



01.01.2022

# Meriteringsregler

National Regulations for  
Sled Dog Draft Test  
of Swedish Polar Dog Club (SPHK)  
valid from 01.01.2022 – 31.12.2026



Swedish Polar Dog Club  
SPHK

## 2. Purpose of SPHK's draft merit regulations (Swedish Polar Dog Club)

Polar dogs belong to FCI group 5 Spitz & Primitive and are categorized in section 1 Nordic Sled dogs. The Polar dogs typical characteristics are its adaptation for survival and physical work in arctic/subarctic climate. The breeds' area of use is according to all four breed standards sled/draft dog. Based on historical evidence, the four polar dog breeds are polar working dogs which we would like to preserve and protect through our statutes and by means of these regulations.

**Extract from SPHK's statutes:**

**§1 Aim: "To promote the breeding of mentally and physically healthy, functional and conformational satisfactorily purebred polar dogs. To preserve and develop the breeds' specific characteristics and to work for the development of practical use of these breeds as a.o. draft dogs"**

The Swedish Polar Dog Club (SPHK) rules of draft merits determine the requirements for dogs of the breeds Alaskan Malamute, Greenland dog, Samoyed and Siberian Husky to enter the working class on shows, receive the beauty certificate and titles.

- Entry in working class on shows
- Certificate (CAC) on shows
- Swedish Show Champion / SE UCh.
- Swedish Working Champion / SE(polar)Ch. (= Swedish Sled Dog Champion)

For Samoyed applies a PDP-designation as a demand for Polar drafttest.

The essence and specific regulations of the various champion titles and designations can be found in annex 1 and 2 of this document.

On the website of SPHK is a more detailed description to be found in regard to the purpose and aim with merit trials for polar dogs.

### 3. Specific regulations for draft merits

The regulations below apply to official draft qualifications of the breeds Alaskan Malamute (AM), Greenland dog (GRL), Samoyed (SAM) and Siberian Husky (SH).

'Draft test' is abbreviated as "DP" (= Drag Prov in Swedish) from here on.

#### 3.1. Owner and driver

**Owner:** Draft merits are applicable to dog(s) owned by a member of SPHK or of a foreign special club which is similar to SPHK and recognized by the Swedish Kennel Club. When more than one person is owning the dog, all owners shall be member in at least one of the above stated clubs.

**Driver with permanent residence in Sweden:** Driver living in Sweden shall be member of SPHK. Driver shall have valid musher licens as well as the 'green card' issued by an organization recognized by SPHK.

The driver must be minimum 16 years on the first day of the test.

**Foreign driver/driver without permanent residence in Sweden:** Shall be member of a foreign special club similar to SPHK and recognized by the Swedish Kennel Club.

The driver must be minimum 16 years on the first day of the test, have a racing license or a similar relevant insurance.

#### 3.2 Participating dogs

Entitled to take part in draft trials are dogs of the breeds Alaskan Malamute, Greenland dog, Samoyed and Siberian Husky.

Dogs must take part using the name under which they are registered in Sweden or abroad. Results of dogs that are competing under incorrect details will be cancelled.

Swedish owned dog shall at the end of the entry deadline of the test be registered in the Swedish Kennel Club studbook.

For foreign-owned dog, a copy of the pedigree shall be delivered to the organizer together with the entry.

Note that if a foreign dog is co-owned by a person with permanent residence in Sweden, the dog must be re-registered in the Swedish Kennel Club before the end of the entry period.

#### 3.3 Equipment, dogs

- During the draft merit test the dog is not allowed to wear a suit, although protective clothing to avoid (rubbing) injuries like "t-shirt" and "titt guard" are allowed. Dog jackets are allowed during rest, but not while the dog is running.

- Samoyed, Greenland dog and Siberian Husky shall in sled style be hitched up in loose lines, also the centerline shall be flexible, meaning; made of ropeline/wrapped wire.
- In pulka style the dogs can be hitched up with double or single shaft/bow (single = center). Center shaft can be used with hitch up of more than 1 dog.

### 3.4 Age of the dog

Dog participating in DP10, DP20+ or DP60 shall have filled 18 months on the first day of the test. In DP100+ and DP250+, the dog shall have filled 24 months on the first day of the test. For Siberian Husky applies a minimum age of 18 months even on DP250+. No maximum age limit.

### 3.5 Merit events

Official draft merit test events are organized by SPHK, or through SPHK in cooperation with the Swedish Sled dog Sport Association (SDSF).

The approval of draft merit events is decided by respective breed club in SPHK. Each approved merit event shall be announced on the breed club's website, at the latest one month before the entry deadline.

Only one type of draft test/dog can be performed during the heat/merit event.

The arrangement of the event is to follow these regulations as well as national safety rules for the driver and dogs at draft sled dog tests. A workingtest leader (meriteringsledare), a national working judge (meriteringsdomare) and jury shall always be appointed.

Fee of merit shall be included in the entry fee. Within SPHK's own organisation the fee is being invoiced by SPHK centrally to the organiser.

Result lists should include start number, breed, heat times, total times, placement, unacceptable behaviour, judges signature, name in writing and judge number.

Breed clubs can decide to announce combined classes.

### 3.6. Protest

A driver who is the opinion that injustice occurred during the trial, can put forward protest. The protest cannot regard the race/workingtest jury's judgement or the judge's judgement. Protest is to be dealt with the race/workingtest jury. The protest shall be in written report and delivered to the organizer at the latest one hour after the last team has finished in the particular class the protest is about. Decline of the protest shall be motivated in writing. The protest shall be delivered on a specific protest form.

### 3.7 Registration of test merits

For registration of merits the following routines apply:

- Filled in and signed merit form is to be delivered to the organizer upon inchecking at the secretariat before start.
- The organizer completes after the test all forms of the teams started, signs it and send it to the workingtest secretary of the specific breed club. Copies of pedigrees according to point 3.2 and/or veterinary attest (se chapter 2) as well as the result list according to 3.5 is to be enclosed. It shall be stated if a dog in the team has been dropped.
- The breed club's workingtest secretary calculates the results for meriting (1. Prize, 2. Prize, 0. Prize) and reports to SPHK's central race secretary according to the directions. Dogs who have been dropped from the test shall be reported as 'scratched'. Teams which have scratched shall be reported as 'team scratched'.
- SPHK's central race secretary is to forward the details to SKK for registration into the SKK database.

Draft merit is always being registered for all finishing dogs in the team. With SKK is registered:

1. prize, 2. prize, or 0 prize. For dog(s) which did not finish the test, the result is registered as "scratched" or "disqualified".

Zero prize is registered for draft merit test where first prize or second prize is not attained/reached.

In order to be awarded the title SE(polar)CH, the owner has to send in the "Champion Application" form to the Swedish Kennel Club after the dog has gained the required merits.

PDP application is send to the workingtest secretary of the breed club for Samoyed.

## 3.8 Draft load

### 3.8.1. Draft load in pulka style

Team size	Draft load in kg.		
	Alaskan Malamute	Greenland dog	Samoyed
1-dog team	30	30	20
2-dogs	50	50	35
3-dogs	65	65	45
4-dogs	75	75	55

- If one or more bitches are on the team, the team's draft load is reduced with 5 kg. totally.
- Brake is required with 3-dogs and more.

### 3.8.2. Draft load in sled dog style

Number of dogs	Draft load in kg.			
	Alaskan Malamute	Greenland dog	Samoyed	Siberian Husky
1	30	30	20 (in DP10)	0
2	50	50	0	0
3	65	65	0	0
4	75	75	0	0
5	85	85	0	0
6	95	95	0	0
8 and more	-	-	0	0

- If one or more bitches are on the team, the team's draft load is reduced with 5 kg. totally.

## 3.9 Base time

The base time is used for the calculation of the approved time in order to receive the various 'prizes' of merit. Base time is calculated for each class and based on the time of the fastest teams.

Number of finishing teams	Basetime is the average time calculated from
3 - 14	The two fastest teams
15 - 29	The three fastest teams
30 - or more	The four fastest teams

## 4. RULES FOR DRAFT TEST

### 4.1 General rules

- Women and man are competing in same class, both in pulka style and sled dog style.
- The draft merit regulations apply to all the dogs on the team.
- When a dog is not running hitched up in the team under the entire competition/test, it will be disqualified. If the driver does not notify which dog has been taken out or for a different reason was not hitched up, the entire team will be disqualified.
- Each heat shall be performed without pauses and without the race time being stopped.  
Mandatory rest time is deducted from the race time.

### 4.2 Draft test 10

**Applies to:** Alaskan Malamute, Greenland dog and Samoyed

**Style:** 1-dog team pulka or 1-dog team sled with draft/hauling load according to part 3.8

**Distance:** Minimum 10 km.

The time for meriting shall be measured at **exactly** 10 km. The distance shall never be less than 10 km. In case the trail exceeds 10 km, it is the responsibility of the organizer to measure the time at exactly 10 km.

**Time for 1. prize GRL:** Maximum 55 minutes at exactly 10 km.

**Time for 1. prize SAM and AM:** Maximum 60 minutes at exactly 10 km.

**Time for 2. prize GRL:** Maximum 60 minutes at exactly 10 km.

### 4.3 Draft test 20+

**Applies to:** Samoyed, Siberian Husky, Alaskan Malamute and Greenland Dog. The breeds Alaskan Malamute and Greenland dog are allowed to be in the same team. For AM and GRL meriting only applies to middle distance.

**Style:** Pulka style max. 4-dogs for Samoyeds, Alaskan Malamute and Greenland dog, or sled style for all breeds. Draft load according to part 3.8

**Distance:** Competition test over two or more days of sprint- or middle distance type. In sprint competition the distance per day should be minimal: 10 km. for 4-dog team, 12 km. for 6-dog team, 15 km. for 8-10 dog team, 20 km. for open team.

In middle distance competition the total distance has to be 78 -250 km. and can be performed over multiple days (min. 39 km/heat). If the trail length has to be reduced due to specific conditions, the reduction shall not be more than 10% in any of the classes.

**Classes:**

- Siberian Husky competes always in classes for its own.
- Samoyed competes always in its own class in sled style.
- Alaskan Malamute and Greenland dog can compete in the same class in sled style.
- For Samoyed the sled dog class and pulka class can be combined before start with only Samoyeds
- Alaskan Malamute, Greenland dog and Samoyed compete in the same class in pulka style.

**Time for 1. prize SAM:** Base time + 15%. If the total distance is less than 50 km., the speed should be at least 11 km./hour. With longer distances at least 8 km. per hour. Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

**Time for 2. prize SAM:** Base time + 20%. If the total distance is less than 50 km., the speed should be at least 10 km./hour. With longer distances at least 8 km. per hour. Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

**Time for 1. prize SH:** Base time + 5%. Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

**Time for 2. prize SH:** Base time + 10%. Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

**Time for 1. Prize AM and GRL:** Base time + 15%. Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

**Time for 2. Prize AM and GRL:** Base time + 25%. Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

When only one or two teams in the class finish, provided minimum three teams started the trial, the participating teams get a 2<sup>nd</sup> prize under the condition that the team(s) finish within the time limit as set by the organizer.

**Basetime:** calculated for each class, see part 3.9



#### 4.4 Draft test 60

**Applies to:** Alaskan Malamute, Greenland dog and Samoyed. AM and GRL are allowed to compete in the same team.

**Style:** Pulka (max. 4 dogs) or sled style (for AM and GRL max. 6 dogs). Draft load in both styles according to part 3.8.

**Classes:** in pulka style all three breeds can be merited in the same class. In sled dog style, AM and GRL can be merited in same class.

**Sled dog style:** Samoyed is competing in class for its own with max. of 8 dogs.

**Distance:** Minimum 60 km. and in two heats (for example 30 + 30 km.) over two consecutive days.

**Time for 1. prize AM and GRL:** Base time + 15%. Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

**Time for 2. prize AM and GRL:** Base time + 25%. Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

If only one or two teams of AM/GRL finishes, the following applies:

**Time for 1. prize AM/GRL:** Minimum 11 km. per hour

**Time for 2. prize AM/GRL:** Minimum 9 km. per hour

**Time for 1. prize SAM:** Minimum 9,5 km. per hour for sled and min. 9 km. p/h for pulka

**Time for 2. prize SAM:** Minimum 8,5 km. per hour for sled and min. 8 km. p/h for pulka.

**Combining of classes:** can only be done before the start of the test.

**Base time:** Calculated for each class, see part 3.9

#### 4.5 Draft test 100+

**Applies to:** Alaskan Malamute, Greenland dog and Samoyed. Different breeds are allowed to compete in the same team.

**Style:** Pulka (max. 4 dogs) or sled dog style. Draft load is the mandatory equipment as prescribed by the organizer to accomplish the test safely.

**Classes:** Each style is competing in its own class. With less than three starting teams in any given style, the styles are competing in the same class.

**Distance:** one heat of minimum 100 km.

**Time for 1. prize:** Base time + 25%. Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

**Time for 2. prize:** Base time + 50%. Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

**Combining of classes:** can only be done before the start of the test.

**Base time:** Calculated for each class, see part 3.9

## 4.6 Draft test 250+

**Applies to:** Alaskan Malamute, Greenland dog, Samoyed and Siberian Husky. Different breeds can compete in the same team applying to AM, GRL, SAM.

**Style:** Pulka (max. 4 dogs) only AM, GRL, SAM or sled dog style for all breeds.

**Draft load:** The mandatory equipment as prescribed by the organizer to accomplish the test safely.

**Classes SH:** 6-, 8- and 12-dog team classes. With less than three starting teams in any given class, the classes can be combined.

**Classes AM, GRL, SAM:** Each driving style (Pulka style vs Sled dog style) is competing in its own class. With less than three teams in any given class, the classes can be combined.

**Distance:** One heat of minimum 250 km.

**Time for 1. prize SH:** Base time + 5%. Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

**Time for 2. prize SH:** Finished the test within the time limit as set by the organizer.

**Time for 1. prize SAM:** Base time + 25%. Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

**Time for 2. prize SAM:** Finished the test within the time limit as set by the organizer.

**Time for 1. prize AM, GRL:** Finished the test within the time limit as set by the organizer.

**Combining of classes:** can only be done before the start of the test.

**Base time:** Calculated for each class, see part 3.9

## 4.7 Draft test dryland

**Applies to:** Samoyed

**Seasonal limitation:** 1 October until 31 May

**General requirements:** 2 laps of 5 km. is accepted, although not forth and back. The terrain should be various and slightly hilly/rolling.

**Temperature:** should not exceed +10°C. on the day of the test.

### 4.7.1 Alternative 1

**Style:** cart 1-2 dogs. Dog shall be pulling a 4-wheelcart, for ex. children doll cart, with skackel (hitched up like in pulka style). The musher is to move with bicycle or runs and is not allowed to be in front of the dog. The musher is to be attached to the equipage/combination.

**Distance:** Minimum 10 km.

The time for meriting shall be measured at exactly 10 km. The distance shall never be less than 10 km. In case the trail exceeds 10 km, it is the responsibility of the organizer to measure the time at exactly 10 km.

**Draft load:** 1-dog team 30 kg, 2-dog team 45 kg. If one or more bitches are in the team, the drafload is reduced with 5 kg. totally.

**Approved time for 1. prize:** 60 minutes.

#### 4.7.2 Alternative 2

**Style and classes:** Cart class (rig with min. three wheel, no kickbike) 2-4 dog team (one joint class)

**Distance:** 2 x min. 10 km. for teams with 4 or less dogs. Two heats over two consecutive days.

**Requirements:** Minimum three finishing teams in the class.

**Approved time for 1. prize:** Base time + 10%, though min. 13 km. per hour

**Base time:** see part 3.9

## 5. Tasks and responsibilities

### 5.1 Organizer

The organizer is responsible for:

1. To get the permissions according to law and regulation, needed for the organization of the arrangement of the event.
2. To check if the drivers meet the criteria under point 3.1
3. To check if the dog is vaccinated and registered according to valid requirements.
4. To check if the dog has the right age to participate.
5. To check if weight control is being performed at the finish and that the team has sufficient draft load during each heat.
6. To make sure there is a SKK recognized national working judge present at the test of merits as accepted by the breed club.
7. To check the trail in regard to safety for dog and driver.
8. To install a jury before start of the draft merit trial.
9. To make sure there are well functioning start and finish clocks and which are clearly to read.
10. To have bib numbers for all starting teams
11. To make sure that the bib numbers are only handed out to drivers who have given correctly filled in forms of the draft merit test as well as copies of the pedigrees of non-swedish registered dogs to the secretariat.
12. To provide suitable scales in order to perform weight control of the draft load. The weight shall be written down on the draft merit forms for those tests that demand a minimum weight.
13. To provide ID-chip scanners and make sure the ID-control is performed. There should be performed random controls at the finish for all competing classes.
14. To check if all the time results are correctly filled in on the draft merit forms.
15. To provide a result list directly after the draft merits test conclusion.
16. To send a signed result list as well all signed forms of the draft merit test to the respective breed club's workingtest secretary.

## 5.2. Breed clubs

1. Are responsible to approve draft merit events each year where members are given the opportunity to test their dogs on various draft tests.
2. All events of draft merit shall be approved by the breed clubs.
3. An organizer cannot announce a draft merit test without the breed club's written approval.
4. Breed clubs must in due time before the start of the season announce approved draft merit events.
5. All draft merit events are official, hence all results are being registered in the database of SKK.
6. If a draft merit event is being organized in cooperation with a club associated to SDSF (Swedish sled dog sport association), the breed club has the responsibility to acquire the fees for merits.
7. If a draft merit even is being organized in cooperation with a club associated to SDSF, the breed club has the responsibility to inform the organizer about the draft merit regulations and make sure there is an authorized national working judge present at the race.

## 5.3 National Working Judge (Meriting judge)

Definition of national working judge: a person who is member the Swedish Kennel Klubb organization and who has been educated by SPHK and has approved national working judge authorisation with the Swedish Kennel Club. Authorisation is received upon conclusion of the education. National working judges cannot start as participant on the draft merit event he/she is judging.

National working judges do not necessarily have to do all tasks themselves, but they have the overall responsibility that the draft merit event is being performed according to SPHK draft merit regulations together with the workingtest leader. If the draft merit event is being organized in cooperation with a club associated to SDSF, the national working judge has the responsibility that the draft merit event is performed according to SPHK draft merit regulations.

National Working Judge is responsible for:

1. Draft merit event is being performed according to the present applicable draft merit regulations
2. Check the trail in regard to safety for dog and driver.
3. Check if the trail's signs are correct and clear to understand.
4. Check the length of the trail.
5. Check if there are being performed weight controls and if the weigh of the draft load is being written down on the draft merit forms for each equipage and each day for multiple day events.
6. Check if there are ID-chip scanners available and that ID-chip control is being performed.
7. Check if all starting equipages/teams have official bib numbers (starting numbers).
8. Check if all draft merit forms are correctly filled in.
9. Check if the number of dogs at the start and the finish are being counted and if needed corrected on the draft merit forms.
10. Sign the official result list. Remember that when several breeds are competing on the same draft merit event, it at least needs one original result list per breed club.
11. Sign all draft merit forms before those are leaving the location of the draft merit event.
12. The informations and resultlists that are signed by the judge are the ones that are sent to SKK for registration.

#### 5.4 Working test leader (Meriting leader)

Definition of workingtest leader: a person who is responsible for the technical organization of the draft merit event. The leader has overall responsibility for the technical realization of the draft merit event together with the organizer.

Workingtest leader shall have green card or similar knowledge and sufficient experience for the assignment.

Workingtest leader is responsible for:

1. To sign all draft merit forms after the conclusion of the draft merit event before those are to leave the draft merit event location.

#### 5.5. Drivers responsibility

1. To correctly fill in the merit form in regard to registration number, chip number, pedigree name for all dogs (abbreviations are not allowed) as well as driver's personalia/informations.
2. Be well aware of and informed with the applying rules before start.

Notice that in case of incomplete or false informations on the merit form, a dog can be scratched or the entire team be disqualified.

## ANNEX 1

### Essence of draft merit regulations

#### Delivery of Show Certificate (Cert./CAC)

The national show certificate is awarded to the best dog in the Best Male class and the Best Female class that meets the draft merit test requirements. The needed draft merit result in order to be able to receive the show CAC, is the same as needed to enter the working class and applies even to the delivery of the reserve CAC.

#### Swedish Show Champion, SE UCH

Requirements to become Swedish Show Champion (SE UCH)

- Three show certificates awarded by minimum two judges.
- Minimum one of the certificates must be won after the age of 24 months.
- Minimum one of the certificates must be won on an official show of the Swedish Polar Dog Club.
- Demand for approved draft merit test result according to part 4 and annex 2.

#### Swedish Working Champion, SE(polar)CH (Swedish Sled Dog Champion)

Requirements for the National Working Champion title, (SE (polar)CH)

- Draft merit tests with 1. prize result according to part 4 and annex 2.
- Tests shall be performed over minimum two seasons.
- Minimum qualification "Good" on an official show after the age of 15 months.
- Approved 1. prize can count both for PDP-designation and SE (polar)CH without particular order.

#### PDP designation

- PDP designation shows that the dog is draft merit tested.
- Approved 1. Prize can count both for PDP designation and SE(Polar)CH without particular order.

## ANNEX 2

### Draft merit requirements for titles

<b>Breed:</b>	<b>Draft merit to enter Working class and delivery of CAC on show</b>	<b>Draft merit to become Swedish Show Champ. SE UCH</b>	<b>Draft merit to become Swedish Working Champ. SE (polar)CH</b>
<b>Alaskan Malamute</b>	1. prize on draft test 10 or min. one 2. Prize on any of draft tests 20+, 60, 100+ or 250+	1. prize draft test 60, 100+ or 250+. Alternatively: Two 2. prize draft test 60, 100+ or 250+	Three 1. prize on three different draft test varieties; test 10, 60, 100+ or 250+  Min. one test in multiple dog team of min. 2-dogs.
<b>Greenland dog</b>	Min. one 2. prize on any of the draft tests 10, 60, 100+ or 250+	Min. one 2. prize draft test 60, 100+ or 250+	One 1. prize draft test 10 and two 1. prize on any of draft test 60, 100+ or 250+. Alternatively: Three 1. prize on any of the test 60, 100, or 250+  Min. one test in multiple dog team of min. 2-dogs.
<b>Samoyed</b>	One 1. prize on either of draft test 10, draft test dryland 1, alternatively 2 or min. one 2. prize on any of the draft tests 20+, 60, 100+ or 250+.	One 1. prize draft test 10, or 20+ Alternatively: Min. one 2. prize on any of the tests 60, 100+ or 250+	Five 1. prize divided over One 1. prize draft test 10 and 2x 1. prize test 20+ and 2x 1. prize test 60. 1. prize 60 can be replaced by 1. prize draft test 100+ or 250+
<b>Siberian Husky</b>	Min. one 2. prize in Draft test 20+ or Draft test 250+.	One 1. prize draft test 20+ or 250+. Alternatively: Two 2. prize draft tests 20+ or 250+	Three 1. prize draft test 20+ or 250+. No demand on division.

<b>Breed</b>	<b>Requirement for Polar draft test, PDP designation</b>
<b>AM and GRL</b>	Three tests with min. 2. prize on any of the draft tests 10, 60, 100+ or 250+
<b>SAM</b>	One 1. prize draft test 20+ as well as one 1. prize draft test 10 or 60. Alternatively: two 2. prize draft test 20+ as well as two 2. prize draft test 60 or one 1. prize draft test 10. No specific order required.

## ANNEX 3

### Word list

<b>Word list</b> Explanation of some of the terms and words used in this document	
Loose lines	Dogs are hitched up in lines which are easy to bow and bend, for example nylon or thin wrapped wire lines. This applies to center line, as well as tug lines and neck lines. In hitch up with loose lines the center line should not be so stiff or solid that it cannot be rolled up easily.
Race secretary	Appointed by SPHK centrally and works with the administration of meriting result and race results. Has contact with SKK for the registration of merit results.
Workingtest secretary	Appointed by each respective breed club and works with the administration of the merit results of the breed he/she has responsibility for. Preparing the work needed for the registration of the merit results and sending these to the race secretary asap.
PDP (polarhunds drag prov)	Polar dog draft test; a designation indicating that the dog has performed a number of draft tests, but not yet attained the requirements to become SE (polar)CH.
Draft test	Organized on an official draft merit event, not necessarily a race. Even though certain types of draft tests are performed in competition classes, it is an official draft merit event that is being announced. Draft test is abbreviated as "DP". (drag prov)