



Chinook Owners Association Working Dog Program Draft Group: Skijoring



Excellent 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 Excellent level is designed for dogs that have mastered the skills required of a skijor dog. These dogs should be trained and capable of sustained, successful skijoring runs, and may serve as solid, role model skijor dogs for new dogs to be introduced to the sport. Some characteristics of this level of skijoring competency include the ability to perform successfully in any location or new trail, and the ability to take directions from their skier despite significant distractions.

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. In particular, skiers are encouraged to evaluate their dog(s) as well as 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 the work.

To achieve the Working Skijor Dog –Excellent (WSD-X) certificate and title, a dog must have previously been awarded the Working Skijor Dog title. In addition, the dog must meet one of the following requirements for distance while pulling. There are three methods for WSD-X titling- racing, recreational skijoring, and a combination of the two.

Titling Method	Requirements	Total miles required
Racing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Minimum 1 mile per dog on the team per race	100
Recreational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Minimum of 3 miles per run● Minimum of 5 runs that are at least 3 miles per dog on the team● At least 1 run must be validated by an impartial witness. All other runs must be validated by either impartial witness or photographs	200
Combination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Up to 80 miles from qualifying races● 120+ miles from qualifying recreational runs	200



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The detailed requirements to achieve the WSD-X 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-X Method 1: Racing

1. Dogs must compete in races totaling 100 miles
2. Each qualifying race must be a minimum of 1 mile per dog
 - a. Individual heats that meet these requirements count as a race.
3. All qualifying races must
 - a. Include at least 2 other teams.
 - b. Be run under ISDRA rules OR the WDP Committee must approve the rules prior to the race.

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

- Completed Skijoring-Excellent Form(s) summarizing qualifying races
- Official race certificates for all qualifying runs
- Photo of the skier and dog(s) in at least one qualifying race

WSD-X Method 2: Recreational Mushing –

1. Dogs must complete a total of 200 miles
2. Qualifying runs must be a minimum of 3 miles
3. Out of the total miles traveled, at least 5 trips must be a minimum distance of 3 miles for each dog.

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

- Map of trails traveled with distances noted
- Completed Skijoring-Excellent Form(s) summarizing qualifying runs
 - a. At least one trip must include a signature from an impartial witness



Chinook Owners Association Working Dog Program Draft Group: Skijoring



- 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 dog(s) on trips
 - ii. Detailed narratives of the trips from the skier
 - iii. Maps with attached geotagged photos

WSD-X Method 3: Combination Racing + Recreational

- 1. Distance- 200 miles of combined racing or recreational runs
 - a. Racing miles
 - i. Must meet the requirements from Method 1
 - ii. A maximum of 80 miles from races may be used
 - b. Recreational miles.
 - i. All runs must meet the requirements from Method 2
 - ii. The balance of total 200 miles less racing miles (120+) may come from recreational runs.
- 2. Out of the total miles traveled, at least 5 trips must be a minimum distance of 3 miles for each dog.

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

- Completed Skijoring-Excellent Form(s) summarizing qualifying races and recreational runs

For All Racing Runs

- Official race certificates for all qualifying runs
- 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



Chinook Owners Association Working Dog Program Draft Group: Skijoring



3. Dog(s) pulling during the run
 4. Finish
- In addition, extra documentation can expedite review of a submission, such as:
- ii. Additional photos / videos of the dogs on trips
 - iii. Detailed narratives of the trips from the skier
 - iv. Maps with attached geotagged photos