



RACE TO THE SKY^{SEP} February 7-11, 2025

OFFICIAL RULES AND INTERPRETATION

SECTION I - ENTRY, PRE-RACE AND EQUIPMENT

A. ENTRY FEE

1. The entry fee for the 300 mile, **12 Dog Race** is \$400.00 until December 31, 2024; on January 1-20, 2025, the entry fee is \$500.00 and from January 21-February 2, 2025, the entry fee is \$600.00.
2. Entry fee for the 100-mile, **8 Dog Adult Race** is \$150.00 until December 31, 2024, on February 2, 2025, the entry fee is \$250.00.
3. Entry fee for the 100-mile, **8 Dog Junior Race** is \$100.00 until December 31, 2024, on February 2, 2025, the entry fee is \$200.00.

No telephone entries will be accepted. If after February 2, 2025, there is still room in the field of entries, mushers may request to enter, before February 5, 2025 (10 a.m. MST) by calling (406) 881-DOGS to state their intentions to run the Race to the Sky. All paperwork including entry form, biographical, photo and cc payment **must** be scanned and e-mailed and sent to info@racetothsky.org prior to the entry being accepted or mailed to Box 76, Olney, MT 59927.

Mushers may withdraw their entry until January 15, 2024 and receive a refund of one-half of the entry fee **or** carry-over registration money to the next year's race without penalty. Withdrawal must be by email or by calling 406-881-DOGS and stating intentions (refund or carry-over). No carryovers or refunds will be awarded for withdrawals made after the January 15, 2025 deadline.

Receipt of the entry fee will constitute the musher's intent to enter the race and further acknowledges that the musher agrees to comply with every rule as stated.

B. MUSER

1. A musher in the 300-mile event or the 100-mile, 8 dog adult event must be 18 years of age or older. However, an experienced musher of 16 years of age wishing to enter the race must apply to Montana Sled Dog, Inc., in writing, to waive the minimum age rule. Application must include number of years of experience, race history, relevant experiences, two or more references from veteran distance mushers and written consent from a parent or guardian.

Montana Sled Dog, Inc. 406-881-2909 info@racetothsky.org

2. A musher competing in the junior event must be between the ages of 13 and 18 on the day of the race start. Application must include number of years of experience, race history, related experiences, two or more references from veteran distance mushers and written consent from a parent or guardian.

3. The musher beginning the race must drive the team throughout the race. There will be one musher per team.
4. Montana Sled Dog, Inc. reserves the right to reject an entry.
5. Conviction for any offense pertaining to the humane treatment of animals or a prior documented instance of unacceptable treatment of animals in this or other events could, at the discretion of the Board of Directors of MSDI, disqualify a musher from entering this race.

C. MUSHERS MEETING

1. All registered mushers and at least one handler, who will remain a handler throughout the race, must attend the mandatory pre-race mushers meeting **on Friday, February 7 at 3:30-5:00 p.m. for ALL 100 and 300 mile teams at Lincoln Community Center.** Roll call will be taken at the start of the meeting. Late mushers may be penalized at the Race Marshal's discretion.
2. Only mushers will participate in the rules discussion. The Race Marshal may request a separate meeting for handlers only, if necessary.
3. There may be a rookies meeting in addition to the drivers meeting for first time entrants, if deemed necessary and mandatory for all rookies.
4. **All registered 300 mile mushers must attend a mandatory vet check on Friday, February 7, at Hi-Country Snack Foods from 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

All registered junior mushers and adult 100 mile mushers must attend a mandatory vet check on Saturday, February 8, at Hi-Country Snack Foods from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

D. DRAWING

1. The starting positions for the race shall be determined by a drawing held prior to the race at a time and place designated by Montana Sled Dog, Inc.
2. The order of the draw shall be in the order in which entries were received by the Montana Sled Dog, Inc. office. In the event more than one entry is received on one day, those entries that are hand delivered will be listed first, followed by time-stamped mail entries and time-stamped email entries.
3. The drawing for positions will be divided in half. The first half of the total mushers to enter will draw for the first half of the starting positions. The second half of the total mushers to enter will draw for the second half of the starting positions. In the event of an odd number of entries, the odd number will be included in the last half of the drawing. Drawing will be prior to the race at a designated place.

E. DOGS

1. The maximum number of dogs allowed in the 300-mile event is twelve. Each 300-mile team must start with a minimum of seven and finish with a minimum of five dogs standing in the team.
2. The maximum number of dogs allowed in the 100-mile, junior event and 100-mile adult race is eight. Each team must start with a minimum of five dogs and finish with no less than four.
3. All dogs must undergo a pre race physical examination performed by one of the official race veterinarians. Only dogs found to be in good health and fit to compete will be permitted to run in the race. Being late for your assigned vet check appointment may result in a penalty.
5. All dogs entered in the race must be current with vaccinations against parvovirus, distemper, and adenovirus-2 from at least 14 days prior to the pre race exam through the end of the race. Vaccinations against parainfluenza and Bordetella are very strongly recommended. Musher's who vaccinate their own dogs must submit proof of purchase invoices and organized medical records indication that each dog has been vaccinated within 1 year of the end of the race. This race will accept dogs that have been vaccinated within the last three calendar years with a licensed three-year vaccine against distemper, adenovirus-2 and parvovirus, but only if the vaccine was given by a licensed veterinarian and only if the musher presents documentation signed by that veterinarian. Note that these vaccines do not protect against parainfluenza (the annual 5-way DA2HPiPv does). Therefore, mushers choosing to use the 3-year DA2Pc vaccine are very strongly advised to use the annual Bordetella/parainfluenza vaccine as well. Also note that other races may not accept dogs vaccinated with a three-year product.

RABIES- Proof of a valid rabies vaccination from the musher, signed and dated by a licensed veterinarian at least 30 days prior to the pre-race physical is mandatory for all dogs. Note that rabies vaccines approved for three years' duration are recognized by this race. Such duration must be valid through the end of the race.

All dogs not participating in the competition but carried in the musher's or handler's vehicle must have the same vaccination status as the participating dogs.

6. All dogs will be marked by a veterinary team prior to the race.
7. Any dog dropped from the race cannot be reentered or substituted.

F. DRUGS

No injectable, oral, or topical drug that may suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. Musher's may not inject any substance into their dogs. No other drugs or artificial means may be used to drive a dog or cause a dog to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability. The intent of the rules concerning the use of drugs, injectable vitamins, and/or nutrients in racing sled dogs is to insure that all competing dogs are racing in a state of acceptable normal health, with natural ability. This is to insure the safety, health and well-being of the dogs.

1. Allowable drugs that may be administered by the driver:

a. Topical Drugs. Preparations containing antibiotics, antibacterials, antiseptics, and/or germicidals, i.e., Furacin, triple antibiotic ointment, povidine (betadine) ointment, may be used externally on the foot pads and/or in the web of the foot. Topical drugs allowed under wrist wraps include Furacin ointment and **Emu liniment**. The use of all topicals should be judicious and used in combination with boots/wraps where appropriate, excess amounts may be licked off, swallowed, and then be absorbed in the general body circulation. DMSO in any form or combination is prohibited. Topical ointments that don't contain anti-inflammatory drugs are permitted. All topical preparations need to be in the **original** containers with original labels.

b. Anti-Diarrheals. Drugs not absorbed in the gastrointestinal tract, such as kaolin, bismuth compounds and pectin (Kaopectate), may be used to control diarrhea and vomiting. These may be combined with systemic absorbable drugs, if prescribed by an official Race Veterinarian. Pepto-Bismol is strictly prohibited (contains aspirin).

2. Allowable drugs that may be administered by a race veterinarian only or by the driver under the authority of a Race Veterinarian (by prescription only):

a. Antibiotics. The use of oral or injectable antibiotics is allowed if prescribed by an official Race Veterinarian. This is for the benefit of the dog, to allow continuance in the race where it will not mask a condition which could cause harm to the dog.

b. Anti-Diarrheals. Systemic absorbable drugs may be used if prescribed by race veterinarians.

c. Gastric protectants with proton modifying mode of action (such as omeprazole or famotidine) can be administered with the approval of a race veterinarian and should be marked in the race diary.

d. Topical ointments which contain steroids can be administered by the race veterinarian.

3. Prohibited Drugs. All DEA listed stimulants and depressants, analgesics, anesthetics, central nervous system stimulants, prescriptive and non-prescriptive, anti-inflammatory drugs, including but not limited to corticosteroids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, anti-prostaglandins and aspirin or any of its salts or derivatives (e.g. salicylates), anti-anxiety drugs, anabolic steroids, or antihistamines, bronchodilators, cough suppressants, diuretics and muscle relaxants are prohibited. Any state or federally-restricted substance or any substance that would artificially enhance the performance of the dog is strictly prohibited.

Exceptions: Estrual suppressant drugs such as Cheque may be used in appropriate doses to suppress heat cycles in female dogs and anti-inflammatory drugs used topically in foot ointments.

4. Other. Vitamins, minerals, electrolytes, enzymes, probiotics and dietary supplements are considered foods and are allowed only if administered orally.

Race Veterinarians shall have the authority to collect random blood and/or urine samples for analysis from any entered dog any time during the race, commencing at the official veterinary check and ceasing two hours after each team's official finish, or in the event the team does not reach the finish, ceasing two hours after the team's official withdrawal from competition at an official checkpoint. Mushers must assist the Race Veterinarian in collection of these samples whenever the request is made.

If, during the race, it is deemed necessary by the Race Veterinarian to use a prohibited substance to protect the dog's health and well-being, that dog will be dropped from the race.

If, during the time period for which restrictions are stipulated, any competing musher or team is guilty of violating the banned substance rules, that team will be immediately disqualified from the race and will automatically and irrevocably forfeit all prizes, money, entry fees, titles, recognition and/or other considerations awarded that team.

Chiropractic manipulation, acupuncture, ultrasound, and therapeutic laser are recognized veterinary treatment modalities limited to use by licensed veterinary practitioners and, as such, their use during the race falls under the jurisdiction of the Head Veterinarian. Because it is impractical for the Race Veterinary Team to ensure that these treatment modalities would be uniformly available to all competitors, their use will be prohibited from the pre-race veterinary exam to the end of the race. If, after consulting with the Head Veterinarian, a competitor feels their dogs needs to be treated with one of these modalities, a decision may be made to allow the use on that dog, but that dog must be dropped from the race.

The following ISDVMA guidelines list vital signs that are indicators of health problems that could require the withdrawal of a dog from the race:

- Dehydration 7% or greater
- Heart rate of 120 beats per minute or higher after 60 minutes of rest
- Body temperature greater than 103F (39.5C) after 1 hour of rest
- Lung sounds with evidence of edema, rales or cough
- Hypothermia with a body temperature of less than 99F (37.2C)
- Non-responsive diarrhea with blood associated with weight loss or dehydration
- Severe lameness
- Seizures
- Brown or red urine
- Drop in Body Condition Score of 2 or more on a 5 point scale.

G. EQUIPMENT

1. All harnesses shall have padded neck and chest areas.
2. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
3. Some type of sled shall be drawn.
4. A sled shall have an adequate brake system, brush bow, snow hook and snub line.

5. A sled/dog bag capable of safely restraining a struggling or injured dog is required.
6. Each musher is responsible for making arrangements for care and transportation of dropped dogs.

H. MANDATORY GEAR IN SLED

1. Mandatory equipment must be carried on the sled during the race. Non-expendable mandatory gear is to be carried on the musher or sled at all times. You must leave every checkpoint with all the mandatory gear (both expendable and non-expendable). The race understands that food items for people and dogs will be consumed on the trail but used wrappers and bags must be in sled bags when the musher enters the next checkpoint. If the race finds that gear is missing, the musher could be held up while an investigation is done.

2. Non-expendable mandatory gear shall consist of:

- a. headlamp and batteries
- b. knife **and cable cutters, if using cable lines**
- c. sleeping bag (arctic weight)
- d. snowshoes and bindings
- e. axe, handle to be a minimum of 24"
- f. first aid kit (to consist of ace bandage, pressure; dressing and tape)
- g. race promotional material, provided by Montana Sled Dog, Inc. displayed on sled
- h. cooker and fuel (3 gallon minimum, capable of melting snow/heating water)
- i. map of trail (provided by Montana Sled Dog, Inc.)
- j. vet communication sheet to be carried between checkpoints
- k. arctic weight parka
- l. snow goggles or protective eye wear for day/night conditions

3. Expendable mandatory gear shall consist of:

- a. Dog food. One pound for each dog in the team (must leave the checkpoint with this on the sled). This should be considered only as a bare minimum. (Weather and common sense will dictate when additional food should be packed.) Littering the trail is prohibited. Dumping food to lighten the load after leaving the checkpoint is prohibited.
- b. One day's ration for the musher.
- c. Set of booties for each dog (4) either on the sled or being worn by dogs.

SECTION II--OFFICIATING

A. RACING OFFICIALS

1. The Race Marshal has the final word over all safety considerations for both dogs and mushers. He/she has authority to interpret rules at the mushers meeting, alter the time and location of the start, alter the race route, alter a participant's official running time, levy monetary penalties, disqualify dogs, teams and mushers, refer questions to the Rules

Interpretation Committee, stop the race, order drug testing, and determine winners and subsequent placing. The Race Manager will supply any information as required by the Race Marshal for the purpose of providing the best possible decision. The Race Marshal may have one or more assistants.

2. The Rules Interpretation Committee is a three-person committee available for consultation with a Race Marshal prior to, during, and following the race. Once called together by the Race Marshal on a specific issue, their decision becomes the final word on that issue. The Rules Interpretation Committee will consist of a Race Marshal, another Race Official, and the Head Race Veterinarian.

3. The Race Veterinarians are consulting specialists for the race. In addition to the pre-race veterinarian check, they will be available throughout the race for consultations, first aid, and medical situations. Their recommendations to disallow an entry, remove a dog or team from the race or delay a team at the checkpoint will go directly to the Race Marshal, who will then make the final decision.

4. The Trail Section Bosses are responsible for laying out the trail. Each Section Boss will be responsible for scheduling maintenance of the trail and making trail-breaking decisions for their section of the trail.

5. The Start/Finish Coordinators, Timers and Checkpoint Coordinators each have immediate authority in their areas and may act as consultants to the Race Marshals, who ultimately have the final word.

B. CONDUCT AND DISQUALIFICATION

1. Mushers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs and crew at the home of a host family, at any race function, on the trail or in a checkpoint. Race to the Sky has a non-drinking policy for any alcoholic beverages or drugs for all mushers and handlers while running the race. Please comply or you may be penalized.

2. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshal determines that the conduct of the musher or crew at any time in any race area or on the trail is detrimental to the sport in general, or to the Race to the Sky, the team may be disqualified. This includes negative comments made in the presence of the public or the media. It is expected that complaints or criticisms will be directed privately to Race Officials. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached readily, a written protest should be filed (see c, 1-5 below).

3. Willful failure to adhere to the published rules may result in disqualification.

4. The penalties which may be assessed by the Race Marshal include disqualification, fines, or time penalties, and will depend on the nature and severity of the infraction. Disqualified mushers will forfeit all entry fees, awards, placements, and participation in the purse. Time penalties will be added to mandatory layovers or finish time as appropriate and may affect the final place of the team. Fines will be paid before the awards ceremony or will result in a deduction from any award from the purse or rejecting a subsequent year's entry until it is properly paid.

5. The use of illegal drugs and/or illegal substances as defined by state law or the use of alcohol by mushers during the race is strictly prohibited. Mushers are subject to collection of urine until one hour after the team finishes.

6. If a musher withdraws from the race before completing the entire course, he/she must return race property (vests, signed sled banners, etc.) to a Race Marshal and personally check out with the Race Marshal before leaving the race site.

C. PROTEST AND HEARING

1. Any musher wishing to register a protest must do so verbally at the next closest checkpoint or submit a written protest no later than one hour following the protester's finish. Only mushers may file protests. It is our desire that mushers work out disagreements between each other but if not possible, a written protest must be filed with the \$50.00 deposit. The \$50 could be taken out of winnings.

2. All written protests must be submitted to a Race Official (Race Marshal, Assistant Race Marshal or Race Manager) and shall not be discussed with media, the public, sponsors or other mushers prior to a decision being handed down.

3. Protest fee refunds may be obtained at the Awards Ceremony providing written protests have been filled out as prescribed and upon presentation of receipt.

4. An official decision will be made by the Rules Interpretation Committee following a hearing attended by all parties involved.

SECTION III--THE RACE

A. START

1. PRE-START SCHEDULE

a. All mushers, handlers, and team trucks must be in the official parking area at a specified time to be announced at the mushers meeting. At this time, each participant's sled and mandatory equipment must be ready and available for inspection.

b. All mushers and dogs will be required to take part in any ceremonial festivities and functions.

2. COMMON START TIME/DIFFERENTIAL ALLOTMENT

a. The race will be a common start event. Each musher's elapsed time between checkpoints will be calculated from the specified starting time. A team unable to leave at its specified time will depart after the last team leaves and will observe the specified interval between teams. The time starts running from the originally scheduled departure time not after the last team leaves. Any musher who cannot leave the starting line within 10 minutes of the last team's departure will be disqualified unless extenuating circumstances prevail.

- b. The official start of all races will be Saturday, February 8 with the 300 mile teams leaving at 2:00 p.m., then the 100 mile Junior teams and finally the 100 mile Adult teams.
- e. The difference between actual departure time and the official starting time will be made up at the floating 4-hour layover (six-hour for 100-mile race entries—juniors and adults). Late starting teams (teams unable to depart in the order of their draw) will have their differential time calculated from their drawn position time.
- f. The 300 mile teams will have the difference in time between the fastest and their times made up at the 4-hour floating layover. They will also have a 6 hour mandatory at White Tail Ranch before the finish to Lincoln.

B. FINISH^[SEP]

1. The nose of the lead dog crossing the finish line signals a team's official finish. In the event that the musher is not with the team when it finishes, the finish time will be officially recorded when the musher crosses the line after the team.
2. Only teams crossing the official finish line by the designated cut-off time will be awarded official finisher status and prize money.
3. Mushers must make a sincere effort to continue in the race in a timely manner or they will be disqualified.
4. There will be no calling of trail in the section called "no-man's land." This section of trail will be identified and announced at the mushers meeting.
5. The race officially ends at noon MST on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

C. CHECKPOINTS

Mileages vary from checkpoint to checkpoint. A detailed race map will be given to you at the drivers meeting in Helena. The checkpoints for the 300 mile race are: Hi-Country Snack Foods, Lincoln, White Tail Ranch, Seeley Lake Community Center, Owl Creek, return from Seeley Lake Community Center, White Tail Ranch and Hi-Country Snack Foods (finish). For the 100 mile, 8 dog classes--junior and adult races, the checkpoints are Hi-Country Snack Foods, Lincoln (vet check, driver's meeting, start), White Tail Ranch, and Morrell Creek Trailhead (finish).

D. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

1. Absolutely no outside assistance between checkpoints.
2. Mushers may assist each other in appropriate ways in an emergency. Good sportsmanship is encouraged.
3. Each Race Marshal will determine the boundaries of each checkpoint.
4. Replacement of broken or lost equipment between checkpoints must be arranged through and directed by a Race Marshal. (In the event of a broken sled, the musher must

send word to a Race Marshal who will then direct a handler to transport a replacement to the stranded musher.)

5. Race participants may not accept rides on any motorized vehicles unless an emergency exists. An emergency exists when the safety of the driver or dogs is in jeopardy, for example, a loose team or severely injured dog or driver. The only exception besides in an emergency is during the 6-hour layover, as long as there is someone staying with the dogs.

6. Mushers may not arrange for anyone to instruct them between checkpoints. Requests for direction along the way is acceptable, however.

7. Pacing of any kind is strictly prohibited.

8. The use of two-way radios or cell phones by mushers is not be permitted. However, each musher will be carrying a GPS unit on their sled this year.

9. If you are using 2025 Race to the Sky as an Iditarod qualifier, please indicate on your entry form so Race Officials are aware.

E. MANAGEMENT/HANDLING OF DOGS

1. Cruel and inhumane treatment of dogs by any musher and/or his/her handlers is strictly prohibited. Cruel and inhumane treatment is any action or inaction which causes pain or suffering to a dog that could have been prevented.

2. No whips of any kind shall be allowed.

3. Boxing of Dogs

a. When dropping a dog, it must first be checked and marked by the Checkpoint Official before the musher leaves the checkpoint and/or prior to boxing the dog.

b. There will be no boxing of dogs once the continuous part of the race has begun. The one exception will be trucking of teams required by Race Marshal or at discretion of Race Marshal due to adverse conditions.

4. Expired Dogs

a. Any dog that expires on the trail for any reason must be taken to the next checkpoint or the checkpoint just passed.

b. Expired dogs must be completely covered when being carried on the sled. An autopsy will be performed on any expired dog by designated Race Veterinarians.

5. Carrying Dogs

a. A musher may not allow any of his/her dogs to be carried by another team except in an emergency.

b. A musher's dogs carried in his/her own sled must be transported in a humane fashion.

c. If a musher determines between checkpoints that a dog needs to be dropped, he/she may take it to the nearest checkpoint to join his/her handler.

6. Loose Dogs

a. All dogs will be in the team, on the sled, and appropriately restrained.

b. In the event that a dog becomes loose from its team, the musher cannot leave the next checkpoint until the dog is recovered and properly secured with the rest of the team. The musher may proceed to the closest checkpoint, secure the team, and arrange for help from Race Officials in recovering the loose dog.

c. Good sportsmanship is encouraged between mushers in recovering a loose dog. If the dog cannot be recovered, the team will be disqualified.

F. CHECKPOINTS/MANDATORY LAYOVERS

1. Checking in:

a. Each musher must personally sign both in and out of a checkpoint. If no time is to be taken at the checkpoint both can be done when checking in.

b. If a musher returns to a checkpoint, he/she can check back in and can receive assistance.

2. Accommodations:

a. Accommodations (space for bedding down dogs, restrooms, parking space, etc.) are all on a first-come, first-serve basis. Efforts will be made to give mushers the best advantage with no guarantees. Boisterous behavior on the part of any musher or crew around other resting teams is strictly prohibited.

b. It is imperative that spaces in checkpoints, and at the starting and finish lines be left clean. The space occupied by each team must be inspected by Checkpoint Officials before the handler and truck leaves the checkpoint. It is the handlers' responsibility to make certain that the checkout forms are signed by a Race Official before leaving the checkpoint. Penalties will be imposed for failure to clean-up.

3. Mandatory Layovers:

Each musher in the 300-mile event is required to take one 4-hour floating layover at either the White Tail Ranch, Seeley Lake checkpoints or Owl Creek Wilderness Checkpoint. The starting time adjustment will be added to the 4-hour floating layover when the team checks into the checkpoint.

Each 300-mile event musher, on arrival at his/her 4-hour layover, will be issued a card with his/her team's layover information and departure time. This card must be given to a Checkpoint Official for signature before leaving the checkpoint. Always verify the departure time.

There is an additional 6-hour layover at White Tail Ranch before the finish for the 300-mile competitors. On arrival, a musher will receive a card with his/her departure time. This card must be given to a Checkpoint Official for signature before leaving before finish.

The junior race and adult 100 mile race will have a 6-hour mandatory layover at the White Tail Ranch. The starting time adjustment will be added to the 6-hour layover when the team checks into the checkpoint. They, also, should verify their departure time before leaving the White Tail.

Every effort should be made by the mushers to accommodate the questions of the media and general public at the checkpoints. In order to ensure the safe departure of the teams from the checkpoints, Race Officials and Checkpoint Officials will be responsible for restricting access to the mushers by the general public and media as necessary.

f. Teams must remain in checkpoints during all mandatory layovers.

G. PLANNED ASSISTANCE

1. Planned assistance is acceptable at checkpoint and layover points only.
2. Only the musher will be allowed to feed and water the dogs. Up to two additional crew members will be allowed to help the musher with other hands-on assistance. Teams are encouraged to have a well-rested driver available to help ensure safe transport of the crew and support vehicle between checkpoints.
3. Any musher who finds it necessary to leave a team at a checkpoint shall leave the team under the supervision of his/her official handler(s) and must check in and out with a Race Marshal.
4. Any veterinary expense incurred by a musher is his/her responsibility payable before leaving the Race.

H. FOOD AND WATER

Each musher and their handlers are responsible for having necessary food and water at the checkpoints. **Montana Sled Dog, Inc. makes no arrangements for water and food distribution. All checkpoints are easily reachable by truck.**

I. RUNNING THE COURSE

1. The 2024 Race to the Sky Sled Dog Race is a guest on land of the United States Forest Service, United States Bureau of Land Management, the State of Montana and private landowners. In light of this fact, mushers will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and will at no time demand "rights" to the trail.
2. Passing:
 - a. When overtaking another team, the musher shall call "trail." The overtaken team must relinquish the trail and assist the passing when necessary.

- b. When neither of two teams is able to pull away from the other, the mushers shall mutually decide on the appropriate team to lead out.
- c. In a head-on passing situation, the homeward bound team has the right-of-way, and the outward bound team must relinquish the trail. The exception is when the outward bound team is moving downhill, then the outward bound team has the right-of-way.

3. Lost Team:

- a. In the case of a lost team, the team will not be disqualified if the musher regains control of the team, provided that the team and musher complete the entire race trail and comply with the rules, including checkpoint requirements.
- b. All teams must follow the trail as marked. As long as the team and musher continue on the trail when separated, the musher may continue after regaining control.
- c. Mushers may receive assistance from another musher in recovering their team.
- d. Teams inadvertently leaving the course must regain the course where it was first left.

4. Safety:

It is the musher's responsibility to check for traffic at road crossings.

Be cautious when overtaking, encountering or being overtaken by snow machines. Always use your headlamp to signal snow machines during night travel.

5. Stopping on the trail:

- a. When stopped on the trail, adequate room must be allowed for teams to get past and assistance given, if necessary. Every effort should be made to get completely off the trail while stopped.
- b. If snacking, watering or feeding on the trail, the team must be completely off the trail, if possible. The trail must be free of food or debris. Penalties may be imposed by the Race Marshal for not complying with this rule.
- c. Pack out all garbage, including runner plastic, food, and dog booties removed by the musher. Littering is prohibited.

6. Bibs/sled banners

Numbered bibs, if provided by MSDI, must be worn at the start, finish, and entering and leaving checkpoints. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in time and/or monetary penalties. Numbered sled banners must be on the sled entering or leaving every checkpoint. Failure to return the signed sled banners to race officials prior to leaving the race site may result in penalties.

J. WEATHER AND TRAIL CONDITIONS

1. The race will continue under all but the most severe trail and weather conditions.
2. Postponement or cancellation of the race will be made no less than seven (7) days prior to the start of the race.
3. In the event of questionable trail conditions, the Race Marshals will decide which portion(s) of trail will be altered.
4. The Race Marshals are responsible for alteration of starting and/or finishing locations.

SECTION IV--AWARDS PRESENTATION

A. It is the desire of Montana Sled Dog, Inc. that all mushers finishing the race be present at the awards ceremony. Absence will result in disqualification and/or forfeiture of winnings and/or \$100.00 fine. Extenuating circumstances may be considered. Montana Sled Dog, Inc. encourages all non-finishing mushers to be present at the awards ceremony.

B. Purse monies will be awarded only to participants who are designated official finishers. Official finishers will share the total purse.

SECTION V--CLAIMS

A. Each musher is responsible for his/her own actions and the actions of his/her dogs and crew. The musher also agrees to release the sponsors, Montana Sled Dog, Inc. and their agents, volunteers, and employees, from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the musher, his/her dogs, property or the property of his/her crew. Montana Sled Dog, Inc. has the complete authority to authorize the race sponsor(s) and MSDI to photograph and otherwise collect information about the race and all participants therein and to use such photographs and information for advertising, public relations or other publicity purposes.

Each musher shall sign any and all documents as may be requested by Montana Sled Dog, Inc. to evidence the foregoing. These documents will be executed at the mushers meeting. Any musher who does not sign the documents requested by Montana Sled Dog, Inc. will not be allowed to participate in the race.

Animal Care Policy of Montana Sled Dog, Inc. Montana Sled Dog, Inc. believes that mushers should hold themselves to the highest standards possible regarding care of their dogs. Good care includes attention to shelter, nutrition, hygiene, and room for exercise. If an individual dog does not fit into the breeding or running program of the kennel, reasonable efforts should be made to place that dog in another kennel or another family setting. If no placement is possible after these efforts, the musher should work within the framework of locally available options to assure the most humane outcome.