

# ALPEN-TRAIL RACE RULES

## PART I, SPECIAL RULES

### 1. ENTRY

The Race Organization Committee (ROC) reserves the right to reject entries for just cause. Mailed entries will be registered according to the time and date of arrival and shall be the order of drawing.

### 2. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Drivers must be at least 18 years of age as of the starting date of the competition. A liability insurance is obligatory for drivers and handlers covering the risks of sled dog racing and all consequences like transportation etc.

### 3. PRE COMPETITION CHECKS

#### a. VETERINARY PRE-COMPETITION EXAMINATION

Before the competition starts, all dogs shall undergo a physical examination. Examinations will be performed by ROC authorized veterinarians. All dogs shall be at least eighteen (18) months old to participate. Only dogs in good health will be allowed to participate in the competition. Since all examinations shall be carried out within two (2) days prior to the start of the race all dogs participating shall be available at the time and date as prescribed by the ROC.

All dogs participating in the competition, or brought to the race sites, shall have current parvo, rabies, leptospirosis, hepatitis and distemper vaccinations. It is highly recommended that all dogs are vaccinated against kennel cough. Drivers shall be able to present proof of vaccination signed by an authorized veterinarian.

#### b. EQUIPMENT CHECK.

Before the competition starts all equipment shall be checked and approved of by the race marshal (RM) and/or his representative. All equipment shall be available at the time and date as prescribed by the ROC. Equipment check never to be combined with the vet check.

### 4. CLAIMS

The driver agrees to hold the ROC, judges, officials, main sponsor, co-sponsors and other contributors to the ROC (as distinguished from the individual drivers sponsors) harmless from any claim or demand, based on any alleged action or non-action by the driver, his dogs, agents, or others acting on his behalf.

The driver also agrees to release the ROC, judges, officials, competition sponsors, their agents and employees from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the driver, his dogs, property including, but not limited to, lost or dropped dogs and misplaced food and supplies.

Furthermore, the ROC has the unqualified and unrestricted authority with regards to photography and gathering of information on the competition and all participants involved, as well as to the use of such photographs and information for advertising, public relations or any other publicity purpose related to the competition. The driver shall sign any/all documents that the ROC may request in evidence of the foregoing. Signing of these documents shall be executed at the drivers meeting.

### 5. DRIVERS' MEETING

Drivers shall attend the drivers meeting, as well as any other meeting officially announced. The ROC, or the RM will announce the time and place of this meeting(s).

The race marshal (RM) may waive this rule if a driver is delayed, due to unforeseen circumstances. However in this case the driver is responsible for obtaining a briefing from officials prior to the start.

### 6. RACE START

- a. The race will in principle take place as scheduled. Yet, in consult with the ROC and/or the chief vet, the RM may change or cancel the starting time and/or place as well as each succeeding stage, if he has reason to do so.
- b. The starting order of the first stage will be drawn. The starting order of the second and/or following stages will be reversed to the results of the previous stages.
- c. Each driver shall display the bib number during the entire race, as decided by the RM.

### 7. DOG IDENTIFICATION

All dogs shall be marked with a chip before arrival at the race site. In exceptional cases chipping before the race is possible, but is not a ROC responsibility.

### 8. HANDLERS.

The character of the race requires often handler assistance. In case a driver has no handler, the race organisation is not responsible in any way.

## PART II, MAIN RACE PROCEDURES

### 9. STAGES AND CHECKPOINTS

- a. The distance between each start and arrival is considered a stage. The start and arrival locations are considered checkpoints.
- b. In addition to start and arrival checkpoints, there may be checkpoints along each stage.
- c. Drivers may be requested to sign in personally upon arrival at a checkpoint and have their mandatory gear checked upon any race official's request.

### 10. TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OR OTHER MANDATORY STOPS

Such stops may be scheduled during transfers and necessary rest days, or as per 6A above.

## 11. RACE TIMING AND STARTING PROCEDURES

- a. In principle, teams will leave the starting line at two (2) minutes intervals. A team not clearing the starting chute -minimum distance 30 meters - shall make way for the next starting team(s) and in no way interfere with their progress. Trail time for each team begins at the scheduled time of departure. Any driver not able to start according to the drawn order is declared a late starting team. A late-starting team is not allowed to start until two (2) minutes after the last team entered (in its class) has started, trail time from second scheduled time of departure with a time penalty of three times the starting interval. In all cases a team must leave within 15 minutes after the last team's departure; if not, such team will be disqualified.
- b. Stages may be continued with a restart from a designated checkpoint (Foreseen time of restart will be announced at the driver meeting). Drivers will leave the starting line in order of arrival at this checkpoint, with intervals decided by the RM.
- c. The ROC or the RM may impose a mandatory stop at a designated point.  
This stage (b and c) will be considered one stage with one total accumulated time.
- d. To be official, each stage and related times must be certified by the RM. The RM may refuse to certify, if he and/or the judges find any evidence that reveals irregularities in officiating, including trail breaking, marking and timing. The RM may either cancel the stage or request to be run again.

## 12. EQUIPMENT

- a. Each driver may choose his own sled, providing that it meets the necessary requirements.  
A sled shall be capable of adequately carrying the driver and, in case of an emergency, also another driver; have a basket with a hard bottom, capable of safely carrying at least any injured dogs as well as the required equipment. For this purpose the sled shall also have an adequately ventilated bag.  
**A sled shall be equipped with:** an adequate brake, a brushbow, at least two (2) snowhooks and a braking pad. The braking pad shall be big enough to use with both heels, while staying on the runners (ca. 20 x 30 cm) and shall have a well functioning, solid retraction system. All braking devices shall be placed between the runners.  
A snubline may be carried in the sled, but it shall not be used in any way than to tie down and hold the sled.
- b. Each sled shall be fitted on both sides with a national flag, identifying the driver's national origin. The flag shall measure a minimum of 20 x 30 cm and remain attached during the entire race.
- d. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file and fastened to the tug line by a neckline and a tail line. Lead dogs may run without a neckline.
- e. Full choke collars, jinglers, muzzles or whips of any kind are not allowed.
- f. All equipment shall be in good condition, and is subject to the approval of the RM.

## 13. MANDATORY ITEMS

Each driver shall have the following mandatory gear with him:

- a. Four (4) spare booties per dog at each start (in the basket)
- b. A chain/cable to tether a dog once it is dropped (snap hooks on both sides)
- c. Three (3) chains thirty (30) cm long, capable of being installed on the runners as a chain braking system, if the sled is not equipped with any such runner braking system.
- d. During night/evening stages a headlight and spare batteries.
- e. Helmet is mandatory for every driver during the race.

## 14. SKIING BEHIND SLED

Skiing behind the sled is strictly forbidden.

## CONDUCT - DOG CARE PROCEDURES

### 15. CONDUCT

Abuse of dogs, with or without an implement, shall be prohibited. If a driver/handler, in the opinion of the RM, abuses a dog, that driver shall be disqualified.

### 16. INTERFERENCE

No driver/handler may temper with another driver's dogs, food or gear, or interfere in any manner in the progress of another team.

### 17. SPORTSMANSHIP

Drivers/handlers shall conduct themselves in a civil sportsman like manner throughout the competition. No abusive behaviour will be tolerated.

### 18. MINIMUM/MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DOGS

- a. **Eight (8) dog class – ten (10) dog pool – no minimum number of dogs**
- b. **Six (6) dog class – seven (7) dog pool – no minimum number of dogs**
- c. **Skijöring (1-2) dog class – three (3) dog pool -**
- d. At the discretion of the RM the maximum number of dogs in a team may be reduced to accommodate trail conditions.

### 19. JURISDICTION AND CARE

- a. Dogs entering the race fall under the jurisdiction and care of the Chief veterinarian and his staff from completion of the pre race vet check, until one (1) hour after the team finishes the last stage or its withdrawal.
- b. It is the responsibility of the driver to declare to the responsible officials all the dogs he/she and/or his/her handler(s) are carrying during the competition, including those which do not participate.

### 20. DROPPED DOGS

- a. If dog dropping is allowed, a driver may drop dogs at checkpoints designated as Dog Drop Point along the trail or at the start and arrival checkpoints. If dropped at designated check points along the trail, dropped dogs will be collected and taken to that stage's arrival line under the responsibility of the ROC until turned over to the driver or his representative.
- b. A driver may drop dogs at his discretion as long as he meets the requirements as per the rules. A driver may on his own discretion use dogs dropped by himself again during following stages, provided the dog is in good health. However sick or injured dogs have to be reported to a race veterinarian.
- c. Dogs taken out of a team by a ROC-vet, or any other judge, will be identified, marked and not allowed to reenter the race, until such time that a ROC veterinarian recertifies a dog.
- d. Reentering certification of dogs as per 19.c shall be applied for from one of the ROC vets at least one hour prior to the driver's designated starting time. If a dog is to be placed back into a team after certification, one of the race vets or officials shall notify the RM.
- e. Racing dogs, which are officially dropped for the whole race shall be reported to the RM.
- f. Care and transportation of all dogs is the responsibility of the driver and/or his handler, with the exception of 20.a.

## 21. DOG EXCHANGE

Drivers may not exchange dogs once teams have been marked. Any dog to be exchanged before marking, once the veterinary pre-check is completed, is to be reported to the chief vet.

## 22. DOG CARE

- a. The RM shall penalize a driver if he does not take proper care of his dogs, including dropped dogs, from the start until the end of the race. The driver and/or his handler must assist the veterinarian performing the examination or treatment on his/her dog(s).
- b. **No person is allowed to perform any medical treatment to the dogs without authorisation.**

## 23. DOG HAULING

- a. On the trail a dog shall be carried in the dog bag, when taken out of the team.
- b. Dogs shall be carried in a humane manner.
- c. A dog shall not be carried by another team, except during an emergency.

## 24. EXPIRED DOGS

Any dog expired on the trail must be covered and hauled in the sled to a checkpoint. The driver may transport the dog either to the checkpoint just passed, or to the upcoming one. The driver shall then complete a report and present it to a race official along with the dog.

## DRUG USE

### 25. DRUG USE ON DOGS

No injectable, oral, or topical drug that suppresses the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. No other drug or artificial means may be used to drive or cause a dog to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability.

The following drugs are prohibited:

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 Analgesic (prescriptive and non-prescriptive)          | 5 Sedatives/anesthetics       |
| 2 Anti-inflammatory drugs including, but not limited to: | 6 Diuretics                   |
| a Anti-prostaglandins                                    | 7 Anabolic steroids           |
| b Salicylates  | 8 Muscle relaxants            |
| c Non-steroids   | 9 Injectable anti-colenergics |
| 3 Central nervous system stimulants                      | 10 Muscle relaxants           |
| 4 Cough suppressants                                     | 11 Beta-blockants             |

At the veterinarian's discretion, dogs are subject to collection of urine and blood samples any time from the pre-race examination until one (1) hour after the team's finish.

Driver shall assist the veterinarian in collecting samples whenever requested. If blood or urine testing of a dog reveals any of the prohibited drugs, regardless of when such drugs were administered, this rule has been violated.

Samples for doping control may be done at any time during the whole event, between the time the first team crosses the finish line of the first stage and one hour after the last team crosses the finish line of the last stage.

External use of DMSO and topical cortico-steroids is limited to feet only, in foot ointments approved by the ROC. Under special circumstances a race veterinarian may use local anesthetics on a dog only if such use is justified and save for the dog.

Blood doping (i.e. injection of whole blood, packed blood cells or blood substitutes) is illegal and any confirmation of such use is a violation of this rule.

Race veterinarians may use any of the above listed drugs or any other drug necessary to keep a dog in good health; yet in this case a dog will be withdrawn from the race. The use of sedatives or general anesthetics will not be permitted in any form unless the dog is withdrawn from the race.

Driver's personal prescriptions may not be used on dogs.

### 26. USE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON PEOPLE

The ROC will endeavor to provide a competition that is free of those drugs and medications that could unfairly enhance the performance of a driver or might endanger his or her animals or his or her own health. For this reason, the following drugs, which have been banned by the International Olympic Committee, are prohibited from the competition's start until the competition's end, including the prize awarding ceremony.

- a. Stimulants (amphetamines), ephedrine and related compounds (except caffeine)
- b. Anabolic steroids
- c. Diuretics
- d. Blood doping, street drugs and painkiller narcotics, including codeine, cocaine, heroin and hallucinogens
- e. Alcohol above the legal limit imposed by the traffic regulations

Some physical disorders (i.e. high blood pressure and asthma) are commonly treated with above listed banned drugs (i.e. diuretics, metaproterenol and some inhalers). Therefore drivers using these drugs should consult with their personal physician for substitute medications. Under direct supervision of medical or drug testing staff, a driver may be requested to provide a urine sample 15 minutes after each day's stage.

A positive test or refusal to provide such sample will subject the driver to a disciplinary action, which shall lead to disqualification.

## **GENERAL RULES**

**27.**In case of omission or possible doubt the ESDRA race rules shall apply.

**28.**The drivers during the drivers meeting will elect a driver's representative on an annual basis. The driver's representative will present the drivers concerns to the ROC during the competition and the following year until the next drivers meeting.

**29.**All ROC-vets or judges may withdraw any sick or injured dog from the competition, the dogs will be checked by the chief vet.

### **30.Following Marked Trail**

All teams must complete the entire race trail as marked and check in whenever applicable.

### **31.Emergency**

All situations which actually endanger the life (lives) or overall safety of driver(s) and/or dog(s).

### **32.Unmanageable Team**

Drivers may accept assistance to control an unmanageable team and are allowed to continue in the race, providing that it did not interfere with the progress of other teams.

### **33.Driverless Team**

Loose teams and dog(s).

- a. All drivers must assume that a loose team or dog is an endangered team or dog.
- b. A loose team or dog shall not delay or interfere with another team.
- c. The driver of the loose team must overtake the loose team by the quickest means available to ensure the safety of the loose team.
- d. In the event that the 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.
- e. Any person(s) is (are) encouraged to stop and hold a loose team.
- f. All assistance must be reported to the RM directly after crossing the finish line
- g. A loose team may resume the trail without penalty provided the team has completed the entire trail and the driver only has received outside assistance limited to stopping and holding the loose team or dog.

### **34.Teams Tied Up Together**

Two or more teams may not be tied together, except during an emergency. In that case, the driver(s) involved shall notify race officials at the next checkpoint.

### **35.Motorized Vehicles**

Motorized assistance is not allowed, except in an emergency. Any motorized assistance shall be reported to the RM immediately after the stage, and is subject to his judgement.

### **36.Passing**

When a team is being passed, the overtaken team shall considerably slow down, if possible with the braking pad and not with the claw barke. If the overtaking musher requests "TRAIL" or "STOP", the overtaken team must stop – if at all possible with the braking pad. Composure and sportman like manner is expected from both sides throughout the competition

### **37.Parking Teams**

Teams shall be parked at locations, which do not interfere with other teams and drivers.

### **38.Litter**

Dumping of litter on the trail, in camps or parking areas is not allowed. Special litter facilities will be available at checkpoints. (Litter includes straw, hay, etc.)

### **39.Outside Assistance**

Drivers may not receive outside assistance between a stage start and finish, except per rules 31 up to and including 34. Handler assistance is never allowed during stages. Dog care and feeding between start and finish is the team's driver responsibility only. If a driver is present in non-emergency situation help is limited to holding the sled. If the driver is not present, the team may be stopped and held until the driver or a race official claims the team. Any assistance shall be reported to the RM immediately after that stage.

### **40.Restart**

At the restart area only race officials may provide assistance to incoming and outgoing teams unless otherwise authorised by the RM.

### **41.ABANDONED TEAMS/LOOSE DOGS**

A driver, who loses and abandons his team/dog(s) during a stage, whatever the reason, for a period of time, or at a location that does not allow him to exercise direct care and control over his team, may be disqualified.

### **42.NO RIGHT OF WAY**

A "800 m" sign shall be placed 800 m from the finish line to indicate the beginning of the "no-right-of way" zone.

### **43.One Driver Per Team**

There will be one driver per team only and that driver shall complete the entire competition.

### **44.SUBSTITUTES**

A driver may appoint a substitute driver for his team by notifying the ROC/RM in writing one (1) hour prior to the start of the first stage. The substitute shall run the whole competition through all stages. No substitutes are allowed once the first stage has started.

#### **45. RACE PROGRESS**

- a. To avoid delay in the race progress and ease the ROC tasks, the RM shall eliminate a team which does not complete two consecutive stages within 160% of the average time of the first three teams per stage in his class.
- b. The RM may extend this time or substitute a stage due to extenuating circumstances, but never more than once.
- c. Any team eliminated due to an excessive time delay will be issued a mileage certificate.

#### **46. FINISH**

The nose of the first dog of the team crossing the finish line determines an official finish. If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of its driver, that team shall have finished when the driver crosses the first finish line. Arriving teams shall stop after the finish line and wait in the so called control area till an official permits to leave. Only finishing drivers and officials are allowed in the control area, which shall have space for at least 5 teams.

#### **47. PRIZE AWARDING**

All drivers who did finish up to 15 minutes before the prize awarding ceremony shall attend the event. The winner as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed drivers shall attend the prize awarding ceremony with a team dog, and wear their bibs visible.

### **PART III, RACE OFFICIALS AND PENALTIES**

#### **48. RACE OFFICIALS**

1. The RM and judges are responsible for enforcement of all race rules.
- b. The veterinary staff is also responsible as to assist with enforcement of dog care and treatment rules. In addition the Chief-vet is responsible to assist the RM in decisions that involve dog care and treatment.

#### **49. PROTEST**

A driver may protest any competitor's or race official's action, which he feels is contrary to the intend of the regulations. To become a legitimate protest and be recognized as such, any infraction shall be reported verbally at the finish line and shall be confirmed in writing to the RM or his representative, no later than one (1) hour after the driver has completed that stage. Protests against race officials shall be heard by an Appeal Marshal plus a two (2) member appeals board, appointed by the ROC. In case the official is not the RM, he will be present at the hearing.

#### **50. PENALTIES**

- a. A rule infraction may lead to the issuance of reprimands, warnings, time penalties, disqualification or censure.
- b. Any judge may issue a reprimand or warning, which must be reported to the RM. The RM issues all other penalties except censure.
- c. Disqualification may be based on recommendations of other race officials. The chief veterinarian will be included in all cases involving cruel and inhumane treatment of dogs.

The RM's decision is final.

- d. A reprimand may be issued for a first minor infraction with no consequences for any participant.
- e. A warning may be issued for a minor infraction with no consequences for any participant, and which is not deemed to be detrimental to the sport.
- f. Time penalties of up to a maximum of two (2) hours per infraction may be issued if an unintentional rule breaking gives the driver a time advantage.
- g. Disqualification: any rule infraction involving cruel and inhumane treatment of animals, cheating or any deliberate rule breaking that gives a driver an unfair advantage over another driver will lead to disqualification.
- h. Censures: The ROC (Board of directors) may censure a driver even once the race is over. A censure may be a warning and could lead to the driver's exclusion from future competition. Warnings or disqualifications shall be issued prior to censure.

Except reprimand and warning, any assessed penalty will be presented in writing to a driver. All penalties will be shown on the result list, with reference to the applicable rule.

The driver may submit his case to each of the race officials separately prior to the decision and will be allowed to continue the race while the decision is being made, except in cases that involves cruel and inhumane treatment of dogs.

#### **51. APPEAL**

Drivers may appeal censures in writing to the ROC within ten (10) days after receipt. Appeals will be examined during an informal hearing before an appeal's board appointed by the ROC within 30 days after receipt of the appeal. At this hearing the RM will always be invited. Other penalties may not be appealed.

**THE INTENT OF PRESENT REGULATIONS IS TO ENSURE A FAIR COMPETITION, ROC APPOINTED RACE OFFICIALS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERPRETING THE RULES SO AS TO ENSURE THAT INTENT.**