



BSSF RACE RULES

As a basis, the BSSF works in conjunction with IFSS rules. They are the only international federation that incorporates both team and mono sports, as well as open and Registered Nordic Breeds, which is needed for all BSSF events. Please see the amended IFSS race rules below, as well as some organic BSSF race rules. Some rules are only to be utilised at non-championship races; and this will be made clear on each entry form.

1) **Definition – AGE**

The age of the competitor is regarded to be the same during the whole season and is the age of the competitor on 31st December within that season. E.g. 2020-2021 season is December 2020. The age of the dog is the age it reaches on the first day of the competition.

2) **IFSS Rule 3.4.1**

BSSF Local: There is no minimum for an official class.

3) **IFSS Rules 3.4.2, 3.4.3 & 10.5**

BSSF Local: There is no minimum for classes to be broken down.

4) **IFSS Rule 3.6**

BSSF Local: Any dog having raced in one full-length (adult) class is only eligible to then race in one shorter (junior at no more than 1.5miles) class or relay class the same day.

5) **IFSS Rule 8.4**

BSSF Local: The competitor should not be wearing shoes that could be dangerous for dogs. Shoes with hardened spikes or studs of 1mm height maximum are not allowed.

6) **IFSS Rule 14.2.10**

BSSF Local: There will be at least two race officials in the starting area.

7) **IFSS Rule 82.2.3**

BSSF Local: The rig in DR4 and DR6 shall have a minimum three (3) wheels. The rig in DR8 shall have a minimum four (4) wheels. The minimum diameter on all wheels shall be 30cm (12 in). The minimum wheel base (the distance between front and rear axle) shall be 110 cm (43 in) and the minimum track (the distance between the wheels on the same axle) shall be 70cm (27 in). A 10% discrepancy in these sizes shall be allowed.

8) **IFSS Rule 82.2.3.1**

BSSF Local: All rigs shall be equipped with a working brake on the back wheels. Having brakes in the front wheels is recommended for DR4 and any two-dog class where a rig can be used. Working brakes on all wheels for DR4J, DR6 and DR8.



9) **IFSS Rule 82.3.3**

BSSF Local: Dog drop check-points shall be provided at least every 3 km (1.8 mi), and may be combined with normal check points. They shall be equipped with a lead or suitable way of securing a dog, and water. Dogs dropped at check points shall not be allowed to start in succeeding heats. If no possibilities are provided to drop dogs and a dog becomes unfit or refuses to advance for any reason, the driver is not permitted to finish the heat. For safety reasons, the transport of a dog on the rig is strictly forbidden in all classes.

10) **IFSS Rule B.II.20**

BSSF Local: All dogs at race sites must be vaccinated initially against Hepatitis, Distemper, Parvovirus, and Leptospirosis. It is highly recommended to also vaccinate against non-life threatening diseases such as kennel cough to prevent highly populated areas of dogs becoming a chronic problem.

11) BSSF Rule: The Race Organiser may run a trail in reverse on the second day, if the course allows for such a change.

12) BSSF Rule: You must be a member of the BSSF at the start of the season in order to qualify for BSSF Championship points. Non-members are welcome to participate at events, but will not be eligible for BSSF Championship points.

13) BSSF Rule: It is each individual driver's responsibility to ensure by whatever means necessary that the designated course is safe and suitable for their team, bearing in mind its size and speed and their own level of skill and experience and the prevailing weather conditions at the time.

14) BSSF Rule: The course will be available for inspection by all mushers prior to the event at the race organisers' discretion. No competing dogs will be allowed on the marked course (in whole or part) except during the mushers designated heat.

15) BSSF Rule: No dog, equipment or clothing shall be brought to an event from a kennel where any contagious disease exists or has existed within the previous three weeks. Any breach of this rule will result in disqualification and immediate removal from the event site.

16) BSSF Rule: Any team, dog or driver coming to the event and being, in the opinion of the event organiser or current BSSF Council member, unfit or incapable of completing the course in a safe and satisfactory manner, will:

- a) Be asked to reduce their team size
- b) Remove dog in question from the team.
- c) Be given the opportunity to enter a different, smaller class size.

17) BSSF Rule: No dog less than twelve months old on the first day of the event will be accepted for entry other than the recreational class; in which dogs ten months old shall be eligible to run.



- 18) BSSF Rule: The responsibility for the condition, safety and suitability of all dogs and equipment rests solely with the Driver and/or Owner.
- 19) BSSF Rule: No wet acid batteries may be carried.
- 20) BSSF Rule: Back up lights must be carried during night races.
- 21) BSSF Rule: Starting position and time for each team shall be determined by the individual race organiser.
- 22) BSSF Rule: Mating of bitches is forbidden at any BSSF event site.
- 23) BSSF Rule: Puppies will not be offered for sale at any BSSF event site.
- 24) BSSF Rule: Whelping bitches should not be taken to race sites and be given adequate time to recover before re-starting training.
- 25) BSSF Rule: Dogs must be at least 12 weeks of age and fully inoculated, in accordance with the British Veterinary Association guidelines, to be allowed on any BSSF event site.
- 26) BSSF Rule: The following classes and junior age categories may be offered at all BSSF events:

IFSS Classes	Non-IFSS Classes
DR8 / DR8RNB	DC2
DR6 / DR6RNB	DB2
DR4 / DR4RNB	DR2J / DR2JRNB (14-18)
DS2 / DS2RNB	DR2Y (12-14)
DS1 / DS1RNB	DS1Y (12-14)
DCW / DCWV	DW1SB/SG (8-12)
DCM / DCMV	DC1Y (12-14)
DBW / DBWV	DC1SB/SG (8-12)
DBM / DBMW	
DBMRNB / DBMVRNB	
DBWRNB / DBWRNB	
DR4J / DR4JRNB (14-18)	
DS1J / DS1JRNB (14-18)	
DBMJ / DBWJ (16-18)	
DCMJ / DCWJ (14-18)	

- 27) BSSF Rule: All Bikejor rules described in IFSS rules 80.2 – 80.3.6 shall be applicable for 2 Dog-Bikejor, as well as the use of a neckline as mentioned in IFSS rule 41.1.4.
- 28) BSSF Rule: All Canicross rules described in IFSS rules 79.2 – 79.3.7 shall be applicable for 2-Dog Canicross. The use of a neckline is not compulsory.