

# Ontario Federation of Sled Dog Sports

## Age Requirements:

4 mile - 14 and up

6 mile - 16 and up

35 mile - 18 and up

All entries up to Race Marshalls discretion in regards to age.

## MID-DISTANCE BAG REQUIREMENTS

MATCHES/LIGHTER

FIRST AID KIT

SLEEPING BAG (-10)

CABLE CUTTERS

AXE (22 IN HANDLE) OR SAW (22 IN BLADE)

4 BOOTS PER DOG ON TEAM

## Race Rules:

### I. ENTRY RULES

a) ELIGIBILITY

b) Entries.

1 Any race entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the race, subject to entry deadlines as determined by the race-giving organization.

2. Drivers.

1/ The driver starting a team in the first heat of a race shall drive that team throughout the race.

2/ A change in driver can only be made as the result of illness or injury to the authorized entrant and must have the approval of the Race Marshall.

3/ Any driver disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.

3. Dogs.

1/ The Race Marshall may disallow entry of any team or dog for just cause.

2/ Any team or dog coming to the starting line which, in the opinion of the Race Marshall, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail, shall be disqualified.

3/ Any team or dog not starting the first heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.

4/ Any team or dog disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.

5/ Eligibility of dogs is not restricted to certain breeds

4. Disease.

1/ No dog or equipment shall be brought from a kennel where rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, or any other contagious disease exists.

2/ If the Race Veterinarian diagnoses any dog present in the race to have a contagious disease, that team shall be disqualified and shall immediately leave the race area.

5. Identification.

1/ In races of more than one heat, each dog shall be marked with non toxic markings for identification prior to the start of the first heat of the race.

2/ Dogs dropped from a team after the first heat of a race involving more than two (2) heats, shall be marked a second time to indicate their disqualification to run in subsequent heats. The marking will be an "X"

b) MEDICATIONS ADMINISTERED TO DOGS AND DRIVERS

6. Prohibited Drugs and Drug Testing.

1/ NO Injectable, oral or topical drugs that mask injury or illness will be used on a Dog. A Driver will not inject ANY substance into his/her dogs. No drugs or artificial means will be used to drive a dog or cause a dog(s) to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability.

2/ THE FOLLOWING DRUGS AND TREATMENT ARE PROHIBITED

- a. Anabolic Steroids
- b. Analgesics (prescriptive and non-prescriptive)
- c. Anaesthetics
- d. Antihistamines
- e. Anti-inflammatory drugs including but not limited to Cortico steroids (only those provided by Provincial Race Veterinarians for use on feet), Antiprostaglandis, Non-Steroids, Salicylates, and DMSO.
- f. Bronchodilators
- g. Central Nervous System Stimulants
- h. Cough Suppressants
- i. Diuretics
- j. Injectable Anticholinergics
- k. Muscle Relaxants
1. Tranquilizers & Opiates
  - m. Anticonvulsant
  - n. Aspirin

The only medication approved for use under sweats is Furacin Ointment (Nitrofurazone) and Algyval unless approved by a Provincial Race Veterinarian.

3/ A driver must have his/her team free of any prohibited drugs at the time of the Pre-Race Vet check and during the race. If, in the opinion of a Race Veterinarian, it is necessary to use one of the drugs for the dog's well being, administration of such a drug will be done only after the dog has been dropped.

4/ The use of Blood Doping is prohibited

5/ Use of any prohibited substance will result in disqualification and/or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Ontario federation of Sled Dog Sports

6/ Race Veterinarians and/or their Representatives shall have the authority to collect blood and/or urine samples at random, at any point commencing with the pre-race Vet Check and ending two hours after the awards Ceremony. It will be Drivers responsibility to assist the Race Veterinarians and/or their Representatives in the collection of these samples. All samples will be sealed and signed for, before the collection is considered complete.

7/ Proof of current Parvo, Distemper, Lepto Sporous and Rabies are to be presented to the Race Veterinarian upon request. Failure will mean immediate disqualification.

c) EQUIPMENT.

7. Inspection.

1/ Drivers, teams and equipment shall be available for inspection in the race staging area at least ten (10) minutes prior to their scheduled time of departure.

2/ A team in harness shall not be required to stand for inspection longer than five (5) minutes prior to their scheduled time of departure.

3/ A team shall be available for inspection after each heat at the request of the Race Marshall.

4/ All equipment is subject to the approval of the Race Marshall.

8. Other Equipment.

1/ A muzzle or a collar that can be hooked as a full choke shall be prohibited.

2/ Whips are forbidden.

3/ A racing number for each driver shall be provided by the race giving organization. The driver shall display this number on his person throughout the race.

4/ No Ski Poles.

5/ No artificial noisemakers, unless approved before hand by the Race Marshall, shall be used.

6/ MANDATORIES

Sprint  
Dog bag to carry an injured dog

Mid Distance  
Dog bag to carry an injured dog  
Sleeping bag  
Axe or saw (minimum 22 inches)  
First Aid Kit  
Cable cutters or knife based on  
Gang line material  
Fire Starting Device  
Signalling Device (whistle, mirror)

## II. START FINISH RULES

### (a) DRAWING

9. The starting position for the first heat of a race shall be determined by a seeding held prior to the race at a time and place designated by the Ontario Federation of Sled Dog Sports.

### (b) SINGLE START RACE

10. The first day's starting positions shall be determined by the draw with Number 1 starting first. Number 2 starting second, etc.

11. The second day's starting positions shall be determined by the first day's times, with the fastest teams starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.

12. In races of more than two heats, the total elapsed time of the previous heats shall determine starting positions, with the fastest, team starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.

### (c) DUAL START RACE

13. The first day's starting position shall be determined by the draw with Numbers 1 and 2 starting together first. Number 3 and 4 starting together second, etc.

14. The second day's starting position shall be determined by the first day's times. The two teams with the fastest time will start together first, the third and fourth fastest teams will start next, etc.

15. In races of more than two heats, the total elapsed time of the previous heats shall determine starting positions, with the fastest two teams starting first, the third and fourth fastest teams starting next, etc.

16. If the option under section 18 is to apply to a race of more than two (2) heats, the elapsed time of the previous single heat shall determine the groupings and starting positions, with the fastest teams in each heat starting first, etc.

### (d) EQUAL TIMES

17. If the total elapsed time of two teams is identical, the order of start for those teams shall be reverse order in which they started in the preceding heat.

18. Teams with equal times for the entire race shall be awarded the higher finishing position.

19. The purse for the tied place and the next lower place(s) shall be combined and divided equally among those teams tied for that place.

### (e) STARTING POINT AND TIME.

20. The brush bow of the sled shall determine the starting point of the team.

21. An official time check should be announced (this time according to the official timer's watch) at the drivers meeting each day.

22. Trail time for all teams shall begin at the originally scheduled time of departure.

23. A team that fails to be in the starting position at its scheduled starting time shall be declared a late starting team.

1/ A late starting team shall not be allowed to start until after the last team entered in its class has started, and after the prescribed starting interval.

2/ A late starting team shall not interfere with any other team.

3/ If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall start in the originally scheduled starting order.

4/ If a team is late to the starting line for its second scheduled time of departure for any one heat, that team shall be disqualified.

24. If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall start in the originally scheduled order.

25. If a team is late to the starting line for its second scheduled time of departure for any one heat, that team may be disqualified at the discretion of the Race Marshall.

26. A team not clearing the Starting Chute (minimum distance, 30 meters) prior to the scheduled start of the next team may be disqualified at the discretion of the Race Marshall.

### (f) ASSISTANCE IN THE STARTING CHUTE.

27. Unless otherwise specified by the Race Marshall prior to the start of the first heat of the event:

1/ Any amount and type of assistance is allowed to a team prior to the actual starting time.

2/ Once a team's starting time has commenced, only the Race Marshall or officials designated to help may assist in the chute.

### (g) FINISH

28. A team shall have finished the heat when the first dog on the team crosses the finish line.
29. If a team crosses the finish line without its driver and all the members of that team, that started that heat, that team shall have finished when all members of team and the driver reach the finish line.
30. When a dual starting chute is used as a finishing chute, a team may return on either trail.

### **III. STARTING CHUTE**

31. The Starting Line is clearly marked by two adjacent objects.
32. The Starting Chute should be at least 3 meters wide and 20 meters long for single start race.
33. The Starting Chute should be at least 5 meters wide and 30 meters long with a 20 meter divider for dual start races.
34. The Official Timer should be located along side the starting line as to provide a clear start countdown.

### **IV. TRAIL RULES**

#### **(a) FOLLOWING THE TRAIL**

35. A team and driver shall run the full course as established by the race-giving organization.
36. If a team leaves the trail, the driver shall return the team to the point at where they left the trail.
37. DELETED

#### **I. FINISH LINE.**

38. Finish line will be separate chute than starting chute if races are expected to be completing a race at the same time as other racers are starting.
39. Finishing chute should be a minimum of 3 meters wide and 20 meters long.
40. Finish Line is clearly marked by two adjacent objects.

#### **II. DRIVING A TEAM.**

41. Any driver accepting a ride other than by another Musher during the race on any vehicle other than his own sled shall be disqualified.
42. A driver shall not interfere with a competing team.
43. Carrying a passenger at any time during the race shall be prohibited unless:
  - 1/ Called for in the conditions of the race.
  - 2/ Giving a ride to a driver in an emergency situation.

#### **III. ASSISTANCE ON THE TRAIL.**

44. All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at Designated points along the trail as authorized by the Race Marshal.
45. Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other in any manner authorized by the Race Marshal.
46. Handlers and spectator's assistance shall be limited to holding the sled, except in the case of a loose team, or a team so unmanageable as to create a clear and present danger to themselves, other teams or persons.
47. No one shall assist a team by wilfully pacing it.

#### **IV. LOOSE TEAMS AND DOGS.**

48. A loose team or dog(s) shall not delay or interfere with another team.
49. The driver shall overtake a loose team or dog on foot.
50. A loose team or dog may resume the trail without penalty provided the team/dog has completed the entire trail and the driver has received on authorized outside assistance.
  - 1/ Authorized outside assistance is limited to holding a loose team or dog, once it has been stopped.
  - 2/ Any person(s) may (and is encouraged to) stop and hold a loose team or dog.

#### **V. RIGHT OF WAY.**

51. In a dual start, the team with the lead dog farthest ahead at the end of the chute barrier shall have the right of way.
52. When teams are passing in opposite directions on a single trail:
  - 1/ The team travelling down hill has the right of way.
  - 2/ On level terrain, the Race Marshal shall determine and announce, prior to the start of the race, incoming team has the right of way.
53. In the 800 meter "No right of way" finishing zone, no team shall have the right of way over a finishing team.

#### **VI. PASSING.**

54. When one team driver intends to pass another team, the passing team driver may request the right of way when the lead dog(s) come(s) within 15 meters of the sled of the overtaken team.
55. The overtaken team driver shall make way for the passing team by steering the sled to one side of the trail, slowing his team and, if demanded by the overtaking team driver, stopping and keeping the team from moving forward.
56. Once a team has been passed, that team shall not re-pass, so long as the driver in front is making an effort to keep his team moving forward until,
57. In unlimited or Limited Classes involving 8 or more dogs, after no less than four minutes or 1500 meters.  
1/ In Limited Classes involving fewer than 8 dogs, after no less than two minutes or 800 meters.  
2/ At any lesser interval whenever both drivers are in agreement.
58. After a pass has been completed, a team driver that has been passed need not hold his team while other driver:  
1/ repairs gear, or  
2/ Unhooks and transfers a dog or dogs from one position in a team to another position in the team or goes off the race trail, before the above mentioned distance or time interval has elapsed. Loading a dog in the sled constitutes changing a dog's position in the team.
59. A driver coming upon two or more teams stopped together may pass all such teams. The stopped drivers shall make every effort to clear the trail for the moving team(s).
60. Teams following each other shall maintain an interval or not less than one team length excepts when passing or in the "No Right Of Way Zone".
61. When a team is overtaken in the "No Right Of Way Zone", that team does not have to stop and yield the trail.
62. No driver shall interfere with a competing team.

## **XI. CONDUCT.**

### **a) RESPONSIBILITY AND SPORTSMANSHIP.**

63. All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handlers, and themselves whenever in the race area or on the trail.
64. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshall determines that a driver, handler or team conduct at any time in the race area or on the trail is detrimental to the sport/race, that team shall be disqualified.
65. All racers and/or handlers will treat all volunteers with respect and courtesy. They are there to assist racers in any way possible to their ability. Any verbal or physical abuse will result in a DISQUALIFICATION. Any volunteer who (feels" he or she) is not being treated in proper fashion will let go of the dogs, sled, etc... and walk away. Racers are responsible for the conduct of the handlers.

### **b) ABUSE OF DOGS.**

66. Abuse of dogs, with or without an implement, shall be prohibited. Such will be cause for immediate Disqualification and further penalties may be assessed by the OFSS.

## **XII. RULES VIOLATIONS.**

### **a) REPORTS BY RACE OFFICIALS.**

67. Race Officials shall report overt rule violations to the Race Marshall verbally, in person or by radio, immediately or directly following the heat in which the violation occurred.
68. The Race Marshall shall act, at his discretion, on any overt violations witnessed and reported by race officials.

### **b) REPORTS BY RACE CONTESTANTS.**

69. Drivers wishing to report an alleged violation of the rules by another contestant shall notify the Race Marshall immediately following the heat in which the incident occurred. Notification may be verbal.
70. All verbal reports shall be followed with a written report, given to the Race Marshall within one (1) hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred. A refundable 50.00 deposit will accompany protests if the competitor is found to be in violation.

### **c) PROTESTS AND HEARINGS.**

71. Any driver implicated in a report of an alleged violation of the rules may make protest and request a hearing before the Race Marshall.
72. The Race Marshall shall grant said hearing.

### **d) DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**

73 For violation of any OFSS Regulation, the Race Marshall shall either issue a verbal warning to the driver, or disqualify the driver and team from the race.

1/ No other disciplinary action shall be imposed except at the discretion of the OFSS.

2/ Decisions shall be announced as promptly as practical but no later than two hours prior to the start of any ensuing heat(s).

3/ Any disciplinary action following the final heat of the race shall be acted upon prior to the awards ceremony.

4/ In the case of drug testing, the above time schedule does not apply to allow for laboratory findings and hearings, should latter become necessary.

74 The decisions of the Race Marshall shall be final.

### ***XIII. (Special Rules for 4\_6\_8\_10 Doe and Unlimited Classes)***

#### **75 Size of Teams.**

1/ A Limited Four Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than four (4) dogs, and not less than three (3) dogs.

2/ A Limited Six Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than six (6) dogs, and not less than four (4) dogs.

3/ A Limited Eight Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than eight (8) dogs, and not less than six (6) dogs.

4/ A Limited Ten Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than ten (10) dogs, and not less than seven (7) dogs.

5/ An Unlimited Class Team shall consist of not less than seven (7) dogs.

6/ After the first heat and each ensuing heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to class minimums.

7/ The Race Marshall may reduce the size of any team that he determines is too large for the designated driver.

#### **76 Harnesses and Lines.**

1/ All dogs shall be in harness in single or double file.

2/ All dogs shall be fastened to the tug by a neckline with the exception of the leader(s) who shall be harnessed in the team by a tail line and must be fasten together by a neckline if two leaders are used.

3/ A snub line must be carried on the sled, but it shall not be used in any other manner than to tie down and hold the sled.

#### **77 Sleds.**

1/ A sled shall be capable of adequately carrying the driver and have a basket capable of carrying a dog.

2/ A sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brush bow, snow hook and dog bag.

#### **78 Driving a Team.**

1/ A driver may ride the sled, pedal or run as wished.

2/ All dogs starting the heat shall complete the entire course, either hitched in the team or carried on the sled.

3/ A dog becoming unfit after starting time shall be carried on the sled to the completion of the heat.

4/ Dogs shall be allowed to be dropped at designated Checkpoints or in cases of emergency, any spot where the dog will receive proper attention.

### **XIV. INJURED OR EXPIRED DOG AT FINISH LINE.**

#### **79 INJURED DOG.**

1/ If a sled dog team crosses the finish line with an injured dog, the procedure is as follows:

2/ A very brief explanation of the seriousness of the injury is given to the Race Marshall.

3/ The dog stays in the dog bag until the team reaches the dog truck.

4/ Dog team proceeds directly to the team's dog truck, accompanied by a race official or vet.

5/ The dog is removed for examination by the race vet.

6/ All questions about the incident and the condition of the animal should be addressed by the Race Marshall or designate.

#### **80 EXPIRED DOG.**

1/ If a sled team crosses the finish line with a dog that has expired during the race the procedure is as follows:

2/ A very brief explanation is given to the Race Marshall.

3/ The dog stays in the dog bag and the dog bag is not opened at the finish line.

4/ The dog team proceeds to the dog truck where the rest of the dogs are disconnected from the sled.

5/ The dog sled with the expired dog still in the bag is taken to a secured area (no public, media or other mashers). Preferably inside a structure.

6/ The Race Vet will then examine the dog.

7/ All questions about the incident and the condition of the dog, should be addressed by the Race Marshall or designate.

#### **81. REPRESENTATION.**

1/ Any musher qualifying to represent the Province of Ontario, must be a full time resident of the Province of Ontario for 365 days prior to the qualifying race.

2/ Any musher qualifying to represent the Province of Ontario, must be a current member of the Ontario Federation of Sled dog Sports.

The document was voted and passed by the General Membership of the Ontario Federation of Sled dog Sports this September 16, 2001.

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