

# **JUNIOR ALASKAN SLED DOG AND RACING ASSOCIATION**

**("JrASDRA")**

## **REVISED BY LAWS AND RACING RULES**

**12/29/2023**

## **BY LAWS**

### **Preamble**

This Association is established for Juniors through age seventeen (17) to encourage and perpetuate the Alaskan state sport of dog mushing, the breeding and training of Alaskan Sled Dogs, sportsmanship, and the human treatment of dogs, and to conduct annual preliminary and championship races in the Anchorage Area.

1. Membership fees and waivers are due annually. Fees paid between November 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> of the year are considered for that season.
2. Voting rights – only members that have paid their Annual dues and are between the ages of 8 and up to and including 17 years of age are eligible to vote.
3. Officers, consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, shall be elected by December 31, or the first scheduled race, whichever comes first and will serve for a period of one year, beginning immediately after the election and will continue until the forthcoming year's election. Officers must be at least 10 years of age. In the event that the President cannot complete the year, the Vice President automatically becomes President.
4. No amendments of the JrASDRA racing rules or By Laws may be made without a quorum (one-third of the voting members) being present. A two-thirds majority vote is required to pass an amendment to the racing rules or By Laws. Changes and /or additions to the racing rules must be voted on by the first scheduled race of the season, for the ensuing race season. Amendments to the By Laws and Race Rules for the JrASDRA are subject to approval of the Board of the Directors of ASDRA.
5. Any situation not covered by these By Laws and Race Rules for JrASDRA will be governed by the By Laws and race rules of ASDRA.

# RACING RULES

## SECTION 1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

(Applicable to both the Junior Preliminary & Junior World Championship)

1. All members participating in any JrASDRA event, must have paid all required membership fees, signed waivers and be members in good standing of the Association.
2. It is understood that ASDRA or Jr ASDRA shall not be held liable for any loss, injury or damages incurred by participant members or their families and a waiver so signifying properly executed by the mushers' parent or legal guardian must be filed with the Secretary of the Association. The waiver and release form shall also contain an acknowledgment, signed by the musher, that they have read and understand these Race Rules.
3. All mushers will compete in the class within which their age falls as of the day of the first scheduled JrASDRA race of the season, providing they can competently handle that many dogs. If not, they will race in the next lower class. There is no maximum age restriction for the Two, Three, or Five Dog Class. The classes and minimum ages (ages refer to the age of the musher at the first scheduled Jr ASDRA race of that particular season) and or experience requirements as follows:
  - A. One Dog Class Musher must have attained 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Maximum age will be 9 years.
  - B. Two Dog/1 mile Novice Class Musher must have attained their 7<sup>th</sup> birthday. \*
  - C. Two Dog/2 mile Class Musher must have attained their 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. \*\*
  - D. Three Dog Class Musher must have attained 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - E. Five Dog Class Musher must have attained 14<sup>th</sup> birthday  
(Exception – A musher who has attained their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday and has one (1) full season experience in the Three Dog Class, or a musher who has attained their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday and has two (2) full seasons experience in the Three dog class may participate in the Five Dog Class .)
  - F. Seven Dog Class Musher must have attained 16<sup>th</sup> birthday  
(Exception – A musher who has attained the their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday and has one (1) full season experience in the Five Dog Class, or a musher who has attained their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday and has two (2) full seasons experience in the Five dog class may participate in the Seven Dog Class.)

\*The 2 Dog 1 mile class is a designated novice class (musher has attained their 7<sup>th</sup> birthday and has at least one season experience in the one dog class or first year musher.)

\*\*2 Dog mushers may register for one of the 2 dog class categories in any points or championship race.

**NOTE:** Any unforeseen problems (i.e., an otherwise qualified musher very large for their age or a musher with wide experience in handling teams but with no actual racing experience or an individual with special needs) will be handled as follows:

The musher (and legal guardian) must present their case to the Junior Race

Marshall requesting an exemption in writing. If approval is given, the musher will be allowed to race in the requested a class. However, if any doubt remains in the minds of the Race Officials, they may impose a temporary probation or restriction, in writing, either on the number of dogs or the starting position. Accommodations for documented special needs maybe allowed once approved by the Race Officials in writing. These accommodations need to be renewed each season.

#### 4. DOGS

- 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 judges(s) is unfit or incapable of completing the course, will be disqualified at the discretion of the judge(s).
- D. Dogs will be marked in a race of more than 1 heat.
- E. Prohibited Drugs

The intent of this rule is:

To prevent the use of oral or topical drugs which may suppress the signs of illness or injury in a racing dog.

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.

To discourage the use of substances or practices that, in the view of the Race Veterinarian, are detrimental to the welfare of racing dogs.

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

The Head Veterinarian must be notified of any dogs receiving allowed medications to treat an existing medical problem.

Dogs are subject to the collection of urine or blood samples, at the discretion of the testing veterinarian per the protocol outlined in Alaskan

Sled Dog and Racing Association rules, the parent organization.

- F. Any dog disqualified by the Race Officials or left out of a heat by the musher cannot be re-entered in any succeeding heat of that race for any reason.
- G. No loose leaders will be allowed. Except for leaders, all dogs must have neck-lines. Staggered leads are recognized providing that both traces pull from a common point on the towline and further provided that the hindmost dogs head is no further back than the foremost dog's flank.
- H. All dogs in a team must be properly harnessed and hooked into place in the team at the time it leaves the starting line. All dogs must return to the finish line either in the team or riding securely in the sled bag.

## 5. EQUIPMENT

- A. A sled capable of carrying the musher and safely carrying a dog or dogs shall be considered proper equipment. Sleds in the Two Dog Class with wide open slating can be made acceptable for transporting a dog by the addition of canvas, burlap or other cover properly secured to the sled. Sleds in the Three, Five and Seven dog classes shall have a sled bag meeting the requirements of the ASDRA Race Rules. Each sled must contain a sled bag that will restrain all parts of all carried dogs within the limits of the sled basket. Brush-bow and operable brake are required equipment in all classes and a functional snow hook, properly secured, is required in the two three, five and seven dog classes.
- B. Musher, dogs, and equipment must be in the holding area and subject to inspection at least 30 minutes prior to the individual's race time. All mushers must attend a mandatory mushers' meeting prior to the race. Any mushers, dogs or equipment found to be unfit or in the opinion of the Race Officials, incapable of safely completing the course at any time shall either not be allowed to start or be disqualified.
- C. Any abuse of dogs is prohibited and shall be grounds for immediate disqualification. No intentional interference with a competing team is allowed.
- D. No dog will be run tight-line regardless of the type of collar or neckline used. Prohibited are collars which can be hooked as full, choke collars. No chains will be allowed in any part of the racing rig, this includes collar, neck chain or bridle.

## 6. GENERAL TRAIL RULES:

- A. Races shall be run regardless of the weather unless deemed prohibitive by the Race Officials.
- B. Starting time for each team shall be determined by a drawing for position by the mushers, owners, or designate proxies. The drawing shall be held prior to the race at a time designated by the Association. No change in starting position shall be allowed for any reason. Post entries are not allowed.
- C. In races of more than one heat, the starting order for the succeeding heats shall be determined by the total elapsed time of the previous heat or heats. The fastest team shall start first, and the other teams will follow in the order of their total elapsed time. In the case of a tie, on the following

- day, the driver who started first the previous day shall go out second.
- D. The finish time for each team shall be the time at which the first dog in the team crosses the finish line.
  - E. The time of a team driven in a race of more than one day by two mushers shall be counted in the race's standing provided such change of mushers is permitted only as between different days and not during any single day's running of the course. Such change is permitted only as a result of illness or injury. Any other musher dropping out cannot return a subsequent day.
  - F. A musher may ride, pedal, or run as and when they wish except that they must not pace their team by running ahead of the sled. A musher may lead their team through areas where spectators or other interference may intimidate or cause their team to become unmanageable.
  - G. In the event a team or leader balks or tries to go the wrong direction at the starting line, the musher will be allowed time to attempt a start (at the discretion of the Race Officials), but not to exceed the interval of time allowed between the regular starting time of teams. Race Officials may assist the musher to the extent of holding the sled. In such cases, time will be counted against the musher from the time the starting signal was given. In the event a team becomes uncontrollable within the limits of the chute as marked, one designated handler or Race Official will be allowed to assist the musher.
  - H. When one team shall overtake another within fifty (50) feet, the team behind shall have the immediate right-of-way upon the verbal command of "TRAIL". The musher ahead must then stop their team and hold them to the best of their ability until the other team has passed. Failure to yield trail upon proper demand shall be treated as a serious violation of these race rules. A passing musher with a tangled team may require the following musher to wait no more than (1) minute. In the event that the team passed shall hang-on for two minutes or one-half mile, it may then have the right to demand the trail. If a team shall overtake another with the "no right of way" zone the team behind may pass the other, if possible, without demanding or receiving right-of way.
  - I. A team (musher, dogs that left the starting line, sled) must run the entire course as marked or be disqualified. In the event of a team becoming separated from the musher, such team will be disqualified if another competing team is delayed or interfered with by such runaway team. When no such interference occurs, and if the team completes the entire the course, the team will not be disqualified providing the musher shall attempt to overtake their team on foot so that team, sled, and driver cover the entire course. The driver must overtake their loose team with any means and/or assistance available. 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. In the event a runaway team leaves the course or turns back on the course, it is the duty of the musher to overtake the runaway team. After overtaking their team the musher will be allowed to drive the team back to the point where the

team left the course and continue the race. All time lost in recovering the team will be counted as elapsed time, in addition to any other penalty. If a team is caught on the course by trail guards, it will not be disqualified providing that the above qualifications are met.

- J. A musher with an “uncontrollable” team may have assistance without disqualification. “Uncontrollable” shall be construed to mean “Beyond the physical capability of the musher to stop or control”. A severe fight within the ranks of their team or between two teams shall be considered uncontrollable and the musher or mushers may have assistance without disqualification.
- K. Mushers, owners or any other persons are forbidden to assist a team by pacing. Outside assistance will be allowed only when a team is uncontrollable. Should any injury result to one rendering assistance, it is understood and agreed that ASDRA or Jr ASDRA shall not be held liable and it is solely the owner’s responsibility.
- L. A musher giving another musher, who has lost their team, a ride will not be disqualified. The musher accepting the ride (of any type) will be penalized five (5) minutes.

## 7. MUSHERS

- A. Every person volunteering or mushing a team in a race and their handlers will be required to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike, fair and honorable manner. Violations of this rule shall be treated as a serious violation of these race rules. Complaints of misconduct on the trail or infraction of rules must be registered with the Race Marshall immediately following the musher’s return to the finish line. This protest or complaint may be verbal, but it must be followed by a written and signed statement submitted to the Race Marshal within six (6) hours after the finish of the race or individual heat.
- B. Clothing and foot wear capable of protecting the musher for the existing weather and trail conditions, as well as the racing bib furnished by Jr ASDRA, shall be worn. If no bib number is displayed on the musher, the musher will automatically be disqualified. Helmets are required for all JrASDRA racing participants.
- C. Any musher disqualified by the Race Officials for a serious violation of these rules in a race cannot be re-entered in any succeeding heat of that race for any reason. Any such musher shall be subject to a requirement that the musher participates in an approved training session before being allowed to enter subsequent JrASDRA races.

## 8. OFFICIALS

- A. The Race Marshall shall be appointed by the Junior Advisor of ASDRA, approved by the ASDRA Board of Directors, and shall be in full charge of the race(s). All other Race Officials, including Race Judges, and Lead Timer, shall come under the direction of the Race Marshall. The Decision of the Race Marshall or Race Officials on any questions concerning the

race shall be final.

## **SECTION II**

### **PRELIMINARY RACES**

1. The Association shall conduct preliminary races during the months of January and February each year, leading to preliminary championships in each class.
2. To determine the preliminary championship in each class, a number of points will be recorded for each musher in each preliminary race, per the following schedule:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Place Finish 5 points
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Finish 4 points
  - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Finish 3 points
  - d. All other mushers successfully completing a race shall be awarded one (1) point.
3. A musher must participate in three (3) preliminary races to qualify for points in the championship series. A musher can only win points for one class per year. The Vice President of the Association shall keep a record of points earned. At the end of the preliminary season the mushers with the most points earned in their class, shall receive the Preliminary Championship award for their place.
4. Awards will be presented to the First, Second and Third place finishers.
5. Race distances for the preliminary races for each class will be set, by the first scheduled race of the season, for the ensuing race season. Once established, these distances will not be changed except by the Junior Race Marshall.
6. Any one musher may not compete in more than one of the classes during any one race day.

## **SECTION III**

### **JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RACE**

1. All mushers competing in the Junior World Championship Race must be members of the Association.
2. To compete in the Junior World Championship Race, a musher must provide proof of at least one race successfully completed in the class they wish to enter sponsored by a sled dog club.
3. Any one junior musher may not compete in more than one of the classes during the World Championship.