



Chinook Owners Association Working Dog Program Draft Group: Skijoring



Advanced Level

The Draft Group of the WDP is designed to recognize Chinooks that demonstrate ability in common working and pulling disciplines. The Skijoring section rewards achievement in a variant of the traditional Chinook pulling area of sledding.

The Advanced level is designed for dogs that demonstrate their abilities as recreational skijor dogs. These dogs should be trained and capable of going out on a successful run frequently with their skier, enjoying the experience, without requiring significant intervention from others (e.g., a team to chase, lots of handlers, etc.). Some characteristics of this level of skijoring competency include the ability for a dog to perform successfully in an unfamiliar place on new trails, reliably perform with outings of different distances, and take direction from a skier on which branching trails to follow. In addition, these dogs should be able to pass by distractions and other dogs, and be passed by other teams of people on the trail. These dogs are good role models and can function as partners for other Chinooks working towards Novice Skijor Dog certification.

Working in harness should be an exciting and fun experience for Chinooks. It is critical that owners and skiers continue to focus on providing a positive experience for their dogs while out skijoring. In particular, skiers are encouraged to evaluate their dog(s), trail, and weather conditions and ensure that planned distances are challenging but realistic for the dog(s) on any given day.

The WDP supports working with Chinooks responsibly – physical and mental abuse are expressly prohibited. No action or inaction that causes preventable pain or suffering to a dog is allowed – this includes any action such as pushing a dog too far in a run so that it is injured or gains an aversion to the work. To achieve the Working Skijor Dog (WSD) certificate and title, a dog must first have received Novice Skijor Dog certification. Once Novice certification has been attained, a dog may begin to work on the requirements for the WSD title. There are three different methods for a dog to achieve WSD recognition - racing, recreational, or a combination of the two. A dog must meet the requirements of only one of these methods.

| Titling Method | Method Details | Requirements | Total miles required |
|----------------|----------------|---|----------------------|
| Racing | Sprint | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Minimum of 3 races in any class● Minimum 1 mile per dog per race | 40 |
| Recreational | Excursions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Minimum of 4 trips of 10+ miles each | 40 |
| | Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Minimum of 3 miles per run | 100 |



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| Combination | Racing + Recreational | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Up to 30 miles from qualifying races● 70+ miles from qualifying recreational runs | 100 |
|-------------|--------------------------|--|-----|

The detailed requirements to achieve the WSD title with each method are outlined in the following pages. Included with each method is a checklist of the documentation that must be submitted to the WDP Committee. Regardless of the method used,

- Skijor teams can be 1-3 dog(s)
- The skier may use Alpine or Nordic skis.
- The team does not have to be all Chinooks.
- Dogs do not have to run on a team with the same dogs for all trips.
- New technologies frequently become available to document distances and locations (e.g., mapping tools, ipod apps, etc.). Please consult with the Committee prior to using any of these tools on qualifying runs to ensure their eligibility.
- Safety is paramount, and skiers are responsible for the safety of their dog(s).

WSD Method 1: Racing

1. Eligible Races - Dogs may run in either sprint or distance skijor races. Dogs must:
 - a. Complete runs in at least 3 races
 - b. Race a total of 40 miles from individual runs
 - c. Travel a minimum of 1 mile per dog in each qualifying run
 - d. Compete against at least 2 other teams in the race.
 - e. Run in races sanctioned by ISDRA OR the WDP Committee must approve the rules prior to the race.

To apply for the WTD title using the racing method, the following documentation should be sent to the WDP Committee:

- Completed Skijoring-Advanced Form(s) summarizing qualifying races and miles
- Official race certificates for all qualifying runs
- Photo of the skier and team in at least one qualifying race
- \$5 application fee (check or paypal)

WSD Method 2: Recreational Mushing – Dogs may demonstrate WSD abilities through recreational outings. Either of the two options detailed below may be used to qualify for the title.

1. Option 1: Excursions
 - a. Complete 4 runs of 10+ miles each OR
2. Option 2: Training runs



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- a. Complete 100 miles in qualifying runs
- b. Travel a minimum of 3 miles per qualifying run

To apply for the WSD title using the recreational method, the following documentation should be sent to the WDP Committee:

- Map of trails traveled with distances noted
- Completed Skijoring-Advanced Form(s) summarizing qualifying runs
 - a. At least one trip must include a signature from an impartial witness (not the owner of the dog)
 - b. The balance of the trips must
 - i. Include a signature from an impartial witness OR
 - ii. Be accompanied by 4 photos with time/date stamp showing:
 1. Start
 2. Estimated farthest point of trip from start
 3. Dog(s) pulling during the run
 4. Finish
 - c. Extra documentation can expedite review, such as:
 - i. Additional photos / videos of the dogs on trips
 - ii. Detailed narratives of the trips from the skier
 - iii. Maps with attached geotagged photos
- \$5 application fee (check or Paypal)

WSD Method 3: Combination Racing + Recreational

- Distance- 100 miles of combined Racing or Recreational runs
 - a. Racing miles
 - i. Must meet the requirements from Method 1
 - ii. A maximum of 30 miles from sprint or distance races or a combination of both may be used
 - b. Recreational miles
 - i. All runs must meet the requirements from Method 2
 - ii. The balance of total 100 miles less racing miles (70+) may come from any combination of excursion and training runs.

To apply for the WSD title using Method 3, the following documentation should be sent to the WDP Committee:

- Completed Skojoring-Advanced Form(s) summarizing qualifying races and recreational runs
For All Racing Runs
- Official race certificates for all qualifying runs



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- Photo of the skier and dog(s) in at least one qualifying race
For All Recreational Runs
- Map of trails traveled with distances noted
- At least one run must include a signature from an impartial witness (not the owner, co-owner or breeder of the dog)
- The balance of the trips must
 - i. Include a signature from an impartial witness OR
 - ii. Be accompanied by 4 photos with time/date stamp showing:
 1. Start
 2. Estimated farthest point of trip from start
 3. Dog(s) pulling during the run
 4. Finish
- In addition, extra documentation can expedite review of a submission, such as:
 - iii. Additional photos / videos of the dog(s) on trips
 - iv. Detailed narratives of the trips from the skier
 - v. Maps with attached geotagged photos
- \$5 application fee (check or Paypal)