

# Warm Lake Stage Race

## 2024 Race Rules

The Warm Lake Stage Race is a 2 day, 56 mile stage race, 28 miles each day. Race dates are January 24 and 25, 2024.

Teams may be up to 8 dogs. The minimum to start or finish is 5 dogs in harness. The maximum number of teams will be 15. There will be head on passing.

The race will be a low key event geared towards giving the musher experience and/or an opportunity to work out their dogs in a race format.

The Purse consists of bragging rights and trophies. All finishers are eligible to win a random chance prize.

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

#### A. Entry information

1. There will be a maximum of 15 teams. After the maximum number of registrations is reached, subsequent registrations will be placed on a wait list and offered a start position as they become available, in the order of the receipt of entry fees.
2. Registration is open on July 1. Mushers may register and pay fees on the Idaho Sled Dog Challenge (ISDC) web site: [www.idahosleddogchallenge.com](http://www.idahosleddogchallenge.com)
3. The entry fee is \$50 per team AND all sleds must have a valid Idaho Snowmobile Trail Permit Sticker. Stickers are good for the year and cost \$45.50. Stickers may be purchased at the North Shore Lodge (the start location) or from any Idaho Parks and Recreation Vendor. **NOTE: Entry fees for the Idaho Sled Dog Challenge include a Trail Permit Sticker. Mushers who are registered for that race will receive their trail permits at the North Shore Lodge prior to the WLSR.**
4. Entry forms are not complete and accepted until fees are paid.
5. ½ of the Entry fees are refundable up to January 1. After that date, there are no refunds. Under no circumstances will the WLSR refund amounts paid for Trail Permit Stickers.
6. A Musher may transfer their fee to another Musher; that is change the name on a registration by contacting the ISDC Musher Liaison ([mushers.isdc@gmail.com](mailto:mushers.isdc@gmail.com)) any time prior to January 10. In the case of a transfer, the parties involved are solely responsible for any financial arrangements.
7. Waitlisted teams who do not get a starting position will receive a full refund.
8. Starting positions for Day 1 of 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.
9. WLSR reserves the right to reject an entry.

#### 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. Junior mushers aged 16 years and older may participate with the written permission of a parent or guardian. Junior mushers will be permitted, but not required, to be accompanied by a non-competing team. Accompanying teams must notify their intention to do so at or before the Drivers' meeting.
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. Handlers may assist the Musher's at the start and after their return.

### **C. Driver Meeting**

All mushers must attend the Driver Meetings. Musher's will be notified as to time and place of the Driver Meetings.

### **D. Musher Conduct**

1. All mushers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, crew and themselves when in the race staging areas or on the trail.
2. All mushers must use civil conduct and act in a sportsmanlike manner throughout the race. Abusive treatment of any person or animals is prohibited. If the Race Marshal determines that driver, handler or team conduct at any time before or during the race is detrimental to the race or sport as a whole, that team may be disqualified.

### **E. Dogs**

1. 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.
2. Teams shall consist of up to eight (8) dogs with the minimum of five (5) dogs in harness to start or finish.

### **F. Vaccinations**

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 no later than 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 24, 2023 and Jan 11, 2024).
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. Musher's 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.

### **G. 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
5. The use of Megestrol acetate (Ovaban) or Mibolerone (Cheque Drops) as an estrus suppressant is permitted.

## **H. 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:**

1. Mandatory gear must be in the sled at the start and at the finish line.  
Gear in the sled shall consist of:
  - a. Arctic parka
  - b. Working headlamp
  - c. Cable cutters capable of cutting 3/16" cable in a single action
  - d. Knife
  - e. Two (2) full sets of booties for each dog either on the sled or being worn by dogs.
  - f. Waterproof matches or lighter
  - g. Trail Map
  - h. Musher Snacks

## **SECTION II: The Race**

### **A. Start**

1. Day 1 start time will be 11am. Day 2 start time will be 10am. Any changes will be announced at the Drivers' Meeting.
2. The start order for Day 1 will be determined by a draw. Order of the drawing will be determined by the order of receipt of the entry fee. Start times for Day 2 will be determined by the Day 1 finish times. The fastest time will start first, followed by the second fastest and so on.
3. Teams will leave the start at 3 minute intervals.

4. Junior teams will start 30 minutes ahead of the adult teams and will be permitted, but not required, to be accompanied by a non-competing team. Accompanying teams must notify their intention to do so at or before the Drivers' meeting.
5. Handlers will be allowed to assist their team and musher at the start of 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.

## **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.
2. This is a two day race. The official finish time will be the cumulative time of both days.

## **C. Running the Course**

1. The Warm Lake Stage Race is a guest on land of the United States Forest Service and private landowners. Mushers do not have exclusive rights to the trail and should cooperate with other users when they are encountered.
2. The race trail course consists of 2 legs. The trail is approximately 28 miles each day.
  - a. Day 1 runs from the North Shore Lodge through Stolle Meadows, up to Cupps Corrals and back.
  - b. Day 2 is the same course as Day 1.
3. The start order for Day 1 will be determined by a draw. Order of the drawing will be determined by the order of receipt of the entry fee. Start times for Day 2 will be determined by the Day 1 finish times. The fastest time will start first, followed by the second fastest and so on.
4. There will be head on passing.
5. Boisterous behavior on the part of any musher around other resting teams is strictly prohibited.
6. 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.
7. Lost Team
  - a. A musher may receive any assistance from anyone in recovering their team.
  - b. 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.
8. 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 situations will be reported by the musher to a race official at the next checkpoint.
9. 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.
  10. Race Bibs, if supplied, will be worn at the start and finish on both days. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in time and/or monetary penalties. Likewise, Sled numbers, if supplied, must be displayed at the start and finish on both days.
  11. Necklines are required on all dogs, including leaders, at the start and finish.
  12. **Drivers wishing to scratch from the race must notify a race official.**

### **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 WLSR policies and race rules. Race officials shall consult with the Race Veterinarian on all matters relating to dog care and treatment.
2. The Race Marshall 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.
3. 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 Marshall's sole and exclusive judgment, is unsportsmanlike or constitutes an unreasonable risk of harm to themselves, other persons or dogs.
4. Failure of a musher to comply with the published rules may result in a monetary fine, time penalty or disqualification. All decisions by the Race Marshal shall be final.

### **B. Race Veterinarians**

1. 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 and/or 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 and/or 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 Marshall following a hearing attended by all parties involved.

#### **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, WLSR 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. WLSR 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 WLSR and/or ISDC granting permission for the use of such photographs and information. Any musher who does not sign the documents requested by ISDC and/or WLSR officials will not be allowed to participate in the race