

North American Weight Pull Organization

Bylaws

ARTICLE 1:

The North American Weight Pull Association (NAWA) exists to promote and preserve the sport of canine weight pull through fair, inclusive, and competitive events. We are committed to fostering a community grounded in sportsmanship, integrity, and respect for all participants — human and canine alike.

ARTICLE II: Organization Mission

Our mission is to:

- Sanction professionally run, rule-abiding weight-pull competitions.
- Champion ethical treatment and honest competition at every level.
- Uphold transparent governance and membership practices.
- Encourage participation regardless of background or experience.

NAWA proudly welcomes individuals who share our passion for the sport and who embody the values of fairness, camaraderie, and dedication.

ARTICLE III: Dog Registration

1. Lifetime registration fee per dog of \$30. At that time the dog will be assigned a registration number with organization and access to the online portal for the dog's information and organizational communication.
2. By obtaining the registration number you agree to abide by the bylaws and rules of the organization.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

The officers and their respective duties will be as follows:

1. President will preside at all meetings of the Organization and of the Board of Directors and will have the duties and powers normally pertaining
Add more description to the duties to the office of the President.

2. Vice President will assist the President whenever possible. The Vice President will have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence, incapacitation

3. The Secretary will keep a written record of all meetings of the organization and of the Board. The Secretary will have charge of the correspondence, including but not limited to notifying exhibitors of meetings and events, and notifying new dog registrations of their information. The Secretary is responsible for providing an agenda to the Board and membership at least ten days prior to each club meeting. The secretary will submit all general meeting minutes to the online portal for viewing.

4. The Treasurer will collect and receive all money due or belonging to the organization. Money will be deposited in the organizational bank account (i.e. online deposit, direct transfer (Including but not limited to Paypal, Venmo, Zelle, etc.)). The books will always be accurate, up to date, and open to inspection by the board. A treasury report will be given at every meeting of the condition of the organization finances. At the annual meeting, an accounting statement will be rendered of all money received and expended during the previous fiscal year.

5. Float Position - Duties as assigned

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

1. **Section 2: Board of Directors**

a. The Board of Directors will be composed of the officers listed above.

A. The board of directors will vote on the executive board to fill the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Float. The executive board positions will have a term of two years.

Outline of position responsibilities:

1. President will preside at all meetings of the Organization and of the Board of Directors and will have the duties and powers normally pertaining to the office of the President.
2. Vice President will assist the President whenever possible. The Vice President will have the duties and exercise the powers of the

President in case of the President's death, absence, incapacitation or in capacity.

3. The Treasurer will collect and receive all money due or belonging to the organization. Moneys will be deposited in the organizational bank account. The books will always be accurate, up to date, and open to inspection by the board. A treasury report will be given at every meeting of the condition of the organization finances. At the annual meeting, an accounting statement will be rendered of all money received and expended during the previous fiscal year.
 4. The Secretary will keep a written record of all meetings of the organization and of the Board. The Secretary will have charge of the correspondence, including but not limited to notifying members of meetings and events, and notifying new members of their election to membership. The Secretary is responsible for providing an agenda to the Board and membership at least ten days prior to each club meeting.
 5. The Float Position will be able to take on various tasks and projects and be the Board representative to oversee committees and report back on progress to the Board.
- B. All representatives will be provided with an opportunity for open voice, vote on rule changes, etc.
- C. For all meetings and voting, a quorum of 60% of the board of directors need to be present.

ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS

1. The election of Officers will be conducted by secret ballot, except if a nominee goes unopposed, then the person nominated will be declared elected by the Secretary at the meeting. If multiple nominations have been made, the Chairperson of the Tally Committee will report on the results of the election at the meeting. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office or position on the board will be declared elected.
2. Nobody may be a candidate for an office on the board who has not been nominated. Nominations of eligible competitors may be made on the floor or in writing to the Secretary no later than two months prior to the election. No person will be nominated for more than one position.

3. The Board of Directors will select three competitors from the organization. These three will serve as the Tally Committee. Their duty will be to count and tally the ballots and report the totals to the Board. The Board will name one person of this committee as Chairperson, who will receive all ballots.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

1. The Regular meetings of this organization will be held at least once every three months at a location decided upon by the Board. Notices regarding the time and location of the meetings will be posted no later than 30 days prior to the meeting.

2. The annual meeting is to be held at the National Championship every season. Board elections are to be held at this meeting and any newly elected Officers will start their term January 1 of the following year. Voting will be done in person and online with the candidates announced at least 14 days prior to the voting.

ARTICLE VIII: DISCIPLINE

1. Expulsion of an exhibitor from the organization may be accomplished only at the next meeting following a Board Hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. The respondent will have the privilege of appearing on his or her own behalf though no evidence will be taken to this meeting. The President will read the charges, findings, and recommendations, and will invite the respondent, if present, to speak on his/her own behalf. The meeting will then vote on the proposed expulsion. A majority vote of those present and voting at the meeting will be necessary for expulsion.

2. The Board will have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and respondent will be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained after the hearing, the Board may, by a majority vote of those present, suspend the respondent from all privileges of the organization for no more than one year. The Secretary, in turn, will notify each of the parties of the Board's decision.

3. At the conclusion of the suspension, the exhibitor needs to submit in writing a request to be allowed to enter events. In this request, the exhibitor shall submit how this issue will not happen again and the steps that they are taking.

ARTICLE IX: Code of Conduct

Preface: Members of the North American Weight Pull Association (NAWA) recognize and uphold the following values when interacting within the community, within the club, and with NAWA activities:

1. Respect the history, traditions, and integrity of NAWA
2. Respect the NAWA, constitution, bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of weight-pulling dogs
3. Treat all other attendees/members with the same empathy, respect, and civility they would expect for themselves at all times and during all activities
4. Commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace at all times and during other hosted activities
5. Refuse to compromise commitment and obligation to NAWA by imposing personal advantage and/ or benefit into decisions and behaviors at all times and during other hosted activities
6. Conduct business fairly
7. Spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them
8. Consider the welfare of their dog(s) as their first priority
9. Welcome, educate, and support newcomers to NAWA and encourage safe development of a well-rounded successful weight-pulling dog
10. Manage dog - all behaviors and actions while participating in any hosted activity including all clean-up for the dog inside and out and as part of the event itself