

# Bootleg Sled Dog Races Race Rules

Revised February 17, 2009

## I. ENTRY RULES

### A) Eligibility

#### 1. Entries.

- a) An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the race, subject to the entry deadlines as determined by the Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee.
- b) The Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee may reject any entry for just cause.

#### 2. Drivers.

- a) A driver who has successfully submitted an entry for the race, subject to the entry deadlines, must Check-in and attend the Musher's (Drivers) Meeting to be held at a time and place determined by the Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee. Attendance at the Musher's Meeting is mandatory. Failure to attend the Musher's Meeting may result in disqualification at the discretion of the Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee.
- b) The driver starting a team in the first heat of a race shall drive that team throughout the race.
- c) A change in driver can only be made as the result of illness or injury to the authorized entrant and must have the approval of the Race Marshal.
- d) Any driver disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- e) To be eligible for the Junior Class, Drivers must be between four (4) and twelve (12) years of age as of the first day of racing. Drivers entering the Junior Class must wear appropriate protective headgear or helmets at all times while racing.

#### 3. Dogs.

- a) The Race Marshal may disallow entry of any team or dog for just cause.
- b) Any team or dog coming to the starting line which, in the opinion of the Race Marshal, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail shall be disqualified.
- c) Any team or dog not starting the first heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- d) Any team or dog disqualified in any heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.

#### 4. Disease.

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

#### 5. Identification.

- a) In races of more than one heat, each dog may be marked for identification prior to the start of the first heat of the race. In the event that electronic identification devices will be used for dog identification, marking each dog may be waived by the Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee.
- b) Dogs dropped from teams after the first heat of a race involving more than two (2) heats, may be marked a second time to indicate their disqualification from the team.

#### 6. Size of Team.

- a) A Limited 6-Dog Team shall consist of not more than six (6) dogs and not less than three (3) dogs.
- b) A Limited 4-Dog Team shall consist of not more than four (4) dogs and not less than two (2) dogs.
- c) A Limited 2-Dog Team shall consist of not more than two (2) dogs.
- d) After the first heat and each ensuing heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team subject to minimums.

#### 7. Purebred Classes.

- a) Any musher entering a team in any of the purebred classes must complete and sign the purebred declaration included in their registration package.
- b) All dogs making up a team entered in a purebred class must be registered or registerable with the organization or body responsible and recognized for maintaining purebred records for the breed of dogs being entered in the purebred class.

- c) If the purebred status of any dog in a team registered to race in a purebred class is questioned, the musher of the team containing the dog(s) in question must produce appropriate documentation verifying the purebred status of the dog(s). If the musher cannot verify the purebred status of the dog(s) in question, the Race Marshal may disqualify the team from the races. If, in the opinion of the Race Marshal, the dog(s) in question appears to be purebred, the Race Marshal may allow the team to race in the purebred class even if the musher cannot produce documentation verifying the purebred status of the dog(s). In this case, all prize monies and awards earned by the musher whose purebred team contained the dog(s) in question shall be retained by the Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee until such time as the musher can verify the purebred status of the dog(s) or 30 days following the close of the races, whichever comes first.

B) Medications Administered To Dogs

All stimulants and depressants, analgesics, prescriptive and non-prescriptive anti-inflammatory agents including, but not limited to, corticosteroid, anti-prostaglandins, salicylate, anti-anxiety agents, Anabolic steroids or Diet pills are prohibited. Any other substance that may affect the performance of the dogs is prohibited. Any State, Federal or Provincial controlled or restricted substance is prohibited.

C) Equipment

1. Inspection.

- a) Drivers, teams and equipment shall be available for inspection in the race staging area at least ten (10) minutes prior to their scheduled time of departure.
- b) A team in harness shall not be required to stand for inspection longer than five (5) minutes prior to their scheduled time of departure.
- c) Inspection shall take place in an area that does not interfere with other teams, the start or finish chute.
- d) A team shall be available for inspection after each heat at the request of the Race Marshal.
- e) All equipment is subject to the approval of the Race Marshal.

2. Harnesses and Lines.

- a) All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
- b) All dogs shall be fastened to the tug line by a neckline and tail line with the exception of the leader(s) who shall be harnessed in the team by a tail line but may run with or without a neckline. However, in the case of a trail with head on passing during any portion of the trail, dual leaders shall be fastened to each other with a neckline.
- c) A snub line may be carried on the sled but it shall not be used in any manner other than to tie down and hold the sled.

3. Sleds.

- a) A sled shall be capable of adequately carrying the driver and have a basket capable of carrying a dog.
- b) A sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brushbow and snowhook.
- c) A sled shall be equipped with a ventilated dog bag adequate for the safety of the dog, capable of restraining a struggling or incapacitated dog and covering a dog. No part of the dog should be able to extend beyond the bottom, sides or back of the basket. A minimum of 93.0 square inches (600 sq. cm.) ventilation must be provided.

4. Other Equipment.

- a) A muzzle or any collar that can be hooked as a full choke shall be prohibited.
- b) Whips are forbidden.
- c) A racing number for each driver shall be provided by the Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee. The driver shall display this number on his person throughout the race.
- d) Drivers entered in the Junior Class must wear appropriate headgear or helmets at all times while racing.

## II. START & FINISH RULES

A) Drawing

1. The starting position for the first heat of a race shall be determined by a random draw conducted by the Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee prior to the race at a time and place designated by the Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee.

2. The order of the starting position for the first heat of the race shall not be changed either by addition or substitution. Late entries shall be added in order of receipt.

B) Single Start Race

1. The first day's starting positions shall be determined by a random draw conducted by the Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee with Number 1 starting first. Number 2 starting second, etc.
2. The second day's starting positions shall be determined by the first day's times, with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.
3. In races of more than two heats, the total elapsed time of the previous heats shall determine starting positions, with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.

C) Equal Times

1. If the total elapsed time of two teams is identical, the order of start for those teams shall be reverse order in which they started in the preceding heat.
2. Teams with equal times for the entire race shall be awarded (share) the higher finishing position.
3. The purse for the tied place and the next lower place(s) shall be combined and divided equally among those teams tied for that place.

D) Starting Point and Time

1. For heats involving a sled, the leading edge of the brush bow of the sled shall determine the starting point of the team. For Skijoring, the leading tip or point of the Skjorer's skis shall determine the starting point of the Skjorer.
2. Trail time for all teams shall begin at the originally scheduled time of departure.
3. 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 to the starting line for its second scheduled time of departure for any one heat, that team shall be disqualified.
4. A team not clearing the Starting Chute (minimum distance, 30 meters) prior to the scheduled start of the next team may be disqualified.

E) Assistance in the Starting Chute

1. Unless otherwise specified by the Race Marshal prior to the start of the first heat of the event:
  - a) Any amount and type of assistance is allowed to a team prior to the actual starting time.
  - b) Once a team's starting time has commenced, only the Chute Boss, Race Marshal or officials designated to help may assist in the chute.

F) Finish

1. A team shall have finished the heat when any part of the team (usually the leading dog's nose) crosses the finish line.
2. If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of its driver, that team shall have finished when the driver reaches the finish line.
3. When multiple starting chutes are used as a finishing chute, a team may return on any chute.

### III. TRAIL RULES

A) Following The Trail

1. A team and driver shall run the entire course as established by the Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee.
2. If a team leaves the trail, the driver shall return the team to the point at where they left the trail.

B) Driving a Team

1. A driver may ride the sled, pedal or run as wished.
2. A driver shall not interfere with a competing team.

3. All dogs starting a heat shall complete the entire course, either hitched in the team or carried on the sled. If the Race Marshal determines that all dogs did not complete the entire course as above, that team shall be disqualified.
4. A dog removed from the teams must be loaded in the sled and enclosed in a dog bag adequate for the condition the dog is in. Overheated dogs should be placed in a ventilated dog bag or snow packed around the dog or veterinary assistance requested.
5. Carrying a passenger at any time during the race shall be prohibited unless:
  - a) Called for in the conditions of the race.
  - b) Giving a ride to a driver in an emergency situation.

C) Assistance on the Trail

1. All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorized by the Race Marshal.
2. Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other in any manner authorized by the Race Marshal.
3. Handlers and spectator assistance shall be limited to holding the sled, except in the case of a loose team, or a team so unmanageable as to create a clear and present danger to itself, other teams or persons.
4. No one shall assist a team by wilfully pacing it.

D) Loose Teams and Dogs

1. All drivers must assume that a loose team or dog is an endangered team or dog.
2. A loose team or dog shall not delay or interfere with another team.
  - a) The driver of the loose team must overtake a loose team by the quickest means available to ensure the safety of the loose team.
  - b) In the event that a driver cannot quickly and safely recover his/her team, the driver must accept assistance, including a ride when available to recover his/her team. Failure to accept available assistance may result in disqualification of the driver of the loose team. The Race Marshal shall determine if a driver is to be disqualified.
  - c) Any person(s) is/are encouraged to stop and hold a loose team.
  - d) Drivers who receive a ride to recover a team will be assessed a time penalty of 20% of the total elapsed time of the heat in which they received a ride.

E) Right of Way

1. When teams are passing on a single trail:
  - a) The team travelling down hill has the right-of-way.
  - b) On level terrain, the Race Marshal shall determine and announce, prior to the start of the race, whether the incoming or out-going team has the right of way.
2. In the 800 meter "No-right-of-way finish zone", no team shall have the right-of-way.
3. The 800 meter "No-right-of-way finish zone" shall be the last 800 meters of the race trail immediately preceding the finish line.

F) Passing

1. When one team driver intends to pass another team, the passing team driver may demand the right of way when the lead dog(s) come(s) within 15 meters of the sled of the overtaken team.
2. 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.
3. Once a team has been passed, that team shall not repass so long as the driver in front is making an effort to keep his team moving forward until,
  - a) After no less than two minutes or 800 meters.
  - b) At any lesser interval when both drivers are in agreement.
4. After a pass has been completed, a team driver that has been passed need not hold his team while other driver:
  - a) repairs gear, or
  - b) Unhooks and transfers a dog or dogs from one position in a team to another position in the team, or
  - c) 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.

5. A driver coming upon two or more teams stopped together may pass all such teams. The stopped drivers shall make every effort to clear the trail for the moving team(s).
6. Teams following each other shall maintain an interval or not less than one (1) team length except when passing or in the "No-Right-Of-Way finish zone".
7. When a team is overtaken in the "No-Right-Of-Way finish zone", that team does not have to stop and yield the trail.
8. No driver shall interfere with a competing team.

#### **IV. PRIZE MONEY**

##### **A) Prize Money Distribution**

1. Prize money and awards for each placing in each class in the races shall be determined by the organizing committee. The committee may, from time to time, restructure the prize money distribution at their discretion but no later than 60 days prior to the start of the races.
2. The prize money and awards structure shall be outlined in appropriate race literature and on the race website.
3. Prize money and awards for each placing in each class shall be awarded in accordance with the current distribution structure to the winning participant at the Awards Ceremony. Winning participants must be in attendance at the Awards Ceremony to receive their prize money and/or award.
4. All prize money and awards earned by any musher who raced in a purebred class subject to verification of the purebred status of one or more of the dogs making up the purebred team shall be retained by the organizing committee until such time as the purebred status of the dog(s) in question has been verified or 30 days, whichever comes first. Purebred status verification of the dog(s) in question shall consist of the musher providing the organizing committee with appropriate purebred status documentation. In the event the musher fails to provide the organizing committee with appropriate purebred status documentation within 30 days of the close of the races, the placings in the affected race class(es) shall be adjusted and the prize money and awards distributed as though the musher not providing appropriate purebred status documentation had been disqualified in all classes that musher raced in.

##### **B) Prize Money Forfeiture**

1. Any participant eligible to receive prize money or an award who is not in attendance at the Awards Ceremony to receive their prize money and/or award, foregoing extenuating circumstances, forfeits their prize money and/or award. Such forfeited prize money and/or award shall be considered to be a donation to the organizing committee on behalf of the forfeiting musher.
2. Extenuating circumstances that supercede forfeiture of the prize money and/or award is at the discretion of the organizing committee and must be communicated to the Race Manager for judgement prior to the Awards Ceremony.
3. Any participant failing to provide, within 30 days of the close of the races, appropriate purebred status documentation verifying the purebred status of a dog or dogs who raced in a purebred class, whose purebred status was questioned, shall forfeit all prize money and awards earned at the races.

#### **V. CONDUCT**

##### **A) Responsibility and Sportsmanship**

1. All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handlers, and themselves whenever in the race area or on the trail.
2. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshal determines that a 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.

##### **B) Abuse of Dogs**

Abuse of dogs, with or without an implement, shall be prohibited. If the Race Marshal determines that any dog has been abused, that team and driver shall be disqualified.

## VI. RULES VIOLATIONS

### A) Reports by Race Officials

1. Race Officials shall report overt rule violations to the Race Marshal verbally, in person or by radio, immediately or directly following the heat in which the violation occurred.
2. The Race Marshal shall act, at his discretion, on any overt violations witnessed and reported by race officials.

### B) Reports by Race Contestants

1. Drivers wishing to report an alleged violation of the rules by another contestant shall notify the Race Marshal immediately following the heat in which the incident occurred. Notification may be verbal.
2. All verbal reports shall be followed with a written report, given to the Race Marshal within one (1) hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred.

### C) Protests and Hearings

1. Any driver implicated in a report of an alleged violation of the rules may request a hearing before the Race Marshal.
2. Said hearing shall be granted by the Race Marshal.

### D) Disciplinary Action

1. For violation of any Bootleg Sled Dog Races Race Rule, the Race Marshal shall either issue a verbal warning to the driver, or disqualify the driver and team from the race.
  - a) No other disciplinary action shall be imposed except at the discretion of the Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee.
  - b) Decisions shall be announced as promptly as practical but no later than two hours prior to the start of any ensuing heat(s).
  - c) Any disciplinary action following the final heat of the race shall be acted upon prior to the awards ceremony.
2. The decision of the Race Marshal shall be final.

## VII. RACE DELAY OR TERMINATION

### A) Race Delay

1. The Race Marshal may at any point in the race delay the race if, in his/her opinion, continuing the races poses an obvious danger or unacceptable risk to the safety and well being of drivers and/or dogs participating in the races as a result of a temporary or correctable condition.
  - a) All teams and drivers shall remain in the race area pending further notification from the Race Marshal.
  - b) Delays shall not be more than 4 hours in length.
  - c) Delays longer than 4 hours on any race day but the last day of racing shall terminate the races for that day to recommence on the next scheduled race day. Times recorded for completed heats in any class shall be included in the aggregate totals in determining placings in each class. Times recorded for partially run heats in any class shall be discarded and not used in the aggregate totals in determining placings in each class.
  - d) Delays longer than 4 hours in length on the last day of racing shall result in Race Termination.
2. The decision of the Race Marshal shall be final.

### B) Race Termination

1. The Race Marshal shall terminate the races at any point during the race if, in his/her opinion, continuing the races poses an obvious danger or unacceptable risk to the safety and well being of drivers and/or dogs participating in the races as a result of a permanent or non-correctable condition.
  - a) The placings in each class where complete heats in that class have been conducted shall be determined by the aggregate time of previously run heat(s) of the class, the fastest aggregate time being awarded first, the second fastest aggregate time being awarded second, etc.
  - b) The placings in each class where only part of a heat in that class has been conducted shall be determined by the aggregate time of previously run heat(s) of the class, excluding all times recorded

in the partially conducted heat, the fastest aggregate time being awarded first, the second fastest aggregate time being awarded second, etc.

- c) Entry fees shall be refunded to all registrants in a class where no complete heats were conducted prior to the race being terminated and prizes in that class shall not be awarded.
  - d) The awards ceremony will be conducted at a place and time determined by the Bootleg Sled Dog Races Committee within 2 hours of the termination of the races.
2. The decision of the Race Marshal shall be final.