails. If a chute is not used, a suitable crowd barrier must be in place to keep spectators a safe distance from any dog that is actively pulling.
2) Chute Width: Minimum of 8 feet; Maximum of 15 feet.
3) Chute Length: Minimum of 30 feet; No Maximum.
4) Markings: The start and finish lines must be clearly marked and positioned 16 feet apart on all surfaces. Additionally, a designated line should be marked 2 feet back from the carabiner when the trace is fully extended, indicating the point the D-ring of the dog's harness must cross before release.
   a) *Snow*: Must have a "break line" located at least 1foot behind the start line.
5) Barriers: Chutes must have sturdy side barriers capable of withstanding impact from the cart or sled while also preventing interference from dogs, spectators, or other handlers. Barriers should be between 3 and 4 feet high, with 4 feet preferred, span the length of the chute, and may be constructed from durable materials such as hog panels, snow fencing, or solid walls.
   a) *Snow*: The chute must have an additional solid barrier approximately 1 foot high along the inside of the side barriers, spanning the length of the chute, preventing the sled from becoming caught in the chute barrier. Boards must be solid and continuous.
6) Chute End: The end of the chute toward which the dog pulls must remain open and free of any distractions.
7) Judging Area: To facilitate judging, a table, chairs, and necessary judging materials (e.g., official score sheets, writing utensils, calculators, stop watches, microphones if used) may be placed along the side of the pull area, but outside the chute.

Section 33: Track and Equipment Requirements

1) Rails Track and Equipment Requirements:
   a) Casters/Wheels: The cart must have at least four casters or wheels, one at each corner, constructed of metal for durability and safety. Casters or wheels may be grooved, smooth, or a combination of both, provided they do not compromise safety for dogs or handlers. Each caster or wheel must have a diameter between 3 inches and 6 inches.
   b) Cart Deck Dimensions: The cart deck may not extend more than 12 inches past any caster.
      i) Width: Minimum of 2 feet; No Maximum
      ii) Length: Minimum of 3 feet; No Maximum
   c) Load Capacity: The track and cart system must be capable of safely carrying at least 8,000 pounds.
   d) Safety Stops: Both ends of each rail must have stops to prevent the cart from being pulled off the track in either direction.
   e) Leveling: The track may be set level or inclined up to 4 inches measured at the end of the track. If an incline is present, the pulling direction must never be downhill.
   f) Braking: The cart must have a manual or mechanical braking system.
   g) Carpeting: Carpeting shall extend from rail to rail and continue beyond the finish line, ensuring uniform traction so that the dog performs the pull entirely on the same surface.
   h) Trace Line: A single "I-shaped" trace line must be attached to the center front of the cart, measuring 4-6 feet in length (from the cart's center front to the carabiner). It must have a weight rating that is equal to or greater than the maximum block available and cannot be constructed from chain or cables.
   i) Maintenance: Rails may be oiled before the start of a pull, and every 2,000 lbs thereafter as long as it is at the beginning of a block drop, at the Chief Judge's discretion. If the rails are oiled during a pull, they must be oiled at the same increment throughout the remainder of the pull (ie: if rails are first oiled at 3,000 lbs, oiling should continue at each additional 3,000 lbs). Trace lines must remain unchanged throughout a pull and cannot be replaced during the pull unless there is an equipment failure that requires a replacement. For events with two pulls in one day, trace lines may be changed between pulls.

2) Wheels Track and Equipment Requirements
   a) Tires and Axle: The cart must be equipped with four pneumatic tires measuring between 6 and 18 inches in diameter (measured across the outer sides), mounted either beneath the cart deck or externally. It must

have two axles to ensure stability and prevent tipping, and a spare tire or reliable patch kit must be available on-site in case of a flat. Tire pressure must be equal in all tires, adhere to manufacturer PSI ratings, and be checked daily by the Chief Judge before competition begins.

b) Cart Deck Dimensions: The cart deck may not extend more than 12 inches past any tire.
   i) Width: Minimum of 3 feet; No Maximum.
   ii) Length: Minimum of 4 feet; Maximum of 8 feet.
c) Load Capacity: The track and cart system must be capable of safely carrying at least 4,000 pounds.
d) Leveling: The track may be set level or inclined up to 2 inches measured at the end of the track. If an incline is present, the pulling direction must never be downhill.
e) Braking: The cart must have a manual or mechanical braking system.
f) Artificial Surface: Carpeting must be placed over a solid, consistent surface and must extend the full length of the chute to ensure continuous traction so that the dog performs the pull entirely on the same surface.
g) Natural Surface: Acceptable surfaces include grass, hard-packed dirt, or small stone (e.g., ball diamond surfaces). These surfaces must be free of loose material that could compromise traction or safety.
h) Trace Line: A single "V-shaped" trace line must be used, with each end securely attached to the front corners of the cart to allow the carabiner to move freely from side to side. The trace line must measure 4 to 6 feet in length (from the cart's center front to the carabiner), have a weight rating that is equal to or greater than the maximum block available, and cannot be constructed from chain or cables.
i) Maintenance: Tires must be inflated to the manufacturer's recommended PSI prior to the start of a pull. If two pulls take place on the same day, tire pressure may be adjusted between pulls. If there is a critical failure during a pull, additional air may be added to the tires. Trace lines must remain unchanged throughout a pull and may only be replaced during the pull if an equipment failure requires it. For events with two pulls on the same day, trace lines may be changed between pulls.

3) Snow Track and Equipment Requirements
   a) Runners: The sled must have two runners, each between 1 and 4 inches wide, with a minimum of 5 feet of continuous contact surface. The runners must curve upward at the front in the pulling direction, and the contact surface, defined as the portion touching the snow from the end of the curve backward, must extend the full 5 feet. Runners must be fitted with either plastic (P-tex) or metal material.
   b) Sled Deck Dimensions:
      i) Width: Minimum of 2.5 feet; Maximum of 4 feet.
      ii) Length: Minimum of 5 feet, Maximum of 8 feet.
   c) Load Capacity: The track (surface) and sled system must be capable of safely carrying at least 2,000 pounds.
   d) Leveling: The track may be set level or inclined up to 1 inch measured at the end of the track. If an incline is present, the pulling direction must never be downhill.
   e) Braking: The cart must have a manual or mechanical braking system.
   f) Artificial Surface: Ice shavings or man-made snow (e.g., from an ice arena or snow machine) that may be spread outdoors on the ground or indoors on an ice surface.
   g) Natural Surface: Snow formed naturally through weather conditions.
   h) Trace Line: A "Y-shaped" trace line must be used, with one end attached to the front of the sled above each runner and both lines joining into a single trace approximately 2 to 3 feet in front of the sled before connecting to the carabiner. The trace line must measure 4 to 6 feet in length (from the sled's center front to the carabiner), have a weight rating that is equal to or greater than the maximum block available, and cannot be constructed from chain or cables.
   i) Maintenance: Waxing of runners must be completed before the start of a pull. When two pulls are held on the same day, runners may be re-waxed between pulls. Trace lines must remain unchanged throughout a pull and may only be replaced during the pull if an equipment failure requires it. For events with two pulls on the same day, trace lines may be changed between pulls.

4) Small Carts and Small Sleds: The use of a small cart or sled is permitted on any surface to ensure that dogs can start at realistic and safe weights. Once the load on the smaller cart or sled equals or exceeds the empty weight of the larger cart or sled, all subsequent pulls must be conducted on the larger cart or sled. Hosts should provide odd-sized weights to facilitate smooth transitions. Small carts or sleds may be used in any weight class, must

safely carry at least the empty weight of the larger cart or sled, and must be equipped with trace lines rated for the maximum load carried by the smaller cart or sled. Up to three cart sizes may be used at any single event.

Section 34: Judges

1) Eligibility and Application: Individuals wishing to serve as IDSA Weight Pull Judges must complete and submit the IDSA Judge Application, providing their full legal name, current contact information, and a history of relevant officiating experience. Applicants must commit to completing all required IDSA Judge Apprenticeship and/or testing processes prior to certification. All information provided on the application must be true and accurate, and any falsification may result in rejection of the application or disciplinary action.
2) Waiver, Liability, and Risk: Judges must annually sign the IDSA Weight Pull Judge Waiver, acknowledging the inherent risks of officiating at licensed events, including potential injury, property damage, or death, and agreeing to assume all such risks. By signing, the Judge releases and waives all related claims against IDSA and its associated parties, agrees to indemnify them for any claims arising from the Judge's conduct, authorizes emergency medical treatment at their own expense, and grants IDSA and event hosts permission to use their image and likeness in event photos or media. The Judge also certifies that all information provided is true and correct and understands that they are voluntarily waiving substantial legal rights.
3) Ethics and Professional Conduct: Certified Judges must comply with the IDSA Weight Pull Judge Ethics Agreement by maintaining integrity, impartiality, professionalism, and respect for all dogs and handlers, while keeping sensitive information about handlers, owners, and event documents strictly confidential. They must judge solely on observed performance in accordance with IDSA rules, conduct a Handler's Meeting before each pull, promptly report any attempts to influence judging decisions or any incidents of misconduct, and always place animal welfare above competition outcomes, ensuring that no dog showing signs of illness or injury is allowed to compete. Violations of these ethical or professional obligations may result in suspension or permanent revocation of judging privileges at IDSA's discretion.
4) Accountability: By signing these agreements, Judges acknowledge that they fully understand and will comply with all IDSA Weight Pull Rules, policies, and standards. Any failure to uphold these obligations or maintain required standards may result in disciplinary action, including loss of judging status.

Section 35: Junior Judge Apprentice Program

IDSA promotes youth education and participation in judging events through the Junior Judge Apprentice Program. The program provides a structured progression for juniors to learn the principles of fair competition, animal welfare, and judge responsibilities in preparation for future certification.

1) General Protocols: All Junior Judge Apprentices must uphold the same standards of conduct expected of certified Judges, including impartiality, confidentiality, professionalism, and prioritization of animal welfare (see Section 34). Apprentices are not authorized to make official rulings, record results, or handle certified event documentation, as all activities are instructional and supervised. Participation in the Junior Judge Apprentice Program does not guarantee future judge certification, but instead serves as a prerequisite training stage.
2) Eligibility and Application: All Junior Judge Apprentice Applicants must be at least 15 years of age and demonstrate a solid foundational knowledge of canine weight pull, achieved through active participation in canine weight pull events for a minimum of one year. A parent or guardian must complete and submit the IDSA Junior Judge Apprentice Application on behalf of the participant. Apprentices must commit to completing all assigned training and evaluation components, and all application details must be accurate, as falsification may result in immediate removal from the program.
3) Procedure: Apprentices participate in structured training toward future judge certification, assisting with practical event tasks such as supervised officiating exercises, data verification, and procedural observation. They receive formal performance feedback and may complete specific modules aligned with IDSA judge training standards, with all activities conducted under the supervision of certified Judges. Upon reaching age 18, individuals who have successfully completed all Apprentice-level training requirements may apply for Judge Certification, and once certified, they are eligible to serve as certified Judges at IDSA events.