

A.D.B.A. SANCTIONED WEIGHT PULL RULES

Proper equipment is mandatory

WHEN HOLDING ALL A.D.B.A. SANCTIONED WEIGHT PULL EVENTS

Hosting clubs must provide:

- a) Weights - Ranging from 50lbs and up.
- b) Scale - Check weight for scale MUST be certified (stamped) by state.
- c) Regulation stopwatch
- d) Rope - for pulling area and holding area.
- e) Chalk board of any type, (*large enough for easy viewing by all*) for recording weight and time each dog pulls.
- f) ADBA weight pull judges book – (Results MUST be on ADBA approved weight pull forms.)
- g) Current Weight Pulling rules for handouts.
- h) Weight pull-scoring sheets.
- i) Registration entry forms for Weight Pull.

WEIGHT PULL CLASS AWARDS

Regular class awards will consist of:

54 Ribbon awards: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for each weight class, Male & Female.

3 Trophy awards: Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight - 45 pounds & under. Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight – 45 to 75 pounds. Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight – 75 pounds & over.

ACE OF ACE CLASS AWARDS

Ace of Ace class awards will consist of:

9 Rosette awards: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for each weight class - Males and females pull together.

3 Trophy awards. Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight - 45 pounds & under. Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight – 45-75 pounds. Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight – 75 pounds & over.

Effective 2022:

Beginning with the 2022 show season, clubs hosting Wt. Pull events will have the option to “opt out” of hosting the 75 & over, weight classes for (regular and Ace.) To do this, the club MUST advertise that this class will NOT BE HELD.

When/if the club advertises the 75 & Over class will NOT BE HELD and a contestant still shows up, they may enter their dog and compete for the MWP trophy only. Points earned: 10 points. (*Points earned will go towards the dog's title. If 100 points are earned and dog has NOT earned a 1st – 3rd placement in his/her weight class, dog's points will continue to accumulate until requirement is met.*) The MWP trophy will have NO ranking value.

1 Overall Most Weight pulled award.

Effective 2018: The MWP trophy award will be awarded to the dog that pulls the most weight, regardless of dog's title. The Ace and Regular

classes will be pulling together. Clubs must use extra care to ensure judges books are kept separate. Points earned: 10 points. Points earned will go towards the dog's title. If 100 points are earned and dog has NOT earned a 1st – 3rd placement in his/her weight class, dog's points will continue to accumulate until requirement is met.) The MWP trophy will have NO ranking value.

NOTICE: Any additional trophies or ribbons may be given at the discretion of the club but required ADBA awards MUST be given and ONLY these awards will receive points.

OFFICIALS AND DUTIES

Judge: Must be ADBA sanctioned and in good standing. Directs weight pull. Settle disputes. Has the final decision. Directs loading of cart, informs scorekeeper of total weight on cart, etc. In charge of all matters relating to the weight pull event.

Scorekeeper #1: Keeps record of weights pulled and times of pull for each dog, records fouls.

Scorekeeper #2: Announces results and records winners in each weight division.

Scorekeeper #3: Keeps results of times and weights pulled on the scoreboard for participants & audience.

Entrance monitor: Controls holding area; have dog on deck, harnessed and in pulling position. Informs handlers of the weight dog are pulling.

Cart handlers: Load and unloads the cart and positions the cart for the next pull.

- **The weight pull judge and/or family members can not enter or pull a dog in a wt. pull that he/she is judging unless an alternate judge, judges the entire class the dog is entered in.**
- **Dogs will be weighed-in on the day of the event. If it is a 2 or 3 day event, dog will not be re-weighed as the weight will be carried over to the 2nd and/or 3rd day's events.**
- **Contestant may request 1 re-weigh if time permits. (All weigh-ins must be completed 30 minutes before the competition begins. Dog's 2nd weight must be used.)**
- **Two officials must be present during the time of weigh in.**
- **Only ADBA registered dogs, both intact or spayed/neutered, are allowed to enter in an ADBA sanctioned weight pull. Limited Performance Program (LPP) will be allowed to compete in all ADBA sanctioned weight pulls and Top Dog Events.**
- **No artificial aids or illegal substances may be used to enhance a dog's performance.**
- **All dogs must be nine (9) months of age to enter.**
- **There is no qualifying pull necessary to enter weight pull.**

- **Dog must make a complete pull (a minimum of one round at the minimum required weight) to receive points and awards.**
- **No bait is allowed at any/all ADDBA weight pulls.**
- **In the event of an equipment malfunction, the winners will be determined by the results of the last pull.**
 - **1st: Weight pulled per pound of body weight**
 - **2nd: Time used to complete pull.**
- **For the MWP award, judge will use Weight pulled, then, time. IF dogs are tied with amount of weight pulled and time, the award will go to the smallest dog.**

ADDBA CERTIFIED WEIGHT PULL RULES

- 1) All dogs must be ADDBA registered and no less than nine (9) months of age (to date of birth) to enter.
- 2) No bitches in heat will be allowed to enter. If a bitch is allowed to enter deceitfully, the judge will disqualify that dog and no entry fee will be refunded.
- 3) While participating in event(s), leads are to be no longer than 4 feet and attached to a "belt buckle" collar. Collar must be secure. No "quick release" snaps, "choke chains" or "flex" leads will be allowed.
- 4) No dogs that are aggressive to humans will be allowed to enter. No aggressive action will be allowed by dogs toward handler or any official during pull competition. If a dog of this temperament is allowed to enter in error, the judge will disqualify that dog and no entry fee will be refunded. Excitement is not to be interpreted as aggression. Remember, your dog may be handled by persons other than yourself.
- 5) All equipment to be used by contestants MUST be checked by judge, prior to use.
- 6) The weight pull track must be verified consistently level or at incline by the judge before the pull begins. The decision of how often the track will be checked throughout the competition must be decided at the handlers meeting before the pull starting. *(This can only be done between weight classes, not in the middle of the weight class).*
- 7) No artificial aids may be used on dog's feet, carpet, etc. (Dog pads are to be clean, free of any stick-em, etc.)
- 8) It will be decided at the handlers meeting if the judge will begin the time by a go or pull command, or if the handlers will begin the time by releasing the dog. *(It is necessary for all four feet to be on the ground when the dog is released.)* The handler must let the judge know before beginning their pull, which command he/she will use.
- 9) Dogs designated as an ADDBA ACE cannot enter regular weight pull competition. No dog is considered an ACE until 100 points have been achieved.
- 10) **Fouls** will be called, and entrant will be disqualified in the weight class competing in after three fouls are committed. (Example) Foul, Foul, out. Fouls may be committed intentionally or unintentionally. *The following is a list of fouls:*

- a. Touching the cart or dog in any way after time has been started.
 - b. Pushing, pulling or dropping dog at the start of pull.
 - c. Any aggressive *action* of handler towards dog during pull competition.
 - d. Dragging the dog to the pull track.
 - e. Running out of time *(taking longer than the 60 seconds allowed to complete the pull).*
- 11) **Alibis** - Unintentional circumstances that make a dog unable to complete a pull. The judge will stop time and instruct the handlers to handle their dog and cart. (An example of these circumstances could be: tangling in the traces or harnesses; equipment malfunction; or any outside interference that prevents the dog from completing his pull.) Handler may point out a possible alibi, but the judge will have the final decision. Any **two alibis=one foul**. If a pull is interrupted by a foul or an alibi, the dog is to be immediately taken back to the starting line and the pull will begin again. No pull will be valid unless it is an un-interrupted pull. If a dog is disqualified, his last valid pull is his top pull of that class.
 - 12) If a dog completes the pull off the track, it is considered a complete pull as long as no fouls or alibis are committed.
 - 13) The 30 lb. handicap has been removed. There will be nine different weight classes. Separate awards will be given to males and females for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each weight division. The dogs will be weighed in and placed into the following classes:

25 lbs and under	Males & females
25 lbs to 35 lbs	Males & females
35 lbs to 45 lbs	Males & females

Overall Trophy Award: Most Wt. Pulled Per Pound Of Body Wt. 45 lbs & under	
45 to 55 lbs	Males & females
55 to 65 lbs	Males & females
65 to 75 lbs	Males & females

Overall Trophy Award: Most Wt. Pulled Per Pound Of Body Wt. 45 - 75 lbs	
75lbs to 85 lbs	Males & females
85lbs to 95 lbs	Males & females
95lbs and over	Males & females

Overall Trophy Award: Most Wt. Pulled Per Pound Of Body Wt. 75 lbs and over	
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 - 14) Dogs must be entered in their natural body weight class. *(When a dog's weight is exactly 25 lbs, 35 lbs, 45 lbs, 55 lbs, 65 lbs 75 lbs, 85 lbs or 95 lbs the owner may choose to enter their dog in the weight class directly below or above.)* **Weight class must be chosen at weigh in. Judge doing weigh in, will mark weight class entered on entry form.** Dog is to remain in same weight class for entire event. Dogs will be competing for the MWPP trophy award of the weight class entered. *The weight pull is a test of strength and stamina.*
 - 15) All weight pull awards will be decided by Most Weight

- Pulled per Pound of Body Weight.
- 16) Points will be given for first, second and third place wins. Point breakdown:
 First place award 8 points
 Second place award ... 5 points
 Third place award 3 points
 Trophy awards 10 points
 - 17) Three trophies will be awarded for Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight. One for the overall winner of the 45 pound and under classes; one for the overall winner of the 45 - 75 pound classes and one for the overall winner of the 75 pounds and over classes. Dogs will be competing for trophy award based on weight class entered. Sex is not a factor when determining the winner of these three awards. *(These weight divisions will give enough latitude that the handler's expertise will be an influential factor for a winning pull. This variance will allow for experimenting in training in order to bring a dog to its most efficient pulling weight. This will also encourage a handler to work and condition the dog and not bring an "off the yard" animal into competition.)*
 - 18) Certification will be made by the weight pull judge of the clubs cart and individual weights to be used. Total weight of cart and traces will be considered as part of the total weight pulled.
 - 19) Traces must be no less than 4 feet and no more than 6 feet long. Handler will allow no more than one foot of slack in the traces.
 - 20) Owner of the dog must supply harness. *(A well-fitting harness is an advantage for your dog. This will encourage handlers and owners to provide their own harnesses made to fit the dog that is pulling and made to weigh as little as possible.)* Any harness used must be a "standard harness." Shocks, springs etc. cannot be used on harness. No leashes will be allowed to be attached to the dog, collar, or harness while the dog is pulling.
 - 21) Surface - any surface selected by the club must be as smooth and level as possible. We discourage using a paved surface unless covered in order to protect the dog's feet. *(Every dog is pulling the same cart under the same conditions and surface for that day's competition. - Your dog is competing with the dogs of their weight division under equal conditions for that day pulling awards.)*
 - 22) The holding area should be positioned in front of the pulling track, if site permits, far enough away so the pulling dogs will not be interfered with.
 - 23) Pulling track will be roped off or blocked off 10 feet on each side of track to prevent spectators from crowding pulling track and distracting the pulling contestant. All dogs should also be kept well away from pulling track.
 - 24) Males and females will pull with each other, in the same class. Males will pull first. (The judge has checked all bitches for heat before competition.)
 - 25) Start and finish lines will be marked plainly with the length of pulling surface extending far enough beyond the 15 feet so that the dog may remain on the pulling surface after pull is completed.
 - 26) Dogs will be called to the holding area where dog's number will be checked. The pull will commence according to the weight divisions. The lightest weight class will pull first.
 - 27) Dogs must pull the cart and weight a total of 15 feet in 60 seconds.
 - 28) Ties will be broken by elapsed time it took to complete pull. In the event of a tie due to club running out of weights, additional weights can be provided in any form as long as the judge & hosting club approve it. *(Safety and club's liability is first concern when considering this option. Therefore, elapsed time should be used whenever possible to break all ties)* Judge will make the decision as to how ties will be broken. Judge's decision will be final!
 - 29) The first weight round for all dogs in each class will be determined by the judge, after discussion with the handlers entered in that class. The starting weight will be no less than three (3) times the weight of the heaviest dog in weight class, plus the weight of the cart and traces. If combining classes, use weight of the heaviest dog in the heaviest class plus the weight of the cart and traces to determine the starting weight. A pull will not be valid unless it is a complete, uninterrupted pull. Fouls or alibis occurring will result in the pull being started over.
 - 30) THE JUDGE will determine the increase in weight to be pulled for each round. THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL!
 - 31) Every dog has the right to "sit out" on a weight increase NO MORE THAN 4 TIMES. (Choose to pull at a weight increase or wait for the next weight increase.) This need not be done consecutively. "Sit outs will start after a dog has made a complete pull.
 - 32) Every dog will pull to his/her weight limit in the class entered, thereby determining the first, second, and third place awards. A process of elimination at increased weights determined by the judge is the only way to eliminate dogs until awards can be given. Weight classes can be combined if holding area can accommodate all the dogs in the class. Extra care must be taken to keep records straight when combining classes.
 - 33) Dogs will pull in turn, but no dog will be required to pull without five minutes allowed between pulls. If the rest period is taken, the pull **is to continue** with dog re-entering as soon as the rest period is up. Handler may choose to waive the 5-minute rest period.
 - 34) Dogs will be harnessed after being called to get ready and remain harnessed in the holding area until the dog is called to the pulling track. Dog will then be able to compete. Dogs will be eliminated if dog fails to complete the pull, or is fouled out, or he will remain at the rear of the line in the holding area for the next pulling round. (Harness may be removed from dog

between pulls, as long as contestant does not hold up pull.) The cart will be placed with front wheels directly behind and touching the starting line. The round is complete and time recorded when front wheels first touch the finish line.

- 35) Two handlers may work the dog. Handlers will not be allowed to remain behind the dog, once the dogs is released to pull.
- 36) Handler will allow no more than one foot of slack in the traces.
- 37) No physical bait is allowed. Voice command only to be used.

THE ACE OF ACE CLASS

- A) Only dogs that have earned the title of "**ACE**" (100 points +) can not compete against dogs in the regular weight classes. They must compete against other ACE dogs.
- B) A minimum of five physical dogs entered is required to hold an ACE of ACE class. **(If 5 physical dogs are not present to hold ACE class, dog CAN compete for Most Weight Pull trophy - MWP trophy has NO ranking value.)**
- C) Points earned from this class will go towards advancing the title of "Ace" to degrees of "Aces."
- D) Males and females will be competing against each other. Sex is not a factor when receiving placement awards.
- E) The weight divisions for the Ace of Ace class:
 - a. 45 lbs & under,
 - b. 45 to 75 lbs.
 - c. 75 lbs and over.
- F) Dogs must enter their natural body weight class. If dog's weight is exactly 45 lbs, the owner may enter their dog in either the 45 lb & under class, or the 45 to 75lbs class. *When a dog's weight is exactly 45 lbs or 75 lbs the owner may choose to enter their dog in the weight class directly below or above. Weight class must be chosen at time of registration*
- G) Four "sit outs" are allowed for each dog. Ace of Ace rest period between pulls is 5 minutes.
- H) Males and Females will be competing against each other. Sex is not a factor when receiving placement awards. (As Ace dogs will be pulling with non-ace weight classes, extra care must be made to keep judges books separate for Ace dogs.
- I) The beginning weight to be pulled will be decided by the handlers and judge.
- J) ACES will be competing for 3 Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight trophies.
 - a. One for the overall winner of the 45 pound and under classes.
 - b. One for the overall winner of the 45 - 75 pound classes.
 - c. One for the overall winner of the 75 pounds and over classes.Along with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards in each weight division.

- K) Dogs will be competing for trophy awards based on weight class entered. Sex is not a factor when determining the winner of these three awards.
- L) Trophy Awards -15 points
 - a. 1st Place: 10 points
 - b. 2nd place: 7 points
 - c. 3rd place: 4 points
- M) A total of 200 points will give your dog the title of "Ace of Ace." 300 points "Ace of Ace I," 400 points "Ace of Ace II" etc. *(It is a fact that the strongest dog is the one that can pull the most weight per body pound. The focus of the Ace class is the same as the non-Ace (regular class) to determine the strongest dog competing within each division of that day's competition.)*

Any weight pull that has been judged by a non-certified judge or a judge whose certification has expired, been suspended, or revoked, points will be void - No refunds will be given.

RULE CLARIFICATIONS

1. *CONSISTENT WEIGHT INCREASES IN EACH WEIGHT CLASS IS ENCOURAGED – NOT A RULE.*
2. *WEIGH IN OFFICIALS (NO LESS THAN 2) OFFICIALS REMAIN CONSISTENT FOR ALL DOGS ENTERED THAT DAY.*
3. *ANY CALL(S) ALLOWED TO CONTESTANTS BY THE JUDGE, IS TO BE CONSIDERED A COURTESY, NOT A REQUIREMENT OR RULE. EQUAL CONSIDERATION OF ALL CONTESTS IS REQUIRED. THIS OPTION MUST BE DISCUSSED AND CLARIFIED BEFORE PULL BEGINS.*
4. *JUDGE CAN DISQUALIFY CONTESTANTS FOR ANY INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR.*
5. *WT PULL JUDGE OR SEPARATE TIMEKEEPER CAN CONTROL STOPWATCH.*
6. *ANY INDIVIDUAL HANDLING A DOG IN ANY AGGRESSIVE MANNER, AT ANY TIME, IS TO BE DISQUALIFIED WITH NO REFUND GIVEN.*
7. *ADBA SANCTIONED CONFORMATION JUDGE AND WEIGHT PULL JUDGE HAVE THE SAME AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO ENFORCE ALL RULES OF THE SANCTIONING BODY AND HOSTING CLUB IN AND OUTSIDE OF THE RING/PULLING TRACK AREA AT ALL SANCTIONED EVENTS.*
8. *ADBA WILL FURNISH 1ST 2ND & 3RD PLACE ROSETTES IN BOTH REGULAR AND ACE OF ACE CLASSES.*
9. *WEIGHT PULL RULES AT ADBA SANCTIONED EVENTS, SHOULD BE CONSISTENT IN ALL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.*
10. *REGARDING RULE #14: WEIGH-IN WILL BE PERFORMED THE DAY OF THE FIRST EVENT ENTERED. WEIGHT CLASS MUST BE CHOSEN AT WEIGH IN. JUDGE WILL MARK CLASS ENTERED ON ENTRY FORM AND DOG WILL REMAIN IN THE SAME WEIGHT CLASS FOR ALL WEIGHT PULLS BEING HELD THAT WEEKEND. DOG WILL NOT NEED TO BE RE-WEIGHED, AS DOG'S WEIGHT AND WEIGHT CLASS ENTERED IS CARRIED OVER TO THE SECOND, AND/OR THIRD DAY'S EVENT. ALL DOGS WILL COMPETE IN SAME WEIGHT CLASS FOR ENTIRE EVENT REGARDLESS OF WHEN ENTRY FEE IS PAID. WEIGHT WILL REMAIN CONSISTENT FOR ALL SPORTING EVENTS HELD ON THE SAME WEEKEND.*
11. *ACE OF ACE CLASS MUST HAVE NO LESS THAN 5 PHYSICAL DOGS ENTERED - OR POINTS WILL BE VOID - NO REFUND – BEGINNING IN 2019, ACE DOGS WILL PULL WITH REGULAR CLASS.*
12. *RULE # 11: IF A PULL IS INTERRUPTED BY A FOUL OR AN ALIBI, THE DOG IS TO BE IMMEDIATELY TAKEN BACK TO THE STARTING LINE AND THE PULL WILL BEGIN AGAIN. (DOG IS NOT ALLOWED TO REST, HAVE FEET WIPED, ETC. – "PUSH THROUGH" WILL BE HANDLED AS DECIDED AT HANDLERS MEETING)*
13. *CLUB CANNOT ADD ANY ADDITIONAL CLASS TO ANY ADBA*

- SANCTIONED WEIGHT PULL EVENT. (EXAMPLE: 4TH PLACE AWARD, EXTRA WEIGHT CLASS, EXTRA OVERALL TROPHY AWARD)
14. **RULE #19:** "... HANDLER WILL ALLOW NO MORE THAN ONE FOOT OF SLACK IN THE TRACES". (A VISUAL INDICATOR (MARK) PLACED ON EACH CLUBS WEIGHT PULLING TRACK TO PROVIDE THE DISTANCE OF SLACK ALLOWED REMAINS CONSISTENT FOR ALL DOGS ENTERED THAT DAY.
 15. **RULE #35:** WE WILL CONTINUE TO ALLOW THE USE OF TWO HANDLERS; HOWEVER, BOTH HANDLERS MUST BE ALONGSIDE, OR IN FRONT OF THE DOG DURING THE ACTUAL PULL AFTER THE RELEASE OF THE DOG.
 16. **RULE #37:** VOICE COMMAND ONLY IS TO BE USED TO ENCOURAGE DOG TO PULL. THE USE OF BAIT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.
 17. IN THE EVENT OF EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTION, THE WINNERS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE RESULTS OF THE LAST PULL.
 - o 1ST: WEIGHT PULLED PER POUND OF BODY WEIGHT
 - o 2ND: TIME USED TO COMPLETE PULL.
 18. FOR THE MWP AWARD, JUDGE WILL USE WEIGHT PULLED, THEN, TIME. IF DOGS ARE TIED WITH THE AMOUNT OF WEIGHT PULLED AND TIME, THE AWARD WILL GO TO THE LIGHTEST DOG.
 19. **RULE #13:** "... THE DOGS WILL BE WEIGHED IN AND PLACED IN THE FOLLOWING CLASSES." JUDGES WILL WEIGH ALL DOGS IN BY OMITTING THE USE OF THE 10THS ROUND DOWN:

TO REQUEST AN ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION ON ANY OF THE RULES OR ABOUT A WEIGHT PULL PROCEDURE IN GENERAL, CONTACT THE SHOW DEPARTMENT AT (801) 936-7513 (OPTION #3) OR EMAIL: KATE@ADBADO.COM OR HEATHER@ADBADO.COM WITH YOUR INQUIRY.

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 Rev: (03/05/24) Rules:14 & clarification 10 & 19