

Siberian Husky Club of Canada

Sled dog certification

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Q&A Revised November 26th, 2011 Manon Parent SHCC Racing Director

Q&A updated October 12th, 2013 Manon Parent SHCC Racing Director

Q1. Does any length of race count or must there be equal to, or more, miles than dogs on the team? I would prefer that any reasonable length count, especially since for dry-land races the temperature often means a shorter run, and the same applies to snow races when snow conditions are not great. This can ultimately be a safety issue for the dogs.

A: The Canadian passport states "race should be governed by the current edition of ISDRA. ISDRA Dry-land race rules should be consulted and followed.

Q2. This may seem obvious, but I once had someone insist that a team with only one non-purebred dog running should still count as a purebred team. I disagree, but may as well get the official answer.

A. All dogs on the team need to be all purebred CKC registered or have a CKC PEN in order for a team to enter a purebred class. The classes are clearly defined in the official entry form and the Club responsible of the pure bred race should verify the CKC registration papers before the race.

Q3. "The club has to get going and send the changes for the sled dog titles in to CKC"

A: Agreed.

A: in March 2013 at the CKC meeting held in Vancouver, an amendment was made to the Sled Dog Certificate Passport to bring it up-to-date with current rules. The four (4 items) propositions made by the SHCC were accepted as a whole and as a result the CKC were in the process of redoing the sled dog passport. A **NEW SD** certificate passport is available since June 2013 and to be use now. Please contact the CKC to get a copy.

Propositions presented in March 2013:

PROPOSITION 1)

To include in "SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED RACE":

In open competition (all breeds), no more than 1.30 times greater than the average heat times of the first three placements.

Rational: Open competition means that any kind of dogs (all breed) can entered that race (pure bred, mix breed, racing mix dogs..) this is NOT a pure bred class only. In pure bred class, as per CKC race rules (see the passport) the rules in section III says: ***In this section the term "successfully completed race" means one or more heats in which the total heat times of the team is not more that 25% greater than the total average heat times of the first three placements.***

We (SHCC) are asking to raise the 25% (1.25) factor to 30% (1.30) for those "open" class. Our rational is based on a correlation with the American Siberian Husky Club (USA) rules. In USA pure bred class the factor is 1.33 and in the "open" class they raise it to 1.39.

I add below an extract of the USA rules. You can find it at <http://www.shca.org/shcahp6b.htm>. If the CKC wants to be inline with the US then we can have a "new" factor for the open class for the SD title only and the subsequent titles (SDX and SDU) can remain at 1.25 or not.

USA "SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED RACE" means completion of a race:

- a. *With a time that is not greater than 1.33 times the average finishing time for the fastest three Purebred teams in the same size restricted class as the applicant for the SLED DOG degree. In all breed competition, a time that is not greater than 1.39 times the average finishing time for the fastest three teams in the same size restricted class as the applicant for the SLED DOG degree.*
- b. *With a time that is not greater than 1.29 times the average finishing times for the fastest three teams in the same size restricted class for the SLED DOG EXCELLENT degree*
- c. *With a time that is not greater than 1.25 times the average finishing times for the fastest three teams in the same size restricted class for the SLED DOG OUTSTANDING degree*
- d. *If there are six (6) or fewer teams competing on the first day of the event then the team must also finish in the top 50% of the finishing teams as well as meeting the appropriate time factor. For the 8-dog class, the 10 dog class, the unlimited class and all distance classes if there are eight or fewer entrants at a race in a class then a "successfully completed race" means:*
 - *with a time not more than 1.33 times the winner's time for SD against purebred competition*
 - *with a time not more than 1.39 times the winner's time for SD against all breed competition*
 - *with a time not more than 1.29 times the winner's time for SDX*
 - *with a time not more than 1.25 times the winner's time for SDO*

(USA) Requirements for Award of a Sled Dog Degree

SLED DOG (S.D.) *This degree recognizes the registered or ILP-registered Siberian Husky who has demonstrated a basic level of proficiency in sled racing by earning a total accumulation of not less than 100 miles in not less than five successfully completed races.*

SLED DOG EXCELLENT (S.D.X.) *This degree recognizes the registered or ILP-registered Siberian Husky who demonstrated a high level of proficiency in sled dog racing by completing the S.D. degree. The finishing date for this degree is prior the start of a race to accumulate mileage for the S.D.X. degree. Compilation of not less than 150 miles in not less than five successfully completed races is required. Please include a copy of the dog's SD title certificate when applying for an SDX title.*

SLED DOG OUTSTANDING (S.D.O.) This degree recognizes the registered or ILP-registered Siberian Husky who demonstrated an outstanding level of proficiency in sled dog racing by completing the S.D.X. degree. The finishing date for S.D.X. is prior to accumulating miles toward the S.D.O. Compilation of not less than 200 miles in not less than five successfully completed races is required. Please include a copy of the dog's SDX title certificate when applying for an SDO title.

PROPOSITION 2)

To include in "SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED RACE":

If only two (2) teams finish a race, only the first finishing team qualifies. If only one (1) team finishes a race, the race cannot be counted towards any title. Three or more teams must start the race.

Rational: This is to make sure by writing it, that at least 3 teams start the race to make it "successful race". Also if only 2 teams finish the race (because the other teams scratch or do not finished), it is difficult to calculate the average times of the first three placements since there is only 2 placements (2 teams finishing the race) . So we are asking the CKC that at least only the first finishing team qualify.

PROPOSITION 3)

To include in "SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED RACE":

a) In the event the applicant purebred dog successfully completes a distance race of 250 miles regardless of finishing time, it would automatically receive an SD title. The appropriate sequential titles will be awarded automatically for SDX (500 miles) and SDU (750 miles). Miles do not carry over between races and titles must be earned in succession. Races less than 250 miles would follow the rules already in place.

b) These requirements will be retroactive to October 12, 2007.

Rational: I think there is no need to explain that point. The SHCC voted in favor of that change in October 2007.

PROPOSITION 4)

To include in each individual application for a CKC certificate:

A copy of the printed race results for each race.

The results must include the name of the event, date, and a complete list of times and placements.

Rational: I think there is no need to explain that point. In making this a rule, the CKC will have written evidence that the race took place and was completed. Also, the CKC can see the complete race results of all teams (number entered).

Q4. I had not heard anything about this topic up to now. Would it be possible to be kept informed? I have several dogs with SD/SDX and I am encouraging people in my club and in my area to try for theirs. I'd like to be sure that I am providing accurate information!

A: Agree, this is what we are doing right now.

A: See Q3

Q5. I think clarification would be useful on several points, and should be on the passports, or readily available from a source noted on the passports: Do dryland races count? (I have been told the answer is yes, but it's not noted on the passport). Should skijor races count? – Questionable, as effort is truly half-dog, ?? half-human. Canicross - I think not, since it is too dependent on the speed of the runner.

A. The CKC Sled dog certificate passport stipulate the following: To have all races governed by the current edition of the International Sled Dog Racing Association (ISDRA) rules. Dry-land race is covered by ISDRA race and the SHCC voted that Dry-land race should count toward the SD titles. Skijor and Canicross discussion have been deferred.

A: NEW SD certificate passport is available since June 2013 and to be use now. Contact the CKC to get a copy. See also Q3 for the updated rules.

Q6. Do we “count” only the Siberian teams when there is no separate purebred class? (Again, I have been told the answer is yes, but it should be specified on the passport)

A. No. Open dog teams cannot be ignored, but we are proposing another time factor to encourage purebred to enter all breed class (inline with the USA rules) This would need a CKC rules change and the SHCC is in favour.

A: See Q3

Q7. How many teams must run in a race for the results to be counted, and must each of the teams finish the race in order for the minimum to be reached.

A. In order to address this question we propose this addition to the rules If only two (2) teams finish a race, only the first finishing team qualifies. If only one (1) team finishes a race, the race cannot be counted towards any title. Three or more teams must start the race. This would need a CKC rules change and the SHCC is in favour.

A: See Q3

Q8. Should we consider a different qualifying time ratio when running in open races? It is possible to still qualify against Alaskans and Pointers (I have – barely), but it's pretty demanding since the mixes are typically 1/3 faster than Sibes in my experience.

A. We are proposing another time factor to encourage purebred to enter all breed class (inline with the USA rules to get an AM. SD which is 1.33 (purebred) to 1.39 (open) for 100 miles). This would need a CKC rules change and the SHCC is in favour.

A: See Q3

Q9. Should completing a race like the Iditarod or the Yukon Quest automatically be a full title regardless the competition, since the team members have clearly proven their abilities (I have no personal knowledge of this type of race, but I have heard it being discussed)

A. The SHCC board voted in favour in Oct 2007. This would need a CKC rules change and the SHCC is in favour.

A: See Q3

Q.10. Into the nitty-gritty that need not necessarily go on the passports, but which should be considered. What counts as a “purebred” team? Some dogs in our club are clearly Sibes, but came from the humane society and do not have official “apparent” status, or the parents were both registered but the individual dog is not. Should they be counted as part of a Siberian team (as judged by a race official), or should that team be eliminated from the “purebred” results. All the races I have been to, including ones with purebred classes, do not ask to see any paperwork so long as the dogs “look” Siberian (with the exception of the Mannsville Quest, but including Kortright SHCC and Kemptville World circuit / ISDRA sanctioned purebred class), so effectively non-official “apparent” dogs could have been counted in the purebred results. The problem is that being strict on the issue makes it harder to have a reasonable field of teams, and it might be considered unreasonable to expect a race official to check paperwork for the dogs, particularly if they aren’t even running an official purebred class. I don’t have a specific recommendation for this one, though maybe coming up with an appropriate open class ratio would eliminate the problem.

A. If purebred official class race is offered then it’s all CKC registered purebred dogs or CKC PEN dogs. If you have teams non-registered dogs (apparent status) you can encourage the owner to get a PEN from CKC in order to race in official purebred class, if not then they can only race in the open class. There are several races (open class) that teams are almost just purebred like Sandwich notch...

Q11.Can a dog who has obtained “apparent” status retroactively claim mileage from races run prior to attaining official status, assuming that the posted race results show which dog was on each team, and that the officials can be found to sign the paperwork.

A. No, the dogs must have his PEN status first and when the PEN number is granted by CKC, you only can claim mileage from the PEN date until today. Note that PEN dogs were accepted by the SHCC in the Sled dog passport since January 2002. So if racers had an “apparent” official status from CKC (PEN) since January 2002 it can only retroactively claim mileage from January 2002. If it was not recorded on his passport, will need to provide all documentations to support these facts.

Q12. My question was that if a team consisted of 3 registered or able-to-be-registered Siberians can the time for the team be counted towards the SD/SDX of the 3 Siberians? And what about other working dogs, ie Australian Shepherds. Can they, as registered dogs, get their SD/SDX certificates also? The rules do not mention breed, just "Requirements C) the dog must be registered individually in the CKC records."

The rules for the SHCC's WD/WLD certificates say 'yes' to the above but it is not a timed race.

(The SD/SDX are from the CKC and they mention on the Sled Dog Certificate Passport that the races shall be completed according to the current edition of the ISDRA rules. The WD/WLD are from the SHCC and would go under their rules.

Your questions are about the SD/SDX so should not be directed at the SHCC but at the CKC.)

A friend has a couple of Aussie's that she sometimes runs in with the team. To date we have not been counting those runs for any dog on the team. I have been asked before by non-northern breed purebred dog owners if they could get an SD for their dog. I have been directing them to the AMHL's certification program, which will grant working certificates for non-purebreds. Please let me know if I have been misinforming them.

A. No, a mixed breed team cannot race in a purebred class race. See Q2, Q6 and Q10. The only way that mixed breed team (that includes registered Siberian) time count is in open class race.

A. Other non-northern purebred breed (CKC registered or PEN) can apply for SD. We had a previous case with Brittany Spaniel dogs that run and qualify within the factor time and allow applying.

Q13. Can we have a race with two teams?

A. Yes, but 2 teams entered can't qualify for mileage unless there are three or more teams at the start line. In the event that only 2 teams finish the race, only the first team to finish the race would receive the qualifying mileage.

A: See Q3

Q14. I can't remember how it works if one teams scratches or is DQ'd.. But I believe it's the number of teams that start out that count. But I could be wrong on that it might need to have 3 teams finish to qualify for mileage?

A. To resolve this situation, here's the SHCC proposal: If only two (2) teams finish a race, only the first finishing team qualifies. If only one (1) team finishes a race, the race cannot be counted towards any title. Three or more teams must start the race. This would need a CKC rules change and the SHCC is in favour. (See Q.7)

A: See Q3