

Drivers Meeting

2021 Midnight Sun Gold Run
February 20th and 21st

Classes and Distances

Skijor: 2 Dog Maximum for 6.2 miles each day
4 dog Sled Class for 6.2 miles each day
6 Dog Sled Class for 8 miles each day
10 Dog Sled Class for 12.5 miles each day

This Race shall be primarily run under the ISDRA Skijor Rules and Speed Class Rules. Both sets of the these rules can be seen in their entirety at http://www.isdra.org/Resources_Directory/Frame.htm

We will also be using certain ADMA Rules and Procedures. The specific rules/procedures will be addressed in the body of this document. All can be see at <http://alaskadogmushers.com/about/adma-documents>

Each competitor and their designated handler is strongly advised to make themselves familiar with all documents that will cover the classes they will be entered in.

Ignorance of the rules is no excuse.

The expectations, well, most of the expectations, presented here are not new and most have been used for decades for this race. With that being the case each of you are still strongly urged to reacquaint yourself with the rules and procedures.

It is to be understood that everyone at this event will be there on and by his/her own volition.

Let us all try to make this race the best experience possible considering the circumstances.

All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handler (s) family members, supporters and themselves whenever in the race area or on the trail.

Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshal determines that driver, handler (s), family members, supporters 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.

Sign up and Draw

Once all of you have signed up, we will draw for starting positions.

There will be **No Post Entries Allowed**. If you miss the sign up and are not in the draw you will not race.

Prior to the drawing, any driver may request to start at the end of the field.

The starting order for each class will be published online when the draw is completed.

Check In and Start Times

The check in time and start time for each class will be published at the same time as the start orders.

For right now we know the first skijor will leave the line at exactly 1100 each day and the Check In cut off time for the skijor class on both days is 1045.

The check in time and start time for each class shall be the same each day regardless of any teams scratching or being disqualified.

Checking In

When you check in each day make sure you have the correct bib number for each class you are entered in. This is your responsibility. Please return all your bibs each day as soon as possible after finishing your heats.

Each driver, or his/her authorized representative, must check in and pick up the correct bib no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of his/her respective race. If you are competing in more than one class you may check in for all the classes and collect the corresponding bibs at one time as long as that time is at least 15 minutes prior to the start of your first class's race.

All teams not properly checked in shall be disqualified. Remember: You must check in both days.

Parking

There will be no assigned parking. This is one of the things that will require everyone to cooperate.

If your unit includes a LARGE trailer I would like for you to park on the lower side of the circle in the hopes this will facilitate the quick and easier movement of other vehicles.

Normally the Skijors park at the posts closest to the hall on the north side of the holding area with their backs towards Farmer's Loop Road.

Because of the current situation you are being directed to park in such a manner that there is one empty parking post between every two occupied posts.

This cuts available posts for parking from 40 to 20.

Each Dead Post will be marked by a paper plate on a stick stuck in the top of the post. So if there is a paper plate on a stick protruding from the top of a post do not park there.

Park so your vehicle is dead centered on your post.

If you are competing in more than one class wherever you are parked for your first class is where you will stay until you have finished your last race of the day.

Let's say that I am entered in only the last class of the day. I am not to show up real early and grab a "good" spot and sit there all day. I will not be allowed to do that.

Once you have finished your race(s) for the day you are directed to get all of your gear, equipment, dogs (and all associated straw, food and waste) picked up in the most expeditious manner possible and move your vehicle out and away from the holding area circle so another team can get in and prepare for their race. So if you are not the anal retentive type you will need to work really hard at keeping your shit together.

The ADMA will do everything possible to ensure everyone has the space and time to prepare their equipment and dogs for their race(s) without the feeling of it being an out of control fire drill.

Starting

Be where you are supposed to be, when you are supposed to be there, the way you are supposed to be and with what you are supposed to have.

The start interval between teams in all classes shall be 2 minutes.

Each team shall be at a complete stop at the start line prior to the "Go" command from the Tower.

There will be no "Flying Starts". If there is a flying start attempted the team and driver shall be disqualified.

Do not come to the line 3, 4, 5 or 6 minutes early. Each team has a right to and will receive 2 minutes at the start line so final adjustments and preparations can be made prior to the start. *You show up early, you will be responsible for managing your team. Sled Holders will not hold your sled until 2 minutes prior to your start. Sled Holders will not catch or stop your team. Your team shall not interfere with another team in the starting position.*

If your team is not at a complete stop, standing still in the starting position at the line prior to the "Go" command from the Tower your team shall be declared a late starting team.

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

- a. 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.
- b. A late-starting team shall not interfere with any other team.
- c. If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall start in their originally scheduled starting order.
- d. If a team is late at the starting line for its second scheduled time of departure for any one heat, that team shall be disqualified.

Any amount or type of assistance from handlers is allowed to a team prior to the actual starting time. You can have as much help to the line and in the starting chute until team's starting time has commenced,

Once a team's starting time has commenced only 1(One) handler may assist the team and driver until the team has reached the end of the starting chute which will be marked by two orange tipped crossed lathes on each side of the trail.

Please Note:

All dogs in all classes shall be videoed for identification purposes BOTH DAYS. This will be done in the starting chute before you are allowed to leave the line. Please make sure you are on time so your dogs can be identified. It doesn't take long but it must be done. If you decide to pull a dog prior to your start but after it has been videoed the dog shall be painted out.

Specific Rules for Skijors

Two dogs maximum. Yes, you can race with only one dog.

You can hook the two dogs:

Inline (one behind the other) and the dog in back must be attached with both a tug line and a neckline.

Or you can hook the dogs tandem (side by side) and in this hook up both dogs must be attached with a tug line and they shall be attached with a common neckline.

There are times when you will really want to become detached from your dogs therefore you must have a quick release device within arm's length of the skier.

This is a no joke requirement. If you and your dogs become involved with a moose your best chance and the best chance for the dogs is to become detached. Please have a good quality, one hand operable, quick release device..

Minimum overall length of lines from your belt buckle to the dog's harness loop is seven (7) feet. The maximum length shall be no more than twelve (12) feet.

The tips of your skis shall determine the starting point of the team.

The nose of the first dog to cross the finish line will stop the time.

Here is the Skijor Passing Rule:

Skijorers need not come to a full stop, but must slow, yield the trail and give immediate right-of-way upon demand.

Once a team has been passed, that team shall not re-pass for two (2) minutes or one-half (1/2) mile except by mutual agreement of both drivers.

Unless passing or in the no-right-a-way zone, a competitor must maintain a minimum distance of twenty (20) feet between his/her dogs and the skijorer in front.

The "No-Right-Of-Way Zone begins one-half (1/2) mile from the finish line. It is marked by two crossed, orange tipped, wood lathes on both side of the trail as well as a single birch tree on the right side of the trail with a green sign stating: ".5 mile from Musher's Hall"

Passing Rules for Sled Classes

F) PASSING

- 1. In races where teams have started sequentially, one behind the other at predetermined intervals, passing rules are defined in subsection F.**
- 2. When a team driver intends to pass another team, the passing team driver may demand the right of way when the lead dog(s) comes within fifty (50) feet of the sled of the overtaken team.**
- 3. The overtaken team 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.**
- 4. If the passing team becomes tangled or bunched up in the course of the pass, to allow time to untangle and tighten lines, that team's driver may require the overtaken team to remain stopped for up to one (1) minute in Unlimited and Limited Classes involving eight (8) or more dogs, one-half (1/2) minute in all other classes.**
- 5. 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**
 - a. In Unlimited or Limited Classes involving eight (8) or more dogs, after no less than four (4) minutes or one (1) mile.**
 - b. In Limited Classes involving fewer than eight (8) dogs, after no less than two (2) minutes or one-half (1/2) mile.**
 - c. At any lesser interval when both drivers are in agreement.**

EXCEPTION:

After a pass has been completed, a team that has been passed need not hold his/her team while the other driver:

- i. repairs gear or**
- ii. unhooks and transfers a dog or dogs from one position in the team to another position in the team or**
- iii. 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.**

6. A driver coming upon two or more teams stopped together, may pass all such teams. The stopped team drivers shall make every effort to clear the trail for the moving team(s).

7. Teams following each other shall maintain an interval of not less than one (1) team length, except when passing or in the "No-right-of-way zone".

8. When a team is overtaken in the "No-right-of-way zone", that team does not have to stop and yield the trail.

9. No driver shall interfere with a competing team.

Please Note This: unless you are actively attempting a pass you SHALL keep your team back from the sled of the team in front of you by at least 1 full length of your team including your sled.

If your dogs balk or refuse to pass you shall back your team off to the minimum allowable distance.

There is nothing to gain by getting into the pass, re-pass, pass, re-pass game. Be realistic, if your team was passed, unless something wonderful has happened to your team after they were passed there is no point in trying to re-pass the faster team.

Allowing your team to run up on another team that has passed you, and not being able to cleanly re-pass and then just letting your dogs sit right on the other teams runners is not only interfering with another team Rule III. F)9, it is also unsportsmanlike conduct under Rule IV. A) 1 & 2.

One last thing on passing: If a team over takes you and is about to pass you and/or is in the process of passing you DO NOT STOP UNLESS THE PASSING DRIVER SAYS "STOP" TO YOU! Passing Rule F) 3. If you stop your team without being told to by the passing driver and anything happens you are also liable under F) 9 (interference). Finally, just before or during a pass DO NOT throw anything that is on or in your sled out onto the trail for any reason. Things not to be thrown, dropped, placed or discarded include:

SNOW HOOKS, Poles, Axes, Chickens, Ducks , Donuts, Dead Bodies or Brussels Sprouts. Does Every One Understand?

Loading/Carrying a Dog

We will be using what is called the ADMA Bag Rule. In the ADMA Rules it is in section F) Rule 13:

13. Each team must return from every heat with the same dogs with which that heat is started. These dogs must either be in harness, attached to the towline, or in the sled. Any dog which collapses on the trail must be immediately placed in the sled. Any dog which is loaded in the sled for any reason must be placed inside the dog bag so that it cannot touch the ground and so that no part of it is protruding from the sides, rear or bottom of the sled in a way that may cause injury to the dog. Failure to comply will result in disqualification. Any dog dropped from a heat cannot be entered in any of the following heats of the race. Any dog carried across the finish line in the basket cannot be entered in any of the following heats of the race unless the race marshal and race veterinarian agree the dog is fit to run.

I want to be absolutely clear: **Any dog which collapses on the trail must be immediately placed in the sled.**

Immediately is defined to mean without interval of time: Right Now!!!

If you must load a dog follow the rule exactly. It is your responsibility to insure your sled bag will function properly. This rule has been in effect for at least two decades. If your bag fails and your dog is not contained as prescribed by the rule you will be disqualified.

Look to your Gear. Look to Your Dogs.

Best Wishes and Good Luck.