

# Idaho Sled Dog Challenge

## 2024 Race Rules

### SECTION 1: Entry, Pre-Race and Equipment

#### A. Entry information

1. Mid-Distance Class Continuous, 300 miles, 12 dog maximum, 8 dog minimum.
2. Mid Distance Class Continuous, 100 miles, 10 dog maximum, 8 dog minimum.

**NOTE:** There will be a maximum of twenty five (25) total teams between the 100 and 300 mile races, with a twelve (12) team quota for each race. Signups will be on a first come first served basis. However, the signup balance between the races may be adjusted at the discretion of ISDC. Every effort will be made to fill the quota for each race before allowing more than twelve (12) teams to enter one race or the other. For example, if more than twelve (12) teams have signed up for the one hundred (100) mile race, the last teams to sign up will be held in provisional status and would be allowed to run only if the total number of teams between the two races does not exceed twenty five (25). Additionally, due to checkpoint capacities, the total number of teams in any one class cannot exceed fifteen (15).

3. Entry fees are non-refundable, except in the case for which provisional teams are not allowed to run due to the total team number limitation. A team that withdraws can elect to 'rollover' their entry fee to apply to the 2025 ISDC race. Choosing that option does not in any way constitute an early entry and the team must register for the 2025 race in the manner and time that applies to all potential entrants.
5. Receipt of the entry fee and entry form will constitute the musher's intent to enter the race and further acknowledges that the musher agrees to comply with each rule as stated. Entry forms are not complete and accepted until fees are paid.
6. Starting positions for the race will be determined by a drawing at the musher meeting. Order of the drawing will be determined by the order of receipt of the entry fee.
7. ISDC reserves the right to reject an entry.
8. Mushers who request to move from the 300 mile class to the 100 mile class can do so under the following conditions:
  - 100 mile entry slots are available. Additional 100 mile openings could become available if the 300 field is not full as of Jan 2, subject to the 15 team maximum.
  - Available slots will be assigned in order of original registration date on a first come first served basis. However, in no case will a musher moving to the 100 mile class have priority over another musher who originally registered for the 100.
  - The difference between the 100 and 300 entry fee will not be refunded.

## B. Musher and Handler

1. There will be one musher per team. The musher starting at the beginning of the race shall drive the team throughout the entire race.
2. A musher must be a minimum of 18 years old.
3. An experienced musher of 16 or 17 may apply, in writing, to waive the minimum age rule. Application, made in letter form, must include number of years of experience, references from at least two veteran long distance mushers and written consent from parent or guardian.
4. Mushers must make a sincere effort to continue the race in a timely manner or they will be withdrawn at the Race Marshal's discretion. A musher whose conduct or abilities, constitutes an unreasonable risk of harm themselves, dogs or other persons may also be withdrawn.
5. Each musher must have their own handler, truck and be responsible for their dropped dogs.
  - Handlers may assist with parking and departure from the checkpoints.
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Fork Checkpoint is not accessible by handlers.
  - Only the musher may perform care, feeding and other tasks for the team.
  - In the event of a loose dog or canine conflict, anyone may assist.
  - **ISDC requests that handlers take possession of any dropped dogs from their team at or before the time their team leaves the checkpoint** except at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fork Checkpoint where handler access is not possible.
  - Dogs dropped at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fork Checkpoint will be transported to Cascade by the end of the race and released there to a handler.
  - **The musher is required to leave a cable or chain neckline, 3 days of food and a dish for any dogs dropped at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fork checkpoint.**
  - All dropped dogs will be first examined by a member of the veterinary team before being released to their handler.
  - Handlers are responsible for the cleanup of all areas used by their team during the race and must bag or pile straw as directed by checkpoint managers.
  - Handlers must notify a race official when finished cleaning their team area. If cleanup is not completed the team may be subject to a fine or penalty as determined by the Race Marshal.
  - After the musher departs a checkpoint, in addition to cleaning the area, handlers are responsible for retrieving any personal items and drop bags belonging to the musher.

## C. Musher's Meeting

All mushers must attend mandatory mushers' meetings as listed in the schedule of events. All finishers must attend a post-race meeting prior to the banquet. Late arrivals are subject to time penalties.

#### **D. Musher Conduct**

1. All mushers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, crew and themselves when in the race staging area or on the trail.
2. Common sense, civil conduct and good sportsmanship is expected. Race personnel and the veterinary team are all volunteers who make your race possible. Show them your appreciation. Abusive treatment of any person or animals is prohibited. If the Race Marshal determines that driver, handler or team conduct at any time, on or off the trail, is detrimental to the race or sport as a whole, that team may be disqualified.
3. The race course is on a public trail. Mushers do not have exclusive rights to the trail and should cooperate with other users when they are encountered.

#### **E. Dogs**

1. It is the intent of this race, its officials, sponsors and supporters that dog care be the most important aspect of the race.
2. The race MANDATES proper dog care and expects the musher to manage their team in such a way to not push dogs beyond their limits.
3. Cruel and inhumane treatment of dogs is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate disqualification and notification to other race organizations, both sprint and distance. Cruel and inhumane treatment is defined as any action or inaction that causes preventable pain or suffering to a dog.
4. Any dog that expires on the trail, for any reason, must be carried in the sled, fully covered, to the next available race official. Any dog that expires on the trail, at the discretion of the Head Veterinarian, may be required to undergo a necropsy at the owner's expense. The death of any dog on the trail may, upon the consensus of the Head Veterinarian and the Race Marshal, result in the disqualification of the musher.
5. A musher may not allow any of their dogs to be hauled by another team. There will be no loose dogs allowed. All dogs must be in the team or in the sled and no dogs shall be led behind the sled.
6. Three hundred (300) mile race teams shall consist of not more than twelve (12) dogs with the minimum number to start being eight (8). Minimum number of dogs in harness at the finish of the race is five (5).
7. One hundred (100) mile race teams shall consist of not more than ten (10) dogs with the minimum number to start being eight (8). Minimum number of dogs in harness at the finish of the race is five (5)
8. If a dog becomes separated from a team, the musher must report it to an official at their soonest opportunity and will not be permitted to continue until the dog is located and secured.

#### **F. Veterinary Exams**

1. Veterinarians are present to provide advice and care. Their objective is to see that dogs remain healthy and able to continue.

2. Veterinarians will be available before and up to the end of the race to answer questions, provide exams as requested and care as needed.
3. Each dog, prior to the race, will be examined by an ISDC Veterinarian. At the pre-race examination a dog may be withdrawn for health reasons upon the opinion of two race veterinarians.
4. All dogs will have a vital sign evaluation at the mandatory rests (Little Ski Hill on the 100 mile course and Cascade, after leg 4 on the 300 mile course). Full examinations are available by musher request.
5. Mushers may request veterinary assistance and examinations at any checkpoint.
6. If a dog requires a level of veterinary care that necessitates evacuation to a clinic, the musher will be responsible for any charges incurred at the clinic.

## **G. Vaccinations and Deworming**

1. All dogs entered in the race must have current parvo, distemper and Lepto (4 serovariants) vaccinations given within the 12 months prior to the end of the race date. (Administered between February 2023 and January 10, 2024.)
2. All dogs must have received a kennel cough (tracheobronchitis) vaccine no sooner than 4 months prior to the race date, and no later than 14 days prior to the race date (Administered between Sept 30, 2024 and Jan 15, 2023).
3. Rabies vaccinations must be current for the state of residence and be administered by a licensed veterinarian.
4. Dogs must have been administered a deworming agent containing Praziquantal between October 2023 and January 15, 2024.
5. Mushers must provide proof of all vaccinations and dewormers. Owners who self-vaccinate and deworm may submit invoices or other evidence indicating purchase of required vaccines and dewormer.

## **H. Drugs**

1. The intent of the rules concerning the use of any medications is that all competing dogs are racing in a state of acceptable normal health with natural ability. This is to ensure the safety, health and well-being of the dogs.
2. No injectable, oral or topical drug which may suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. No drugs or other artificial means may be used to drive a dog or cause a dog to perform beyond its natural ability. A musher may not use injections on their dogs.
3. The following drugs are prohibited:
  - a. Analgesics (prescriptive or non-prescriptive)
  - b. Anti-inflammatory drugs including but not limited to:
    - Corticosteroids (the use of corticosteroid ointment on the feet is allowed.
    - Steroid preparations are detrimental if splits, wounds or infection are present.
    - Non-steroidal agents (antiprostaglandins, Salicylates, etc.)
  - c. DMSO--Central Nervous System Stimulants

- d. Cough Suppressants
  - e. Anesthetics
  - f. Diuretics
  - g. Anabolic Steroids
  - h. Muscle Relaxants
  - i. Injectable Anticholinergics
  - j. Antihistamines
4. Dogs are subject to the collection of urine or blood samples at the discretion of the Head Veterinarian at any point from the pre-race examination until two (2) hours after the teams cross the finish line. The musher or handler will remain with the dogs for two hours post race if urine or blood samples are requested. All samples will be sealed and signed for before the tests are considered complete. A musher or handler must assist the Race Veterinarian in collecting samples whenever requested. If blood or urine testing of a dog reveals any of the prohibited drugs in the dog, this rule has been violated regardless of when such drug was administered to the dog. A positive test may result in disqualification of the musher pending the decision by the Race Marshal and Head Veterinarian.
  5. The use of Megestrol acetate (Ovaban) or Mibolerone (Cheque Drops) as an estrus suppressant is permitted.
  6. The practice of blood doping, i.e. Injection of whole blood, blood products or any blood substitutes is prohibited.
  7. Race Veterinarians may utilize any of the listed drugs or other prohibited drugs necessary to maintain a dog's health; however such dogs will be withdrawn from the race.

## **I. Equipment**

1. All harnesses shall be padded around the neck and chest areas.
2. Ganglines must be cable, cable filled or of chew resistant material.
3. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
4. Some type of sled shall drawn.
5. Sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brushbow, and snowhook.
6. A sled bag capable of safely restraining a struggling or severely injured dog is required. Sled and sled bag shall be large enough to contain all required equipment in addition to hauling an injured dog. If you have questions about this contact the Race Marshal.
7. If cable or chain necklines are used there must be a weak link incorporated into the neckline. If you have questions about this contact the Race Marshal.
8. All dogs must have their name either written on their collars or attached to their collars in some fashion.

## J. Mandatory Gear in Sled:

1. Mandatory gear must be in the sled throughout the entire race. Gear will be checked at the start, mandatory layovers and finish. Mandatory items are also subject to check at any checkpoint.

Gear shall consist of:

- a. Arctic parka
  - b. Proper cold weather sleeping bag.
  - c. A usable three (3) gallon cooker and appropriate amount of fuel
  - d. Ax with head weight 1.5 pounds minimum and a handle at least twenty-two (22) inches long.
  - e. Two working headlamps.
  - f. Cable cutters capable of cutting 3/16" cable in a single action.
  - g. Any promotional materials provided by the ISDC
  - h. Vet book
  - i. Knife
  - j. Two (2) full sets of booties for each dog either on the sled or being worn by dogs.
  - k. First-aid kit (minimum of ace bandage, pressure dressing and tape.)
  - l. Waterproof matches or lighter
  - m. Snowshoes
  - n. Trail Map
  - o. GPS Tracker with SOS which will be provided by ISDC
2. A musher will not be permitted to leave a checkpoint without all mandatory gear items. In the event that an item is missing, the musher may source a replacement by any means or persons but will be subject to a time penalty of thirty (30) minutes for each item that is replaced.
  3. Mushers are permitted to carry personal electronic devices to include GPS units and cell phones.
  4. Handlers and dog trucks may be present at the checkpoints however, mushers may not acquire additional items after the start of the race except for items contained in their drop bags that were packed before the race and transported to the checkpoint by ISDC.

SEE ALSO K. Mandatory Food (Below)

SEE ALSO SECTION II: The Race C, Checkpoint/Mandatory Layover, #9 (Below)

## K. Mandatory Food

1. One pound for each dog in the team must remain in the sled throughout the race for emergency use. **This food is in addition to food carried for any planned trail feeding.** Should a musher arrive at a checkpoint or finish without the mandatory emergency use food, an explanation must be addressed with a race official. Littering on the trail is prohibited.
2. One day ration for the musher.

## SECTION II: The Race

### A. Start

1. All mushers and dogs will be required to take part in any pre-race ceremonies and photo sessions. **If a Ceremonial Start is scheduled, mushers should have a sled capable of carrying a passenger weighing up to 200 lbs available for their use in the Ceremonial Start.**
2. All mushers and team trucks must be in the official start parking area by the time specified at the musher meeting. Each participant's sled and mandatory equipment must be ready and available for inspection.
3. Handlers will be allowed to assist their team and musher at the start of the race.
4. Teams must be in the start chute 2 minutes prior to their assigned start time, according to the official race time which shall be the time displayed on a cell phone at the start location.
5. Teams will start in 3 minute intervals. There will be no 'ghost musher' starting the race.
6. A team unable to leave at its specified time will depart after the last team leaves but will be deemed to have left at its scheduled time. Any musher who cannot leave the starting line within ten (10) minutes of the last team's departure may be disqualified at the Race Marshal's discretion.
7. Time differentials for the race will be adjusted at the Mandatory Three (3) hour layover at Little Ski Hill (LSH) for the 100 mile race and at the Mandatory Six (6) hour layover at Cascade for the 300 mile race.

### B. Finish

1. The nose of the first dog crossing the finish line signals a team's official finish. In the event the musher is not with the team when it finishes, the finish time will be officially recorded when the musher crosses the line after the team.

### C. Checkpoint/Mandatory Layover

1. Each musher must sign in and out of all checkpoints.
2. Upon entering a checkpoint the number of dogs in harness and in the sled must match the number of dogs recorded when the musher departed from the previous checkpoint. (See also SECTION 1 , E- Dogs #9 above )
3. Mushers may rest at checkpoints as little or as long as they desire but not less than the required rest periods as outlined in this section. Regardless, teams must be making an honest effort to complete the course in a timely manner as compared to the rest of the field.
4. 100 MILE RACE: There is a minimum Three (3) hour mandatory rest at the Little Ski Hill (LSH) Checkpoint following Leg 2. Times will be adjusted to correct for starting times at the LSH mandatory layover. An additional THREE (3) hours of mandatory floating rest may be taken at either checkpoint or divided between the Platt and LSH checkpoints — musher's choice. SEE 6. Below.

5. 300 MILE RACE: There is a minimum SIX (6) hour mandatory rest at the Cascade Checkpoint following completion of Leg 4 and a mandatory THREE (3) hour rest at Platt Checkpoint following completion of Leg 6. Times will be adjusted to correct for starting times at the SIX (6) hour mandatory layover at Cascade checkpoint following completion of Leg 4. An additional SIX (6) hours of mandatory floating rest may be divided among the other checkpoints — musher's choice except as stated in 7, Below.
6. The mandatory rest periods will be credited ONLY IN WHOLE HOUR INCREMENTS, and will be rounded down to the nearest hour. For instance, if a musher takes 2 hours and 45 minutes rest at a checkpoint, they will only be credited with 2 hours.
7. **Rest time in addition to the SIX (6) hour mandatory rest at the Cascade Checkpoint cannot be counted toward the total floating rest requirement.**
8. Mandatory rest will be recorded by officials at each checkpoint **HOWEVER MUSHERS WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING TRACK OF THEIR TOTAL REQUIRED REST DURING THE RACE.**
9. Each musher must leave each checkpoint with mandatory gear in sled. Equipment is subject to being checked by a checkpoint official.
10. During the race no outside assistance is allowed except for that offered by ISDC. If a musher needs to source outside materials or tools for the purpose of repairing or replacing broken equipment, they may do so by first notifying a race official and then, by any means or persons provided that the musher performs the actual repair
11. Mushers may help each other at the checkpoint camp spot on tasks other than direct dog care. Example: one musher may watch two teams while the other goes for water or assist in leaving their camp area
12. Boisterous behavior on the part of any musher around other resting teams is strictly prohibited.

#### **D. Running the Course**

1. The ISDC is a guest on land of the United States Forest Service and private landowners. In light of this, mushers will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and will at no time demand “rights” to the trail from other users external to the race.
2. The 300 Mile course consists of 7 legs:

Leg	Trail	Distance (miles)	Race Mile
1	Cascade to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fork Cabin	40	40
2	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fork to Smiths Ferry	33	73
3	Smiths Ferry to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fork	33	106
4	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fork to Cascade	40	146
5	Cascade to WYE	62	208
6	WYE to Platt	34	242
7	Platt to Cascade	40	282



3. The 100 Mile course consists of 3 legs:

Leg	Checkpoint	Distance (Miles)	Race Mile
1	Cascade to Platt	41	41
2	Platt to Little Ski Hill	26	67
3	Little Ski Hill to WYE	37	104

4. Passing:

- a. When overtaking another team the musher may call "trail." The overtaken team must relinquish the trail and assist the passing team when necessary.
- b. When neither of two teams is able to pull away from the other, the mushers shall mutually decide on the appropriate team to lead out.
- c. In a head-on passing situation the homeward bound team has the right-of-way and the outbound team must relinquish the trail. The exception is when the outbound team is moving downhill, in which case the downhill team has the right-of-way.
- d. There shall be no calling of "trail" in No Man's Land. No Man's Land will be announced at the driver's meeting.

5. Lost Team

- a. In the case of a lost team, the team will not be disqualified if the musher regains control of the team, provided the team and musher complete the entire race trail.
- b. A musher may receive any assistance from anyone in recovering their team.
- c. All teams must follow the trail as marked. As long as the team and musher resume the trail when separated, the musher may continue after regaining control.

6. Teams inadvertently leaving the course must regain the course at the point at which it was left.

7. Safety

- a. It is the musher's responsibility to check for traffic at road crossings.
- b. Be cautious when overtaking, encountering or being overtaken by snow machines. Always use your headlamp to signal snow machines during night travel.
- c. In the case of an emergency or an unmanageable team outside assistance may be accepted without penalty. All such incidents are to be reported by the musher to a race official at the next checkpoint.

8. Stopping on the Trail

- a. When stopped on the trail adequate room must be allowed for teams to get past and assistance given if necessary. Every effort should be made to get completely off the trail while stopped.
- b. If snacking, watering or feeding on the trail the team must be completely off the trail if at all possible. **An honest effort should be made to keep the trail clean of food or debris.** Pack\_out all garbage. Littering is prohibited. Straw left on the trail is not considered littering.

9. Race Bibs, if supplied, will be worn at the start, displayed when entering and leaving each checkpoint and at the finish. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in time and/or monetary penalties.
10. Necklines are required on all dogs, including leaders, at the start, entering and leaving each checkpoint.
11. Drivers wishing to scratch from the race may do so by notifying the Checker, Race Judge or Race Marshal and signing an official scratch form. Drivers are responsible for retrieving personal gear. All dogs on a scratched team will be examined by a race vet.
12. Dogs may only be dropped at any official checkpoint. **Dropped dog paperwork must be signed by the musher before leaving the checkpoint.**
13. Except at the 3rd Fork Checkpoint, handlers must take possession of any dropped dogs after the dog(s) are checked by a race vet. Non-critical dogs dropped at the 3rd Fork Checkpoint will be transported to Cascade by the end of the race and released to a handler. The musher is required to leave a cable or chain neckline, 3 days of food and a dish for any dogs dropped at the 3rd Fork checkpoint.

#### **E. Weather and Trail Conditions**

1. The race will continue under all but the most severe trail and weather conditions.
2. Postponement or cancellation of the race will be made no less than ten (10) days prior to the start of the race.
3. In the event of questionable trail conditions the Race Marshal will decide which portion(s) of the trail will be altered.
4. The Race Marshal is responsible for alteration of starting and/or finishing locations.

### **SECTION III: Race Officials**

#### **A. Race Marshal and Judges**

1. The Race Marshal and Judges are responsible for the enforcement of all ISDC policies and race rules.
2. Race officials shall consult with the Head Veterinarian on all matters relating to dog care and treatment.
3. The Race Marshal is in charge of all aspects of the race from the vet checks/pre-race drivers meeting to the awards presentation. The Race Marshal may impose, reduce or waive monetary or time penalties.
4. The Race Marshal shall have the authority to withdraw a team that is out of the competition based on his/her progress down the trail. The Race Marshal also has the authority to withdraw a musher whose conduct, in the Race Marshal's sole and exclusive judgment, is unsportsmanlike or constitutes an unreasonable risk of harm to themselves, other persons or dogs.
5. Failure of a musher to comply with the published rules may result in a monetary fine, time penalty or disqualification. In the event a fine is imposed, applications to enter future

ISDC races will not be accepted until full payment is received by the ISDC. Disqualified mushers will forfeit all placements. All decisions by the Race Marshal shall be final.

#### **B. Head Veterinarian and Race Veterinarians**

1. The race veterinarians are present throughout the race to monitor the health and welfare of all dogs, advise mushers in caring for any dog medical needs and provide veterinary treatment for dropped dogs if necessary.
2. The Head Veterinarian, in conjunction with the Race Marshal, shall have authority to hold a dog or dogs at any checkpoint for medical reasons.
3. The decision to remove a dog, dogs or a team from the race shall be the responsibility of the Head Veterinarian in conjunction with the Race Marshal.

#### **SECTION IV: Protest and Hearing**

1. Protests must be submitted in writing to the Race Marshal or Race Judge within one (1) hour of the protester's race finish and shall not be discussed with spectators, media representatives or the general public prior to a decision being handed down.
2. An official decision will be made by the Race Marshal following a hearing attended by all parties involved.

#### **SECTION V: Awards Presentation**

It is the desire of ISDC officials that all mushers finishing in the races be present at the awards ceremony. Absence may result in disqualification and/or forfeiture of winnings. Purse monies will be awarded only to participants who are designated official finishers of the ISDC.

#### **SECTION VI: Claims**

1. Each musher is responsible for their own actions and the actions of their dogs and crew. The musher also agrees to release the sponsors, ISDC and their agents, employees, contractors from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the musher, their dogs, property or the property of their crew.
2. ISDC has the unqualified and unrestricted authority to authorize the race sponsor(s) to photograph and otherwise collect information about the race and all participants therein and to use such photographs and information for advertising, public relations or other publicity purposes.
3. Every musher shall sign any and all documents as may be requested by ISDC granting permission for the use of such photographs and information. These documents will be executed at the musher's meeting. Any musher who does not sign the documents requested by ISDC officials will not be allowed to participate in the race