



# **CANADIAN CHALLENGE SLED DOG RACE RULES - 2025**

## CATEGORIES

### **10-Dog Continuous Race/Qualifier: 328 km (204 Miles) \* Main Race Event \***

La Ronge (Start) - Fafards - La Ronge – Lynx Creek – La Ronge - Fafards – La Ronge – Missinipe (Finish)

### **6-Dog Continuous Race: 164 km (102 Miles)**

La Ronge (Start) – Fafards - La Ronge – Missinipe (Finish)

### **8-Dog Race: 164 km (102 Miles)**

La Ronge (Start) – Fafards - La Ronge – **Overnight**

La Ronge (Re-Start) – Missinipe (Finish)

### **6-Dog Race: 96 km (60 Miles)**

La Ronge (Start) – Lac La Ronge - La Ronge – **Overnight**

Sucker River (Re-Start) – Missinipe (Finish)

## PRE-RACE VET CHECK

**ALL TEAMS: AIR RONGE; MONDAY FEBRUARY 17, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

## MUSHER MEETING

**ALL TEAMS: AIR RONGE; MONDAY FEBRUARY 17, 5 PM**

**MEET & GREET: AIR RONGE, MONDAY FEBRUARY 17, 6 PM**

## RACE START

**10 DOG CONTINUOUS: LA RONGE; TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, from 12 PM**

**6 DOG CONTINUOUS: LA RONGE; WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, from 4 PM**

**8 DOG RACE: LA RONGE; WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, from 12 PM**

**6 DOG RACE: LA RONGE; WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, from 1 PM**

**8 DOG RESTART: LA RONGE; THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, from 10 AM**

**6 DOG RESTART: SUCKER RIVER; THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, from 12 PM**

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**MUSHER'S MIXER: MISSIPIPE, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20, 7 PM (optional)**

**AWARDS BREAKFAST: MISSIPIPE, FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21, 9:30 AM**

## 1) ELIGIBILITY

- a) Mushers entering the 6-dog category must be older than 12 years of age, at the start of the race.
- b) Mushers entering the 10-dog, 8-dog, or 6-dog Continuous category must be at least 16 years of age, at the start of the race.
- c) Mushers under 18 years of age, at the start of the race, must have parental permission to participate in any race, with Parent or Guardian completing Parental Approval Form no later than Musher Registration. [Go to Approval Form here](#)
- d) Mushers wishing to use the 10-dog race as a qualifier for the Yukon Quest or Iditarod races:
  - i) Must declare their Qualifier Status before the end of the Musher Meeting.
  - ii) Must complete Qualifier form before the end of the Musher Meeting.

## 2) REGISTRATION

- a) Receipt of the entry fee and completed registration form online will constitute the musher's intent to enter the race, and to comply with the rules as stated. The Registration Form and Entry Fee must be accompanied by a current photo and a completed Biography Sheet. By submitting these items, the musher and handler consent to the use of this information on the Canadian Challenge website and/or Social Media sites, along with any other promotion material as determined by the Race Committee.
- b) The Canadian Challenge Race Committee reserves the right to reject any entry.
- c) Entry Deadline is 12:01 am, Saturday February 1, 2025. In the case of a kennel entry, the musher must be named at the Musher Meeting.
- d) The maximum number of entries is **25 Teams** across all categories. A waiting list will be established for teams wishing to enter after the first 25 teams sign up.
- e) Mushers must register in person at the Mandatory Pre-Race Vet Check no less than 15 minutes before their scheduled vet check time. Failure to do so will result in a \$10 fine. Mushers must complete a Liability Waiver and Veterinary Treatment Agreement at Registration.

## 3) ENTRY FEES

- a) The Entry Fee for Canadian Challenge are as follows:

i) 10-dog	\$350
ii) 8-dog	\$250
iii) 6-dog Continuous	\$250
iv) 6-dog	\$150
- b) All Entry Fees increase by \$50 for registrations starting December 1, 2024.
- c) In case of withdrawal before Race Start, 50% of the Registration Fee will be paid out before December 1, 2024. There will be no refund for withdrawal after December 1, 2024.
- d) In case of change in Race Category:
  - i) Registrants moving up in category will pay the difference between original and higher entry fee at time of category change
  - ii) Registrants moving down in category will not receive a refund.

## 4) CLAIMS

- a) Each musher and handler agree not to hold the Gateway North Sled Dog Race Association Inc., its Members, Race Sponsors, Landowners (Private or Public), the Race Committee, Board of Directors, Employees or Volunteers, Individually or Jointly, responsible for injury or damage or himself/herself, his/her handler, dogs, or equipment.

5) MUSHERS

- a) The Musher starting the race shall drive the team throughout the race. The Race Committee may allow the substitution of a Musher up until the start of the race.
- b) It is mandatory for all mushers to attend all race functions on Page 2.
- c) All Mushers and their Handlers must attend the Musher Meeting. Failure to meet the first roll call may result in a fine of \$100. Missing the second roll call will result in disqualification.

6) DOGS & DOG HEALTH

a) Size of Teams:

- i) Each **10-dog team** must start with a maximum of 10 dogs, minimum of 8 dogs, and finish with a minimum of 5 dogs. At least 5 dogs must be standing in the team at all times.
- ii) Each **8-dog team** must start with a maximum of 8 dogs, minimum of 6 dogs, and finish with a minimum of 4 dogs. At least 4 dogs must be standing in the team at all times.
- iii) Each **6-dog team** must start with a maximum of 6 dogs, minimum of 4 dogs, and finish with a minimum of 4 dogs. At least 4 dogs must be standing in the team at all times.

b) Dropped Dogs

- i) Dogs may only be dropped at the La Ronge Checkpoint. Mushers wishing to drop a dog, the dog must be marked out by a Race Veterinarian. If a Race Veterinarian is not available, the Race Marshall or other Designated Official must give approval.
- ii) Handlers are responsible to care for dropped dogs. If a Musher does not have a handler, they must provide the name and contact information for a person responsible for the care of their dropped dogs.
- iii) A Musher must provide sufficient food, bowls, and cable tethers until their Handler takes responsibility for the care of the dog.
- iv) Qualifiers must transfer dropped dogs through a Race Official, there must be no contact between Musher and Handler.
- v) Any dog dropped before or during the race will be marked out and cannot be re-entered or substituted.

c) Mandatory Pre-Race Veterinarian Check. [Arrange your vet check time here](#)

- i) The Musher is responsible for scheduling and completing this check before Race Start.
- ii) All dogs must undergo a Mandatory Pre-Race Veterinarian Health Check as scheduled by the Race Committee. All dogs are expected to meet general standards of good health, and the Race Committee may publish any other specific criteria in advance.
- iii) The Musher must present certificates at the Pre-Race Veterinarian Check for all dogs entered in the race to prove **current vaccination for parvovirus, distemper, and rabies**. Proof of Vaccination from a Veterinarian, or proof of purchase of parvovirus and distemper vaccines must be submitted for inspection. The dogs must be vaccinated prior to coming to the race, it cannot be completed at the Pre-Race Veterinarian Check.
- iv) **A RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATE, VALID IN THE PROVINCE/STATE WHERE MUSHER RESIDES, SIGNED AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO RACE IS REQUIRED.** Certificates for IMRAB 3 (Rabies) vaccinated dogs will be accepted up to three years from date of vaccination.
- v) Any dogs not qualifying for a certificate of good health may not participate in the race.
- vi) No dog under 18 months old are allowed to participate in the race.

- vii) The Head Veterinarian will review Vaccination Records provided to the Race Committee before January 20, 2025. Musher will receive a response no later than January 27, 2025, allowing time to rectify any missing/incomplete records. Mushers are strongly encouraged to submit records in advance of the Pre-Race Veterinarian Check. [Submit online here](#)
- viii) Documented Proof of Ownership is required for all dogs participating in the race. Vaccination Records showing the Musher as the Owner will be accepted. A Bill of Sale will also be accepted. If neither can be provided, the Musher must have the Owner of the dog, as listed on Vaccine Records. [Complete Veterinarian Treatment Consent Form here](#)

d) Drugs

- i) Administration of any drugs other than vaccines mentioned in above shall be done only with prior knowledge and consent from the Head Veterinarian and the Race Marshall. It is the intent of this rule that no drugs or other artificial means be used to drive a dog beyond its natural ability.
- ii) No injectable substances of any kind, and no oral or topical drugs which suppress signs of illness or injury to the dogs, may be in the possession of the Musher, or used during the race.
- iii) Any Race Veterinarian, or authorized Race Official shall have the authority to collect blood and/or urine samples at random at any point during the race, starting with the Pre-Race Veterinarian Check and up to one hour after the finish of the race.
- iv) A Musher must have his/her team free from any Prohibited Drugs at the time of the Pre-Race Veterinarian Check and during the race. If, in the view of the Race Marshall or any Race Veterinarian, it is necessary to use one of these drugs, including intravenous, for the dog's wellbeing, that dog will be removed from the race.
- v) Use or Possession of the **following drugs is prohibited:**
  - (1) Analgesics (pain relievers), prescription or non-prescription, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatories including aspirin, gabapentin, amantadine, Librela, opioids, local anesthetics, other numbing agents or topical pain relievers.
  - (2) Anti-inflammatory drugs including corticosteroids, anti-prostaglandins, and salicylates. The exception will be topical corticosteroids used in topical foot ointments approved by the Head Veterinarian.
  - (3) Nervous system stimulants
  - (4) Cough suppressants
  - (5) Diuretics
  - (6) Muscle relaxants
  - (7) Antihistamines
  - (8) Diet pills
  - (9) Sweets will be allowed, without prohibited substances.
  - (10) Omeprazole use for ulcer prevention is permitted and must be reported to the Head Veterinarian at the Pre-Race Veterinarian Check.

7) EQUIPMENT

a) Sled Equipment

- i) All harnesses shall be padded around the neck and chest areas. Each harness shall have two inches of reflective tape on each side of the neck and on each side farther back, so as to reflect snowmobile lights from the front and side.

- ii) All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double formation.
- iii) Some type of Sled will be drawn, equipped with a working brake bolted to the sled, brush bow, and a snow hook. No part of the braking system, or any ropes etc., shall extend beyond the back end of the runners, except for the Traditional Northern Toboggan which can have a brake at the back. Musher's can exchange sleds at any of the Official Checkpoints.
- iv) A Sled Bag capable of safely restraining a struggling dog, and if necessary, covering a severely injured or expired dog, is required. The Race Marshall shall make final decision on whether Sled Bag satisfies this requirement.
- v) Each musher shall provide chain or cable tethers for any dogs left at a Checkpoint and not in the care of his/her Handler. One tether must be provided for each dog.
- vi) Main Lines must be made of cable or have a cable core, or made of Iron Rope/Amsteel. Neck Lines and Tug Lines are not required to be cable, or have a cable core.
- vii) Drop Bags must be cloth burlap or woven poly, sealed on three sides with an open top, such as a sand bag. Bags must be marked with the Musher's Name and Checkpoint name. The maximum weight must not exceed 18.1 kg (40 lbs). The intent is that dog food will be completely consumed, mushers are asked to only include what they need. Qualifying Musher's will submit their Drop Bag(s) to the Race Committee during their Pre-Race Veterinarian Check, any bags not meeting the aforementioned criteria will be rejected. Musher's must have Drop Bags successfully submitted prior to Musher Meeting.
- viii) Mandatory Gear
  - (1) Two Working Headlamps
  - (2) Knife
  - (3) Winter/Arctic weight sleeping bag
  - (4) Axe with a minimum 1 ¾ lbs head and 22 inches in length
  - (5) Cable cutter, readily accessible and capable of cutting the Main Line if necessary
  - (6) Waterproof matches and/or Lighter
  - (7) One day's emergency ration for the Musher
  - (8) First Aid Kit to consist of at least a triangular bandage, pressure dressing, and tape, to be used in case of major bleeding
  - (9) Veterinarian Book and copy of Official Race Rules. The Veterinarian Book must be turned in at the end of the race or when a Musher scratches from the race.
  - (10) Alcohol Cooker, which is fully functional upon leaving the Checkpoint and capable of melting snow to water for the entire team **(10-dog Teams Only)**
  - (11) Promotional Material, which may include sponsor banner, a Musher Bib, or any other material as determined by the Race Committee. Musher Bib's must be turned in at the end of the race or when a Musher scratches from the race.
  - (12) Musher's must carry dog jackets for all the dogs. Dog blankets are also recommended as an extra cover in Checkpoints.
  - (13) One pair of snowshoes with bindings, each snowshoe to be at least 252 square inches in size
  - (14) If a Musher arrives at any Checkpoint, or the Finish Line, missing any of the above items, one hour will be added to their total time for each missing item.
  - (15) The following expendable items must be on the sled when leaving the start and any other Checkpoint:

- (a) One pound of dog food for each dog on the team
- (b) Two sets of booties (8) for each dog, one set can be on the dogs
- (c) Fuel for Alcohol Cooker **(10-dog teams only)**

8) OFFICIATING

- a) Race Committee
  - i) The Board of Directors of Gateway North Sled Dog Race Association Inc. shall constitute the Race Committee.
- b) Race Officials
  - i) The Race Committee shall appoint Race Officials to oversee the race. Race Officials shall include:
    - (1) Race Marshal – The official charged with enforcing all rules and policies as set down by the Race Committee
    - (2) Race Judge(s) – Work under the direction of the Race Marshal on all aspects of rules enforcement and race safety.
    - (3) Head Veterinarian – Oversee the health and safety of all dogs entered in the race. Is in charge of all dog health and safety issues from the Pre-Race Mandatory Veterinarian Check until the Awards Banquet and, in the case of drug testing or necropsy issues, until those issues are resolved.
    - (4) Race Veterinarian – Work under the direction of the Head Veterinarian on all aspects of dog care, safety, and health.
    - (5) Veterinarian Students – Work under the direction of the Head Veterinarian and Race Veterinarians on all aspects of dog care, safety, and health.
    - (6) Trail Boss – Maintains the Trail and will have top priority in all decisions regarding Race Trail matters.
    - (7) Checkpoint Manager(s) – Oversee the operation of a Checkpoint including Race Officials, Volunteers, other personnel assisting with the race and will have top priority in all decisions regarding their assigned Checkpoint.
  - ii) Race Officials shall have the authority to make decisions respecting their specific areas of responsibility, and in the absence of a more qualified Official, to make decisions intended to advance fairness and safety of the race. **The Race Marshal has the ultimate authority to make final decisions.**
  - iii) Where reasonably possible, Race Officials shall consult with the Race Marshal before making any decision that might affect the finish order of the race. Where the Race Marshal cannot be consulted, the Race Official shall, subject to the outcome of any Official Protest, have the final word regarding the decision being made.
  - iv) Any Race Official can be replaced during the race for gross incompetence, by a majority vote of the Race Committee.
  - v) The Head Veterinarian and his/her team (including students), as consulting specialists to the race, shall be available throughout the race for consultation, first aid, and basic veterinarian care. Any dogs requiring more than basic care will be referred to the Veterinary Medical Centre in Saskatoon. Emergency veterinary care is generally unavailable at any closer locations.
  - vi) In the case of the unavailability of the Race Marshal, the Head Veterinarian shall become the ultimate authority for the race.

- vii) A Race Official's decision to disallow an entry or remove a dog or team from the race can go to the Race Marshal for appeal.
- viii) The Race Marshal shall have control of the race from the start of the Musher's Meeting until the race is over. He/She has the ultimate responsibility to make decisions and the final word over all safety considerations for both dogs and Mushers. The Race Marshal has the authority to:
  - (1) Interpret rules at the Musher's Meeting and during the race
  - (2) Refer questions regarding rules to the Race Committee
  - (3) Make decisions respecting race matters not covered by the rules
  - (4) Suspend the running of the race for a period of time to deal with extreme weather or other unforeseen circumstances
  - (5) Reroute the race to avoid poor trail conditions or other hazards
  - (6) Relocate or close Checkpoints, after advising the Trail Boss and Checkpoint Manager(s) of any problem and allowing one hour to correct it
  - (7) Order drug testing of dogs
  - (8) Assess fines or other penalties for rule infractions
  - (9) Consider and act on appeals of decisions made by Race Officials. The Race Official's decision shall stand until the Race Marshal overrules it.
  - (10) Disqualify dogs, teams, and mushers from the race for just cause
  - (11) Alter a participant's running time
  - (12) Determine final finish order of teams
  - (13) Any decision made by the Race Marshal may be appealed by the musher to the Race Jury

#### 9) RACE JURY

- a) The Race Committee shall appoint a Race Jury of three people to decide matters referred to it by the Race Marshal and to decide official protests.
- b) If the Race Marshal is of the view that the length of the race route, or the time allowed to run the race route, should be altered for any or all of the teams entered, he/she shall refer the matter to the Race Jury with his/her recommendation. The Race Jury, after considering any evidence it chooses, shall decide the matter by majority vote on such terms as it deems appropriate, and have its decision communicated to mushers as soon as possible.
- c) If the matter of a withdrawal or disqualification is appealed by a Musher to the Race Jury, the Race Jury shall, after giving the Musher an opportunity to be heard, decide the matter by majority vote and have its decision communicated to the Musher as soon as practical. The Race Jury's decision regarding the withdrawal or disqualification of a Musher is final, and not subject to protest or appeal.
- d) The Race Marshal may, at his/her discretion, refer any matter to the Race Jury for decision. The Race Jury may after giving any Musher having a significant interest in the matter an opportunity to be heard, decide any such matter by majority vote. The decision of the Race Jury in such a case will be final.

#### 10) PROTESTS & HEARINGS

- a) Any Musher wishing to protest the decision or action of a Race Official, or the failure of a Race Official to make a decision or take action regarding an event likely to affect the outcome of the



race, may do so by filing his/her protest, in writing, along with a cash deposit of \$25, with a Race Official.

- b) A Musher's protest shall be filed as soon as is practical in all circumstances, and in any event, no later than one hour after the musher's finish.
- c) A Race Official receiving a written protest and \$25 cash deposit shall forthwith bring the protest to the attention of the Race Marshal, who shall refer it to the Race Jury for a decision.
- d) Neither a Musher nor his/her Handler shall discuss a protest with spectators, the media, or the general public prior to a decision being made by the Race Jury.
- e) A protest shall be dealt with at a hearing convened by the Race Jury at a time deemed appropriate by the Race Jury. Before making a decision, the Race Jury shall hear from the Musher filing the protest, the Race Marshal, and/or Race Judge(s), any Race Official involved in the matter being protested, any Musher likely to have his/her final placing affected should the protest succeed, and any other person the Race Jury chooses to hear from. The Race Jury will decide a protest by majority vote.

#### 11) RACE IN PROGRESS

##### a) Conduct

- i) A Musher shall be responsible for the good conduct of himself/herself, his/her Handler, and his/her team throughout the race.
- ii) Mushers and Handlers shall show respect, common sense, politeness, and good sportsmanship in all their dealing with other Mushers, Handlers, Race Officials, and the general public. If the Race Marshal determines that a Musher, Handler, or a team, at any time in the race area or on the trail, behaves in a way that is detrimental to the race of the sport, may disqualify that team.
- iii) The trail is mostly on provincially owned land, and partly on snowmobile trails, so Mushers are asked to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times and not demand rights to the trail.

##### b) Penalties

- i) Failure to adhere to the published rules may result in a warning or a penalty to be determined by the Race Marshal, or a disqualification by the Race Jury.
- ii) A penalty imposed by the Race Marshal may be a time penalty or a monetary fine.
- iii) A time penalty may, at the discretion of the Race Marshal, be imposed by adding time to a Musher's Mandatory Layover Time, or by adding time to a Musher's final finish time. This can affect the finishing place of a team.
- iv) A monetary fine that is not paid by a Musher before the purse pay out shall be deducted from the Musher's winnings. IF a Musher leaves any fine outstanding, he/she will not be allowed to enter any future Canadian Challenge race until arrears are paid in full to the Race Committee.
- v) If the Race Marshal determines that the behavior of a Musher, Handler, or Team is detrimental to the race or the sport of dog mushing, whether or not that behavior is in breach of the published rules, he/she may recommend to the Race Jury that the Musher be disqualified. The Race Jury shall deal with the matter as set out in Rule 9c.
- vi) A disqualified Musher will forfeit all entry fees, placements, or monetary values.

#### 12) START & FINISH

- a) The starting positions for each Race Category shall be determined by a drawing held at the Musher Meeting.
- b) The Race Committee will provide additional personnel to escort teams to the Start Line.
- c) Each Musher and Handler are required to wear his/her assigned bib at the Start and Finish. At all other times, bibs must be prominently displayed.
- d) All Mushers, Handlers, and Teams of all races must sign-in with the Race Marshal in the Starting Area and be available to the public two hours before the start of the race. The penalty for being late will be to start in the last position and a time penalty of one hour, added to the Musher's final finished time. Start interval times will be based on the number of entries and will be announced at the Musher Meeting.
- e) Teams must be ready to move up to the Start Line when notified of their turn. If your team is not ready to move to the Start Line in the order drawn, you will start after the Musher drew the last starting position has left, and a one-hour penalty will be added to the Musher's final finished time. A team that cannot leave the start line within ten minutes of the last team's departure will be disqualified.
- f) All Musher's must finish the entire trail. The nose of the lead dog crossing the Finish Line will constitute a team's official finish. If a Musher is not with the team when it finishes, the finish time will be officially recorded when the Musher crosses the Finish Line.
- g) No calling of Trail is permitted in the section called No Man's Land, usually one mile from the Finish Line. This section of the trail will be announced at the Musher Meeting.

#### 13) OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

- a) Mushers and Teams may not receive outside assistance, with the following exceptions:
  - i) Mushers may assist each other in an emergency
  - ii) Race Officials may give or allow assistance where required, especially when Teams are moving to the Start Line, within a Checkpoint, leaving the Finish Line, or at any other time at the Race Marshal's discretion.
  - iii) Replacement of equipment broken or lost between Checkpoints must be arranged through, and directed by, the Race Marshal. The Musher must send word to the Race Marshal, who will arrange to contact the Handler to transport a replacement to the Musher.
  - iv) Mushers may not arrange for any person(s) to instruct them between Checkpoints. Request for directions along the way is acceptable.
  - v) Participants' dog truck/trailers must travel directly from one Checkpoint to the next at a reasonable travel speed.
  - vi) Pacing of any kind is prohibited.
  - vii) Cellular/Satellite communication is permitted. A GPS unit may be carried to help the Musher assess his/her progress.
  - viii) Qualifiers may not receive assistance of any kind, including access to their vehicle, trailer, or Handler with the following exceptions:
    - (1) Moving team to the Start Line, parking at or departing a Checkpoint, or leaving the Finish Line
    - (2) Any food or shelter at a Checkpoint, if it is provided by the Race Committee and is available to all Mushers.

#### 14) MANAGEMENT & HANDLING OF DOGS

- a) Cruel and inhumane treatment of dogs by any Musher or Handler is strictly prohibited and may be penalized by disqualification.
- b) No whips or sticks are allowed
- c) Mushers will be allowed to use their vehicles/trailers to provide shelter and/or care for their dogs at all Checkpoints, except Qualifiers.
- d) A dog that expires on the trail must be taken to the next Checkpoint, or the Checkpoint just left, if the Musher deems it appropriate.
- e) Expired dogs must be completely covered when carried on the sled.
- f) A post-mortem will be performed on all expired dogs by a Board Certified Pathologist at the cost of the Musher.
- g) The incident will not be discussed with the public or the media until the Race Marshal gives an official release to the media.
- h) Any dogs being transported on a sled must be done in a humane manner and cannot be transported by another team.
- i) All dogs, including dropped dogs and other dogs on the truck/trailer belonging to the team, must be under the complete care and control of the Handler and Musher at all times. It is their responsibility to catch any loose dogs.

#### 15) CHECKPOINTS

- a) The official Checkpoints are:
  - i) La Ronge – Riese Park
- b) Drop Bags submitted during the Pre-Race Mandatory Veterinarian Check will be delivered by the Race Committee to Checkpoint(s) prior to the Musher's arrival at the Checkpoint. Any bags unable to reach a Checkpoint will be communicated by Race Officials as soon as possible.
- c) Straw bales will be provided for the following Race Categories as follows:
  - i) 10-dog Continuous will receive three bales at the La Ronge Checkpoint
  - ii) 6-dog Continuous will receive one straw bale at the La Ronge Checkpoint
- d) Each Musher must personally sign in and out of each Checkpoint. If no time is spent at the Checkpoint, both can be done upon checking in. Upon signing out, a team has 45 minutes to leave a Checkpoint. A thirty minute penalty will be assessed if a team fails to leave the Checkpoint forty-five minutes after signing out.
- e) Each Musher is responsible for reporting to the Checkpoint personnel any dogs on the sled.
- f) Mandatory equipment must be available to be checked at any Checkpoint.
- g) Parking space and space for bedding down dogs at a Checkpoint will be assigned by the Checkpoint Manager.
- h) Boisterous behavior on the part of any Musher, Handler, or Team around other resting teams, or any other interference, is strictly prohibited.
- i) The Race Committee may provide food, water, and/or shelter for Mushers at a Checkpoint. It is the Musher's responsibility to provide food, water, and/or shelter for themselves and their team.
- j) The Musher or Handler are required to stay within the Checkpoint area if any of their dogs are at the Checkpoint.
- k) The time in the Checkpoint is counted from the arrival (sign-in) time until you sign out, whether or not you leave.
- l) The Start Time adjustment, based on Start Interval Times, will be applied as follows:

- i) The Start Interval times will be added to Mandatory Rest times
  - ii) 10-dog and 6-dog Continuous races will apply during the last Mandatory Rest at La Ronge Checkpoint
  - iii) 8-dog and 6-dog races will apply at the Finish Line
  - m) Checkpoints will remain open for two hours after the last Musher had departed. The Race Marshal or Checkpoint Manager may close a Checkpoint at any time. La Ronge Checkpoint will close no later than 12pm Thursday February 20, 2025. Start Line area at Sucker River will close one hour after the last Musher leaves.
  - n) Musher will adhere to the Mandatory Rest as follows:
    - i) 10-dog Continuous Mushers must take a minimum of nine (9) hours rest in Checkpoints, with at least five (5) hours of that rest, plus time differential, taken during the Musher's last sign-in at La Ronge.
    - ii) 6-dog Continuous Mushers must take a minimum of four (4) hours rest in Checkpoints, plus time differential, during the Musher's last sign-in at La Ronge.
    - iii) Mandatory Rest will only be counted in one-hour increments and will round **down** to the nearest hour. For example, staying in a Checkpoint for one hour fifty-five minutes would count as one hour of Mandatory Rest, while staying in a Checkpoint for two hours four minutes would count as two hours of Mandatory Rest.
    - iv) It is the Musher's responsibility to make sure the required Mandatory Rest is taken. If a Musher arrives at the Finish and have not completed the require Mandatory Rest, a time penalty will be assessed equal to the Mandatory Rest that was missed plus one hour.
  - o) Mushers must complete the following Mandatory Veterinarian Checks during the race:
    - i) 10-dog Continuous race requires two full Mandatory Veterinarian Checks, one of which must be during the Musher's last sign-in at La Ronge. The Musher can complete the other Mandatory Veterinarian Check during any other Mandatory Rest.
    - ii) 6-dog Continuous race requires one full Mandatory Veterinarian Check which must be during the Musher's last sign-in at La Ronge.
    - iii) 8-dog race requires one requires one full Mandatory Veterinarian Check which must be upon arrival in La Ronge Checkpoint.
    - iv) 6-dog race requires one full Mandatory Veterinarian Check which must be upon arrival in La Ronge Checkpoint.
    - v) It is the Musher's responsibility to ensure these checks are completed.
    - vi) A Veterinarian Check may be required at any Checkpoint, or on the Trail, by the Race Marshal, a Race Judge, the Head Veterinarian, or a Race Veterinarian if he/she has a reasonable belief there is a safety or health concern.
  - p) The Musher or Handler must clean up his/her parking and bedding area at all Checkpoints, the Start Line, and Finish Line. After it is clean, and before leaving the site, he/she must get a Race Official to complete required form that the cleanup was sufficiently completed. A \$50 fine will be asses any Musher or Handler that leave a Checkpoint without approval.
  - q) A Musher may return to a Checkpoint with their team without penalty.
- 16) RUNNING THE COURSE
- a) Disposing of booties or other garbage on or along the trail is strictly prohibited. A 30-minute time penalty will be assessed to anyone littering. The Race Committee will provide an area to dispose of garbage, straw and other refuse at all Checkpoints.

- b) The Musher is responsible for checking for traffic at road crossings. Race Officials will attempt to secure these crossing; however, it is possible that crossings may be unattended.
  - c) Use your headlamp to signal snow machines during night travel. Night travel will be more challenging, so be cautious. Musher's are encouraged to use their headlamp before arriving at any Checkpoint at night.
  - d) Passing shall be done as follows:
    - i) When overtaking another team, the Musher shall call Trail. The overtaken team must relinquish the trail and assist the passing team, if necessary.
    - ii) The overtaken team shall not pass for fifteen minutes unless the other team is stopped.
    - iii) When neither of two or more teams is able to pull away from the other, the Mushers shall mutually decide on the appropriate team to lead out.
    - iv) If the passing team has a tangle during the pass, the team being passed must wait for the passing team to get straight and moving again.
    - v) If ski poles are being used, they must be put away within one hundred yards (91 metres) of another team in front or behind.
    - vi) In no way is this rule designed to assist a team in manipulating its way into a desirable trail position.
  - e) All Mushers must be Finished no later than 7PM Thursday February 21, 2025, anyone still on the trail at this time will be disqualified. The Race Marshal may, at their discretion extend the Finish Time for just cause, or disqualify a team that will not make the Finish Line within the allotted time.
  - f) A team may be withdrawn from the race, if they are out of the competition and not in a position to make a valid effort to compete. The Race Marshal may consider, but is not limited to, weather, trail conditions, and the overall pace of the race when invoking this rule. The Race Marshal should make every effort to notify Mushers if they are considering applying this rule and give Mushers an opportunity to make adjustments.
  - g) A Musher whose conduct constitutes an unreasonable risk of harm to themselves, their dogs, or other persons may also be withdrawn.
  - h) In the case of a lost team, the team will not be disqualified if the Musher regains control of the team, provided that the team and Musher complete the entire race trail and comply with the rules, including Checkpoint requirements. Mushers may receive assistance from another musher in recovering their team. It is the intent of the rule that all teams follow the trail as marked.
  - i) If a Musher accepts a ride from a motorized vehicle to recover a lost team, they shall report the matter to the Race Marshal at the earliest opportunity. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. Upon receiving such a report, the Race Marshal shall decide if a penalty should be imposed.
  - j) A Qualifying Musher may decide at any time to forfeit their Qualifier status by notifying the Race Marshal, removing the restrictions outlined in Rule 13. The Race Committee is not responsible for providing additional food, water, shelter, or straw as a result of this change in status.
- 17) EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES
- a) The race will continue under all but the most sever trail and weather conditions. Mushers must come prepared to run in cold temperatures, wind or storms, in varying snow conditions, and/or bare ground sections if necessary.

- b) In the event of questionable trail conditions or extenuating circumstances, the Race Committee reserves the right to:
  - i) Reroute parts of the race
  - ii) Postpone the race
  - iii) Shorten the race
  - iv) Cancel the race