

ASDRA Race Rules

ALASKAN SLED DOG AND RACING ASSOCIATION, INC.

RACING RULES

AMENDED NOVEMBER 16, 2023

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I. PRE-RACE PROCEDURE

A. COURSE

1. The course shall be clearly laid out with sufficient gates or natural vegetation to block unused trails, and highly visible markers.

B. ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS, TEAMS AND DRIVERS

1. ASDRA may reject any entries submitted for due cause.
2. Disease
 - a. No dog shall be brought from a kennel where hepatitis, distemper, leptospirosis or other contagious disease exists.
 - b. No equipment or clothing shall be brought if it has come in contact with a dog having any contagious disease.
 - c. Any team or dog coming to the starting point, which in the opinion of the judge(s) is unfit or incapable of completing the course, will be disqualified at the discretion of the judge(s).
3. Dogs recorded for the first departure are the only dogs that may be used during the race.
4. Dogs will be marked in a race of more than 1 heat.
5. Number of dogs in team:
 - a. An Unlimited Class team in the first heat shall consist of not less than five (5) dogs.
 - b. An Unlimited Class team in ensuing heat shall consist of not less than four (4) dogs.
 - c. Limited Classes
 - i. Eight (8) Dog Class: 8 dogs maximum, 5 dogs minimum.
 - ii. Six (6) dog Class: 6 dogs maximum, 4 dogs minimum.
 - iii. Four (4) dog Class: 4 dogs maximum, 2-dogs minimum.
 - iv. Three (3) dog Class: 3 dogs maximum, 2-dogs minimum.
6. And team or dog not starting any heat of a race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
7. Any team or dog disqualified in any heat of a race is not eligible to complete in the remainder of the race.
8. After the first heat, the driver may drop any dog(s) he or she wishes from ensuing heats, subject to the minimums specified in Rule I. B. 5.
9. All dogs must be properly harnessed in the team.
 - a. All dogs must be fastened with necklines.
 - b. Exceptions: The lead dog(s) must be harnessed in the team, but may run with or without a neckline.
10. No dog shall compete in more than one class on the same day.

11. The time of a team driven in a race of more than one day by 2 drivers shall be counted in season standings, provided such change of drivers has the approval of the judge(s). Such change of drivers is permitted only by an injury or illness. Any driver dropping out cannot return on a subsequent day.

12. All drivers must be eighteen (18) years of age.

C. PROHIBITED DRUGS

1. The intent of this rule is:
 - a. to prevent the use of oral or topical drugs which may suppress the signs of illness or injury in a racing dog
 - b. to prevent the use of drugs or other artificial means which may be used to cause a dog to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural abilities or conditioning,
 - c. to discourage the use of substances or practices that, in the view of the Race Veterinarian, are detrimental to the welfare of racing dogs.
2. Drugs and procedures, including but not limited to the ones listed below, 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
3. The Head Veterinarian must be notified of any dogs receiving allowed medication to treat an existing medical problem.
4. 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 report time of the first heat of the race until 2 hours after the official finish of the last heat of the race.
5. The musher or a designee will remain with the dogs during testing. A musher or designee must assist the veterinarian in collecting samples whenever requested. No person may interfere in any way with the collection of samples or procedures conducted by the drug testing team under this rule. All results will be sealed and signed for before the tests are considered complete.
6. 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.
7. Use of ANY prohibited substance will result in disqualification or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Race Committee.

D. EQUIPMENT

1. Inspection
 - a. Drivers, teams and equipment shall be available for inspection in the vehicle holding area ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled time of departure each day. Eligibility to race, in case of inability to meet this requirement, will be at the discretion of the judge(s).
2. Sled
 - a. Must be capable of adequately carrying the driver.
 - b. Must be capable of adequately carrying a dog.
 - c. Must be equipped with a snow hook, a suitable brake and a brush bow.
3. Sled Bags
 - a. Each sled must contain a sled bag that will restrain all parts of all carried dogs within the limits of the sled basket.
 - b. Musher disqualification will result if any part of a carried dog protrudes beyond the boundaries of the sled basket.
4. Prohibited
 - a. Collars, which can be hooked as full, choke collars.
 - b. Passengers, unless called for in the conditions of the race or unless the driver is aiding an emergency situation where dogs or humans are in danger.
 - c. No chains will be allowed in any part of the racing rig, this includes collar, neck chain or bridle.
5. The Race Marshal shall provide a race number for each driver. The driver will display the number on their person throughout the race.

II. STARTING PROCEDURE

A. ENTRY FEE

1. All competitors must be members in ASDRA sponsored races. Members in good standing shall sign waivers and pay entry fees.
2. Entry monies must be paid and waivers must be signed before the driver may leave the starting line.
3. Any musher receiving more than \$600 from ASDRA in a twelve month period must provide a social security or TPIN number before the amount can be awarded.

B. DRAWING

1. Starting position and time for each team entered will be determined by drawing, with No. 1 leaving first, No. 2 leaving second, etc.
2. Such drawing is to be held prior to the race at a time and place designated by the Race Marshal.
3. The owner or driver or designated proxy of each team will draw his own position.
4. In the absence of the owner, driver or proxy, the position of any legally entered team will drawn by the Race Marshal or his representative.
5. Kennel entries are allowed in addition to individual entries with the exception of the Open World Championship race, where kennel entries are prohibited.
6. ASDRA Open races and the Open World Championship race status.

- a. All rookies to the ASDRA-sponsored preliminary open races or the Open World Championship race will draw first day position as a separate group to the start behind the drivers who have previously completed said races. Starting positions in subsequent heats will be determined by finish times for the entire field.
 - b. A rookie is defined as one who has not previously completed all heats of a race in the category in question.
 - c. Participant's successful completion of the Open World Championship is automatically relieved of rookie status in the Preliminary Open races. A driver may request to draw in the last Group of the field if they are physically handicapped or in their rookie year and question their own ability, except in the Open World Championship. The final decision will be at the discretion of the Race Marshal.
7. Late entries must pay as their entry fee 150% of the regular entry fee that would have been paid had they entered in timely manner. Said late entries must start at the end of the pack behind all entries that were at the drawing and must start in order in which the appropriate ASDRA official received their entries. Late entries would remain specifically prohibited for the Open World Championship.

C. RACE START

1. In races of two heats, the second day's standing position will be determined by the first day's times, with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.
2. In races of more than 2 heats, the total elapsed time of previous heats will determine starting positions, with the fastest teams starting first, etc. In the case of a tie, on the following day, the driver who started first the previous day shall go out second.
 - a. Reverse starts for the second and/or third heat of the Open World Championship Race in which the team with the slowest cumulative time would go out first followed by the team with next slowest cumulative time may be instituted. The decision as to whether or not to utilize the reverse start shall be made solely at the discretion of the Race Marshal after consultation with the Race Committee.
3. Races will run regardless of weather, unless deemed prohibitive by the Race Marshal.

D STARTING POINT

1. The starting point of the team shall be the very tip of the brush bow.

E. STARTING TIME OF THE TEAM

1. Starting time for each team will begin when that team is scheduled to leave the starting line.
2. Teams are required to stop at the starting point specified in Section A. Teams cannot proceed past the starting point without stopping.
3. A team that passes the starting point but stops at GO time, as specified in Section A, may receive a time penalty. For every 1 foot they pass the starting point, rounded up to the nearest foot, they shall incur a time penalty of 10 seconds.
4. A team failing to be at the start line at scheduled time for any heat will not be allowed to start until after the last team has left and at the prescribed starting interval. If more than one team starts late, each starts in the respective order they were originally scheduled to start. Trail time for the late teams will begin at the originally scheduled time of departure.

III. TRAIL PROCEDURE

A. DRIVER

1. A driver may ride, pedal or run as and when they wish.
2. Abuse of the dogs with or without an instrument is prohibited.

B. DOGS

1. All dogs starting a heat must complete it.
2. All dogs must be hitched in the team or carried on the sled.
3. A dog becoming unfit after departure must be carried on the sled

C. FOLLOWING THE COURSE

1. A team and driver must run the full course as established by ASDRA.
2. Both team and driver must cover the entire course without unauthorized assistance.
3. If a team leaves the course:
 - a. The driver must return the team to the point at which the team left the course.
 - b. A team and driver meeting the above requirement may continue the course without penalty.

D. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

1. All teams may receive similar assistance of any kind by official stations at designated points along the trail if so authorized by the Race Marshal.
2. An individual team may receive assistance from anyone only when unmanageable.
3. Individual team assistance may consist of stopping the team. After the team is stopped:
 - a. If a driver is present, help is limited to holding the sled.
 - b. If a driver is not present, the team may be held or snubbed until after the driver arrives.
4. No one is allowed to assist a team and driver by willfully pacing it.
5. The Open world Championship entrant will be allowed one (1) designated handler who is allowed to assist the team within the chute area on the avenue.

E. LOOSE TEAMS

1. Anyone is encouraged to stop and hold a loose team.
2. A loose team must not delay or interfere with other teams.
3. The driver must overtake their loose team with any means and/or assistance available.
4. A team and driver meeting all the above requirements may continue the course without penalty.
5. In the event a driver does not overtake their team prior to the team's having crossed the finish line, the time of finish will be when the driver crosses the finish line.

F. RIGHT OF WAY

1. A team late to the starting line shall not interfere with other teams.
2. A team not clearing the chute prior to the starting time of the next team must not interfere with the start of the next team. The Chute Judge and handlers permitted by the Race Marshall shall restrain the stopped team off the trail to ensure a clear trail for the next team(s).
3. When passing in opposite directions on a single trail, the right-of-way, if any, will be determined at the driver's meeting prior to the race.
4. No incoming team has the right-of-way over another incoming team within the "no-right-way" zone at the finish line.

G. PASSING The intent of this rule is to provide for the safe and efficient passage of an overtaken team.

1. When one team shall overtake another, the lead dogs being within fifty-feet (50), the team behind shall have the immediate right-of-way upon demand in the limited class. When one team shall overtake another, the lead dogs being within one hundred (100) feet, the team behind shall have the immediate right-of-way in the open class.
2. The overtaken team must provide a clear trail within the confines of the groomed trail for the passing team to travel safely. Actions that prevent or impede a pass are prohibited.
3. The over taken team may request and receive the right-of-way as above after 4 minutes or 1 mile in the Unlimited and Limited classes, or if the concerned drivers are in agreement, at lesser time and mileage.
4. A passing driver with a tangled team may require the following driver to wait no longer than 1 minute.
5. Teams following shall maintain an interval sufficient so not to interfere with the driver of the team in front.

IV FINISHING PROCEDURE

- A. The finishing point of the team shall be the first dog to the line unless otherwise determined by the Race Marshal prior to start of the race.

V. CONDUCT

- A. All drivers are responsible for the conduct of their dogs and handler, before, during and after the race.
- B. Unsportsmanlike conduct in the race area and on the racecourse is prohibited.

VI. PROTESTS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A. PROTESTS

1. Any entrant wishing to protest any violation of rules must do so immediately following the heat in which the violation occurred: this protest may be verbal, but must be followed by a written statement submitted to the judges within six (6) hours after the finish of the heat. Protestant must pay ten (\$10) with the verbal protest. This money will be refunded upon receipt of the written protest.

B. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. Violation of any of these rules will be cause for disqualification from the race in which the violation occurs.

VII. POINTS AND TROPHIES

- A. The first three places shall receive awards in Preliminary race.
- B. Season trophies for Preliminary races will be awarded to the first three places in each class based on the following points system:
 1. 1st Place 5 points
 - 2nd Place 4 points
 - 3rd Place 3 points
 - All other finishes 1 point
 2. To qualify for season awards, mushers must compete in a minimum of 50% of the preliminary races.
 3. If there are not 3 season preliminary races, no season awards are given.
- C. Other trophies established by ASDRA membership.

VIII. PRIZES

- A. Established by ASDRA membership.

IX. CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO RACE RULES

- A. Additions and/or change will be handled and voted on in the following manner:
 - 1. The voting to change race rules shall be on the third Thursday in November. No race rule change can be made at any other time.
 - 2. The President shall ask if there are any considered changes to the race rules for the following season at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date set for vote.
 - 3. All considered changes will be presented in final form at least twenty (20) days prior to the date set for the vote.
 - 4. A list of considered changes may be mailed or made available electronically to each member in good standing at least seven (7) days prior to the date set for the vote.
 - 5. Voting will be members in good standing present at the designated meeting.