

# **MBEL Off-snow Race Rules (vers. 3)**

## **1 Preface**

## **2 General**

## **3 Start and Trail Rules**

## **4 Classes**

4.1 Cani-cross (CX)

4.2 Pulka (P)

4.4 1-Dog Scooter (S1)

4.5 2-Dog Scooter (S2)

4.6 2-Dog Cart (D1/D2)

4.7 4-Dog Cart (C1/C2)

4.8 6-Dog Cart (B1/B2)

4.9 8-Dog Cart (A)

4.10 Open Cart (O)

4.11 Tour (T)

4.12 Happy-dog (HD)

## **5 Equipment**

5.0 General

5.1 Dogs

5.2 Cani-cross

5.3 Pulka

5.4 Bicycles

5.5 Scooters

5.6 Carts

# **1 Preface**

1.0 These race rules shall assure a uniform regulation for off-snow races among the Mushing Belgium member clubs.

# **2 General**

2.1 If not specified otherwise, all regulations of the current general WSA race rules will apply.

2.2 Also the WSA Animal Welfare Regulations will apply. National rules must always be respected and outrule these rules.

2.3 If temperatures exceed 15 °C and/or humidity is high, measurements must be taken to protect the dogs e.g. by shortening the trail length and/or by changing the starting times.

2.4 Dogs running in off-snow races must have a minimum age of 12 months.

2.5 The race director may alter these rules, but only in the sense of an enhanced strictness. If so, this has to be communicated to all competitors in any which way as well as within a reasonable period of time before the race.

# **3 Start and Trail Rules**

3.1 All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double hitch.

3.2 All dogs (other than lead dogs) shall be fastened to the gangline by a neckline and a tugline.

3.3 Lead dogs running in double hitch must be connected by a neckline.

3.4 The foremost point of the front wheel determines the starting point of the team and shall not exceed the starting line until the start is given free.

3.5 The musher may stand on the cart/scooter, run or pedal as he/she wishes at any time.

3.6 The musher shall stay behind his dog(s) at all times. He shall not pace the dog(s) by running or driving ahead.

3.7 Pulling or forcing a dog to move forward by any means is strictly prohibited.

3.8 Dogs unfit to continue the race must be loaded onto the cart and transported

back to the finish area for medical attention the fastest way. This must not be done by running in opposite direction to the trail unless the permission/order is given by the race-marshal on the instant.

3.9 Alternatively the race marshal may identify dog dropping zones attended by qualified trail stewards. These must be able to initiate the appropriate steps for medical attention to a dog dropped at his/her location. The musher is responsible to secure the dog at the dog dropping zones.

3.10 If a dog becomes unfit, runners and scooterists must not continue their heat, take care of the dog on the spot and call for assistance, if necessary.

## **4 Classes**

### **4.1 Cani-Cross**

4.1.0 A cani-cross team consists of a musher running solely on foot and one (1) dog.

4.1.1 The class may be divided up into men (CX/m) and women (CX/w), if there are at least 3 starters of each sex.

4.1.2 There is no subdivision between teams with huskies and others.

4.1.3 Minimum age of the musher is 12 years.

### **4.2 Pulka**

4.2.0 A pulka team consists of a musher accompanying his team by running. The maximum number of dogs allowed is three (3).

4.2.1 The class may be divided up into men (P/m) and women (P/w), if there are at least 3 starters of each sex.

4.2.2 There is no subdivision between teams with huskies and others.

4.2.3 Minimum age of the musher is 12 years.

### **4.4 1-Dog Scooter**

4.4.0 A 1-dog scooter team consists of a musher riding a scooter pulled by one (1) dog.

4.4.1 The musher may stand on the scooter, pedal or run as he wishes at any time.

4.4.2 There is no subdivision between teams with huskies and others.

4.4.3 Minimum age of the musher is 12 years.

#### **4.5 2-Dog Scooter**

4.5.0 A 2-Dog scooter team consists of a musher riding a scooter pulled by two (2) dogs in the first heat.

4.5.1 Dogs must run in double hitch.

4.5.2 There is no subdivision between teams with huskies and others.

4.5.3 Minimum age of the musher is 14 years.

#### **4.6 2-Dog Cart (D1, D2)**

4.6.0 A 2-dog cart team consists of two (2) dogs in the first and in any subsequent heat.

4.6.1 Dogs must run in double hitch.

4.6.3 Minimum age of the musher is 12 years.

#### **4.7 4-Dog Cart (C1, C2)**

4.7.0 A 4-dog team shall consist of not less than three (3) dogs in the first heat and not less than two (2) dogs in any subsequent heat.

4.7.3 Minimum age of the musher is 14 years.

#### **4.8 6-Dog Cart (B1, B2)**

4.8.0 A 6-dog team shall consist of not less than five (5) dogs in the first heat and not less than four (4) dogs in any subsequent heat.

4.8.3 Minimum age of the musher is 16 years.

#### **4.9 8-Dog Cart (A)**

4.9.0 An 8-dog team shall consist of not less than seven (7) dogs in the first heat and not less than five (5) dogs in any subsequent heat.

4.9.1 A passenger is recommended.

4.9.3 Minimum age of the musher is 18 years.

#### **4.10 Open Cart (O)**

4.10.0 An open team shall consist of not less than nine (9) dogs in the first heat and not less than seven (7) dogs in any subsequent heat.

4.10.1 A passenger is required.

4.10.3 Minimum age of the musher is 18 years.

#### **4.11 Tour (T)**

4.11.0 Training runs for distance-oriented teams allowing all of the above mentioned classes.

4.11.1 With timing, without classification.

4.11.3 Minimum age of the musher according to the respective team size.

#### **4.12 Happy Dog (HD)**

4.12.0 Mainly recreational runs for teams with all dogs in the team eight years or older.

4.12.1 With timing, without classification.

4.12.3 Minimum age of the musher according to the respective team size.

<b>This class with less than 3 starters</b>	<b>will be run together with this class</b>
Cani-Cross male	Cani-Cross female
Cani-Cross female	Cani-Cross male
Cani-Cross	Pulka
Pulka male	Pulka female
Pulka female	Pulka male
Pulka	Cani-Cross
Scooter 1	Scooter 2
Scooter 2	Scooter 1
Scooter	D1
D1	Scooter 2
D2	D1
C1	B1
C2	B2
B1	A
B2	B1
A	O
O	A

## **5 Equipment**

### **5.0 Equipment - General**

5.0.1 It is highly recommended to wear gloves, a helmet, and protective eye gear. For mushers under the age of 18 this is a must.

5.0.2 The musher shall not be wearing shoes that could be dangerous to dogs (e.g. equipped with sharp-edged spikes). Same goes for wheels of carts, scooters and bikes.

5.0.3 A pre-race inspection and approval of carts, scooters and bikes may be ordered by the race marshal and performed by authorized persons/race judges.

## **5.1 Equipment - Dogs**

5.1.1 The musher must carry one (1) extra dog leash and one (1) extra neckline.

5.1.2 At least one (1) chain or stake out-cable of approx. one (1) meter length with a snap hook mounted on both ends is mandatory, so that a dog can be secured at a dog dropping point. (Only if dog dropping points are offered.)

## **5.2 Equipment - Cani-Cross**

5.2.1 The dog shall be attached to the musher by a snub line with shock absorber at all time. The snub-line shall be attached to the musher by an appropriate hip belt.

The snub-line shall have a quick release connection (panic snap) on the contestant's end. With fully extended shock-absorber the snub-line shall not exceed 2,5 meters in length.

## **5.3 Equipment - Pulka**

5.3.1 The pulka-cart must be connected to the dog(s) harness(es) by means of two rods, so the cart cannot overrun the dog(s). The dog(s) must run in-between those rods.

## **5.5 Equipment - Scooter**

5.5.1 The scooter must be built strong enough to carry a musher through rough terrain.

5.5.2 The scooter must be equipped with an efficient brake on each wheel.

5.5.3 The scooter shall not be equipped with any kind of mechanism that is suitable to propel it.

5.5.4 The dog shall be attached to the scooter by a snub line with shock absorber at all time.

5.5.5 With fully extended shock-absorber the snub-line shall not exceed 2,5 meters in length.

5.5.6 In the 1-dog and 2-dog scooter class bicycles with removed or disabled pedal mechanisms are allowed as a substitute. In the 2-dog scooter class three-wheeled carts are also allowed as a substitute.

## **5.6 Equipment - Carts**

5.6.1 The cart must be built strong enough to carry a musher plus an unfit dog, if necessary.

5.6.2 The cart must have four wheels. Up to three dogs a three-wheeled cart may be used.

5.6.3 A four-wheeled cart must have a brushbow at the full width of the cart. For a three-wheeled cart a brushbow is optional.

5.6.4 The cart must be equipped with a safe steering system.

5.6.5 The cart must be constructed in a way that a musher can control it in a standing position.

5.6.6 The cart must be equipped with an efficient brake on each wheel. At least two wheels must be blockable. Exception: For safety reasons the front wheel of a three-wheeled cart must not be equipped with an operational brake. If the front wheel is equipped with a brake, it has to be disabled.

5.6.7 The following are recommended minimum weights for a cart:

D class 25 kg

C class: 30 kg

B class: 40 kg

A class: 50 kg

O class 80 kg

5.6.8 The cart must be equipped with a dog bag or a transport basket.

5.6.9 A safety line to tie down and secure the cart must be carried along.

5.6.10 A passenger on a cart is permitted if an unfit dog can be transported at the same time.

5.6.11 A quad may be used as an alternative in the A and O classes. The quad must have the same features as a cart. Engines must be removed or disabled.