



## Risk Management in the Australian Sleddog Sports Association (ASSA)

<b>Australian Sleddog Sports Association (ASSA)</b>	<b>Risk Management Team: ASSA National Committee</b>		<b>November 2024</b>
<b>Please Note: Risk Ranking Number coincides with table and gives likelihood and consequence of each hazard occurring.</b>	<b>Actions will be either: Monitor, Administrate, or Eliminate</b>		<b>In force to January 2025 (Further review to be taken at that time) If no change Risk Assessment remains in force to January 2026.</b>
Risk	Risk Rating	Controls / Actions	Responsibility
Person receives a minor injury on site be it training or competition	<b>6</b> (Possible x Minor)	<p><b>Administrate</b> - ensuring there are adequate first aid kits and people with first aid knowledge on site during the event.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - having designated coordinator or a committee at larger events to ensure first aid officers, trained safety personnel and safety equipment like bunting, flags and safety cones are in place</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - checking venues and tracks for hazards, making the hazards highly visible with fluorescent paint, caution markers, bunting and safety cones at races.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - conducting a Musher Meeting before every competition and training events advising participants of any hazards, the importance of safety and procedures to follow in case of emergency.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - monitoring and ensuring the correct insurances are in place.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - checking personal safety equipment of every musher at every competition and training to ensure helmets, eye protection, working brakes on bikes, rigs and scooters are in good order.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - including emergency contact details and location of hospitals and veterinarians in the race pack.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - promoting and ensuring compliance with the ASSA Race Rules and Codes of Conduct.</p> <p><b>Monitor</b> all injuries via an incident report. Train and educate Race Marshals and Judges in the identification and the mechanism of injuries and correct procedure.</p>	ASSA National Committee Race Giving Organisation (RGO) Race Marshal Club Training Coordinator

<p>Person receives a major injury on site be it training or competition</p>	<p>4 (Rare x Major)</p>	<p><b>Administrate</b> - ensuring there are adequate first aid kits and people with first aid knowledge on site during the event.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - having designated coordinator or a committee at larger events to ensure first aid officers, trained safety personnel and safety equipment like bunting, flags and safety cones are in place</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - checking venues and tracks for hazards, making the hazards highly visible with fluorescent paint, caution markers, bunting and safety cones at races.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - conducting a Musher Meeting before every competition and training events advising participants of any hazards, the importance of safety and procedures to follow in case of emergency.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - monitoring and ensuring the correct insurances are in place.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - checking personal safety equipment of every musher at every competition and training to ensure helmets, eye protection, working brakes on bikes, rigs and scooters are in good order.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - including emergency contact details and location of hospitals and veterinarians in the race pack.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - promoting and ensuring compliance with the ASSA Race Rules and Codes of Conduct.</p> <p><b>Monitor</b> all injuries via an incident report. Train and educate Race Marshals and Judges in the identification and the mechanism of injuries and correct procedure.</p>	<p>ASSA National Committee Race Giving Organisation (RGO) Race Marshal Club Training Coordinator</p>
<p>Death or Serious injury via training or competition accident</p>	<p>5 (Rare x Catastrophic)</p>	<p><b>Administrate</b> - using only experienced and qualified Race Marshals with accreditation and training to ensure incidents are handled swiftly and correctly.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - conducting training sessions and have the necessary support to provide advice on techniques and safety.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - ensuring there are adequate first aid kits and people with first aid knowledge on site during the event.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - having designated coordinator or a committee at larger events to ensure first aid officers, trained safety personnel and safety equipment like bunting, flags and safety cones are in place</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - checking venues and tracks for</p>	<p>ASSA National Committee Race Giving Organisation (RGO) Race Marshal Club Training Coordinator</p>

		<p>hazards, making the hazards highly visible with fluorescent paint, caution markers, bunting and safety cones at races.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - conducting a Musher Meeting before every competition and training events advising participants of any hazards, the importance of safety and procedures to follow in case of emergency.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - monitoring and ensuring the correct insurances are in place.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - checking personal safety equipment of every musher at every competition and training to ensure helmets, eye protection, working brakes on bikes, rigs and scooters are in good order.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - including emergency contact details and location of hospitals and veterinarians in the race pack.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - promoting and ensuring compliance with the ASSA Race Rules and Codes of Conduct.</p> <p><b>Monitor</b> all injuries via an incident report. Train and educate Race Marshals and Judges in the identification and the mechanism of injuries and correct procedure.</p>	
Dog bite at training or competition	6 (Unlikely x Moderate)	<p><b>Administrate</b> - using only experienced qualified Race Marshals with accreditation and training to ensure incidents are handled swiftly and correctly.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - conducting behavioural and trail etiquette training sessions with an RGO which have the necessary resources including expertise, first aid kits, and communications.</p> <p><b>Monitor</b> - recording all dog behaviour via an incident report irregardless if contact was made or not. Train and educate RGO's and Race Marshals in the identification and mechanism of behaviours and injuries with correct procedures to follow. A specific dog behaviour and aggressive dog policy to be enacted.</p>	ASSA National Committee Race Giving Organisation (RGO)
Injury from severe weather while training or at event	4 (Unlikely x Minor)	<p><b>Administrate</b> - using a PA system to deliver messages alerting the public that there is an area to evacuate to.</p> <p><b>Monitor</b> - closely watching all available weather forecasts and updating Race Marshals and or coordinators for their consideration.</p> <p><b>Monitor</b> - cancelling events when lightning, very severe weather, and hot weather over 18 degrees occur. To be monitored via the bureau of meteorology to determine</p>	ASSA National Committee Race Giving Organisation (RGO) Sport venues

		safety level.	
Harm from inappropriate behaviour from Race Marshal, RGO, or ASSA Representatives	5 (Rare x Catastrophic)	<p><b>Administrate</b> - ensuring Code of Conduct is agreed and executed with Race Marshals, RGO's, and ASSA Representatives.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - monitoring and ensuring the correct insurances are in place.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - implementing the requirement to supply a current Working with Children Checks from people working closely with children at events.</p>	ASSA National Committee Race Giving Organisation (RGO)
Harm from catching infectious diseases	6 (Unlikely x Moderate)	<p><b>Monitor</b> - ensuring that all members and dogs have their own assigned water containers and food.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - ensuring Dog Vaccination Checks are in place at all sanctioned competitions.</p> <p><b>Administrate</b> - informing members of food options being served for people suffering from food allergies.</p> <p><b>Monitor</b> - implementing Public Health Advice specific to infectious disease and controls.</p>	ASSA National Committee Race Giving Organisation (RGO)

LIKELIHOOD	RISK RATING MATRIX				
CERTAIN	5	10	15	20	25
LIKELY	4	8	12	16	20
POSSIBLE	3	6	9	12	15
UNLIKELY	2	4	6	8	10
RARE	1	2	3	4	5
CONSEQUENCE	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC

## **Risk Summary: Risk Management in the Australian Sleddog Sports Association (ASSA)**

The Australian Sleddog Sports Association (ASSA) prioritises the safety and well-being of its members by enforcing a comprehensive set of controls designed to mitigate the risks associated with sled dog racing. Through a structured approach that includes the Code of Conduct, well-defined race rules, thorough event planning, mushers' briefings, and requirements for mandatory personal safety equipment, ASSA ensures that the overall risk of injury to members is effectively managed and kept to a minimum. Below is an outline of these controls and how they contribute to a safe environment for all participants.

### **1. ASSA Code of Conduct**

The ASSA Code of Conduct serves as the foundation for behaviour and expectations among members, covering critical areas such as ethical treatment of dogs, sportsmanship, respect for others, and adherence to safety protocols. This code provides clear guidelines that all members are required to follow, reducing risks related to both animal and member welfare.

### **2. ASSA Race Rules**

ASSA's race rules are designed to enforce consistency and safety across all affiliated events. These rules establish clear standards on issues such as course setup, permissible equipment, handling and care of sled dogs, participant eligibility to compete, and appropriate member behaviour. By mandating these standards, ASSA minimises risks associated with unpredictable and unsafe scenarios during events and helps ensure a controlled and safe environment for all. The rules are also reviewed by the International Federation of Sleddog Sports who are affiliated to International Olympic Committee programs, for which ASSA is a full member.

### **3. Event Planning**

Every ASSA-affiliated event is meticulously planned, with risk assessments and safety measures tailored to the specific event location, terrain, and environmental conditions. The planning process includes consideration of the number of participants, available emergency response support, and other event-specific variables. By proactively addressing these factors, ASSA and affiliated clubs can significantly reduce the risk of accidents or injuries arising from inadequate preparation.

### **4. Participants/Mushers' Briefings at ASSA-affiliated Events**

At each ASSA-affiliated event including demonstrations, training, races, etc., the affiliated club conducts mandatory participants/mushers' briefings where they are briefed on participation requirements, rules, safety guidelines, and specific event conditions. These briefings reinforce key safety protocols and provide real-time updates on any risks or adjustments needed based on location, weather or track conditions. By ensuring that participants are well-informed, ASSA promotes safer decision-making and adherence to established protocols. Where a participant does not attend this briefing, they are not permitted to start the event.

### **5. Mandatory Personal Safety Equipment**

ASSA requires that all participants wear specified personal safety equipment to mitigate the risk of injury. This equipment may include AS/NZS approved helmets, appropriate footwear, and protective eyewear and clothing, depending on the nature of the event. The mandatory use of such equipment is a critical control that directly lowers the likelihood and severity of injuries in the event of an accident.

### **Conclusion**

Through these comprehensive and stringent controls, ASSA maintains a high standard of safety in sleddog sports, ensuring that the risk of injury is minimised for all members of ASSA-affiliated clubs. The controls in place are effective in keeping the overall risk of injury at a low level, enabling ASSA to provide a safe environment for all participants.