

RACE MARSHAL'S & WEIGHT PULL JUDGE EXAMINATION (Updated January 2023)

In order to perform the role of Race Marshal or Weight Pull Judge at a New Zealand Federation of Sled-Dog Sports (NZFSS) sanctioned event you must first have been certified as having the necessary knowledge.

The following examination is intended to test that knowledge.

You may take as much time as you like to complete it and use any and all resources available to you. This may include, but is not limited to, the NZFSS rules and regulations documents.

Race Marshall Qualification

You must get 85% of questions correct in Sections 1 to 3 and demonstrate in the Scenarios appropriate use of the NZFSS rules. Once you achieve that you will be contacted to advise of incorrect answers and advised of the correct answer.

Weight Pull Judge Qualification

You must get 85% of questions correct in Sections 1 and 4. Once you achieve that you will be contacted to advise of incorrect answers and advised of the correct answer.

NB Questions may address the intent of a rule where the NZFSS Officers have decided a prior protest makes that appropriate. Remember that as a Race Marshal you may have to make some decisions based on the intent of the rules, although only where the wording does not explicitly cover the situation.

Please either **CIRCLE** the appropriate answer or **PRINT** clearly and legibly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Email: _____

Please send completed Examinations to:

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SECTION 1 - SANCTIONING REQUIREMENTS & STANDARDS.

1. A vet does not have to be present during an event but one must be on call. TRUE / FALSE
2. All classes are automatically sanctioned at a sanctioned event. TRUE / FALSE
3. The minimum race distance for Rig Racing is ____ km.
4. The minimum race distance for the Single Dog class is ____ km.
5. Only NZFSS registered mushers may compete in an NZFSS sanctioned event. TRUE / FALSE
6. The Post Race reporting does not need to detail bagged dogs. TRUE / FALSE
7. The Race Marshal's report must be submitted within how days of the completion of the event _____
8. The NZFSS must ensure you have a current copy of the appropriate rules & regulations at the time sanctioning is granted. TRUE / FALSE
9. Any infraction of the NZFSS rules & regulations discovered after the event starts does not effect the events sanction status. TRUE / FALSE
10. Breaches of the NZFSS rules & regulations may result in withdrawal of sanction status for the event the following year. TRUE / FALSE
11. The NZFSS Upheld Protests Register is only available to Full Member Organisations and is not available to Race Marshals. TRUE / FALSE

SECTION 2 - RACING

Section 2.1 – Sanctioned Race Procedures

12. In multi heat races dogs may be marked for identification. TRUE / FALSE
13. Drivers can refuse to stand their dogs for inspection at the end of a heat. TRUE / FALSE
14. The incoming trail must not cross the outgoing trail. TRUE / FALSE
15. The incoming trail may join the outgoing trail as long as it does not separate from it for at least 500 meters. TRUE / FALSE
16. The exception to the rule relating to joining, then separating from, the outgoing trail is for reasons of _____.
17. The minimum trail width is 2.5 meters. TRUE / FALSE
18. A trail is well marked when all drivers can proceed with _____.
19. Turns must be marked with 2 red flags. TRUE / FALSE
20. 'Straight ahead' is marked by at least 1 blue marker. TRUE / FALSE
21. An intersection shall have blue markers on both sides of the outgoing trail i.e. the point of exit from the intersection. TRUE / FALSE
22. 'Corner' markers must be at least _____ meter(s) before an intersection.
23. Use of courses requiring multiple caution areas is discouraged and available alternative courses should be used instead. TRUE / FALSE
24. The start line must be clearly marked both at the sides and by a coloured line. TRUE / FALSE
25. The start chute must have a barrier along each side to keep it clear of persons not associated with the outgoing team. TRUE / FALSE
26. The end of chute is to be marked with different markers from those used for any other purpose. TRUE / FALSE
27. The finish must be setup such that the lead dog can tell from a distance where it must go. TRUE / FALSE
28. The finish chute must have a barrier to keep unauthorised persons clear and to give teams a clear passage beyond the finish line. TRUE / FALSE
29. Whether a race is sanctioned or unsanctioned must be declared to all mushers before the race commences. TRUE / FALSE
30. Both Rig & Scooter race start intervals can be 15 seconds, 30 seconds and 1 minute. TRUE / FALSE
31. All times must be announced as soon as they are available and they must be officially posted within two hours of the completion of the event. TRUE / FALSE
32. Once posted, places may change as a result of protests or timing/calculation errors. TRUE / FALSE

33. Teams must finish a heat/race with the same number of dogs they started with. TRUE / FALSE
34. You must check rigs, scooters and sleds for mandatory equipment. TRUE / FALSE
35. A rig or sleds platform and dog bag must be able to securely hold the largest dog in the team. TRUE / FALSE
36. The Race Marshal can decide to allow a dispensation for a disabled person. TRUE / FALSE
37. Although a vet may inspect dogs after the race/heat, a vet cannot inspect every dog. TRUE / FALSE
38. An upheld protest may only result in a warning or disqualification. TRUE / FALSE
39. In the event of a protest, the protested driver may request a hearing which must be held within 1 hour of the race finish. TRUE / FALSE
40. A protest decision must be announced more than 2 hours before any ensuing heat or, for the last or only heat, prior to the awards ceremony. TRUE / FALSE
41. The above time frames also apply to drug related protests. TRUE / FALSE
42. The RGO or the NZFSS may override the Race Marshal's decision. TRUE / FALSE
43. A heat can be declared null and void after it has run and may be rerun later. TRUE / FALSE
44. If a heat is declared null and void its results are not taken into account in the start order of the next heat or when deciding which dogs may run? TRUE / FALSE
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Section 2.2 – Speed Race Procedures

45. The word 'shall' in a rule means the rule is mandatory. TRUE / FALSE
46. A driver change is allowed in the case of illness or injury with the Race Marshal's approval. TRUE / FALSE
47. If the RGO accepts a team or single dog entry, so must the Race Marshal. TRUE / FALSE
48. The Race Marshal may disqualify a team or dog unfit or incapable of safely completing trail as late as during their approach to the start line. TRUE / FALSE
49. A team and even individual dogs must start the first heat of a race in order to compete in any part of the race. TRUE / FALSE
50. Dogs must be at least twelve months old to race. TRUE / FALSE
51. If any dog is diagnosed to have a contagious disease its team must be disqualified and must leave the race area immediately. TRUE / FALSE
52. The temperature must be below 13 degrees C at race start or the race may not start under NZFSS rules. TRUE / FALSE
53. If the temperature rises above 13 degrees C after the race start drivers not yet started must be informed and may start at their own discretion. TRUE / FALSE
54. If the Race Marshal believes humidity has reached a level detrimental to the dogs the unstarted classes must be cancelled. TRUE / FALSE

55. If drug testing is to be carried out, other than in a protest situation, that fact must be advertised on the entry form. TRUE / FALSE
56. Refusal, by the driver or owner, to allow a sample to be taken shall result in disqualification. TRUE / FALSE
57. Driver, team & equipment must be available for inspection more than 10 minutes before their scheduled time of departure. TRUE / FALSE
58. ALL equipment is subject to the Race Marshals approval. TRUE / FALSE
59. Necklines are mandatory for team dogs and optional for leaders. TRUE / FALSE
60. Snub lines are mandatory. TRUE / FALSE
61. The line must have a shock absorber and safety line. TRUE / FALSE
62. The maximum width for a Rig is _____ cm.
63. The freight (including rig) in the two dog freight class must be at least 70kg. TRUE / FALSE
64. For each additional dog (in teams with more than two dogs) additional freight of how much _____kg
65. Freight weights must be checked either before or after the commencement of the event. TRUE / FALSE
66. Scales must be available before the race for drivers to check their weights TRUE / FALSE
67. The towed vehicle in the non-freight single dog class may have more than two wheels. TRUE / FALSE
68. The rig/sled plus freight in the single dog freight class must equal 35kg. TRUE / FALSE
69. If a muzzle is used it must not impair breathing or be able to be used as a choke. TRUE / FALSE
70. Helmets are compulsory in the single dog (bike) class only. TRUE / FALSE
71. The race number (bib) may be displayed on the rig rather than the musher. TRUE / FALSE
72. In multi heat races the second and subsequent heats start order is either based on the total time of previous heats or the previous heat times only. TRUE / FALSE
73. In dual start events start order rules are the same as for single start events in that, in second and subsequent heats, the first & second teams overall are always away first. TRUE / FALSE
74. If teams complete the race with equal times they must both be awarded the higher finishing position and any purse and prizes must be combined and divided equally between them. TRUE / FALSE
75. A teams starting point is the tip of the brush bow or front wheel of the rig. TRUE / FALSE
76. A team is declared late starting if it is not in the starting position within one starting interval of its scheduled time of departure. TRUE / FALSE
77. A late starting team will be allocated a second scheduled time of departure from where it will start with a penalty of one starting interval added to its total time. TRUE / FALSE
78. A late starting team will be rescheduled at the end of its class even if that means rescheduling all teams in later classes. TRUE / FALSE
79. Missing its second scheduled departure will result in disqualification of the team. TRUE / FALSE

80. If a team is late starting, the next team still leaves at its original scheduled time of departure. TRUE / FALSE
81. If a team doesn't clear the chute before the next teams start time it may be disqualified or brought back for restarting. TRUE / FALSE
82. The Race Marshal decides how much assistance may be given in the chute before the first heat starts. TRUE / FALSE
83. A team finishes when the first dog in that team crosses the line. If the team is loose the time finishes when the musher crosses the line. TRUE / FALSE
84. Concrete, tar seal and sharp rock gravel surfaces are only acceptable as road crossings. TRUE / FALSE
85. Teams must run the entire trail. So a team which leaves the trail must return to the point it left the trail. TRUE / FALSE
86. An injured or unfit dog may be left with an official during a heat without penalty. TRUE / FALSE
87. Carrying a passenger during a race is allowed if the race format requires it or in an emergency situation. TRUE / FALSE
88. The bike or rig must be behind the dog(s) at all times while in motion (i.e. making progress towards the finish). TRUE / FALSE
89. The Race Marshal decides what level of assistance drivers may receive from Race Officials and other drivers. TRUE / FALSE
90. Spectators may only hold rigs/sleds except where the team is loose or unmanageable. TRUE / FALSE
91. A driver may continue from the point they regained their team, without penalty, provided that the team has completed the entire trail and the only assistance was that their team was held for them. TRUE / FALSE
92. In a dual start the leading team at the end of the chute barrier has right of way. TRUE / FALSE
93. When head on passing, a downhill team has right of way and, on the flat, the incoming team has right of way. TRUE / FALSE
94. When a team is being passed it only has to slow or move over if requested to do so by the passing driver. TRUE / FALSE
95. A distance of one team length must be maintained between teams at all times. TRUE / FALSE
96. Behavior detrimental to the sport or race by the driver, handlers or dogs must result in disqualification of the entire team. TRUE / FALSE
97. Abuse of a dog or carrying any implement of chastisement is prohibited. TRUE / FALSE
98. If Race Officials witness any rule violations they must report them **in writing** to the Race Marshal. TRUE / FALSE
99. The Race Marshal cannot act on a verbal report from a Race Official unless a driver also protests that specific rule violation. TRUE / FALSE
100. Protests by drivers may be verbal and followed up in writing after the one-hour protest period is up. TRUE / FALSE

101. In addition to warning or disqualifying a musher for a rule violation, the race marshal may also give an appropriate time penalty. TRUE / FALSE

102. If the race start interval is 1 minute, the race marshal may give a time penalty of up to 10 minutes. TRUE / FALSE

Section 2.3 – Junior Division Procedures

103. The Race Marshal can reduce the team size of a junior driver. TRUE / FALSE

104. Helmets are compulsory for all junior classes. TRUE / FALSE

105. Junior drivers may race in the single dog class from 5 years of age. TRUE / FALSE

106. The maximum distance for a junior single dog race is 1.5km. TRUE / FALSE

107. The minimum age for two dog junior races is 8 years. TRUE / FALSE

108. Juniors must first successfully complete races in the single dog class before they may move to the two dog class. TRUE / FALSE

109. All passing rules applying to the Speed Race Rules also apply to junior classes. TRUE / FALSE

110. All other senior class rules apply to junior classes. TRUE / FALSE

Section 2.4 – Long Distance/Cross Country Race Rules

The following questions only address areas where these rules differ from the Rig Race Rules.

111. Two drivers can work as partners driving a team. TRUE / FALSE

112. Both drivers are awarded NZFSS points for the race. TRUE / FALSE

113. Drivers must be at least 16 years old to compete. TRUE / FALSE

114. Attendance at the pre-race drivers meeting is compulsory. Proxy representatives are not acceptable. TRUE / FALSE

115. If a vet is going to examine dogs that fact must be advised before the entry is accepted.

TRUE / FALSE

116. Refusal to allow dogs to be examined will result in disqualification. TRUE / FALSE

117. All competing dogs must turn 12 months old during that season. TRUE / FALSE

118. Teams in the unlimited class must have at least ____ dogs at the start and least ____ running during the race.

119. The minimum number of dogs running in a six-dog team is ____.

120. Two, three & four dog classes can be included from the Speed Race Rules. TRUE / FALSE

121. The Race Marshal can reduce the size of a musher's team if he feels the team is too large for the driver.
TRUE / FALSE
122. Harnesses must be padded around the neck and chest areas. TRUE / FALSE
123. The team must draw some type of sled. TRUE / FALSE
124. Sleds may only be replaced if they are damaged beyond use. TRUE / FALSE
125. What is missing from the following list of mandatory trail equipment? A sleeping bag, protective clothing, axe or saw, snowshoes & bindings, light & fire making equipment, first aid kit for driver & dogs, knife, extra harnesses and, optionally, dog booties _____ .
126. Unless advertised on the entry form, one days food for driver and dogs must be carried at the start and when leaving each checkpoint. TRUE / FALSE
127. If the driver is required to display their bib, it must be on their person. TRUE / FALSE
128. Drivers, teams & equipment must be available for inspection in the car park one hour before their scheduled time of departure. TRUE / FALSE
129. Checkpoint equipment checks must be conducted by the Race Marshal or vet. TRUE / FALSE
130. Checkpoint inspections must take less than six minutes. TRUE / FALSE
131. Checkpoint inspections must **never** delay a team's progress. TRUE / FALSE
132. The Rig Racing rule of disqualification for exceeding the class winning time by 1.25 or 1.5 also applies to Distance Race rules. TRUE / FALSE
133. A team can rejoin the trail from a point different to where they left it, provided, it is not practical to rejoin at the point they left, the course will not be shortened, and that no checkpoints are missed.
TRUE / FALSE
134. Two teams may be tied together in an emergency situation. TRUE / FALSE
135. There is no rule requiring the sled be behind the team at all times. TRUE / FALSE
136. A driver may not accept outside hospitality for himself or his dogs. TRUE / FALSE
137. Dogs may be switched between teams. TRUE / FALSE
138. The Race Marshal can approve assistance for drivers & dogs if all teams are able to access it.
TRUE / FALSE
139. A driver accepting a ride to catch a loose team will be disqualified. TRUE / FALSE
140. A disqualified or withdrawn driver never has the right of way. TRUE / FALSE
141. Repassing without agreement is allowed after ___ minutes or ___ km(s).
142. If the overtaking team tangles the passed team must stop for up to ___ minute(s).
143. Clearing of campsites is the driver's responsibility. TRUE / FALSE
144. It is acceptable to camp on the trail in special circumstances. TRUE / FALSE
145. The organisers are responsible for properly marking drop bags. TRUE / FALSE

146. Drivers can be made responsible for distributing drop bags if that fact is stated on the entry form.
TRUE / FALSE
147. Each checkpoints drop bag must **always** provide two days food. TRUE / FALSE
148. An official may sign in for a driver at a checkpoint. TRUE / FALSE
149. Disqualified or withdrawn drivers must proceed to the nearest checkpoint, from where they will be transported off the trail. TRUE / FALSE
150. If possible, an ill or injured driver must proceed to the nearest checkpoint. TRUE / FALSE
151. Unfit or injured dogs may **only** be dropped at a checkpoint. TRUE / FALSE
152. Reasons for dropping the dog must be explained at the time they are dropped. TRUE / FALSE
153. Dropped dogs must be properly chained until picked up by an authorised person. TRUE / FALSE
154. The Race Marshal or Vet may detain a team/driver due to equipment or health issues.
TRUE / FALSE
155. The Race Marshall may detain a team/driver that may be subject to disqualification. TRUE / FALSE
156. If a team has less than their classes minimum number of dogs in harness on arrival at one checkpoint it can not proceed to the next checkpoint. TRUE / FALSE
157. Handler & spectator assistance at checkpoints is limited to holding the sled, unless it is an emergency situation, and assuming the driver is present. TRUE / FALSE

SECTION 3 – WEIGHT PULLING RULES (Only complete this section if you are seeking to become a Weightpull Judge_

158. Weight Pull entries can be accepted after the start of the pull. TRUE / FALSE
159. A person convicted of any type of animal abuse or neglect must not be allowed to compete. TRUE / FALSE
160. Dogs must be 12 months old to compete. TRUE / FALSE
161. Bitches on heat are not allowed to pull or to be in the weight pull area. TRUE / FALSE
162. Clothes or equipment exposed to contagious disease can not be used. TRUE / FALSE
163. A dog weighing exactly 27kg may compete in the 36kg class. TRUE / FALSE
164. Dogs weighed in the last 7 days need not be reweighed. TRUE / FALSE
165. A dog's weight is round off to the nearest 100g. TRUE / FALSE
166. For the winner of a class to elect to move to the next (higher) division, they must pull at least once in the lower division. TRUE / FALSE
167. If a dog moves up a class and then wins that class, they may continue on to the next class. TRUE / FALSE
168. The winner of a class cannot move to a class that no other dogs have qualified for, but can move to a class above that where other dogs did qualify. TRUE / FALSE
169. The minimum qualifying weight for a 50kg dog is 158kg. TRUE / FALSE
170. Proof of prior qualification is acceptable if it contains details of the event and is signed by the organisers. TRUE / FALSE
171. The sled must be able to safely carry 1,200 kg. TRUE / FALSE
172. The wheels or runners must be between 5 & 15 cm wide. TRUE / FALSE
173. Wheels cannot be larger than a 15-inch car tyre and must be rubber. TRUE / FALSE
174. The point of attachment to the dog must be 1.8 meters from the sled. TRUE / FALSE
175. The weighting material must be preweighed and able to be safely & securely stacked. TRUE / FALSE
176. A racing type harness may be used. TRUE / FALSE
177. Every dog must be inspected before the pull to ensure its harness is proper and safe for the dog TRUE / FALSE
178. Shock absorbing devices are permitted. TRUE / FALSE
179. A single chute must be used and it must be between _____ and _____ meters wide.
180. The chute must be between _____ and _____ meters long.

181. There must be an adequate physical barrier separating spectators from the chute. TRUE / FALSE
182. The chute must be as level as possible. If there is a perceptible slope, dogs must pull towards the lower end. TRUE / FALSE
183. The surface must be the same throughout the chute and the dogs must be on the same surface as the sled. TRUE / FALSE
184. An adequate holding area must be provided for entrants beside or behind the start line. TRUE / FALSE
185. If neither the driver nor a proxy is present at the draw a person nominated by the Chief Judge may draw for them. TRUE / FALSE
186. Entries received after the draw are placed at the end of the draw. TRUE / FALSE
187. All classes must run concurrently and must start together. TRUE / FALSE
188. The dog must pull the load a marked and measured ___ meters.
189. A pull can exceed 45 seconds, provided the load does not stop moving forward. TRUE / FALSE
190. Dogs failing to pull the weight must immediately attempt another pull. TRUE / FALSE
191. A dog, which failed at one weight, may make its second attempt at the next weight increment TRUE / FALSE
192. The starting weight in each division must be such that a modest effort is required of any qualified dog. TRUE / FALSE
193. Weight increments must be between ____ and ____ kg.
194. The pull is complete when the dog crosses the finish line. TRUE / FALSE
195. On ice, the Sled Marshal must break loose the sled, in a consistent manner, just before each dog is attached to the sled. TRUE / FALSE
196. On wet grass surfaces, the sled may be loaded on plywood. TRUE / FALSE
197. During a pull the handler may stand on the finish line. TRUE / FALSE
198. The handler must be in position and have signaled their readiness before the “go” command maybe given. TRUE / FALSE
199. The pull can only be started once the dog is positioned at least 1.5 meters from and directly in front of the sled. TRUE / FALSE
200. The Chief Judge must call a tangle if the dog entangles in the line or harness, crosses the start line, attempts to exit over the chute sides or moves behind the front of the sled. TRUE / FALSE
201. Starting the pull from less than ____ meters is considered a running start.
202. If a tangle is called the clock is stopped and reset. TRUE / FALSE
203. If a tangle is called the handler must untangle the dog, if necessary, and the sled must be reset to it’s starting position. TRUE / FALSE
204. After a tangle the handler may assume a new calling position. TRUE / FALSE

205. Two tangles in one pull constitute a “no-pull”. TRUE / FALSE
206. If the equipment fails, the handler may pass or repull after the equipment is fixed. TRUE / FALSE
207. The above situation is an exception to the maximum of two passes in a row per dog. TRUE / FALSE
208. The load can never be lightened. TRUE / FALSE
209. Except for tangles no-one may touch the sled, line, harness or dog during the pull. TRUE / FALSE
210. The handler is the only person allowed to communicate with the dog. TRUE / FALSE
211. The handler may not bait the dog during the pull but may treat them immediately after they complete the pull and before they leave the pull area. TRUE / FALSE
212. Dogs waiting to pull must be held in a specified area. TRUE / FALSE
213. Dogs must not be in the area in front of the starting line, but dogs may be concealed behind the chute sides. TRUE / FALSE
214. All dogs in the pull area must be on lead (except the pulling dog). TRUE / FALSE
215. Vehicles are not allowed in the holding area. TRUE / FALSE
216. The dog & handlers behavior is only relevant while they are in the weight pull course. TRUE / FALSE
217. An unmanageable dog must be disqualified. TRUE / FALSE
218. Protests must be submitted, in writing, within 2 hours of the completion of the event. TRUE/FALSE
219. A hearing may be held if called for. TRUE / FALSE
220. Disqualifications, or a verbal warning, are the only options when a protest is upheld. TRUE / FALSE
221. If two or more dogs pulled the same weight the same distance, even if they didn't complete the pull, the one with the fastest time is the winner. TRUE / FALSE

SCENARIOS FOR RACE MARSHALL QUALIFICATION

In each scenario, please explain your process and refer to what NZFSS rules you would utilise.

Scenario 1

Musher A (wearing Bib number 10) completes their race and comes to you to advise that Musher B (wearing Bib number 12) was already back at their vehicle but did Musher A did not see them pass on the course.

Please explain your answer below:

Scenario 2

Musher A (wearing Bib number 3) completes their race and comes to you to advise that Musher B (wearing Bib number 2) did not make way for Musher A's team when asked to while passing.

Please explain your answer below:

Scenario 3

While all the teams are line up in bib order waiting to start the handler of Mushers A's (Bib number 4) team verbally abuses Musher B (Bib number 3).

Please explain your answer below:

Scenario 4

Musher A (wearing Bib number 9) arrives after their start time is called and Musher B (wearing Bib number 10) has moved to the start line.

Please explain your answer below: