INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SLEDDOG SPORTS

MASTERS REGULATIONS

July 2026

A. GENERAL

1. The IFSS World Masters (WM's) are sled dog competitions by which IFSS, as a recognized member of SportAccord, grants the title "World Master" to the winners of each of the World Master classes as defined in these regulations.

2. The Continental Masters (EM's, NAM's, LAM's, PACh's etc.) are sled dog competitions by which IFSS, as a recognized member of SportAccord, grants the title "European/North American/Latin American/Panamerican etc. Master" to the winners of each of the Continental Master classes as defined in these regulations.

3. Only events organized according to these regulations shall be recognized by IFSS and its Members as World or Continental Masters.

4. The World Masters should be held in every odd-numbered year.

5. The Continental Masters should be held in every even-numbered year in the concerned continents.

5.1. The Latin American and North American Championships may be combined to establish a Pan American Championship, which should be held every four years for both Dryland and On-Snow disciplines.

B. APPLICATION

6.

6.1 Any Voting National and Provisional Member having competitors with interest in the World/Continental Masters (i.e. with DID) may submit an application to host a World or a Continental Masters. The proposed race site shall have been accredited as a World Cup event in the previous racing season(s). Said member shall thereby bind itself to make available to IFSS a race suitable for the purpose (see also § C and E).

6.2 Upon receipt of a pre-application the candidates will be provided with the following information before the end of the bid period:

1) Scope of the event (classes to be run)

2) Financial terms of the bid

3) Entry fees

4) Number of IFSS Officials

5) Contract (with marked section that shall not be changed)

6.3 The IFSS shall take into consideration when evaluating all applications that the World and Continental Masters should be held as late as possible in the racing season of that hemisphere.

6.4 A test event shall be organized the racing season before the World/Continental Masters by the Technical Organization on the same race site and the World/Continental Masters' Race Marshal shall be invited as an observer.

7.

7.1 Applications for World Masters shall be submitted a minimum of two (2) years before the event to the Vice President of Sport who will seek advice from the Accreditation Committee. Applications for World Masters shall be approved by the IFSS Council.

7.2 Applications for Continental Masters shall be submitted a minimum of two (2) years before the event to the concerned Continental Director who will seek advice from the Accreditation Committee. Applications for Continental Masters shall be approved by the IFSS Council.

7.3 In the case that no application is received within the time frame indicated in the call for a bid, the IFSS has the right to find on its own a site and organizer and recommend them to the concerned Voting National Member or Provisional Member.

8. IFSS, as the organizer of the World and Continental Masters, shall sign an agreement with the hosting Member/Organization, called the Technical Organization, about the implementation of the event.

9. An accreditation fee shall be established by the IFSS Executive Board and included in the agreement.

C. ADMINISTRATION AND RULE ENFORCEMENT

10. The Chief Rule Enforcing Officers for the event shall consist of the Race Marshal, Animal Welfare Judge, Doping Control Officers (DCOs) and the Chief Veterinarian.

10.1 All Chief Rule Enforcing Officers shall be appointed by the IFSS in agreement with any local legal requirement.

10.2 The required Chief Judges shall be appointed by the Race Marshal.

11. Other Race Judges (e.g., Start Judge, Finish Judge, Trail Judge, etc. as required), Chief Timer, Race Site Crew Foreman and Chief of Secretariat shall be appointed by the Technical Organization but are subject to the approval of IFSS.

12. Other Officers (e.g., Equipment Controllers, Dog Identification Controllers, Trail Stewards, Doping Control Assistants (DCAs) etc. as required) shall be appointed by the Technical Organization but are subject to the approval of the Race Marshal. They will report to judges designated by the Race Marshal.

13. The Race Veterinarians and Veterinarians' Assistants shall be appointed by the Chief Veterinarian.

14. The Trail Crew and the Trail Boss shall be appointed by the Technical Organization.

15. The Time Keeping Crew shall be appointed by the Technical Organization but is subject to the approval of the Chief Timer.

16. The Sled Holders, Speaker, and Parking staff shall be appointed by the Technical Organization but are subject to the approval of the Race Site Crew Foreman.

17. The Secretary Crew shall be appointed by the Technical Organization but is subject to the approval of the Chief of Secretariat.

18. No person holding any position under this Rule may be a participant of the event.

D. The IFSS shall:

19. Send out invitations and entry forms to all national Members and publish them on the IFSS website.

20. Publish the schedule of events in cooperation with the Technical Organization.

21. Summon a Team Leaders meeting for the Masters event prior to the races in order to distribute essential information pertaining to the event and to supervise the drawing of the bib numbers if not done electronically earlier.

22. Supervise, assist and support the Technical Organization in its preparations for and implementation of the event.

23. Provide trophies of honor (at least gold, silver and bronze medals) for the first three finishers in each Masters class.

E. The Technical Organization shall:

24. Appoint an Organizing Committee including a person who will be the main contact person between the Organizing Committee and IFSS.

25. Obtain the necessary permissions from the police and other authorities.

26. Take out insurance for those responsible for the event.

27. Obtain on-site accommodation for the required number of officials.

28. Be responsible for the promotion of the event.

29. Arrange the opening ceremony, the awards ceremonies and the closing ceremony with the assistance of IFSS.

30. Procure participation certificates.

31. See to it that the following technical requirements are met:

31.1 Area: enough space for the agreed number of participants.

31.2 Trail and trail markings: in accordance with the IFSS Race Rules.

31.3 Loudspeakers: covering the complete race site, especially aimed at Vehicle Holding Area (Drivers parking/stakeout) and Starting Area. Microphones shall be provided for at least the Announcer and Starter (the latter preferably with his/her own system).

31.4 Radio/other means of communication: as required for the following Officials - Race Marshal, Race Judges, Chief Veterinarian, trail Checkers, trail Boss.

31.5 Electronic time keeping (with chip reading) and online results.

31.6 Vehicles: motorized trail vehicles for IFSS Officials.

31.7 Materials: enough materials for building the start and finish area and blockings of the trail.

31.8 Antidoping: secure facilities for Antidoping activities (athletes and dogs).

31.9 Mobile data and phone coverage should be available on the race site.

F. The participating Voting National and Provisional Members shall:

32. Nominate participants worthy of representing their countries.

33. See to it that their participants are made familiar with the regulations pertaining to the event and that they have correctly filled and made available the official documents required by the IFSS (Consent form, Chip list, etc.).

34. Appoint a Team Leader for the Masters event (see § J).

G. FINANCES

35. The Technical Organization shall be fully responsible for financing the Masters race. This includes covering all expenses for IFSS-appointed Rule Enforcing Officers during the contractually agreed period. Any travel costs for these officers will be paid or reimbursed by the IFSS.

36. The IFSS reserves the right to cancel the agreement with the Technical Organization if the accreditation fee is not paid as contractually scheduled.

H. ENTRY FEES

37. The entry fees, as established by the IFSS Council, accrue to the IFSS unless otherwise stipulated in the agreement between the IFSS and the Technical Organization.

38. The entry fees shall be paid by the National Members, according to the time limits established by the IFSS Council. The entry fees are, in principle, not refundable. It shall be partially or totally reimbursed in case of cancellation of the event for reasons of force majeure.

38.1 If a class is cancelled by the Race Marshal, one hundred percent (100%) of the entry fees for that class will be reimbursed.

39.1 National Members not complying with the established time limit for payment of the Entry fees shall pay a two hundred percent (200%) entry fee.

40. All dues concerning the participation of a national team shall be settled before the members of said team are eligible for participation.

I. PARTICIPATION RULES

41. The Voting National and Provisional Members shall nominate teams from its country for participation in the World or Continental Masters according to the following provisions:

41.1 There is no limit to the number of entries from each Voting National Member.

41.2 There is no limit to the number of entries from each Provisional Member.

41.3 The winners from the previous Masters are preselected to participate in the same class.

41.4 The preselected competitors are part of their respective national teams and their selection shall be confirmed by their National Federation.

41.5 The preselected competitors can participate without paying an entry fee.

42. The entry of individual teams shall take place only through the Voting National and Provisional Members.

42.1 To be eligible to participate for a nation, the participant shall either be a citizen of said nation or have been a resident of the same for at least twenty-four (24) months.

42.2 No participant shall be eligible to participate for more than one nation during the same racing season.

42.3 To be eligible to participate for a nation, the participant shall hold a valid DID (Driver Identification) number.

42.4 The Vice President of Sport may grant permission for entry in the World Masters to presumably qualified drivers representing countries not affiliated to the IFSS. The provisions under Chapter H of this Rule shall apply accordingly. These competitors shall not be entitled to be awarded Masters titles.

42.5 The Vice President of Sport may select for the World Masters presumably qualified drivers from countries whose national teams have been suspended. The provisions under Chapter H of this Rule shall apply accordingly. These competitors shall be entitled to be awarded Masters titles.

42.6 The concerned Continental Director may grant permission for entry in the Continental Masters to presumably qualified drivers from member countries of other continents. The provisions under Chapter H of this Rule shall apply accordingly. These competitors shall not be entitled to be awarded Masters titles.

42.7 The concerned Continental Director may select for the Continental Masters presumably qualified drivers from countries of the continent whose national teams have been suspended. The provisions under Chapter H of this Rule shall apply accordingly. These competitors shall be entitled to be awarded Masters titles.

J. TEAM REGULATIONS

43. In World and Continental Masters events, each participant, except the competitors selected as per § 42.5 and 42.7 above, shall enter the races as a member of a national team. A Team Leader for the Masters event appointed by the National Federation shall be in charge of the national team. IFSS shall appoint a Team Leader among the selected competitors selected as per § 42.5 and 42.7 above.

44. The Team Leader shall act as a liaison between the Technical Organization and the national team members. He/she shall speak English or be assisted by an interpreter designated by his/her National Federation.

45. A Team Leader shall, immediately upon arrival at the race site, report to the Technical Organization and inform of his/her presence, where he/she is accommodated during the event and how he/she can be contacted (e.g., mobile phone number).

45.1 If at any time the Designated Team Leader is replaced by another person that person's contact information must be provided to the Race Marshal immediately.

46. Any communication from the Technical Organization to the Team Leader is considered as being communicated to all the members of the team.

K. MASTER CLASSES

World and Continental Master races may be organized in the following classes:

47. Ski-Dogs Sprint:

47.1 One Dog Class Skijoring Men (SM1) and Women (SW1)

48. Dryland:

48.1 Canicross Men (DCM) and Women (DCW)

48.2 Bikejoring Men (DBM) and Women (DBW)

48.3 Scooter one dog Men (DS1M) and Women (DS1W)

L. MASTERS TITLES

49. World Masters titles shall be awarded to the best (fastest) teams of each rated class of the World Masters providing at least seven (7) competitors from three (3) countries are represented in these classes. If there are fewer than seven (7) competitors and/or fewer than three (3) countries after the late entry deadline, the class shall not be run. If there are seven (7) or more competitors from three (3) countries after the late entry deadline, but there are effectively fewer than seven (7) competitors and/or fewer than three (3) countries the first day of the competition, the Masters titles will be awarded in that class.

49.1 Combining age groups: The World Masters have separate classes for each age-group identified in § P. Age Categories and Racing Age. If there are not enough competitors in an age group according to § 49, older competitors may move to a younger age group to create a title-class.

50. Continental Masters titles shall be awarded to the best (fastest) teams of each rated class of the Continental Masters providing at least seven (7) competitors from three (3) countries in Europe and five (5) competitors from two (2) countries in all other continents are represented in these classes. If there are fewer than seven (7) competitors and/or fewer than three (3) countries in Europe and fewer than five (5) competitors and/or fewer than two (2) countries in all other continents after the late entry deadline, the class shall not be run. If there are seven (7) or more competitors from three (3) countries in Europe and five (5) or more competitors from two (2) countries in all other continents after the late entry deadline, but there are effectively fewer than seven (7) competitors and/or fewer than three (3) countries in Europe and fewer than five (5) competitors and/or fewer than two (2) countries in all other continents the first day of the competition, the Masters titles will be awarded in that class.

50.1 Combining age groups: The Continental Masters have separate classes for each age-group identified in § P. Age Categories and Racing Age. If there are not enough competitors in an age group according to § 50, older competitors may move to a younger age group to create a title-class.

51. Masters title shall not be awarded if more than one (1) heat is cancelled in that class.

M. FINISH TIME DISQUALIFICATION

52. Unless noted differently on the invitation, a one hundred fifty percent (150%) time disqualification shall automatically apply for each class of the World and Continental Masters.

N. RACES PROGRAM FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND MASTERS

53. It is recommended that World Masters and World Championships are organized jointly but they may be organized separately if dictated by specific conditions.

54. World Masters Ski-Dogs races can be a one or two day event for all classes.

55. World Masters Dryland shall be a two-day event for all classes.

O. RACES PROGRAM FOR CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND MASTERS

56. It is recommended that the race program for Continental Masters follows the recommendations made for World Championships and Masters.

P. AGE CATEGORIES AND RACING AGE

57. The Masters shall be run with the following age categories:

57.1 Masters 40 (minimum age 40 years)

57.2 Masters 50 (minimum age 50 years)

57.3 Masters 60 (minimum age 60 years)

58. The age of a competitor is regarded to be the same during the whole season and is the age the competitor reaches on the 31st of December following the end of the racing season. See the age tab in Annex A.

Q. MASTERS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS ELIGIBILITY

59. A competitor is not eligible to race in a Masters class if he/she has taken part in the same discipline in a Championships race during the same racing season (On-Snow/Dryland respectively).

60. A competitor is not eligible to race in a Championships class if he/she has taken part in the same discipline in a Masters during the same racing season (On-Snow/Dryland respectively).

61. The different disciplines where § 59 and 60 apply are: Skijoring one dog, Canicross, Bikejoring and Scooter one dog.

ANNEX A
Age of the athletes for each class - season 2026 - 2027

Class	Age Min	Age Max	Year of Birth
SW1M 40	40	99	1987
SM1M 40	40	99	1987
SW1M 50	50	99	1977
SM1M 50	50	99	1977
SW1M 60	60	99	1967
SM1M 60	60	99	1967
DCWM 40	40	99	1987
DCMM 40	40	99	1987
DCWM 50	50	99	1977
DCMM 50	50	99	1977
DCWM 60	60	99	1967
DCMM 60	60	99	1967

Class	Age Min	Age Max	Year of Birth
DBWM 40	40	99	1987
DBMM 40	40	99	1987
DBWM 50	50	99	1977
DBMM 50	50	99	1977
DBWM 60	60	99	1967
DBMM 60	60	99	1967
DS1WM 40	40	99	1987
DS1MM 40	40	99	1987
DS1WM 50	50	99	1977
DS1MM 50	50	99	1977
DS1WM 60	60	99	1967
DS1MM 60	60	99	1967