



# **DITAROD TRAIL INTERNATIONAL SLED DOG RACE OFFICIAL RULES 2016**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS** (note: the #'s refer to rule numbers.)

### Pre-Race Procedure & Administration

- 1 -- Musher Qualifications
- 2 -- Entries
- 3 -- Entry Fee
- 4 -- Substitutes
- 5 -- Race Start and Re-Start
- 6 -- Race Timing
- 7 -- Advertising, Public Relations & Publicity
- 8 -- Media
- 9 -- Awards Presentation
- 10 -- Scratched Mushers
- 11 -- Purse

### Musher Conduct and Competition

- 12 -- Checkpoints
- 13 -- Mandatory Stops
- 14 -- Bib
- 15 -- Sled
- 16 -- Mandatory Items
- 17 -- Dog Maximums and Minimums
- 18 -- Unmanageable Teams
- 19 -- Driverless Team
- 20 -- Teams Tied Together
- 21 -- Motorized Vehicles
- 22 -- Sportsmanship
- 23 -- Good Samaritan Rule
- 24 -- Interference
- 25 -- Tethering
- 26 -- Passing
- 27 -- Parking
- 28 -- Accommodations

- 29 -- Litter
- 30 -- Use of Drugs & Alcohol
- 31 -- Outside Assistance
- 32 -- No Man's Land
- 33 -- One Musher per Team
- 34 -- Killing of Game Animals
- 35 -- Electronic Devices
- 36 -- Competitiveness

## Veterinary Issues & Dog Care

- 37 -- Dog Care
- 38 -- Equipment & Team Configuration
- 39 -- Drug Use
- 40 -- Pre-Race Veterinary Exam
- 41 -- Jurisdiction & Care
- 42 -- Expired Dogs
- 43 -- Dog Description
- 44 -- Dog Tags
- 45 -- Dropped Dogs
- 46 -- Hauling Dogs

## Food Drops & Logistics

- 47 -- Shipping of Food & Gear
- 48 -- Shipping Amounts

## Officials, Penalties & Appeals

- 49 -- Race Officials
- 50 -- Protests
- 51 -- Penalties
- 52 -- Appeals
- 53 -- Personal Conduct Policy

## **OFFICIAL 2016 RULES**

**Policy Preamble** --The Iditarod Trail International Sled Dog Race shall be a race for dog mushers meeting the entry qualifications as set forth by the Board of Directors of the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. Recognizing the aptitude and experience necessary and the varying degrees of monetary support and residence locations of mushers, with due regard to the safety of mushers, the humane care and treatment of dogs and the orderly conduct of the race, the Trail Committee shall encourage and maintain the philosophy that the race be constructed to permit as many qualified mushers as possible

who wish to enter and contest the Race to do so. The object of the race is to determine which musher and dogs can cover the race in the shortest time under their own power and without aid of others. That is determined by the nose of the first dog to cross the finish line. To that end, the Iditarod Trail Committee has established these rules and policies to govern the race.

**Policy Intent**—The intent of these rules is to ensure fair competition and the humane care of sled dogs. The race should be won or lost by the musher and dogs on merit rather than technicalities. Race officials appointed by the ITC are responsible for interpreting and enforcing the rules in keeping with that intent.

## **PRE-RACE PROCEDURES AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

### **Rule1 -- Musher Qualifications:**

A musher is qualified to submit an entry to the Iditarod if:

- he/she is 18 years of age as of the starting date of the Race;
- he/she has completed a prior Iditarod Race; or
- he/she has completed the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race prior to signing up for the Iditarod Race, or;
- he/she must complete two (2) 300 mile qualifiers and another approved qualifier for a total of 750 miles to be qualified. The completion requirements are that a musher must finish either within the top 75% of the field or in an elapsed time of no more than twice the time of the winner; and
- he/she during such approved qualifying races demonstrated the necessary physical and mental aptitude and preparedness, as well as the necessary wilderness and mushing skills.
- If a rookie musher completed the Iditarod as far as the Yukon River within the top 75% of the field or in an elapsed time of no more than twice the elapsed time of the lead musher at the time, he/she will be considered to have completed a 300 mile qualifier.
- Mushers must exemplify the spirit and principles of the Iditarod Trail Committee as set forth in the rules, policies, bylaws and mission statement.

Proof of Qualification:

- Except for a prior Iditarod, it is the musher's responsibility to provide written proof of completion of qualifiers to the Iditarod prior to submitting an entry.
- Rookie mushers are also required to furnish a reference, on the form furnished by the ITC, at the time of submitting an entry. The reference must be from an Iditarod musher who is familiar with the rookie, must certify that the rookie has been informed about and understands the physical and mental aspects of the Iditarod, as well as the wilderness and mushing skills necessary for contesting the race. The reference must be available for candid consultation by race officials and the qualifying board.

Qualifying Review Board:

- All rookie and veteran musher's qualifications will be reviewed by a Qualifying Review Board. The board will meet within 15 days of the initial sign-up and thereafter monthly. Mushers will be notified of acceptance or rejection. The Qualifying Review Board will be composed of five (5) people recommended by the Rules Committee and appointed by the Board of Directors and the decision to accept or reject any musher will be made by the Qualifying Review Board. The decision of the Qualifying Review Board will be final and binding.

Standards for ITC Approved Qualifying Races

All qualification Races will be approved by the ITC based on the following criteria:

1. A race wishing to be approved as a qualifier must have at least a one year track record, or the race organizations wanting Iditarod approval for their race to be a qualifier must have at least a one year successful track record, the request for qualification status be presented to the ITC Rules Committee by sign-up day, and that an annual review of all qualifiers take place.
2. Qualifying Races will have a minimum distance of a certified 150 miles.

- 3. Qualifying Races will have at least one licensed veterinarian on race courses until the last team is off the trail.
- 4. Qualifying Races, since 2010, will submit for each qualifying musher a completed "Musher assessment form" (Report Card) provided by the ITC to the participating Qualifying Races.

**Musher Meetings:**

- Rookies must attend a rookie musher meeting the weekend of December 5, 2015, dates, time and place to be determined by the Race Marshal.
- All mushers must attend the pre-race musher meeting Thursday, March 3, 2016, starting at 9:00 a.m.
- A fine from \$50 to \$500 will be assessed for tardiness at either the rookie meeting or pre-race musher meeting.

**Musher Draw and Starting Positions:**

- All mushers qualified to race must be present at the pre-race banquet on Thursday, March 3, 2016. Each musher will personally draw his/her starting position.
- The drawing for starting position will be done at the pre-race banquet on Thursday, March 3, 2016. Each musher will draw for his/her starting position. The drawing for positions will be divided into two groups. All mushers who were present in person to pay entry fee on June 27, 2015, between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and those who are not present but have paid their entry fee and provided the required paperwork to the ITC will draw for the first starting positions. The remaining mushers, who enter in any manner after 2:30 p.m. on June 27, 2015, will draw in the second group for starting position.

**Rule 2 -- Entries:** Entries will be accepted from June 27, 2015 until December 1, 2015 by the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC), 2100 S Knik Goose Bay Road, , Wasilla, Alaska 99654. Kennels entering must indicate the musher's name with their entry. Entries may be presented to the ITC in person by the musher, or by mail. The maximum number of entries for the 2016 race will be one hundred (100). Once the maximum one hundred is reached, a waiting list will be established, on a first-come, first-served basis. To qualify for the waiting list, the race application must be completed, signed and turned in, the participant's release must be signed, and turned in, the Nome housing form must be completed and turned in, and a one-hundred dollar (\$100.00) non-refundable fee paid. If an entrant withdraws from the list of one hundred entrants, the name at the top of the waiting list will be moved up to the entry list, upon receipt of the entry fee in full. The slot will be held open for no more than seven (7) days after notification, before it will be offered to the next name on the waiting list.

Mushers will sign up for the 2016 race beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2015 at ITC HQ in Wasilla. All who enter the 2016 race by any means before 2:30 p.m. on June 27, 2015 will be in the first draw.

Mailed entries, received after June 27, will be recorded by postmark. Entries received with the same postmark will be recorded alphabetically for southern route races and in reverse alphabetical order for northern route races.

An entry submission will not be considered complete until the entry fee is paid in full, the race application is completed, signed and turned in, the participant's release is signed and turned in, and the Nome housing form is completed and turned in, and in the case of rookies, the reference and qualification materials are received concerning the qualifying races. The local contact form and the dog care agreement will be turned in no later than food drop. Food drops will not be accepted until the dog care agreement and the two local contact forms are turned in.

The ITC reserves the right to reject any entry due to entry number limitations and to reject any entry not deemed in conformance with these policies and rules or from mushers who do not exemplify the spirit and principle of the Iditarod Trail Committee as set forth in the rules, policies, bylaws and

mission statement. The decision to reject any entry will be made by the Qualifying Review Board. The decision of the Qualifying Review Board will be final and binding.

No one convicted of a charge of animal abuse or neglect, as such is defined under Alaska law, may enter the Iditarod Trail Sled dog Race.

Any entry received after December 1, 2015 must be accompanied by a \$4000 non-refundable fee in addition to the entry fee. The qualified musher will be allowed to enter after all normal policies and procedures have been met, the normal entry fee has been received, the waiting list has been exhausted, and another musher withdraws. No musher will be allowed to sign up after February 17, 2016.

*Short explanation –There is no need to arrive days or hours early as doing so no longer has any bearing on your sign up order. The sign up order will be determined by random drawing at 3:00 p.m. for all those in the first draw. The sign up order will be the order in which you will draw for your starting position at the pre-race mushers' banquet. In the event that entries for the 2016 race exceed 100 on the initial day of sign ups, the qualifying committee as to rookies (under Rule 1) and the executive board as to all entrants (under Rule 2) can be utilized to determine those placed on the waiting list, as the maximum starting field is 100 teams.*

**Rule 3 -- Entry Fee:** The entry fee is \$3,000 US, which includes Iditarod and P.R.I.D.E. membership dues payable on or after June 27, 2015. This entry fee must be received by the ITC or postmarked by midnight, December 1, 2015. Payment of the \$3,000 US constitutes the musher's intention to enter the race and acknowledges that the musher agrees to comply with these policies and rules.

Upon written request, mushers withdrawing from the race on or before 12:00 noon, October 1, 2015 will receive a full refund of their entry fee. Upon written request, mushers withdrawing after October 1, 2015 and before the close of business on November 2, 2015 will receive a \$2,000.00 refund of their entry fee. After November 2, 2015 no part of the entry fee will be refunded.

Entry fees received that are not in compliance with this policy shall be refunded and the musher shall not be allowed to participate.

**Rule 4 -- Substitutes:** Substitute drivers will be allowed only in cases of emergency and only if approved by the Race Marshal prior to the re-start of the Race.

**Rule 5-- Race Start and Re-Start:** The official starting date and time for the 2016 race will be March 5, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in Anchorage, Alaska.

The re-start will be on Sunday March 6, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. Teams will leave the re-start line in the same order as they left Anchorage on Saturday.

The race will be held as scheduled regardless of weather conditions. The course covers approximately 1000 miles of mostly arctic wilderness. The trail will be broken and marked prior to the race, but due to weather conditions there will be no guarantee of broken trail during the race. The starting place and/or re-starting place may be changed by the Race Marshal due to weather and/or trail conditions. A handler may be required at the start and/or re-start at the discretion of the Race Marshal.

**Rule 6 -- Race Timing:** For elapsed time purposes, the race will be a common start event. Each musher's total elapsed time will be calculated using 2:00 p.m., Sunday March 6, 2016, as the starting time. Teams will leave the start and the re-start in intervals of not less than two minutes, and the time differential will be adjusted during the twenty-four (24) hour mandatory layover. No time will be kept at the Saturday event.

Late starting teams will leave in the order drawn must start two (2) minutes after the musher who drew last place has left. Succeeding late start teams will leave in succeeding order. Time differential for late starters will be calculated according to their scheduled starting time rather than the actual starting time.

The mushers will be given their starting and re-starting intervals at the mushers' meeting.

**Rule 7 -- Advertising, Public Relations & Publicity:** The Iditarod Trail Committee has the unqualified and unrestricted authority to authorize the photographing and collecting of information about the race and all participants therein, and to use such photographs and information for its use in advertising, public relations or other publicity purposes. Each musher shall sign any and all documents as may be requested by the Iditarod Trail Committee.

**Rule 8-- Media:** Interviews and/or video graphic opportunities shall be granted to credentialed members of the media at the discretion of the individual musher prior to, during, and following the Race, utilizing the following as specific guidelines:

- Only the broadcast rights holder shall be granted *live* interviews and/or video graphic opportunities from two hours prior to the start of the Race and until one hour has elapsed following arrival in Nome.
- In the event that more than one camera crew is present in any checkpoint, the first opportunity for an interview shall be granted to the rights holder.
- No special arrangements for the carrying of the broadcasting and/or recording equipment of any sort may be made by any musher without the express written approval of the Executive Director.
- A musher will use his/her best personal effort to insure that the spirit of these guidelines is adhered to. Alleged violation(s) will be reported to the ITC Board of Directors. Flagrant or knowing violations of these guidelines shall be subject to penalties assessed by the ITC Board of Directors including, but not limited to, disqualification and the potential forfeiture of his or her entire purse winnings.

**Rule 9 -- Awards Presentation:** All mushers who have crossed the finish line up to two (2) hours before the awards presentation must be present and the winner must have his/her lead dog(s) present for recognition. Any musher crossing the finish line who is able to attend the awards presentation ceremony prior to its beginning, will be included in the awards presentation ceremony in the proper order. All mushers reaching the banquet before its conclusion will be introduced and given the opportunity to appear before the audience.

**Rule 10 -- Scratched Mushers:** ITC will provide transportation to either Anchorage or Nome for any musher who scratches from the race, including his or her dogs and accompanying gear. A musher must accompany the team to a destination selected by the ITC. A \$500 fine will be assessed if promotional material is not turned in.

**Rule 11 -- Purse:** A purse of at least \$750,000 will be shared among those placing in the top thirty (30). Every effort will be made to supplement this baseline purse. In addition, beginning with 31<sup>st</sup> place, \$1,049.00 will be paid to each remaining finisher.

## **MUSHER CONDUCT AND COMPETITION**

**Rule 12 -- Checkpoints:** A musher must personally sign in at each checkpoint before continuing, except at the re-start.

**Rule 13 -- Mandatory Stops:** A musher must personally sign in and out to start and complete all mandatory stops.

**Twenty Four-Hour Stop:** A musher must take one mandatory twenty-four (24) hour stop during the race. The twenty-four (24) hour stop may be taken at the musher's option at a time most beneficial to the dogs. The starting differential will be adjusted during each team's twenty-four (24)

hour stop. It is the musher's responsibility to remain for the entire twenty-four (24) hour period plus starting differential. The ITC will give each musher the required time information prior to leaving the starting line.

**Eight Hour Mandatory Stops:** In addition to the mandatory twenty-four (24) hour stop, a musher must take one eight (8) hour stop on the Yukon River, including Shageluk in odd numbered years, and one eight (8) hour stop at White Mountain.

None of the mandatory stops may be combined.

**Rule 14 -- Bib:** A musher is required to carry his/her official ITC bib from the start and re-start, according to direction from the Race Marshal at the mushers' meeting and from the White Mountain checkpoint to Safety checkpoint. The musher must wear the bib in a visible fashion from Safety Checkpoint to Nome. The winner shall continue to wear the bib through the lead dog ceremony. All promotional material, except the bib, must be returned to the ITC at the finish line, or in the case of mushers who scratch, to the official accepting the musher's scratch form.

**Rule 15 -- Sled:** A musher has a choice of sled subject to the requirement that some type of sled or toboggan must be drawn. The sled or toboggan must be capable of hauling any injured or fatigued dogs under cover, plus equipment and food. Braking devices must be constructed to fit between the runners and not to extend beyond the tails of the runners. No more than three (3) sleds can be used by a musher during the race after the re-start. No more than two (2) sleds can be shipped beyond the re-start. Should a musher use another musher's sled for any reason that will be considered one (1) of the three (3) allowable sleds. These sleds may be used at the musher's discretion. Sleds or mushers may not be assisted with sails or wheels. Ski poles are allowed. No other sled exchanges are permitted except that a sled damaged beyond repair may be replaced if approved by an official. Once a sled has been left behind, it cannot be transported along the trail. It cannot be used again unless approved by the Race Marshal as a replacement for a broken sled. One trailer may be drawn and is to be considered one of the three (3) allowable sleds.

**Rule 16 -- Mandatory Items:** A musher must have with him/her at all times the following items:

- Proper cold weather sleeping bag weighing a minimum of 5 lbs.
- Ax, head to weigh a minimum of 1-3/4 lbs., handle to be at least 22" long.
- One operational pair of snowshoes with bindings, each snowshoe to be at least 252 square inches in size.
- Any promotional material provided by the ITC.
- Eight booties for each dog in the sled or in use.
- One operational cooker and pot capable of boiling at least three (3) gallons of water at one time.
- Veterinarian notebook, to be presented to the veterinarian at each checkpoint.
- An adequate amount of fuel to bring three (3) gallons of water to a boil.
- One cable drop line, provided by the ITC, for each dog in use must be carried at all times
- Functional non-chafing harness for each dog in team and a functional neckline.

When leaving a checkpoint adequate emergency dog food must be on the sled. (This will be carried in addition to what you carry for routine feeding and snacking.)

Gear will be checked at the Re-Start and during the 24 hour layover for conformity to minimum standards as set forth above. Gear may be checked at any other time during the Race at the discretion of the Race Marshal and or the Race Judges. Gear may be checked at all checkpoints except Safety.

Vet books will be signed by a veterinarian or in the absence of a veterinarian may be signed by a designated race official. The musher will also sign the vet book.

**Rule 17 -- Dog Maximums and Minimums:** The maximum number of dogs a musher may start the race with is sixteen (16) dogs. A musher must have at least twelve (12) dogs on the line to start

the race. At least five (5) dogs must be on the towline at the finish line. No dogs may be added to a team after the re-start of the race. All dogs must be either on the towline or hauled in the sled and cannot be led behind the sled or allowed to run loose. All dogs must be on the towline at the start and re-start.

**Rule 18 -- Unmanageable Teams:** A musher may seek the aid of others to control an unmanageable team. Dogs demonstrating aggressive behavior may be withdrawn from the Race.

**Rule 19 -- Driverless Team:** A team and driver must complete the entire race trail including checking in at all required locations. A driverless team or loose dog may be stopped and secured by anyone. The driver may recover his/her team either on foot, with assistance from another musher or mechanized vehicle and continue the race. Motorized assistance must be reported to an official at the next checkpoint. If mechanized help is used and advantage has been gained, the Race Marshal may impose appropriate sanctions.

**Rule 20 -- Teams Tied Together:** Two or more teams may not be tied together except in an emergency. Any team so involved must notify officials at the next checkpoint.

**Rule 21 -- Motorized Vehicles:** A musher may not be accompanied by or accept assistance from any motorized vehicle that gives help to the musher, including aircraft and snow machines, except when recovering a loose dog or driverless team.

**Rule 22 -- Sportsmanship:** All mushers must use civil conduct and act in a sportsmanlike manner throughout the race. Abusive treatment of anyone is prohibited.

**Rule 23 -- Good Samaritan Rule:** A musher will not be penalized for aiding another musher in an emergency. Incidents must be explained to race officials at the next checkpoint.

**Rule 24 -- Interference:** A musher may not tamper with another musher's dogs, food or gear or interfere in any manner with the progress of another team.

**Rule 25 -- Tethering:** All dogs must be physically tethered at all times.

**Rule 26 -- Passing:** When one team approaches within fifty (50) feet of another team, the team behind shall have the immediate right of way upon demand. The musher ahead must stop the dogs and hold them to the best of his/her ability for a maximum of one minute or until the other team has passed, whichever occurs first. The passed team must remain behind at least fifteen (15) minutes before demanding the trail.

**Rule 27 -- Parking:** A musher must select a campsite off the race trail so that the team cannot interfere with other teams, i.e., no snacking of dogs on the trail. A musher needing to stop momentarily must not interfere with the progress of another team. Teams must be parked at checkpoints in places that do not interfere with the movements of other teams and mushers. A musher is responsible for properly securing an unattended team at all times. No parking or camping is permitted within one (1) trail mile of checkpoints.

**Rule 28 -- Accommodations:** Mushers may only use officially authorized accommodations. Accommodations and or hospitality outside checkpoints must be a) open to all race participants and b) locations made notice of at the mushers' meeting prior to the start of the Race.

**Rule 29-- Litter:** No litter of any kind may be left on the trail, in camps, or in checkpoints. All material remaining in checkpoints must be left in designated areas. In localized holding area and on the trail, excessive left over dog food is considered litter. For purposes of these rules, straw is not considered litter. Straw must be removed from plastic bags before it is taken from the holding area at checkpoints.



**Rule 30 -- Use of Drugs and Alcohol:** Alcohol or drug impairment, the use of prohibited drugs by mushers, and positive results on drug or alcohol tests administered during a Race are each prohibited. Violations of this policy shall result in disqualification from a particular Race, and may result in ineligibility from participation for a specified period of time in future Races.

All mushers will be subject to drug and alcohol testing, including but not limited to urine, saliva, breathalyzer testing, under any of the following circumstances:

- Whenever a race official reasonably suspects that the musher is under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
- On a random basis, either individually or as a group;
- A random group or all mushers on a date or dates to be determined within thirty days in advance of the start of the Race;
- The first fixed number of mushers who arrive at a stated checkpoint (for example, the first thirty mushers to arrive in White Mountain).

For purposes of this drug use policy, drugs will be defined in the Prohibited List which will be distributed annually no later than four months prior to the start of the Race. For purposes of implementing this policy, details regarding the Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) procedures and deadlines for the 2016 race will also be distributed no later than four months prior to the start of the Race.

To the extent practical under the unique circumstances of the Race, drug and alcohol testing will be conducted in a manner consistent with accepted industry procedures and/or U.S. Department of Health and Human Services standards. Where applicable, urine samples will be collected in accordance with the procedures described in Alaska Stat. § 23.10.630.

Urine testing for drug use will be conducted using a split sample method. If Sample A results in an adverse analytical finding, the musher will be offered the opportunity to elect to have Sample B tested at an approved laboratory. If sampling results in an adverse analytical finding, then the musher will be informed of the test results within ten days of a positive test result being communicated to ITC and a hearing will be scheduled as soon thereafter as is practical. The results of any hearing will be released publicly. Due to the nature of Saliva testing there is no split sample available or collected for re-test, and the laboratory results will be final.

Breathalyzer testing will be used to detect alcohol impairment which is defined as a .04% BAC. Discipline may be imposed immediately by the Race Marshal in the event of a finding of alcohol impairment.

Urine or saliva testing will be used to detect the use of prohibited drugs by mushers, which is defined as an adverse analytical finding to a drug test administered during the Race.

A refusal to participate in drug or alcohol testing may result in immediate withdrawal from the Race. Adulteration of a test specimen may be treated as a refusal to participate in drug or alcohol testing.

Nothing in this policy is intended to require drug or alcohol testing before a musher is sanctioned for suspected drug use or alcohol or drug impairment that is supported by other evidence. Nothing in this policy is intended to require drug or alcohol testing before a musher is sanctioned for violations of any other Rules, including those relating to dog care.

**Rule 31 -- Outside Assistance:** No planned help is allowed throughout the Race. All care and feeding of dogs will be done only by that teams' musher. All dog maintenance and care of dog teams

and gear in checkpoints will be done in the designated localized holding area. A musher relinquishing the care of his/her team to leave the checkpoint and or village without approval of the Race Marshal must withdraw from the Race. Common resources available to all mushers will not be considered outside assistance.

**Rule 32-- No Man's Land:** No man's land is from the marker at Ft. Davis to the official finish line.

**Rule 33 -- One Musher per Team:** Only one musher will be permitted per team and that musher must complete the entire race.

**Rule 34 -- Killing of Game Animals:** In the event that an edible big game animal, i.e., moose, caribou, buffalo, is killed in defense of life or property, the musher must gut the animal and report the incident to a race official at the next checkpoint. Following teams must help gut the animal when possible. No teams may pass until the animal has been gutted and the musher killing the animal has proceeded. Any other animal killed in defense of life or property must be reported to a race official, but need not be gutted.

**Rule 35 – Electronic Devices:** No two-way communication device, including cell phones, shall be carried or used unless provided by ITC. Use of any electronic communication or tracking device shall not be permitted unless provided by the ITC. While a musher may carry a one-way emergency device such as an emergency locator transmitter (ELT), a Spot™, or other similar satellite tracking device, activation of any help or emergency signal, including accidental activation, will make a musher ineligible to continue and will result in an automatic withdrawal from the race. Night vision goggles are not allowed. Use of GPS is permitted.

**Rule 36 -- Competitiveness:** A team may be withdrawn that is out of the competition and is not in a position to make a valid effort to compete. The Race Marshal may consider, but is not limited to, weather, trail conditions and the overall pace of the Race when invoking this rule. A musher whose conduct, constitutes an unreasonable risk of harm to him/her, dogs or other persons may also be withdrawn.

## **VETERINARY ISSUES AND DOG CARE RULES**

### **Rule 37 -- Dog Care:**

- Dogs must be maintained in good condition. All water and food must be ingested voluntarily.
- Dogs may not be brought into shelters except for race veterinarians' medical examination or treatment. Dogs must be returned outside as soon as such examination or treatment is completed unless the dog is dropped from the race.
- There will be no cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs. Cruel or inhumane treatment involves any action or inaction, which causes preventable pain or suffering to a dog.
- If a dropped dog is in critical condition or a life threatening condition, the musher may be held up to eight (8) hours for investigation.

**Rule 38 -- Equipment and Team Configuration:** Equipment and team configurations deemed unsafe by race officials are prohibited. A team may have no more than two (2) dogs abreast.

**Rule 39 -- Drug Use:** No oral or topical drug which may suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. No injectables may be used in dogs participating in the Race. No other drugs or other artificial means may be used to drive a dog or cause a dog to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability. The following drugs and procedures are prohibited:

- Anabolic Steroids
- Analgesics (prescriptive and non-prescriptive)
- Anesthetics

- Antihistamines
- Anti-inflammatory drugs including but not limited to:
  - Cortico-steroids (the exception is for use on feet)
  - Antiprostaglandins
  - Non-steroidals
  - Salicylates
  - DMSO
- Bronchodilators
- Central Nervous System Stimulants
- Cough Suppressants
- Diuretics
- Muscle Relaxants
- Tranquilizers & Opiates
- Blood doping
- Cheque Drops

Megesterol acetate (Ovaban) is permitted for use of estrus suppression and medical conditions for which progesterone therapy is appropriate, as approved by the Chief Veterinarian.

Race veterinarians may utilize any of the listed drugs or other prohibited drugs necessary to maintain a dog's health, however, such dogs will be withdrawn from the race.

**Drug Testing:**

- Dogs are subject to the collection of urine or blood samples, at the discretion of the testing veterinarian, at any point from the pre-race examination until six (6) hours after the team's finish. The musher or a designee will remain with the dogs. All results will be sealed and signed for before the tests are considered complete.
- A musher must assist the veterinarian in collecting samples whenever requested. If blood or urine testing of a dog reveals any of the prohibitive drugs in the dog, this rule has been violated regardless of when such drugs were administered to the dog. Blood, urine and other test results will be made available to the musher upon request.
- Mushers are cautioned to ensure that food, meat, snacks and veterinary supplies do not contain prohibited drugs.

**Rule 40 -- Pre-Race Veterinary Exam:** Veterinary paperwork, including Pre-Race Exam forms (one for each dog with proof of vaccination), Dog Microchip Identification Sheet (maximum 20), Verification of Deworming Form and the Veterinarian Signature Form (the letter from the Chief Veterinarian addressing the veterinarian who performs the physical exams which must be signed along with each Pre-Race Exam Form), has to be delivered to ITC Headquarters by the deadline of 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 2, 2016. Non-compliance will result in a fine of \$100.

Mushers must initiate conversation regarding scheduling of appointments for blood tests and ECGs (EKGs) on first come first served basis, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 1, 2015 and must be done no later than Sunday, December 20, 2015. Non-compliance will result in a \$100 fine.

The Chief Veterinarian will have the authority to deny entry to any dog if, after consultation with a veterinary cardiologist or internist (when available), it is the professional opinion of the Chief Veterinarian that the dog has an abnormality which may predispose it to a significant risk of injury or death.

A musher must have the team physicals performed by the veterinary staff at ITC Headquarters on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, or by another veterinarian with a current license in good standing, on or

after Saturday, February 20, 2016. The following conditions will prohibit a dog from participating: seizures (epilepsy), syncope (fainting) and/or pregnancy.

A musher is permitted to have a maximum of 24 dogs screened (microchips, EKG's and blood work) in preparation for Iditarod 2016. (All 24 dogs must be screened at the original appointment date. There will be no additional screening after that time. From these, a musher may select a maximum of 20 dogs for listing on the Dog Microchip Identification Sheet, which must be submitted to ITC Headquarters by the previously stated deadline of 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday March 2, 2016. To be listed on the Microchip Identification Sheet, dogs must have had pre-race screening by Iditarod personnel, including a documented microchip implant number, an ECG (EKG) recording and blood work. In addition, each must have had a pre-race physical exam to be eligible to race. The musher may select his/her dogs for the start from any dogs listed on a Dog Microchip Identification Sheet. Dogs for the re-start may be selected from any dogs listed on a Dog Microchip Identification Sheet and not run in another team on Saturday. The maximum number of dogs permitted at the start will be determined by the Race Marshal. A maximum of 16 dogs may be selected for the re-start. Once a dog has run in a team, that dog cannot be switched to another team.

All dogs entered in the race must have current Distemper/Hepatitis/Lepto/Parvo, Rabies and injectable, nasal or oral Bordetella vaccinations. Proof of these vaccinations, except for Rabies, must come from a veterinarian or certified lay vaccinator, or if administered by the musher, records must include the type of vaccine, proof of purchase (i.e., receipt) and date of vaccination, in writing.

The Distemper/Hepatitis/Lepto/Parvo vaccine must have been given between April 1, 2015 and March 2, 2016.

The Bordetella (intra-nasal, oral or injectable) vaccine must have been given between October 6, 2015 and March 2, 2016.

Proof of Rabies vaccination must come from a licensed veterinarian or certified lay vaccinator. Rabies vaccines must be given no later than March 2, 2016 and must be current through April 1, 2016, according to Alaska State regulations.

All teams must be de-wormed for Echinococcus multilocularis with a medication approved by the ITC on or after Wednesday, February 24, 2016. Mushers should be prepared to pay for this medication if it is not made available through the ITC.

For those mushers who have volunteered and signed consent forms, ITC will be allowed to collect samples and gather data from dropped dogs and dogs that have completed the race, in the effort to gather information to improve dog care.

**Rule 41 -- Jurisdiction and Care:**

All dogs entered in the race are under the jurisdiction of the Race Marshal from the time they enter the staging area at the start until 72 hours after they have been released by the ITC veterinarians or 48 hours after the final musher finishes. The Chief Veterinarian shall have the authority to determine in his or her exclusive discretion whether any dogs require veterinary care and to select the provider, including treatment by medical specialists and or 24-hour care facilities, prior to an animal's release. In such case, financial responsibility shall be borne by the musher. If the financial responsibility is not satisfied within 30 days of the banquet, finishing status will be withdrawn until satisfied. In addition, the Chief Veterinarian will have immediate access to medical records and updated status reports of all dropped dogs for up to 72 hours after their release. In the event that a death occurs within the 72-hour period following release, an ITC representative will participate in a necropsy of that animal.

Race rules regarding MUSER CONDUCT and VETERINARY ISSUES & DOG CARE shall be in effect for each individual team from the Anchorage start until a team that scratches, is withdrawn or is disqualified and is clear of the trail, crosses the finish line, completes required canine drug testing and/or departs from the Nome Dog Lot, depending on which of the above represents the last contact

with ITC Race Officials and/or staff members. Such Rules that define a time period to which they apply may continue beyond a teams' last contact with ITC Race Officials and/or staff members.

**Rule 42 -- Expired Dog:** All dog deaths are regrettable, but there are some that may be considered unpreventable.

Any dog that expires on the trail must be taken by the musher to a checkpoint. The musher may transport the dog to either the checkpoint just passed, or the upcoming checkpoint. An expired dog report must be completed by the musher and presented to a race official along with the dog.

All dog deaths will be treated as a priority, with every effort being made to determine the cause of death in a thorough and reliable manner.

- The Race Marshal or his/her appointed judges, will determine whether the musher should continue or be disqualified.
- The Chief Veterinarian will cause a necropsy to be carried out by a board certified veterinary pathologist at the earliest opportunity and shall make every attempt to determine the cause of death.
- If a board certified veterinary pathologist is not available to perform the necropsy within the time frame to preserve the tissues appropriately, (as determined by the Race Marshal), the gross necropsy and tissue collection will be performed by a trail veterinarian following the guidelines in the *Musher and Veterinary Handbook*.
- These tissues will then be examined by a board certified pathologist.

A musher will remain at the initial reporting checkpoint for up to, but no longer than, eight hours to commence the investigation. The musher and or his/her representative have the option to be present during the trail evaluation and necropsy. This period is not to be used as a penalty. A musher will also make him/herself available at all future checkpoints to assist in the investigation. The Race Marshal or his/her appointed judges may release a musher before the eight hours have expired if the judge is satisfied that the musher is no longer needed to further the investigation. Dog deaths resulting in disqualification are:

- Signs of cruel, inhumane or abusive treatment
- Cause of death is heat stress, hyperthermia or hypothermia.
- A musher will be disqualified if he/she had been advised in writing by a race veterinarian or judge to drop the dog at a previous checkpoint, but opted not to do so, unless the cause of death is clearly unrelated to this written recommendation.

The musher will not be penalized and may continue the race if:

- Cause of death cannot be determined
- The cause of death is due to a circumstance, nature of trail, or force beyond the control of the musher. This recognizes the inherent risks of wilderness travel.
- Cause of death is from some unpreventable or previously undiagnosed medical condition.

It is the policy of the ITC to report a dog death to the public in a timely fashion. The ITC will accomplish this by:

- The Race Marshal shall immediately issue a press release to members of the media identifying the dog's death
- Immediately following the gross necropsy, the Race Marshal will notify the musher of the results and will issue a press release containing the findings and the circumstances of the death.

**Rule 43 -- Dog Description:** Only dogs suitable for arctic travel will be permitted to enter the race. Suitability will be determined by race officials.

**Rule 44 -- Dog Tags:** The ITC will provide drivers with dog tags at the mushers' banquet. All dogs must wear tags and the tag numbers must correspond with the dog name and tag numbers written in the vet book. Only current tags are permitted.

**Rule 45 -- Dropped Dogs:** All dogs that are dropped from the Race must be left at a designated checkpoint with a completed and signed dropped dog form. Any dropped dog must be left with four (4) pounds of dog food and a reliable chain or cable, drop cable issued by the ITC, and collar. Dropped dogs may be moved from the originating checkpoint to the closest dog collection area at Anchorage, McGrath, Unalakleet or Nome. Dogs may be shipped from the collection areas to a location designated by the musher at the musher's expense.

- Dogs dropped in Anchorage, Nome and the re-start are the musher's responsibility.
- Dogs dropped in ALL OTHER CHECKPOINTS will be transported by the ITC.

Dogs left unclaimed at Eagle River Correctional Center after four days after their arrival will incur boarding charges at the current rate, payable by the musher.

**Rule 46 -- Hauling Dogs:** A musher may haul dogs in the sled at his/her discretion, however, the musher may not allow any of the dogs to be hauled by another team. Dogs must be hauled in a humane fashion and must be covered if conditions require, at the Race Marshal's discretion.

### **FOOD DROPS AND LOGISTICS**

**Rule 47 -- Shipping of Food and Gear:** A musher must comply with shipping directions provided by the ITC. Each container must be clearly marked with name and destination and must weigh no more than 50 pounds. No boxes of any kind may be used as the primary container. No straw, charcoal, fuel or other combustible material, or hazardous materials (including lithium batteries) may be shipped through the ITC food drops. No cookers, plastic buckets, coolers or dog dishes may be shipped except with any sled that is shipped. Used items may be removed from checkpoints with dropped sleds, by return mail or through the ITC.

Perishable food must be delivered to the ITC in a frozen state.

All mandatory food must be sent through Iditarod food drops. The ITC will provide and ship straw and fuel for the teams to the checkpoints. Additional food and gear may be shipped prior to the start but must be shipped to the checker. Gear or food drops damaged or lost may be replaced upon approval of the Race Marshal or designee.

Food drop payment must be received by the ITC at time of delivery.

A musher's personal gear, equipment and supplies may not be transported along the trail by mechanized means without the consent of the Race Marshal.

Dog food left behind and dog food from scratched, withdrawn and disqualified mushers becomes the property of the ITC and may be used at the discretion of race officials. No dog food may be shipped back in return bags.

**Rule 48 -- Shipping Amounts:** An adequate amount of food is required to be shipped to the following checkpoints (minimum of 60 pounds combined weight of food (not including ice) and gear):

Skwentna	Takotna
Rainy Pass	Ophir
Rohn	Cripple
Nikolai	Ruby
McGrath	Galena

Nulato  
Kaltag  
Unalakleet  
Shaktoolik  
Koyuk

Elim  
White Mountain  
Safety  
Nome

Food and/or gear will not be shipped to the checkpoints of Yentna and Finger Lake.

The Safety checkpoint is optional for shipment of gear and/or food.

### **OFFICIALS, PENALTIES, PERSONAL CONDUCT, AND APPEALS**

**Rule 49 -- Race Officials:** The Race Marshal and judges are responsible for the enforcement of all ITC policies and race rules. Race officials shall consult with the Chief Veterinarian on all matters relating to dog care and treatment.

**Rule 50 -- Protests:** A musher may protest any action of a competitor or race official that he/she feels is contrary to the intent of these rules. To be recognized as a legitimate protest, any action observed by a musher must be presented in writing at the next checkpoint and in no case more than twenty-four (24) hours after a musher finishes the race.

**Rule 51-- Penalties:** Policy and rule infractions may result in issuance of warnings, monetary penalties, time penalties, censure, withdrawals or disqualification.

- Warnings may be issued by any official for first time or minor violations
- Monetary penalties may be imposed up to \$1,000 per violation. Such penalties may be deducted from prize money. A musher with unpaid fines may not enter future Iditarod races until such fines are paid.
- Time penalties require a majority decision of a three-member panel of race officials appointed by the Race Marshal. Time penalties may be imposed up to a maximum of two (2) hours per infraction and will be added to the twenty-four (24) hour layover, the eight-hour layover on the Yukon River or the eight (8) hour layover at White Mountain. Time penalties will not be levied past White Mountain.
- Withdrawal is a process that must be imposed by a three-judge panel, either by a majority or unanimous vote, and which has the effect of involuntarily eliminating the musher and team from the race but which does not imply any deliberate misconduct or violation. The team and musher must leave the trail and will be assisted by the ITC.
- Disqualifications require a unanimous decision of a three-member panel of race judges appointed by the Race Marshal. The Chief Veterinarian will be consulted in all cases involving cruel or inhumane treatment. Mushers shall be disqualified for rule infractions involving physical abuse of a dog, or for cheating or deliberate rule infractions that give a musher an unfair advantage over another musher. Mushers may also be disqualified for other acts involving cruel and inhumane treatment. It is intended that the nearest involved officials be included on the panel. The musher will be given the opportunity to present his case to each member of the panel prior to the decision. Disqualified and withdrawn teams must leave the trail or forfeit the right to enter future Iditarods.

Censure: The Board of Directors, following completion of the race, may censure a musher. A censure may include a warning, either public or private and may eliminate the musher from future races. A written warning, monetary penalty or disqualification must have occurred before censure.

**Rule 52 -- Appeals:** Mushers may appeal race official decisions. Appeals pertaining to warnings or monetary fines must be presented in writing to the ITC within ten (10) days of imposition of the penalty or the mushers' finish, whichever occurs later. Appeals pertaining to withdrawals, disqualifications or time penalties must be presented in writing to ITC within 10 days following the awards banquet. Appeals will be decided by hearing before an appeals board appointed by the president of ITC which will be held within forty-five (45) days of filing the appeal. Review by the appeals board is the exclusive, final and binding remedy for any dispute regarding application of the rules by race officials to a musher and that the decision of the appeals board is non-reviewable either in state or federal court. As censure is imposed by the Board of Directors, and qualification decisions are made by the Qualifying Board, there is no appeal to either and such decisions are final, binding and are non-reviewable either in state or federal court.

**Rule 53 -- Personal Conduct Policy**

Commencing on the date of their individual signup for the Annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race ("Race") and continuing until 45 days after the last musher completes that year's Race, mushers shall not make public statements or engage in any public conduct injurious to and in reckless disregard of the best interests of the Race. This includes public statements or acts which are disparaging to any of the sponsors of that year's Race. Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 52, the sanctions for violation of this rule will be determined at the discretion of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and may include forfeiture of the entrance fee, involuntary withdrawal, retroactive disqualification and prospective disqualification for a period of years.