



Incorporated No INC9876008

AUSTRALIAN SLEDDOG SPORTS ASSOCIATION INTRODUCTION TO THE JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (JDP) VERSION 1, 2023

Amended May 2023

1 Introduction

The junior development program is designed to ensure children from the ages of 10 to 16 years old have fun with sled dog sport while participating in lessons and events that will pathway them to becoming Outstanding Junior of the year - what we like to call 'Serious Fun'.

2. Key Aims

- Dog interactions, movement and coordination skills on a scooter or rig
- Basic rules, etiquette, and dog care
- Development of coordination skills, small group activities and skill development through sport/ race activities, race rules, and etiquette
- Sport-specific skill development with multiple dogs and mentoring
- Pathways for a junior musher learning towards Outstanding Junior of the year

3. Guidelines

Due to logistics this program will be run at a club level and will be overseen by the ASSA JDP Subcommittee.

Juniors wishing to be a part of the program must register with their ASSA State Representative at the start of the season, no later than the first weekend of May each year. Details of the JDP Subcommittee and State Representative can be found on the ASSA website if required.

All training, coaching, and racing must be overseen by the parent or guardian.

Each participating junior is to be assigned a mentor by ASSA (not a family member) for the purposes of gaining advice and direction. The mentors role is not intended to be one of coach or trainer, but may be if called upon.

Mentor should be someone of 5+ years continuous experience in open classes, has raced inter-club, and has previous been involved on a club or RGO committee.

Every effort will be made to have the mentor matched up based on proximity and someone agreeable to both parties.

It will be the responsibility of the junior to meet up with the mentor and attend appropriate events and training.



It will be the responsibility of the junior to maintain a log book. This log book will need to be signed and submitted at the end of the season, no later than the 1st October each year.

In conjunction with the log book, the mentor and JDP Subcommittee assess each junior throughout the season on items such as;

- Race rules
- Etiquette
- Racing
- Dog handling
- Timing
- Race set up
- Handling of different track conditions

Scoring is correlated and submitted to ASSA by the State Representative.

The ASSA mentor will also be asked to report their views.

Each leading junior(s) will be requested to submit a short essay explaining why they should be chosen.

ASSA JDP Subcommittee and National Committee to select one junior to come to ASSA National Championships/ Affiliated snow race/ Special bootcamp/ NZFSS race to compete in an open class the following season and be recognised as the Outstanding Junior of the year.

A subsidy of \$500 AUD will be proved for the junior's attendance at the event.

4. Outstanding Junior Selection Criteria

- Aged between 10 - 16 years
- Must attend at least two sanctioned races in the season, one outside of their home club
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship both on and off the track
- Demonstrate the ability to be both a good winner and good loser
- Keep log book current
- Demonstrate ability to correctly harness and hook up their dog
- Demonstrate understanding of good dog care (pre and post race and at home – parents/ mentors/ clubs and state reps to confirm)
- Demonstrate good understanding of race rules and on track etiquette

5. Important Dates

DATE	ACTION
Early May	Juniors wishing to be a part of the program must register with their ASSA State Representative at the start of the season, no later than the first weekend of May each year.
1st October	The junior log book will need to be signed and submitted at the end of the season, no later than the 1st October each year.
5th November	Outstanding Junior for the year will be announced.



6. Resources

The JDP Resource Kit is now located on the ASSA website in the **rules and documents** section to create a more efficient means of sharing documents. /link

ASSA will provide a complete hardcopy set of the log book, mentor agreement, and junior welcome pack to all clubs and State Representatives who forward through their junior registrations no later than the second weekend of May each year (one week after registration cut off).

LOG BOOK, MENTOR AGREEMENT

(Insert image icons of front pages for reference)