

MARITIME ASSOCIATION OF HARNESS DOG SPORTS ("MAHDS")



GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPANTS U19

Last updated: August 2025

1 Categories

- 1.1 U19 participants will be divided into categories pursuant to the class entered as laid below:

Category	Age Classification
Cani-Kids	U12 (ages 5-11)
Youth	U14 (ages 12-13)
Junior	U19 (ages 14-18)

2 Canicross & Canitrail

- 2.1 In canicross and canitrail classes, age and categories are determined as follows:

Category	Age Classification	Max Distance
Cani-Kids	U12	2 km
Youth	U14	3 km
Junior	U19	6 km

- 2.2 In Cani-Kids classes, all participants must be accompanied by an adult who is attached to the dog for the duration of the race.

- 2.3 Unless a longer route is deemed more technically suitable, Cani-Kids participants will compete in the shortest race route available.
- 2.4 In canicross and canitrail, a youth or junior participant may run with an adult attached for 75% of the race. This is generally optional, but may be required at certain events or in certain cases. This requirement may be stipulated by the event organizer, event official, or legal guardian of the youth or junior participant.

3 Scooter

- 3.1 In scooter classes, age and categories are determined as follows:

Category	Age Classification	# of Dogs	Max Distance
Youth	U14	1-dog only	2km
Junior	U19	1-2 dogs	6km

- 3.2 Participants must be at least 12 years of age at the time of the event to compete in scooter classes.
- 3.3 Unless a longer route is deemed more technically suitable, youth participants will compete in the shortest race route available.
- 3.4 Unless evaluated as a technically unsuitable route for junior participants, juniors may participate in both sprint and standard distance races.
- 3.5 It is HIGHLY recommended (and may be required at certain events or in certain cases) that a youth or junior participant be accompanied by an adult who can keep pace for the duration of the race. This requirement may be stipulated by the event organizer, event official, or legal guardian of the junior participant.

4 Bikejor

- 4.1 In bikejor classes, age and categories are determined as follows:

Category	Age Classification	# of Dogs	Max Distance
Youth	U14	1-dog only	2km
Junior	U19	1-2 dogs	6 km

- 4.2 Participants must be at least 12 years of age at the time of the event to compete in bikejor

classes.

- 4.3 Unless a longer route is deemed more technically suitable, youth participants will compete in the shortest race route available.
- 4.4 Unless evaluated as a technically unsuitable route for junior participants, juniors may participate in both sprint and standard distance races.
- 4.5 It is HIGHLY recommended (and may be required at certain events or in certain cases) that a youth or junior participant be accompanied by an adult who can keep pace for the duration of the race. This requirement may be stipulated by the event organizer, event official, or legal guardian of the junior participant.

5 Responsibility

- 5.1 Ultimately, the responsibility for safe participation by any participant under the age of 19 lies with the parent / legal guardian of that child.
- 5.2 Parents / Legal guardians are obligated to ensure their child and their canine partner are both set up for success on the trail.
- 5.3 Parents / Legal Guardians MUST ensure their child is paired with a safe canine partner whom their child is capable of controlling on the trail.
- 5.4 Any participant (under the age of 19 or otherwise) may be refused to start if deemed to be unable to control or keep pace with their canine partner by the Event Official.

6 Rules for Participants & Code of Conduct

- 6.1 All participants, including those under the age of 19, must adhere to the MAHDS Rules for Participants & MAHDS Code of Conduct. For example, all participants under 19 years of age must follow proper passing procedures and should be paired with an experienced canine partner who can complete a clean pass without engaging.