

## CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF HARNESS DOG SPORTS (“CAHDS”)



# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF CAHDS AND AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

## 1 Organizational Structure

- 1.1. The following flow chart outlines the hierarchy of organizations in relation to CAHDS and its affiliated organizations:



\*If a local club wants to join CAHDS as a nationally sanctioned club, they may do so where no regional organization exists. If individuals want to join CAHDS where no local club or regional organization exists, they may do so as non-voting members. Individuals and local clubs may not join CAHDS independently where regional organizations are present. Nationally sanctioned local clubs and individual members are not provided individual votes as per the CAHDS bylaws.

## **2 Roles & Responsibilities of National Federations, Regional Organizations & Local Clubs**

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The following section outlines the roles and responsibilities of National Federations, Regional Organizations and Local Clubs.

### **2.1 National Federations**

**Role:** CAHDS is the national sport organization for harness dog sports in Canada

**Responsibilities:**

CAHDS provides connectivity to the broader international world of harness dog sports. CAHDS is responsible for establishing national standards and creating programs for achieving these standards in areas such as skill development, coaching, event rules and organization, and officiating. CAHDS also fulfills certain roles that are unique to the national level such as operating the National Team and hosting national and east & west championships.

- Govern harness dog sports at a national level
- Organization of National and Eastern & Western Championships
- Selection of National Team
- Selection of Provincial Teams for national championships in provinces that do not have a governing regional division
- Responsible for establishing national standards in areas such as development, coaching, officiating, animal welfare and sport safety
- Provides connectivity to the broader international world of harness dog sports and advocates for the interests of Canadian athletes and mushers, and the development of the sport in Canada on the international stage

Programs offered by CAHDS accessible to regional division and local club members

- Officiant certification
- National Team Selection
- Hosting National/Eastern/Western & International Championships
- Club & Event Financial Grant Program
- Sanction local clubs and assist individual members in locations where no regional division exists.

### **2.2 Regional Organizations**

**Role:** Divisions are provincial, territorial, or regional sport organizations of CAHDS. Regional Divisions must demonstrate governance. A geographical regional will have only one regional division under CAHDS.

**Responsibilities:**

Divisions are provincial, territorial, or regional sport organizations that are created by individual members and local clubs to serve the collective needs at this level. In general divisions integrate and coordinate the efforts of clubs in order to create critical mass and economies of scale.

Divisions interface with and, in some respects, are held accountable to provincial and territorial

governments. They provide regional organization for the delivery of national and/or divisional programming to the club level, develop and manage provincial programs to further their mission and mandate (e.g. competitive programs).

- Are provincial/territorial/regional sport organizations
- Integrate and coordinate the efforts of clubs in order to create critical mass and economies of scale (ex. Regional race circuit)
- Manage provincial/territorial team programs

### **2.3 Local Clubs**

**Role:** Clubs are created by harness dog sport enthusiasts at the local level and are the foundation of CAHDS

#### **Responsibilities:**

Clubs are the foundation of CAHDS. They offer learning, social and/or competitive environments in which members can enjoy the sport. They attract participants, deliver programming, races and social events and help facilitate access to trails. Clubs may incur expenditures and their major source of revenue is charging fees to members. By paying club fees individual members both pay for the services they receive locally as well as help to build the sport at a broader scale.

- Offer learning, social or competitive environments so members can enjoy the sport
- May deliver programs for participants and community education at various levels
- Are created by harness dog sport enthusiasts at the community level to provide for their immediate needs
- Develop contacts within their communities to ensure safe sport, club development, and trail accessibility.
- Local clubs as sanctioned by regional divisions. CAHDS will sanction local clubs that exist in locations where no regional division exists.

## **3 CAHDS - People, Roles & Responsibilities**

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The following section outlines the people, roles and responsibilities of those involved with CAHDS.

### **3.1 Board of Directors**

Sets priorities for Canadian sport development. Directors must be members of their regional organization. They DO NOT need to be on their regional board of directors. Voting members will select the board of directors who will determine amongst themselves who will serve in the roles outlined below. No board member in their first year will serve as President or Vice President. Members of the CAHDS Board of directors may re-offer at the completion of their three year term for an additional three years.

Officer positions on the Board of Directors include:

- President;

- Vice President;
- Secretary; and
- Treasurer

All other Board Members are generally considered a “Director at Large”.

### **3.2 Committees**

There are numerous Committees appointed by CAHDS. Some are long-term Committees that CAHDS created with the intention of continuing into perpetuity, while others are short-term committees created for a purpose with a finite end date. The primary function of a committee is to contribute to the efficient operation of CAHDS. In most cases, CAHDS committees exist to ensure the efficient flow of information and assist the CAHDS Board of Directors in various decision-making processes by providing needed information. In some cases, the committee may be designated in order to ensure a fair and unbiased decision-making process. CAHDS current committees include:

- The Regional Leaders Committee;
- The Officials Committee; and
- The Team Selections Committee.

### **3.3 Other Positions & Roles**

From time-to-time, CAHDS may create various positions or roles to fulfill specific needs, such as communications, promotion, or website design.