

## BSSF RACE RULES

As a basis, the BSSF works in conjunction with IFSS rules. They are the only international federation that incorporates both team and mono sports, as well as open and Registered Nordic Breeds, which is needed for all BSSF events. Please see the amended IFSS race rules below, as well as some organic BSSF race rules. Some rules are only to be utilised at non-championship races; and this will be made clear on each entry form.

### **Definition – AGE**

The age of the competitor is considered to be the same as that defined by the IFSS, that is, the age reached on the 31<sup>st</sup> December in the year containing the end of the racing season.

The age of the dog is the age it reaches on the first day of the competition.

### **IFSS Rule 3.4.1**

BSSF Local: Minimum numbers for a class to run are at the discretion of the BSSF

### **IFSS Rules 3.4.2, 3.4.3 & 10.5**

BSSF Local: Minimum numbers for classes to be broken down are at the discretion of the BSSF.

### **IFSS Rule 3.6**

BSSF Local: Any dog having raced in one full-length class is only eligible to then race in one shorter (junior) class or relay class the same day.

### **IFSS Rule 82.2.3**

BSSF Local: The rig in DR4 and DR6RNB shall have a minimum three (3) wheels. The rig in DR6 open and DR8 shall have a minimum four (4) wheels. The minimum diameter on all wheels shall be 30cm (12 in). The minimum wheelbase (the distance between front and rear axle) shall be 110 cm (43 in) and the minimum track (the distance between the wheels on the same axle) shall be 70cm (27 in). A 10% discrepancy in these sizes shall be allowed. Rigs will have working brakes on all wheels (3 wheeled rigs used **solely** in classes DW1SB / SG (7-10) are exempt from requiring a front brake)

### **IFSS Rule- 82.3.2**

BSSF Local: Dog drop checkpoints may be provided at least every 3 km (1.8 mi), and may be combined with normal check points. Where provided, they shall be equipped with a lead or suitable way of securing a dog, and water. Dogs dropped at checkpoints shall not be allowed to start in succeeding heats. If no possibilities are provided to drop dogs and a dog becomes unfit or refuses to advance for any reason, the driver is not permitted to finish the heat. For safety reasons, the transport of a dog on the rig is strictly forbidden in all classes.

### **IFSS Rule B.II.20**

BSSF Local: All dogs at race sites must be vaccinated initially and with their first annual booster against Hepatitis, Distemper, Parvovirus, and Leptospirosis.

It is the responsibility of the musher to demonstrate vaccination records for all dogs at a race if requested.

From here onwards, no equivalent rule exists in IFSS rules and regs:

1.You do not need to be a full member of the BSSF to enter any of the championship

rounds (non-member will be required to provide evidence of suitable racing insurance), However To qualify for a national ranking You must be a full and paid up member ( if funds for your membership have not been paid for any reason you will be considered a non member) before entry closes for any entered event you wish to accrue championship points for and have completed a minimum of 4 rounds (2 weekends) in the same class by the end of the championship.

2. Starting position and time for each team shall be determined by the individual race organiser.

3. It is each individual driver's responsibility to ensure by whatever means necessary that the designated course is safe and suitable for their team, bearing in mind its size and speed and their own level of skill and experience and the prevailing weather conditions at the time.

The responsibility for the condition, safety and suitability of all dogs and equipment rests solely with the Driver and/or Owner.

Any team, dog or driver coming to the event and being deemed, in the opinion of the event organiser, Race Marshal, Race judge team or the appointed race vet, unfit or incapable of completing the course in a safe and satisfactory manner, or unable to provide evidence of prior experience demonstrating competence in the entered class **shall** be either:

- a) Be asked to reduce their team size
- b) Be asked to remove the dog in question from the team
- c) Be given the opportunity to enter a different, smaller class size.
- d) Be asked not to attend the event and have entry fees refunded

4. The course will be available for familiarisation prior to the race, this may be conducted on foot with or without a dog (only 1 dog per person is permitted)

Inspection of the course on bike/scooter, including e-bike, will be determined by the race organiser in conjunction with the trail team, and determined upon any requests by the landowner and on local conditions expected for the race weekend so that at no time is racing compromised. E-bike, pedal cycle or scooter must be without dogs attached – riding at speed is not permitted and right of way must be given to anyone walking with a dog.

Failure to abide by this determination may lead to a penalty ranging from time added to disqualification from the event.

5. No dog, equipment, clothing or person shall come to an event from a kennel where there has been any confirmed case of any infectious disease or suspected contact with any infectious disease within the previous 21 days. Any breach of this rule will result in disqualification and immediate removal from the event site. Further disciplinary measures may be applied if the BSSF Council feel this is appropriate (for example knowingly bringing dogs to an event with a confirmed or suspected case of any infectious disease). Affiliated clubs and race operators may (shall) be advised of any breach of this rule if they are holding an event within the same 21 day period. If you are unsure what constitutes confirmed or suspected contact with any infectious disease please refer to the BSSF before coming to an event to enable veterinary advice to be sought.

6. No dog less than eighteen months old on the first day of the event will be accepted for entry other than the recreational class; in which dogs twelve months old shall be eligible

to run. Dogs must be at least 12 weeks of age and have had their initial vaccinations, in accordance with the British Small Animal Veterinary Association guidelines, to be allowed on any BSSF event site.

7. Mating of bitches is forbidden at any BSSF event site.

8. Puppies will not be offered for sale at any BSSF event site.

9. Whelping bitches shall not be taken to race sites.

10. Any dog that has recently whelped or had surgery must be given adequate time to recover before re-starting training.

11. Any device or implement prejudicial to the welfare of the dog shall not be used at any time at a race site. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of shock or prong collars or electrified fencing. The use of any such device may result in disqualification and being asked to leave the race site.

12. Canicross School Boys/ Girls

The school boys/girls must be accompanied by an adult over the whole distance. The adult who accompanies must secure the child with a double leash that is longer than the leash of the child. The task of the adult is to ensure the security of the child and may only intervene if a problem arises. Neither the child, nor the dog should be stimulated physically or psychologically, by a word or an attitude, to improve their performance.. The adult may never be ahead of the child. If the adult does so, the child will be time penalised.

13. Entrants to BSSF National Championship races must be suitably experienced and competent to compete in their selected class(es)

Anyone deemed not to be so or unable to provide evidence of such experience may have their entry to such classes refused.

14. The following classes and junior age categories may be offered at all BSSF events:

### **IFSS Classes**

#### **RIG**

DR8 / DR8RNB \* / DR8RNB2 (Freight dogs)

DR6 / DR6RNB \* / DR6RNB2 (Freight dogs)

DR4 / DR4RNB \* / DR4RNB2 (Freight dogs)

DR4J / DR4JRNB (14-18) \*

#### **SCOOTER**

DS2 / DS2RNB \* / DS2RNB2 (Freight)

DS1M / DS1MV40+ / DS1MV50+ / DS1MV60+ \* DS1RNB2(Freight)

DS1W / DS1WV40+ / DS1WV50+ / DS1WV60+ \*

DS1MRNB / DS1WRNB \*

DS1J / DS1JRNB (14-18) \*

DS1Y (11-13) \*

#### **CANICROSS**

DCM / DCMV40+ / DCMV50+ / DCMV60+ \*

DCW / DCWV40+ / DCWV50+ / DCW60+ \*  
DCMJ / DCWJ (14-18) \*  
DCMY / DCWY (11-13) \*

#### BIKEJOR

DBM / DBMW40+ / DBMV50+ / DBMV60+ \*  
DBW / DBWV40+ / DBWV50+ DBWV60+ \*  
DBMRNB / DBMVRNB \*  
DBWRNB / DBWRNB \*  
DBMJ / DBWJ (16-18) \*

#### **Non IFSS Classes**

DR2J / DR2JRNB (14-18) \*  
DR2Y (11-13) \*  
DBMY/DBWY (11-15)  
DW1SB / SG (7-10) - 1 dog only, can be rig, scooter or bike under adult supervision  
DCSB / DCSG (7-10) \* \*\*

\* - National Championship status awarded if all criteria met.

\*\* - All competitors must be accompanied by an adult attached by means of a line to the dog throughout the race.

All competitors in junior classes, where being accompanied by an adult is not mandatory, may choose to have an appropriate adult follow behind them.

In DCMY / DCWY (11-13) classes the adult **MAY** also be attached by a line to the dog's harness as per Rule 12

#### **Rules intended specifically for non-championship races**

1. The Race Organiser may run a trail in reverse on the second day, if the course allows for such a change.
2. No wet acid batteries may be carried. Lithium ion batteries must be contained in a secure, robust housing
3. Back up lights must be carried during night races.

