

Officials Manual (rev. 4/15/2022)

A. Entry Fee: By paying an entry, the musher agrees to abide by ALL rules. Ignorance of the rules doesn't excuse the musher for breaking them. MSDI may reject any entry on just cause which could include previous disqualifications, penalties, cruelty, etc. in our race or others.

B. Musher: Only one driver. If a different driver would take over after the start, it could give an unfair advantage to the team. Musher fatigue is part of the race and a fresh driver would obviously be an advantage. Rigors of the trail take their toll on all mushers.

The 18 year old rule is to ensure some maturity and experience with a musher. Be very careful of any exceptions. Application by a younger musher must show overwhelming evidence that the individual is capable. They must have two letters from responsible mushers stating they are ready to run the adult races.

C. Mushers Meetings: Handlers need to be present for pre-race drivers meeting and a post-race drivers meeting if one is held. Attendance is mandatory.

Only mushers will be allowed to speak at the meeting(s) to keep the meeting manageable. Handlers may ask questions only through their musher.

If a musher misses the meeting, he must speak to a race marshal before the meeting and arrange for a private driver's meeting. If the musher misses the meeting and doesn't arrange for a private meeting with the race marshal, a suggested penalty for missing the meeting is \$200 and a suggested penalty for being late may be \$100.

Rookies meeting: Same rules apply. If there is one scheduled, the handlers must be present as well. Rookies must attend both meetings, however.

D. Drawing: Drawing for places is done prior to the race and is done according to the first half of the entries and second half of the entries.

E. Dogs: Maximum for 300 mile is 12 dogs. Maximum for 100 mile is 8 dogs for both junior and adult race.

F. Vet Check/Vets: Vet checks will be done only by race vets at specified times. Suggested penalty for missing vet check is \$150, plus make arrangements with a race vet for private vet check, including any vet costs are to be paid by the musher.

Collection of urine or blood by the race vets shouldn't become an undue burden for the musher. If he/she is cooperating but the dogs aren't in collection of urine or if the vet wasn't prepared in a timely manner, i.e., when the dogs wake up

versus when they arrive or have just urinated, the musher can ask that blood be taken instead. The team will not be expected to wait around unnecessarily. He vet and musher should work together to determine the best time for collection. If dropped dogs are being collected, it is the handler's responsibility to help the vet with collection.

G. Equipment: If a dropped dog is suspected of a contagious sickness, it will be kept out of the checkpoint areas and every effort will be made by the handlers to prevent the spread of sickness to other dogs.

H. Mandatory Gear: Sleeping bag should be good to at least -20 degrees Fahrenheit. Booties should be serviceable booties for each dog when the team leaves each checkpoint. Sled banners should be displayed prominently. If damaged, efforts should be made to repair or replace. Suggested penalty \$50 for each infraction. It is the musher's responsibility to have the mandatory equipment. Inadvertent failure to leave with all the mandatory equipment will result in a time penalty if the team doesn't return for the missing equipment. This time penalty will be equivalent to the time it took to reach the next checkpoint, plus \$50.

I. Authority: Assistants to the race marshal will be under their direction and act in his/her authority. In the event the race marshal becomes unable to fulfill that role, he/she will designate which assistant, if more than one exists, to assume the role.

Possible conflict of Interest: A conflict of interest could exist when a race marshal, assistant, race judge or veterinarian is influenced by any relationship or factor other than the merit of the team. It would exist if there was an impression of an unfair advantage. Conflicts should be verbally presented to the race marshal prior to the race. We will do everything we can to ensure that the race official involved in a possible conflict of interest does not have to make decisions about that team. If it is not possible, there must be another race official, timer, veterinarian, race judge, assistant, etc, to help make decisions and be a witness for that team. We realize sometimes it is impossible but we will do our best to make sure there isn't any possible view of impropriety.

J. Conduct and disqualification: Mushers bear the responsibility for the actions of their team and handlers. Penalties and disqualifications will be levied against the musher.

Protest procedure must be followed exactly (new rule change). Verbal heads up at next checkpoint to race marshal, followed by a \$50 deposit within 1 hour after they finish the race if it is not resolved before. Mushers are encouraged to handle any protests made against someone musher-to-musher. Absolutely no discussion of protests with media, volunteers, spectators, other mushers, the public or other race officials is allowed.

Absolutely no alcohol consumption of any kind will be allowed during the race, in and out of checkpoints or anywhere by race officials or mushers and handlers. Officials are responsible for the safety of the mushers and must be fully capable of performing that function. Musher cannot afford to make a mistake that could cause the team to be injured or others.

K. Start: If a team is late to the start, unless extenuating circumstances exist, the musher may be assessed a monetary penalty and must leave within ten minutes of the last team. A suggested penalty is \$100 if the team does start within ten minutes of last musher leaving.

L. Finish: Calendary cut-off determines who is an official finisher. Teams still on the trail after the time cut-off, continue at their own risk. Checkpoints will not be officially maintained after the Tuesday noon cut-off for the 300 mile race. The race ends at noon on Tuesday. Handlers may help make extra efforts to ensure the safety of the team at road crossings if a musher chooses to finish after the cut-off.

M. Checkpoints and Assistance: A checkpoint official will declare the limits of their boundary. No assistance allowed outside the boundaries. If a team returns to a checkpoint, it will not be allowed assistance except what common-sense dictates for safety.

Emergencies where outside assistance may be sought or motorized help used are: where safety of the dogs or driver is being jeopardized, dog being dragged (choked, tangled, etc.), a lost team, severely injured dog or driver, team tuning onto a plowed road where control would be difficult or impossible.

Where an emergency exists, time penalties may be imposed for the use of help. The race is meant to be unassisted between checkpoints. If the emergency help meant a savings of time, that time will be added as a time penalty. The goal is to have the running time reflect a race run without the emergency assistance.

N. Management/Handling Dogs

Hauled dogs must be protected from bruising or injury and from the possibility of jumping out of a sled and choking.

O. Checkpoints/Layovers: Penalties for leaving unclean checkpoint spaces could be a time penalty for time saved by not cleaning up and penalty of \$100 to cover costs to have someone else clean up.

It is the musher's responsibility to have his layover card signed 30 minutes before his/her departure time. He must not leave until he has spent one hour with his team after the card was signed.

P. Planned Assistance: Handlers may work with dogs after the musher checks each dog in the checkpoint. Hands-on are meant for the mushers and only handlers at the mandatory meetings will be allowed to handle. One driver is also allowed that doesn't help with dogs.

Q. Running the Course: Teams stopping on the trail to snack must get off the trail especially if feeding or snacking. Suggested penalty of \$100 for leaving a mess for teams following, especially food or littering.

Time penalties occurring before the mandatory layovers will be assessed at the next mandatory layover. If a time penalty is earned between the last mandatory layover and the finish, the penalty will be added to the official finishing time. It could result in a team losing official finisher status or losing places.

Monetary penalties earned prior to the start will be paid before the team starts the race. Monetary penalties earned during the race by an official finisher will be deducted from prize money. Monetary penalties earned by a team that is not an official finisher or isn't entitled to enough to cover his penalties must pay the penalties before the team will be allowed to leave/enter another race.

R. Penalties (monetary and time) for Infractions will be decided by the race marshals.