

## MARITIME ASSOCIATION OF HARNESS DOG SPORTS (“MAHDS”)



# GUIDELINES FOR CLUBS AFFILIATED WITH MAHDS

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Last updated: December 2018

## Definitions

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“Club” means a harness dog sports club approved by and affiliated with MAHDS.

“Affiliated” refers to MAHDS affiliated club status which denotes a Club that has completed the application for affiliation and received confirmation and approval from the MAHDS board of directors for affiliated club status.

“Club Members” means those participants recognized by the Club as being part of its membership.

## 1 Application

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- 1.1. These guidelines apply to all MAHDS Clubs and all MAHDS Clubs are expected to adhere to these guidelines.

## 2 Responsibility & Requirements

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- 2.1. The Club must ensure all Club members sign a Waiver of Liability (see Appendix “A” attached) releasing MAHDS et al from any and all liability. If the Club does not wish to use the attached waiver, the Club must submit an alternative waiver to MAHDS for approval prior to use.
- 2.2. All Club members must adhere to the MAHDS Code of Conduct.
- 2.3. The Club is responsible for ensuring its members adhere to the MAHDS Code of Conduct.
- 2.4. The Club must ensure the actions of the Club as a whole are reflective of the MAHDS Code of Conduct, including but not limited to the Club’s social media, marketing, and with respect to Club activities and events.
- 2.5. The Club’s social media and marketing should reflect safe, respectful and positive depictions of harness dog sports.
- 2.6. The Club should ensure that any partners, sponsors or affiliate businesses embody the spirit of

the MAHDS Code of Conduct, particularly with respect to such things as quality and safety of gear, sport promotion, and inclusivity. Note, this does not require the business to sign off on the Code of Conduct or agree to adhere to it in any way, however, the Club should carefully consider whether or not partnering with the prospective business promotes the safe practice of harness dog sports such that the Club is fulfilling its role as a positive ambassador for harness dog sports in the Maritimes.

- 2.7. Club social media pages which allow members to post should include the following recommended posting guidelines:  
“The purpose of this group is to create and foster a safe and welcoming community for participants in harness dog sports. To that end, we reserve the right to remove posts that do not adhere to the MAHDS Code of Conduct, are disrespectful or malicious, or are of a sales or marketing nature.”
- 2.8. All Club members must adhere to the MAHDS Rules for Participants at all sanctioned events.
- 2.9. The Club must adhere to the MAHDS Rules for Organizers for all sanctioned events in which it is an organizer, host, or co-host.
- 2.10. It is the responsibility of the Club to keep track of its membership.

### **3 Organization**

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- 3.1. Harness dog sports are practiced internationally. By becoming a MAHDS Club, the Club and its members become part of something bigger - an internationally and nationally regulated community of harness dog sports participants. The Club is therefore accountable to the following regulatory bodies for harness dog sports:
  - 3.1.1. The Maritime Association of Harness Dog Sports (“MAHDS”) which governs harness dog sports regionally in the maritimes; and
  - 3.1.2. The Canadian Association of Harness Dog Sports (“CAHDS”) which governs harness dog sports within Canada; and
  - 3.1.3. The International Federation of Sleddog Sports (“IFSS”) which governs harness dog sports internationally.

These organizations regulate and govern harness dog sports in order to ensure that participants uphold the highest standards for the safety and welfare of the dogs and humans who participate.

- 3.2. The MAHDS Club must have a Board of Directors made up of at least one (1) MAHDS member and must provide MAHDS with a list of the Club’s Board of Directors and contact information by January 31 of each calendar year for the following year.