

Accepted by Estonian Kennel Union Council on 27th of November 2018

Estonian Kennel Union Rules for Nordic Sleddog Trials (Summary)

1. The purpose of trials for nordic sleddogs

The purpose of the trials is to maintain the historical function, to test the endurance, speed qualities and pulling power and to value the obedience and cooperation qualities of the nordic sleddogs. The aim is also to develop the joint sled dog sports activities.

2. Trial, class and group

Sleddog trials can characteristically be races with trials, trials or breed specific trials with minimum two heats.

In order to take place a trial must include a minimum of three starting teams per class, per breed or group. The team can be only composed of one of the 7 (6 FCI) nordic sled dog breeds. If minimum of three starting teams per breed is not reached, teams can be divided into groups:

Group	Breed (estonian abbreviation)
1. group	Siberian Husky (SH)
2. group	Alaskan Malamute (AM), Greenland Dog (GK) Canadian Eskimo Dog (KEK) Yakutian Laika (JL) Samoyed (SAM) Chukotka Sled Dog (TK)

Class	Explanation	Number of dogs allowed per team
A	8-dog sled	6-8 dogs
B	6-dog sled	4-6 dogs
C	4-dog sled	3-4 dogs
D	2-dog sled	2 dogs
PUL2	2-dog pulka	2 dogs
PUL1	1-dog pulka	1 dog
KR	4-dog rig	3-4 dogs
TR	2-dog scooter	2 dogs

3. Distance per heat

A	minimum 20 km
B	minimum 15 km
C	minimum 12 km
D	minimum 12 km
PUL2	minimum 12 km
PUL1	minimum 10 km
KR	minimum 10 km
TR	minimum 10 km

4. Age, obligations and responsibilities of drivers

Age of drivers:

- minimum 16 years old in 1-dog pulka, 2-dog pulka, 2-dog sled and 2-dog scooter class
- minimum 18 years old in rig class and in 8/6/4-dog sled class

An entry for a minor driver (below 18 years old) shall be co-signed by parents or guardians. With their signature they declare that they are of opinion that the minor driver is capable to participate in the total event and to safely cover the trail in the applicable class as established by the organizer.

A driver shall follow the trial rules, the instructions of the organizer and instructions and decisions of the trial judge. All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handler, and themselves whenever in the trial area or on the trail. Drivers should attend the drivers' meeting. Drivers shall not hinder or endanger the welfare of their dogs, and the progress of the event. Offenders shall be disqualified.

5. Dogs

Dogs participating in a trial shall be at least 18 months old and registered in the EKU or valid FCI registry, vaccinated and ID-marked according to the EKU rules: <http://kennelliit.ee/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/vaccination-requirements-valid-since-01.01.2016.pdf>

Dogs that are not allowed to participate in a trial:

- A sick or injured dog
- A pregnant bitch thirty (30) days before delivery and forty two (42) days after delivery.
- A dog that has been given medication against EKU doping rules.

6. Equipment

Dogs harnesses shall be well fitting and at least be padded around the neck and chest area.

A muzzle, or a collar that can be hooked as a full choke, shall be prohibited.

A sled shall be capable of safely carrying a dog. A sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, an adequate rubber braking pad fastened to the sled via a solid tip-up system, a brush bow, one snow hook in B/C/D class, two snow hooks in A class, and an adequately ventilated dog bag in A/B/C class.

Weight regulations in kilograms for pulka class:

Class	Weight of the pulka in kilograms per breed						
	AM	KEK	GK	JL	SAM	SH	TK
PUL1	30	30	30	20	20	20	30
PUL2	50	50	50	35	35	35	50

The weight of the pulka includes dog harnesses and lines, except dog driver's equipment.

The weight of a pulka can be reduced by 5 kg per female dog. Dogs in PUL2 class shall be connected with one solid shaft to the pulka (the shaft shall extend to the attachment point of the necklines) and so that it is not possible for the pulka to overrun a harnessed dog. Dog in PUL1 class shall be connected with two solid shafts to the pulka and so that it is not possible for the pulka or sled to overrun a harnessed dog. A team in sled/pulka class shall be equipped with 4 boots for each dog (boots in the sled bag or dog(s) wearing them if necessary).

In 2-dog scooter class the scooter shall be equipped with an efficient brake on each wheel. A driver shall wear helmet, glasses and gloves. Studded tires are not allowed on scooter. The competitor should not be wearing shoes that could be dangerous for dogs.

The rig in 4-dog rig class shall have 3 or 4 wheels with brakes. All rigs shall be equipped with a working brake on the back wheels. Having brakes in the front wheels is recommended. A snub line at least 3 meter shall be carried on the rig to be used to tie down and hold the rig. A driver shall wear helmet, glasses and gloves. Studded tires are not allowed on rig. The competitor should not be wearing shoes that could be dangerous for dogs.

7. Temperature

The temperature shall not be over 12 °C. There shall be a thermometer in the starting area, readily visible, placed in the shade, at 50 centimeters above ground level.

8. Starting time and trail rules

A team that fails to be in the starting position at its scheduled starting time or within half of the starting interval after the scheduled starting time shall be declared a late starting team, and shall receive a new starting time plus a time penalty of 3 times the starting interval in its class. If a team starts too early, it shall get a time penalty of 30 seconds.

A team and driver shall run the full course as established by the organizer of the trial. If a team leaves the trail, the driver shall return the team to the point at which they left the trail. A driver shall ride behind his/her dog(s). During the overtaking procedure the overtaken team shall make unimpeded way for the passing team. On the command "trail," the driver and the dog(s) are obliged to hold the same side of the trail and slow down. Assisting the teams during the test is not allowed except in the starting chute. Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other (for example in case of tangled lines during passing). All drivers must assume that a loose team or dog is an endangered team or dog. A loose team or dog(s) shall not delay or interfere with another team.

9. Base time and merits/prizes

When calculating the base time, only teams consisting of dogs of the same breed/group are counted. In order to get a merit a dog must have run the total distance.

Base time when the number of competing teams are:

3-10	the 2 firsts average time
11-20	the 3 firsts average time
over 21	the 4 firsts average time

The merits are reached as follows:

Excellent	VEO1	time within 110% of base time
Good	VEO2	time within 120 % of base time
Accepted	VEO3	time within 150 % of base time
Disqualified	VEO0	Time over 150 % of base time

A dog which is dropped out of the trial does not get a merit (VEO -).