

## **Constitution and Bylaws**

### **1. Introduction**

#### **1.1. Identity**

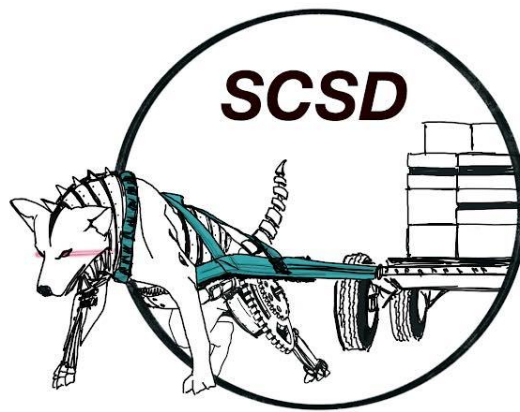
The official name of this club shall be Scruffy City Strong Dogs and shall be abbreviated as SCSD as needed. Scruffy City Strong Dogs shall be referred to as “The Club” for the purposes of this document.

##### **1.1.1. Colors**

The Club recognizes Teal and Steampunk as its official color scheme.

##### **1.1.2. Logo**

The Club recognizes the image below as its official logo.



### **1.2. Location**

The Club is based out of Knoxville, Tennessee.

### **1.3. Purpose**

The purpose of this club is to provide resources and opportunities for handlers to work their dogs in a safe environment.

### **1.4. Mission Statement**

Scruffy City Strong Dogs shall strive to improve the bond between humans and their canine companions through safe, engaging activities. SCSD shall work to further all canine activities while also fostering an inclusive, accepting, and safe environment. SCSD shall strive to build a community in which dog owners can learn and get involved in new, enriching activities.

### **1.5. Scope**

The Club shall host and provide - to the extent practicable - regular practices, competitions, and educational material frequently throughout the year.

### **1.6. Affiliations**

#### **1.6.1. Weight Pull Organizations**

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- 1.6.1.1. World Wide Weight Pull Organization (W3PO)
- 1.6.1.2. International Weight Pull Association (IWPA)
- 1.6.1.3. American Pulling Alliance (APA)

## 2. Club Members

### 2.1. Eligibility and Membership

#### 2.1.1. Eligibility

Membership to The Club is open to any individual with an interest in weight pull who has filled out a Membership Application, has received approval from the Clubs' Officers, and paid appropriate dues. Club Officers shall notify, in writing, of approval or declination following application submission. If Membership is denied, reasoning must be explained in notification letter to applicant.

### 2.2. Membership Levels

Levels of Membership to The Club shall be as follows: Full, Limited, Prorated, Honorary, and Junior Handler.

#### 2.2.1. Full Membership

Full Membership is available to adults who have had their membership approved following submission of a Membership Application.

##### 2.2.1.1. Full Membership Perks

- Voting Rights on Club Matters
- Practices at Member's Rate of \$5/dog
- Access to SCSD Club Group Message and Facebook Group
- Eligible to Purchase Practice Passes
- Eligible for up to three practices of IOU's of Practice Fees
- Dog(s) Featured on Website

##### 2.2.1.2. Full Membership Terms and Dues

Full Membership shall be available on a monthly, quarterly, and yearly term.

Term	Monthly	Quarterly	Yearly
Dues	\$7	\$16	\$50

#### 2.2.2. Limited Membership

Limited Membership is available to adults who have had their membership approved following submission of a Membership Application.

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### 2.2.2.1. Limited Membership Perks

- Voting Rights on Club Matters
- One Practice a Month at Member's Rate of \$5/dog
  - Additional practices shall be at Full Practice Rate of \$10/dog
- Access to SCSD Club Group Message and Facebook Group
- Eligible to Purchase Practice Passes
- Dog(s) Featured on Website

### 2.2.2.2. Drop-In Membership Terms and Dues

Drop-In Membership shall be available on a monthly, quarterly, and yearly term.

<b>Term</b>	Monthly	Quarterly	Yearly
<b>Dues</b>	\$4	\$8	\$25

### 2.2.3. Prorated Membership

Prorated Membership is available to adults who have had their membership approved following submission of a Membership Application and attended 15 practices paying the Full Practice Rate of \$10/dog. After attending 15 practices, Prorated Membership shall be granted for the rest of the calendar year.

#### 2.2.3.1. Prorated Membership Perks (after being granted Prorated Membership)

- Voting Rights on Club Matters
- Practices at Member's Practice Rate of \$5/dog
- Access to SCSD Club Group Message and Facebook Group
- Pre-Purchase Practice Passes
- Dog(s) Featured on Website

#### 2.2.3.2. Prorated Membership Terms and Dues

Prorated Membership shall be granted after attending 15 practices paying the Full Practice Fee. Prorated Membership shall be active from the 15th practice attended until the end of the calendar year.

### 2.2.4. Honorary Membership

Honorary Membership shall be granted to individuals by a majority vote of Club Officers.

#### 2.2.4.1. Honorary Membership Perks

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- Access to SCSD Club Group Message and Facebook Group
- Practices at Member's Practice Rate of \$5/dog
- Dog(s) Featured on Website

### 2.2.4.2. Honorary Membership Terms and Dues

Honorary Membership shall be activated from the time of voting by Club Officers until the end of the calendar year - then will be reviewed for renewal. Honorary Members will not need to pay any membership dues.

### 2.2.5. Junior Membership

Junior Membership is available to handlers under the age of 18 or until high school graduation.

#### 2.2.5.1. Junior Membership Perks

- Assigned a Club Member to serve as a mentor.
- Voting Rights on Club Matters
- Practices at Member's Rate of \$5/dog
- Access to SCSD Club Group Message and Facebook Group
- Eligible to Purchase Practice Passes
- Eligible for up to three days of IOU's of Practice Fees
- Dog(s) Featured on Website

#### 2.2.5.2. Junior Membership Terms and Dues

Junior Membership shall be on a monthly basis for \$4 per month. Junior Members are eligible for Membership Due Exemption under the Club's Junior Handler Mentorship Program.

##### 2.2.5.2.1. Junior Handler Mentorship Program

All Junior Handlers will be assigned a Mentor within the Club. Working with their Mentor, they will choose a personal achievement goal (academic, athletic, extracurricular, or similar) which is measurable over time. On a monthly basis, the Junior Handler and their Mentor will assess progress on the chosen goal. If there is satisfactory progress on the goal, the Junior Handler will be exempt from paying that month's Membership Due.

### 2.3. Revoking of Membership

- 2.3.1. Membership of any individual will be reviewed by The Club's Officers if any off the following occur:

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- Member acts in a manner threatening to another human and/or dog.
  - Member acts in a manner of unsportsmanlike conduct.
  - Member is abusive or inhumane to any dog.
  - Member engages in dishonest acts against The Club or its affiliates.
  - Member makes for a non-inclusive environment.
- 2.3.2. Membership revokement shall be reviewed by The Club's Officers following a review of the situation and a meeting with the member in question. Following this review, a majority officers vote will decide if membership is indeed revoked. If a membership is revoked, the member in question shall receive notification in writing. No refund of Dues will be made.
- 2.3.2.1. Individuals who have previously had membership revoked may request a meeting with The Club's Officers to appeal the decision.
- 2.4. Activity Fees
- 2.4.1.1. Member Practice Fees  
Members are to pay a fee of \$5 per dog, per practice.
- 2.4.1.2. Full Practice Fees  
Full Practices fees are to be \$10 per dog, per practice.
- 2.4.1.3. Fee Exemption for First Timers  
When financially feasible, Practice Fees shall be exempt for first time regular practice attendees.
- 2.4.2. Should the club disband, any money the club should have shall be dispersed to Club Members. Equipment of value in The Club's possession shall be sold and funds raised from such sale shall also be distributed to Club Members.
3. Operations
- 3.1. The Club shall adhere to a January 1 - December 31 calendar year.
- 3.1.1. Quarters are defined as follows:
- Quarter 1: January 1 to March 31
  - Quarter 2: April 1 to June 30
  - Quarter 3: July 1 to September 30
  - Quarter 4: October 1 - December 31
- 3.1.2. Due dates for dues are to be the 7th day of the month the term begins.
- 3.2. Weather shall be taken into consideration when planning and hosting outdoor events. The Club shall not host outdoor activities if there is a risk of heat exposure to humans or dogs.

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- 3.3. Club Officers shall decide upon goals for the Club when they meet at the beginning of the year. These shall be shared with club members.
- 3.4. Meetings
  - 3.4.1. There shall be at least two general meetings a year, open to all, to discuss club business. These shall take place in May and December. Elections for officers shall take place in the December meeting.
  - 3.4.2. Officers shall have at least one meeting in the first three months of the year to discuss operations. They may meet more frequently if they so choose.
  - 3.4.3. A Quorum is to be defined as a simple majority of Club Officers in addition to a minimum of two voting members. For Club Officer Meetings, a simple majority is a quorum. Should Club Officers not be able to reach a simple majority when voting on Club matters, the decision shall be voted on by voting Club members.
- 3.5. Practices
  - 3.5.1. The Club shall host pull practice and/or drag practice as often as practicable. The Club should aim to host practices at least once weekly.
  - 3.5.2. Practice Fees are to be paid by the handler prior to each practice to a club officer. If a handler is unable to pay, an IOU can be issued if the handler is a Full or Junior Member. Officers can vote to waive fees for a practice session.
- 3.6. Competitions
  - 3.6.1. The Club shall - to the extent practicable - host a minimum of two competition pulls each year (one in the spring and one in the fall).
  - 3.6.2. Competitions shall be conducted through one of the Affiliated Organizations.
  - 3.6.3. Members are encouraged to pursue obtaining judgeship if they are interested. Members who are judges shall actively judge at least one pull hosted by The Club per year.
  - 3.6.4. Members are expected to assist with the operations of Competitions hosted by The Club. This includes, but is not limited to, loading/unloading block, operating the cart, directing visitors, and assisting in set up/clean up.
- 3.7. Junior Handlers' Mentor Program

All Junior Handler Club Members shall be assigned a Club Member Mentor to oversee, advise, and assist as needed. Mentors shall be responsible for overseeing a Junior Handler's Due Exemption Goal.

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- 3.8. Rules established by Affiliated Weight Pull Organizations regarding vaccination requirements and condition of dogs pulling shall be upheld at all Club events.
4. Club Officers
  - 4.1. Eligibility

Any member in good standing of The Club is eligible to become a Club Officer.
  - 4.2. Elections

Elections shall take place at the December General Club Meeting by voting of Club Members.
  - 4.3. Vacancy

Should a Club Officer Position become vacant, it shall remain vacant until the next General Club Meeting where voting shall decide who fills the vacancy.
  - 4.4. Club Officer Positions

There shall be four Club Officer Positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

    - 4.4.1. Additional positions can be added as needed by amending this constitution.
    - 4.4.2. Chair Positions can be appointed as needed for specific tasks.
    - 4.4.3. All Club Officers shall have equal voting rights and should work together to plan, direct, and advance The Club.
    - 4.4.4. President

The Club President shall provide leadership to officers and members, be responsible for setting and monitoring goals of the club, delegate tasks as needed, provide training, and oversee club activities.
    - 4.4.5. Vice President

The Club Vice President shall assist the President in all duties, oversee recruitment and retainment of members, direct Mentors and Junior Handlers, and supervise event coordination and appoint Chairs as needed.
    - 4.4.6. Treasurer

The Club Treasurer shall assist the President and Vice President in all duties as needed, draft budgets, maintain club finances, keep updated cost tracking sheets, manage membership dues, and draft Expenditure Reports twice yearly (to be released in June and December).
    - 4.4.7. Secretary

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The Club Secretary shall assist the President and Vice President in all duties, manage club communications, maintain club records and documents, maintain the club calendar, oversee social media, maintain a roster, and ensure minutes are kept of meetings.

### 5. Management of Club Funds

- 5.1. The Club shall avoid having a negative Balance.
- 5.2. Up-to-date records of all club transactions shall be kept and accessible to all Club Officers.
- 5.3. A Biannual Expenditure Report shall be made available to all Club members.
- 5.4. All transactions shall be approved by a majority of Club Officers.
- 5.5. The Club shall plan at least one fundraising event per year.
  - 5.5.1. Fundraising should be planned and advertised at least one month prior to the event date.

### 6. Bylaws

#### 6.1. Conduct of Humans

- 6.1.1. All humans at all Club events shall conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. They shall respect all humans, dogs, and property.
- 6.1.2. Handlers are to be in control of their dogs at all times. Dogs must be under direct supervision of a handler or securely created at all times.
- 6.1.3. Humans who act in an abusive, threatening, or aggressive manner to any humans or dogs shall immediately be dismissed from Club activities. If said handler is a Club Member, their membership shall be put under review of the Club Officers.
- 6.1.4. Humans are to respect the directions of Club Officers, Judges, or other event officials.
- 6.1.5. Handlers are to ensure safe pulling practices.
  - 6.1.5.1. Handlers shall not pull a dog that has an injury that would exclude it from a competition with an Affiliate Organization.
- 6.1.6. Handlers are to ensure all of their guests (friends/family) follow all rules and conduct themselves appropriately.
  - 6.1.6.1. Children should not be left unattended. All Junior Handlers who have proven they can act appropriately will be exempt from this but will be the responsibility of their mentor.
  - 6.1.6.2. Children should be properly educated prior to attending all Club events on dog safety.



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- 6.1.7. There shall be no screaming/yelling, running, or throwing of objects (with the exception of a reward for the dog pulling at that time) at any event.
    - 6.1.8. Humans should only interact with dogs if they have permission from that dog's handler.
  - 6.2. Conduct of Dogs
    - 6.2.1. Dogs are to be in a secure crate or under control of a handler at all times.
    - 6.2.2. Dogs with Behavioral Quirks (anxiety, reactivity, compulsivity, etc.) shall be allowed to participate in Club activities as long as The Club is notified of the quirk in question and a plan to actively manage any potential triggers is made.
      - 6.2.2.1. The Club will make every attempt practicable to provide a safe pulling environment for dogs with Behavioral Quirks including but not limited to:
        - Ensuring all dogs are crated while said dog is out of its kennel;
        - Having or avoiding specific cart handlers to the extent practicable;
        - Ensuring all humans are clear of areas where the dog needs to go (for example, the crating area to the chute).
      - 6.2.2.2. Should a dog exhibit a Behavior Quirk raising concern, the handler and Club shall make a plan to manage the behavior in question.
      - 6.2.2.3. If a Behavioral Quirk cannot be managed in a way that mitigates risk to humans and dogs, then the dog may be asked to leave.
7. Amendments

Amendments can be made to The Club's governing documents by being brought forth at a General Club Meeting and voted upon by Club Members. Once a vote passes it shall be added to the governing documents and implemented immediately.