

# **A.D.B.S.I. SANCTIONED WEIGHT PULL RULES**

## **AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIER – “SPECIALTY” EVENTS ONLY - 2010**

### **Proper equipment is mandatory**

#### **WHEN HOLDING ALL A.D.B.S.I. SANCTIONED WEIGHT PULL EVENT**

Hosting clubs must provide:

- a) Weights - Ranging from 50 lbs 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) ADBSI weight pull judges book – (Results MUST be on ADBSI 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:

**36 Ribbon awards:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for each weight class, Male & Female.

**2 Trophy awards:** Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight - 55 pound & under classes. Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight - 55 pound & over classes.

#### **ACE OF ACE CLASS**

Ace of Ace class awards will consist of:

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

**2 Trophy awards.** Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight -55lb. & under - Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight - 55lb. & over.

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

#### **OFFICIALS AND DUTIES**

**Judge:** Must be ADBSI certified 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 people:** 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 two-day event, the weight will be carried over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> days event.***
- ***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 ADBSI sanctioned weight pull. (This does not include LPP dogs.)***
- ***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.***

#### **ADBSI CERTIFIED WEIGHT PULL RULES**

- 1) All dogs must be ADBA 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. (Muzzled or not muzzled.) 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 dogs 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 ADBSI 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. Allowing the dog to take hold of or touch the bait while pulling in competition.
    - d. Any aggressive *action* of handler towards dog during pull competition.
    - 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) There will be six different weight classes. Separate awards will be given to males and females for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each weight division. The dogs will be weighed in and placed into the following classes:
 

35 lbs and under .....	Males & females
35 to 45 lbs .....	Males & females
45 to 55 lbs .....	Males & females
55 to 65 lbs .....	Males & females
  - 65 to 75 lbs ..... Males & females
  - 75lbs and over ..... Males & females
  - 14) Dogs **must** be entered in their natural body weight class. If a dogs weight is exactly 55lbs., the owner may enter their dog in either the 45 to 55lb class, or the 55 to 65lb class. **Weight class must be chosen at time of registration. Dogs will be competing for the MWPPP trophy award of the weight class entered. The weight pull is a test of strength and stamina, not brute strength.**
  - 15) All weight pull awards will be decided by most weight pulled per pound of body weight, with the **lowest common denominator being 30 pounds, regardless of the dog's natural body weight.** Dogs weighing in less than 30 lbs. will be handicapped accordingly.
  - 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) Two trophies will be awarded for Most Weight Pulled per Pound of Body Weight. One for the overall winner of the 55 pound and under classes and one for the overall winner of the 55 pound and over classes. Dogs will be competing for trophy award based on weight class entered. ***(Lowest common denominator will be 30lbs.)*** Sex is not a factor when determining the winner of these two 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. 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. Judges 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) All dogs entered in a weight class will pull to completion (pull out) and awards will be determined before another weight class begins. 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 and bait. (If bait is used, it **MUST** be held **in front of the dog.**) Handlers will be allowed in the pulling area, with bait, in any position and as close to the dog as long as the dog is unable to touch the bait. Handler will allow no more than one foot of slack in the traces.
- 36) Baiting of the dog will be allowed by handlers inside the pulling area. No food or live bait will be allowed. Example of approved bait: Piece of leather hide, tire, Frisbee, squeak toy, etc. **ANY OBJECT THAT MAY BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE IMAGE OF THE BREED WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AS BAIT. ALL ITEMS TO BE USED MUST BE APPROVED BY THE JUDGE BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE COMPETITION. THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL!** No baiting will be allowed that encourages aggression towards humans, such as hitting the other handler, attack training sleeve, etc. Handlers must remain inside the pulling track area until the pull is completed or time is up. *(Some dogs need to have bait in order for them to learn to pull. We are not teaching them to go after bait, just sparking their genetic instinct in order for them to pull. Being an intelligent dog*

and the fact that when they are being housed on chains, they soon learn just how far their chain will go, and when they feel a slight tug of resistance, they will stop pulling, thinking they have reached the end of the chain. This is indeed an obstacle if the dog you are teaching is housed on a chain. - Therefore, bait is usually a necessary tool for those new to the sport.) COMMAND PULLERS ARE QUICKLY REPLACING BAIT PULLERS. BUT BOTH STYLES ARE ALLOWED.

### THE ACE OF ACE CLASS

- A) Only dogs that have earned the title of "ACE" (100 points +) may compete in this separate class.
- B) A minimum of five dogs entered is required to hold an ACE of ACE class.
- C) Points earned from this class will go towards advancing the title of "Ace" to degrees of "Aces."
- D) Males and Females pull together.
- E) The weight divisions for the Ace of Ace class:
  - a. 44 lbs & under,
  - b. 44 to 64 lbs.
  - c. 64 lbs and over.
- F) Dogs must enter their natural body weight class. If dog's weight is exactly 44lbs, the owner may enter their dog in either the 44lb & under class, or the 44 to 64lbs class. 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 pull together in weight classes. Weight classes can be combined. Extra care must be taken to keep records straight if combining weight classes.
- I) The beginning weight to be pulled will be decided by the handlers and judge.
- J) ACES will be competing for Most Weight Pulled Per Pound of Body Weight 55lbs and under; and Most Weight Pulled Per Pound Of Body Weight 55lbs and over, trophy awards, along with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards in each weight division.
- K) All weight pull awards are decided by the most weight pulled per pound of body weight, with the lowest common denominator set at 30lbs.
- L) Sex of winners is not a factor
- M) Trophy Awards -15 points
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 10 points
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> place: 7 points
  - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> place: 4 points
- N) 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/ADBSI 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. TROPHIES IN THE REGULAR CLASS ARE TO BE NO MORE THAN 29" IN HEIGHT. ACE TROPHIES ARE TO BE NO MORE THAN 31" IN HEIGHT.
9. ADBSI WILL FURNISH 1ST 2ND & 3RD PLACE ROSETTES IN BOTH REGULAR AND ACE OF ACE CLASSES.
10. A MOST WEIGHT PULLED PER POUND OF BODY WEIGHT TROPHY WILL BE AWARDED TO THE OVERALL WINNER OF THE 55 POUND AND UNDER MALE AND FEMALE CLASSES AS WELL AS THE 55 POUND AND OVER MALE AND FEMALE CLASSES.
11. WEIGHT PULL RULES AT ADBSI SANCTIONED EVENTS, SHOULD BE CONSISTENT IN ALL AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.
12. WEIGH-IN WILL BE PERFORMED THE MORNING OF THE FIRST EVENT. WEIGHT WILL CARRY OVER TO THE SECOND EVENT (IF APPLICABLE). THERE WILL BE NO RE-WEIGH FOR THE SECOND DAY EVENT FOR FIRST DAY COMPETITORS. IF A COMPETITOR ONLY COMPETES IN THE SECOND EVENT, HE IS REQUIRED TO WEIGH-IN THE MORNING OF THE SECOND EVENT
13. ACE OF ACE CLASS MUST BE HELD SEPARATE FROM THE REGULAR WEIGHT PULL CLASSES - WITH NO LESS THAN 5 DOGS ENTERED - OR POINTS WILL BE VOID - NO REFUND.
14. 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)
15. CLUB CANNOT ADD ANY ADDITIONAL CLASS TO ANY ADBSI SANCTIONED WEIGHT PULL EVENT. (EXAMPLE: 4TH PLACE AWARD, EXTRA WEIGHT CLASS, EXTRA OVERALL TROPHY AWARD)
16. 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.

17. **ACE OF ACE- RULE J:** ACE TROPHY AWARDS ARE DETERMINED BY THE **WEIGHT OF THE DOG**, NO EXCEPTIONS. A CONTESTANT WEIGHING 55.0 LBS OR MORE, WILL BE COMPETING FOR THE OVERALL TROPHY AWARD OF MWPP - 55 LBS AND OVER, WITH THOSE WEIGHING 54.99 LBS OR LESS COMPETING FOR THE OVERALL TROPHY AWARD OF MWPP - 55 LBS AND UNDER. (LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR WILL BE 30 LBS.)
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**TO REQUEST AN ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION ON ANY OF THE RULES OR ABOUT A WEIGHT PULL PROCEDURE IN GENERAL, CONTACT THE A.D.B.S.I. SHOW DEPARTMENT AT (801) 936-7513 (OPTION #3) BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM (MON. - FRI.) OR EMAIL: [ADBSI@ADBA.CC](mailto:ADBSI@ADBA.CC) WITH YOUR REQUESTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS**

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