

APOSTLE ISLANDS SLED DOG RACE

2017 RULES FOR COMPETITION

MUSHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT. PLEASE READ ALL RULES THOROUGHLY.

NOTE: The registration acceptance limit for the 2017 AISDR will be capped at **85 teams (maximum of 50 teams in the 6 & 10-dog pro classes)**.

INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENTS

The interpretation of the rules, principles, responsibilities and procedures laid down in this publication and the amendment to the whole or any of its parts, shall be the responsibility and prerogative of the Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race Marshal.

ALL RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE (*Last updated November 23, 2016*).

I. ENTRY RULES

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. ENTRIES

- a) An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the race date. **NO RACE DAY REGISTRATION IS PERMITTED.**
- b) The musher's cost of entry must be paid before the start of the race.
- c) Race Marshal may reject any entry for just cause.
- d) As a condition of entry into the Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race (AISDR), mushers will be required to sign a release of liability as contained in Appendix B.

2. DRIVERS

- a) The driver starting a team at the beginning of the race shall drive that team throughout the race.
- b) A change in driver must have the approval of the Race Marshal (*to be discussed prior to the Musher's Meeting*).
- c) A driver under the age of 18 must have written consent from a parent or guardian.
- d) Drivers shall attend the driver's meeting, held prior to the start of the race, in order to compete in the race. Roll will be called twice during the meeting. **Late comers who miss the 1st roll call will receive a \$50 penalty payable to the Race Marshal and those who miss the 2nd roll call will not be allowed to race.**
- e) Any driver disqualified at any point in the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.

3. DOGS

- a) Only Northern breed dogs suitable for arctic travel will be permitted to enter the race. "Northern breeds" will be determined by the Race Marshal and Chief Veterinarian.
- b) All dogs are under the care and jurisdiction of the Chief Veterinarian and his/her staff from the vet check until the awards ceremony.
- c) The Chief Veterinarian may disallow entry of any team or dog for just cause.
- d) Any team of dogs, which in the opinion of the Chief Veterinarian is unfit or incapable of completing the course, shall be disqualified.

- e) Any team or dogs disqualified at any point in the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- f) Any dog that drops out on Race Day 1 may only compete on Day 2 upon approval of the race veterinarian.
- g) All dogs must be up-to-date with vaccinations for parvovirus, distemper and rabies. Proof of valid rabies vaccination at least 2 weeks prior to the race and signed by a licensed veterinarian is required. Proof of purchase for valid vaccines must be submitted for inspection.

4. SIZE OF TEAM

- a) Teams entering the 10 Dog Class shall start with a maximum of 10 dogs in harness and finish with not less than 5 dogs standing at all times.
- b) Teams entering the 6 Dog Class shall start with a maximum of 6 dogs in harness and finish with not less than 4 dogs in harness.
- c) Sportsmen's teams may have no more than 6 dogs and not less than 4 dogs in harness.
- d) Runners in the Family/Recreational Run and Youth Race shall use their own discretion up to a maximum of 6 dogs in harness.

5. **SUBSTITUTIONS/POOL OF DOGS**

- a) **Applicable to the 10-Dog Class ONLY. Musher's may have a pool of two additional dogs. One or both of these dogs may be used as substitutes on day two of the race.**

6. DISEASE

- a) No dog, equipment or clothing shall be brought from a kennel where rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parvovirus or other contagious diseases exist.
- b) If the Chief Veterinarian diagnoses any dog present in the race area to have a contagious disease, that team shall be disqualified and immediately leave the race area.

B. MEDICATION

1. DRUGS

- a) It is the intent of these rules that no drugs or other artificial means be used to drive any dog beyond its natural ability. A musher must have his/her team free of any drugs used. The Chief Veterinarian may utilize any drugs necessary to maintain a dog's health; however, such dogs will be withdrawn from the race. The use of general anesthetics will not be allowed in any form unless the dog is withdrawn from the race.

C. EQUIPMENT

1. HARNESS AND LINES

- a) All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
- b) All dogs shall be fastened to the gangline by a neckline and a tug line, with the exception of the leader(s) who shall be harnessed in the team by a tug line but may run without a neckline.

2. SLEDS
 - a) The sled must have a proper functioning brake bolted to the sled and a snow hook.
 - b) The type of sled used is the option of the driver, but subject to the approval of the Race Marshal.
 - c) If a sled breaks along the trail, outside assistance may be given to repair the sled.
3. OTHER EQUIPMENT
 - a) A muzzle or any collar that can be hooked as a full choke shall be prohibited on any dog working on the team.
 - b) No whips, ski poles, or other disciplinary devices will be allowed.
 - c) A racing number for each driver shall be provided by the AISDR. It shall be visible on the driver's person at all times from **1 hour prior to the start of the race** until after crossing the finish line. The numbered bibs must be turned in to a volunteer after the race.
 - d) ***Helmets will be required for youth mushers under 18 years of age.**
4. SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT
 - a) At a minimum, the following shall be carried on the sled:
 - Brake
 - Snow hook
 - Snow shoes (not required for Family/Rec Run or Youth Race)
 - Racing number/bib and arm band (visible at all times)
 - First aid kit for human and animal-related emergencies
 - Knife
 - Dog booties (not required for Family/Rec Run or Youth Race)
 - Sled bag (capable of carrying at least one dog plus equipment)
 - The following items must be carried on the musher's person at all times: **compass, map, and a tool capable of severing a cable gangline** (may not be the same knife as above)
 - b) No driver shall start the race without these items.

D. INSPECTIONS

1. All equipment shall be subject to the inspection and approval of the Race Marshal.
2. Drivers, teams and equipment shall be available for inspection one (1) hour prior to race time.

II. START-FINISH RULES

A. DRAWING

1. The starting positions for the race shall be determined by random drawings held the Thursday prior to the race, February 2, 2017.
2. Bibs will be distributed at the mandatory musher's meeting on Friday, February 3, 2017 at 7pm.

B. STARTING POINT AND TIME

1. Team must be harnessed and ready to leave for the chute at least 5 minutes prior to their designated start time.

- C. ASSISTANCE IN THE STARTING CHUTE
 - 1. The amount and type of assistance in the starting chute shall be determined by the Race Marshal prior to the start of the race.
- D. TRAIL TIME AND FINISH
 - 1. Subject to compliance with all race rules, regulations and determinations of the Race Marshal, a team's finish time is measured when the nose of the lead dog crosses the finish line.
 - a) All time involved on the trail shall constitute trail time.
 - b) If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of its driver, that team shall have finished when the driver crosses the finish line
 - c) Teams with equal times shall be awarded the high finishing position. The purse for tied place and the next lower place shall be combined and divided equally.

III. TRAIL RULES

- A. FOLLOWING THE TRAIL
 - 1. A team and driver shall run the full course as established by the Race Marshal.
 - 2. The trail shall be followed as marked:
 - a) "Right Turn" shall be indicated by a right pointing arrow.
 - b) "Left Turn" shall be indicated by a left pointing arrow.
 - c) "Straight Ahead" shall be indicated by a straight up arrow or painted stake.
 - d) "Caution" shall be indicated by a down pointing arrow.
 - 3. It is the musher's responsibility to check for traffic at road crossings on the trail. The race organization will attempt to secure the road crossings, but final safety is the musher's responsibility.
- B. ASSISTANCE ON THE TRAIL
 - 1. Acceptable Assistance
 - a) All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials at designated points along the trail as authorized by the Race Marshal
 - b) A driver may not receive outside assistance during the race. In case of emergency, drivers may assist each other in appropriate ways. Handlers may assist the musher at the start and finish.
 - c) Outside assistance shall be allowed only if a team becomes so unmanageable as to create a clear and present danger to the team of dogs, other teams or persons. This action shall be reported to the Race Marshal.
 - d) All dogs becoming unfit after departure shall be carried on the sled.
- C. RIGHT OF WAY
 - 1. In the "No Man's Land" zone, no team shall have the right of way over another.
- D. PASSING

1. When one team intends to pass another, the passing team may request the right of way when the lead dog(s) comes within fifty (50) feet of the sled of the overtaken team.
2. The overtaken team shall make way for the passing team by moving to one side of the trail and by slowing down or stopping if requested by the overtaking team.
3. Once a team has been passed, that team shall not re-pass until:
 - a) Such time as the leading team has had sufficient time to pull away.
 - b) At any lesser interval whenever both drivers are in agreement.
4. If the passing team becomes tangled as the result of the pass, that team's driver may require the overtaken team to stop and wait no longer than one (1) minute.
 - a) Should a major tangle occur, the overtaken team may re-pass with the permission of the leading team.
5. A driver coming upon one or more stopped teams may pass all such teams. The stopped team's driver(s) shall make every effort to clear the trail for the moving team.
6. Teams following each other shall maintain an interval of not less than one team length except passing or in the "No Man's Land" finishing zone.
7. In a head-on passing situation, the homeward-bound team has the right of way and the outward team must relinquish the trail. The exception to this rule is when the outward bound team is moving downhill. In this case, the outward bound team has the right of way.

E. CHECKPOINTS

1. Drivers
 - a) Shall make bibs readable at all times.
2. Handlers
 - a) Handlers may help with water dishes and watering, feeding and care of feet (including booting or application of approved substances).
 - b) The musher's parking area must be kept clean. If straw or hay has been used, it must be cleaned up before the team vehicle leaves the site. Mushers will receive a \$25 fine for leaving parking spaces unclean.

F. NON-COMPETITIVE TEAMS

1. In order to keep the race to a reasonable time for the volunteers, teams deemed non-competitive by the Race Marshal may be disqualified and not allowed to race on the second day. A guideline of <120> minutes longer than the time of the fastest team will be used.

G. SNACKING/LITTERING ON TRAIL

1. Any team being fed while on the trail must be moved completely off the trail.
2. Disposal of required items other than for their specifically intended purpose is strictly prohibited. Any team snacking on the trail may not leave trail food behind.
3. A maximum fine of \$50 will be imposed for littering on the trail.

IV. CONDUCT

A. RESPONSIBILITY AND SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Musher shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handler and themselves whenever in the race area or on the trail. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail.
2. If the Race Marshal determines that the 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.
3. Abuse or inhumane treatment of dogs will result in disqualification.
4. Abusive or unsportsmanlike conduct toward trail help, timers, other race officials, competing drivers, handlers or spectators shall be grounds for disqualification.

B. EXPIRED DOGS

1. Any dog that dies on the trail for any reason must be taken to the race finish. Expired dogs must be covered completely when being carried in the sled. The driver must stay at the finish until the Chief Veterinarian comes to investigate the situation. At that time, there will be an interview between the driver and race officials. The driver MAY be counted as finishing the race contingent on the Gross Necropsy and/or after approval of the Chief Veterinarian and Race Marshal.
2. Any dog that dies during the race will have a Necropsy performed by a licensed veterinarian according to the ISDVMA Necropsy Guidelines.
3. Prize money will not be paid until the final results of the Histopathology portion of the necropsy are returned (may take 4-6 months). If it is determined that the cause of death was other than natural causes, the team will be disqualified. The place money will then revert to the Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race funds.
4. If the Necropsy determines the cause of death to be abuse, the team will be disqualified and barred from participation in any future Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race events.

V. OFFICIALS AND PENALTIES

A. OFFICIALS

1. The Race Marshal is responsible for the enforcement of all Race Marshal policies and race rules. The Chief Veterinarian shall be considered a race official on matters pertaining to dog care and treatment. The Chief Veterinarian must participate in all decisions relating to these issues and will have final authority on all disputed decisions relating to same.
2. The Race Marshal and the Chief Veterinarian may appoint assistant(s), who will operate as race officials.
3. The Race Marshal may detain a driver for the purpose of repairing or replacing equipment, which is deemed detrimental to the safety and well being of team and/or driver.
 - a) The Race Marshal or Chief Veterinarian may detain a team which is deemed in need of rest.
 - b) The Race Marshal or Chief Veterinarian may remove a team or dog from the race which is deemed unfit to continue the race.

B. PROTESTS

1. By Mushers

- a) A musher may protest any action of a competitor, which she/he feels is contrary to these rules. To be considered as a legitimate protest, any infraction observed by a musher must be presented in writing to the Race Marshal no more than one hour after the race. This written protest must be delivered to the Race Marshal, accompanied by a ten-dollar (\$10.00) protest fee. All protests shall be logged with the Race Marshal only and shall not be discussed with any other person(s), spectators or media.
 - b) Any driver implicated in a report of an alleged violation of the rules will receive a hearing before the Race Marshal and committee. Such hearings will occur prior to the awards ceremony.
- C. DISCIPLINARY ACTION
- 1. The decisions of the Race Marshal and committee shall be final.
- D. DISQUALIFICATION
- 1. Any musher/team disqualified for any reason will forfeit entrance fee.

VI. AWARDS

A. PURSE

- 1. The 2017 AISDR Awards Purse is guaranteed at \$3000.00. The purse is broken down among the first to eighth place qualifying finishers in the 10 Dog Class and the 6 Dog Class. A breakdown of the purse will be made available at the musher's meeting the night prior to the race start.
- 2. Participants in the Sportsmen's race, the Family Rec Run and Youth Race will be awarded prizes at the discretion of the Bayfield Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Bureau.

B. RECEIPT OF AWARDS

- 1. All drivers finishing the race must be present at the Awards Ceremony to collect their winnings. **Failure to appear will result in forfeiture of any winnings.**

VII. REFUNDS

A. REFUND POLICY

- 1. Full refunds will be granted to those withdrawing from the race before January 11, 2017

VIII. CLAIMS

A. RELEASE OF LIABILITY

- 1. Each driver agrees not to hold the Bayfield Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Bureau or the Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race, its members, race sponsors, land owners (both private and public), the AISDR Race Marshal, the AISDR Chief Veterinarian, employees, or volunteers (individually or jointly), responsible for injury or damage to himself/herself, his/her handler(s), dogs or equipment.

2. Drivers will be required to sign a release of liability as contained in Appendix B, and submit this release to Race Officials prior to the race date.
- B. PHOTOGRAPHY RELEASE
1. Each driver agrees to give the race organizers and sponsors permission to photograph himself/herself and his/her team, and to use as they see fit, any photographs taken before, during, or after the race.