

## **AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF SLEDDOG SPORTS**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **Part 1: Social Code of Conduct**

<b><u>OVERVIEW</u></b>	<p>The way we conduct ourselves today influences our sleddog access tomorrow</p> <p>Do your part to enhance our sport's image by following these guidelines</p>
<b><u>TRAVERSE OPEN TRAILS ONLY</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Respect road and trail closures (ask if unsure)</li> <li>2. Avoid trespassing on private lands</li> <li>3. Adhere to any local laws and obtain permission or other authorisation as required</li> <li>4. Leave gates as you found them or as marked</li> <li>5. National Parks are closed to all dogs without special permission</li> <li>6. The way you approach your activity will influence trail access and land management decisions and policies</li> </ol>
<b><u>LEAVE NO TRACE</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be sensitive in the areas you traverse</li> <li>2. Stay on existing trails and don't create unauthorized tracks</li> <li>3. Don't damage trackside vegetation and avoid wet, muddy areas that are vulnerable to damage</li> <li>4. Stop! Pick up your dog waste and pack it out with you</li> </ol>
<b><u>CONTROL YOUR DOGS</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regardless of the sleddog sport you are engaged in, always maintain control of your dog(s) or team(s)</li> <li>2. Always have a tethering / securing mechanism in place if needed</li> </ol>
<b><u>YIELD THE TRAIL</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trails are used by many different recreationists and field workers</li> <li>2. Anticipate other trail users around corners and in blind spots</li> <li>3. Show respect when passing others by slowing down and/or stopping your dog(s) or team(s)</li> <li>4. Yield the trail to all whether on foot, bike, horseback, motorbike or vehicle</li> </ol>

## Codes of Conduct

<b><u>OBSERVE TRAIL ETIQUETTE</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish communication in order to pass safely</li> <li>2. Avoid conflict with other users by observing these guidelines</li> </ol>
<b><u>RESPECT WILDLIFE AND ANIMALS</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All animals are startled by unannounced approach, sudden movement or loud noise</li> <li>2. This can be dangerous for you, the dogs, others and wildlife</li> <li>3. Give wildlife extra time to adjust to your presence</li> <li>4. When encountering wildlife or other domestic animals, dismount from your rig and keep your dogs under control</li> <li>5. Always keep yourself between other trail users and your dogs</li> <li>6. Encourage communication between all parties involved</li> </ol>
<b><u>PLAN AHEAD</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Know your ability, your dogs, your equipment and the area you are traversing</li> <li>2. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear</li> <li>3. Take with you all necessary equipment for the situation</li> <li>4. Carry neck-lines, snub-lines, water, etc</li> <li>5. Remember the dog waste bags and use them!</li> <li>6. Be self-sufficient</li> <li>7. Select your times carefully to suit the weather conditions and to avoid or limit conflict with other trail users</li> </ol>
<b><u>GENERAL</u></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>NOTE:</b> As this Policy has recently been drafted, amendments will be made as required.</li> <li>2. All communication sent to the AFSS Secretary, Pikatti Cottage, 86 Smiths Lane, Trawalla, Vic 3373</li> </ol>

## Part 2: Role Specific Codes of Conduct

<b><u>RACE MARSHALLS</u></b>	<p>You must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by AFSS or an affiliated club and in your role as Race Marshall appointed by AFSS or an affiliated club:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not tolerate acts of aggression</li> <li>2. Provide feedback to mushers in a manner sensitive to their needs</li> <li>3. Encourage mushers to take responsibility for their own behaviour, performance, decisions and actions</li> <li>4. Involve the mushers in decisions that affect them</li> <li>5. Encourage mushers to respect one another and to expect respect for their worth as individuals regardless of their level of competition</li> <li>6. Accept and respect the role of ROC's in ensuring that races are conducted fairly and according to established race rules</li> <li>7. Know and abide by the Race Rules, regulations and objectives. Encourage mushers to do likewise</li> <li>8. Be familiar with ASSA's Aggressive Dog Policy and Sportsmanship policy and your role in handling and resolving complaints</li> </ol>
<b><u>RACE ORGANISING COMMITTEES</u></b>	<p>You must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by AFSS and in your role as an affiliated club:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Place the safety and welfare of the mushers and spectators above all else</li> <li>2. Accept responsibility for all actions taken</li> <li>3. Be impartial</li> <li>4. Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest</li> <li>5. Be courteous, respectful and open to discussion</li> <li>6. Value each musher competing in your event</li> <li>7. Value spectators, ROC's, sponsors, AFSS and all personnel attending your event.</li> </ol>

<p><b><u>MUSHERS AND COMPETITORS</u></b></p>	<p>You must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held or sanctioned by AFSS or an affiliated club and in your role as a musher / competitor in any activity held by or under the auspices of AFSS or an affiliated club:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow Mushers, Race Marshalls, Race Organising Committee members and spectators</li> <li>2. Do not tolerate acts of aggression</li> <li>3. Respect the talent, potential and development of fellow Mushers</li> <li>4. Care for and respect your dogs and equipment</li> <li>5. Conduct yourself in a professional manner relating to language, temper and punctuality</li> <li>6. Abide by the rules and respect the decisions of the Race Marshall, making all appeals through the formal process and respecting the final decision</li> <li>7. Be honest</li> <li>8. Work equally hard for yourself and your team</li> </ol>
<p><b><u>AFSS NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS</u></b></p>	<p>You must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any activity held by or under the auspices of AFSS or an affiliated club and in your role as a National Council member for AFSS or an affiliated club:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resolve conflicts fairly and promptly through established procedures</li> <li>2. Maintain strict impartiality</li> <li>3. Be aware of your responsibilities</li> <li>4. Act within the capacity of and according to your role description</li> <li>5. Promote AFSS in a positive and constructive manner</li> <li>6. Respect the privacy of others</li> <li>7. Uphold the integrity of AFSS</li> </ol>

**AFSS MEMBERS  
REPRESENTING  
AUSTRALIA  
INTERNATIONALLY OR  
DOMESTICALLY**

You must meet the following requirements in regard to representing AFSS either domestically or internationally:

1. Conduct yourself in a professional manner relating to language, temper and punctuality
2. Be familiar with and abide by local race rules
3. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow Mushers, Race Marshalls, Race Organising Committee members and spectators
4. Work equally hard for yourself and your team
5. Enjoy the experience and stay upright
6. Whilst you are representing AFSS either as competitor or official, please act responsibly in accordance with your role