

# JR. IDITAROD 2020 RULES

## **Rule 1. Musher Qualifications:**

A musher is qualified to run the Jr. Iditarod if he/she is between fourteen (14) and (17) years of age the day the race begins and has submitted each of the following forms:

- a. Parental / release form
- b. Copy of birth certificate
- c. Participant's release (for dog owners other than musher)
- d. Health and medical treatment form
- e. Biography
- f. Rookie reference sheet (for Jr. Iditarod rookies only)
- g. Local contact form
- h. Sponsor list
- i. Race application
- j. Compliance immunizations and vet care

## **Rule 2. Entries:**

Entries will be accepted from June 29, 2019 until February 15, 2020 by the Jr. Iditarod. Entries can be mailed to: 2100 S. Knik Goose Bay Road, Wasilla, Alaska 99654. Kennels entering must indicate the musher's name with their entry. Entries may be presented to the ITC in person by the musher or by mail.

## **Rule 3. Entry Fee:**

There is no entry fee for mushers who sign up before December 1st. After December 1st, the entry fee is \$150. Upon written request, mushers withdrawing from the race on or before February 15, 2020, will receive a full refund of their entry fee. After February 15, 2020, no part of the entry fee will be refunded.

**Rule 4. One Musher per Team:** Only one musher will be permitted per team and that musher must complete the entire race.

**Rule 5. Substitutes:** Substitute drivers will be allowed only in cases of emergency and only if approved by the Race Marshal prior to the re-start of the Race.

**Rule 6. Pre-Race Meetings:** All mushers must attend the pre-race musher meeting February 28, 2020, starting at 5:30pm.

**Rule 7. Rookie Mushers:** Rookie musher's (defined as mushers who have not yet finished the Jr. Iditarod) application packets must include recommendations from two recognized adult dog mushers. Recommendation from a recognized Dog Musher's Organization may substitute as one of the references. An optional informative rookie meeting will be held prior to the race (date to be determined).

**Rule 8. Draw for Starting Position:** The drawing for starting position will be done at the

pre- race banquet. Each musher will draw for his/her starting position.

**Rule 9. Race Start:** Teams will leave the start in two minute intervals and the time differential will be adjusted during the ten (10) hour mandatory layover. The mushers will be given their starting and re-starting intervals at the mushers' meeting.

**Rule 10. Late Starting Teams:** Late starting teams will leave after the last musher has departed the starting chute. Time differential for late starters will be calculated according to their scheduled starting time rather than the actual starting time. Any team that cannot leave the starting line within thirty (30) minutes of the last team's departure will not be allowed to race. It is the musher's responsibility to be at the starting line at the appointed time.

**Rule 11. Race Bibs:** Bibs must be worn so they are visible at all times on the trail.

**Rule 12. Race Trail:** The course covers approximately 150 miles of mostly arctic wilderness. The trail will be broken and marked prior to the race, but due to weather conditions there will be no guarantee of broken trail during the race. The starting place may be changed by the Race Marshal due to weather and/or trail conditions.

**Rule 13. Race Timing** For elapsed time purposes, the race will be a common start event. Each musher's total elapsed time will be calculated using 10:00 a.m. AST, February 29, 2020, as the starting time.

**Rule 14. Advertising, Public Relations & Publicity:** The Jr. Iditarod has the unqualified and unrestricted authority to authorize the photographing and collecting of information about the race and all participants therein, and to use such photographs and information for its use in advertising, public relations or other publicity purposes. Each musher shall sign any and all documents as may be requested by the Jr. Iditarod.

**Rule 15. Media:** Interviews and/or video graphic opportunities shall be granted to credentialed members of the media.

**Rule 16. Awards:** All mushers who have crossed the finish line must be present and the winner must have his/her lead dog(s) present for recognition. Any musher crossing the finish line who is able to attend the awards presentation ceremony prior to its beginning, will be included in the awards presentation ceremony in the proper order. All mushers reaching the banquet before its conclusion will be introduced and given the opportunity to appear before the audience.

**Rule 17. Scratched Mushers:** The Jr. Iditarod will provide transportation to Willow for any musher who scratches from the race, including his or her dogs and accompanying gear.

**Rule 18. Halfway Checkpoint:** One mandatory ten (10) hour stop (unless otherwise changed by the race officials) will be required during the running of the race. The time begins upon sign in at the halfway checkpoint. The starting time differential will be adjusted for during each team's mandatory layover. Every musher must personally sign in at each checkpoint before going on. A musher is not officially checked in until he/she has accounted for all required gear. Any musher not reaching the layover point within five (5) hours after the first musher arrives at the layover point will not be permitted to finish the race. (Race Marshal and Chief Veterinarian in a joint decision may change this time).

**Rule 19. Sled:** Some type of sled or toboggan must be used to complete the entire race. The sled must have a usable basket of at least four (4) feet. This does not include the turn-up out to the brush bow. The sled must have a snow hook, brake, brush bow, handle bar, and sled bag. Mushers must complete the entire race with one sled. Sled exchanges are not permitted unless it is damaged beyond repair. If a sled must be replaced, Race Marshal approval is required.

**Rule 20. Ski poles:** Ski poles are allowed but may not be used within 50 feet of other teams.

**Rule 21. Mandatory Gear:** A musher must have with him/her at all times the following items:

- a. Proper cold weather sleeping bag
- b. Proper cold weather clothing and boots
- c. Ax, head to weigh a minimum of 1 3/4 pounds, handle to be at least 22"
- d. One pair of snow shoes with bindings, each shoe to be at least 28" long and 9" wide (no collapsible snowshoes allowed)
- e. Promotional material as required by the Jr. Iditarod
- f. One head lamp and an alternate battery powered light
- g. Eight (8) booties for each dog either in the sled, or in use and in the sled
- h. Some type of restraint to hold a dog(s) in the sled basket securely
- i. Matches or a lighter to start a fire, at least two sources
- j. Five (5) drop cables or chains (minimum 16" long with snaps at each end or a loop on one end and snap on the other), minus cable left with dropped dogs
- k. Dog food cooker (must be acceptable to race marshal)
- l. Three (3) pair socks
- m. Rain gear
- n. Three (3) pair gloves
- o. Three (3) cans HEET (for use in case of trail emergencies)

In the event of accidental or unavoidable loss along the trail, the musher will be

allowed to replace the missing item(s) at the next checkpoint before signing in.

**Rule 22. Mandatory Food:** The following food must be on the sled at all times, unless used in an emergency:

- a. One day's food for each dog with a minimum of two (2) pounds per dog
- b. One day's food ration for the musher (this must be whatever you would eat in a twenty-four (24) hour period. It must be nutritious food, not just candy and so-called junk food)
- c. Emergency rations of 3,000 calories

**Rule 23. Dog Maximums and Minimums:** Mushers must start the race with no less than seven (7) dogs and no more than ten (10) dogs and must finish the race with no less than five (5) dogs. There must be no less than five (5) dogs running on the tow line at all times during the race. No dogs may be added to a team after the re-start of the race. All dogs must be either on the towline or hauled in the sled and cannot be led behind the sled or allowed to run loose. All dogs must be on the towline at the start.

**Rule 24. Switching of Dogs:** Switching of dogs between mushers will not be permitted after the teams have officially completed the veterinary check.

**Rule 25. Unmanageable Teams:** A musher may seek the aid of others to control an unmanageable team. Dogs demonstrating aggressive behavior may be withdrawn from the Race.

**Rule 26. Driverless Team:** A team and driver must complete the entire race trail including checking in at all required locations. A driverless team or loose dog may be stopped and secured by anyone. The driver may recover his/her team either on foot, with assistance from another musher or mechanized vehicle and continue the race. Motorized assistance must be reported to an official at the next checkpoint. If mechanized help is used and advantage has been gained, the Race Marshal may impose appropriate sanctions.

**Rule 27. Teams Tied Together:** Two or more teams may not be tied together except in an emergency. Any team so involved must notify officials at the next checkpoint.

**Rule 28. Motorized Vehicles:** A musher may not be accompanied by or accept assistance from any motorized vehicle that gives help to the musher, including aircraft and snow machines, except when recovering a loose dog or driverless team.

**Rule 29. Sportsmanship:** All mushers must use civil conduct and act in a sportsmanlike manner throughout the race. Abusive treatment of anyone is prohibited.

**Rule 30. Good Samaritan Rule:** A musher will not be penalized for aiding another musher in

an emergency. Incidents must be explained to race officials at the next checkpoint.

**Rule 31. Interference:** A musher may not tamper with another musher's dogs, food or gear or interfere in any manner with the progress of another team.

**Rule 32. Tethering:** All dogs must be physically tethered and secured at all times.

**Rule 33. Passing:** When one team approaches within fifty (50) feet of another team, the team behind shall have the immediate right of way upon demand. The musher ahead must stop the dogs and hold them to the best of his/her ability for a maximum of one minute or until the other team has passed, whichever occurs first. The passed team must remain behind at least ten (10) minutes before demanding the trail. The passing rule does not apply in no man's land.

**Rule 34. No Man's Land:** No man's land will be clearly marked approximately one mile from the finish line.

**Rule 35. Parking:** A musher must select a campsite off the race trail so that the team cannot interfere with other teams. Teams must be parked in places that do not interfere with the movements of other teams and mushers. A musher is responsible for unattended team at all times.

**Rule 36. Litter:** No litter of any kind may be left on the trail, in camps, or in the halfway checkpoint. All material remaining at the halfway checkpoint must be left in designated areas. For purposes of these rules, straw is not considered litter.

**Rule 37. Use of Drugs and Alcohol:** Alcohol, tobacco or drug use is strictly prohibited. Violations of this rule shall result in disqualification and may result in ineligibility from participation in future Races.

**Rule 38. Outside Assistance:** No planned help is allowed throughout the Race. All care and feeding of dogs will be done only by that team's musher. All dog maintenance and care of dog teams will be done by that team's musher.

**Rule 39. Electronic Devices:** No two-way communication device, including cell phones, shall be used except for in an emergency. Such use must be reported to the Race Marshal. GPS is permitted.

**Rule 40. Competitiveness:** A team may be withdrawn that is out of the competition and is 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.

**Rule 41. Firearms:** No firearms of any type may be carried by the musher on his/her

person in his/her sled or gear. No pyrotechnics (i.e. roman candles) may be carried.

**Rule 42. Tying of Musher to Sled:** No tying of the musher to his/her sled in any manner.

**Rule 43. Equipment and Team Configuration:** Equipment and team configurations deemed unsafe by race officials are prohibited. A team may have no more than two (2) dogs abreast. Each dog must have reflective material visible at all times.

**Rule 44. Dog Care:** Dogs must be maintained in good condition. All water and food must be ingested voluntarily. Dogs may not be brought into shelters except for race veterinarians' medical examination or treatment. Dogs must be returned outside as soon as such examination or treatment is completed unless the dog is dropped from the race. There will be no cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs. Cruel or inhumane treatment involves any action or inaction, which causes preventable pain or suffering to a dog.

**Rule 45. Drug Use:** No oral or topical drug which may suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. No injectables may be used in dogs participating in the Race. No other drugs or artificial means may be used to drive a dog or cause a dog to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability. Prohibited drugs will be the same as in Iditarod rules.

Megesterol acetate (Ovaban) is permitted for use of estrus suppression and medical conditions for which Megesterone therapy is appropriate, as approved by the Chief Veterinarian.

Race veterinarians may utilize any of the listed drugs or other prohibited drugs necessary to maintain a dog's health, however, such dogs will be withdrawn from the race.

Dogs are subject to the collection of urine or blood samples, at the discretion of the testing veterinarian, at any point from the pre-race examination until six (6) hours after the team's finish. The musher or a designee will remain with the dogs. All results will be sealed and signed for before the tests are considered complete.

A musher must assist the veterinarian in collecting samples whenever requested. If blood or urine testing of a dog reveals any of the prohibitive drugs in the dog, this rule has been violated regardless of when such drugs were administered to the dog. Blood, urine and other test results will be made available upon request.

**Rule 46. Pre-Race Veterinary Exam:**

A musher must have the team physicals performed at the official pre-race veterinary examination or by a Jr. Iditarod approved veterinarian, within fourteen (14) days

prior to the race. If a vet from another race during those fourteen (14) days is to have examined the dogs, you may turn in a copy of that vet check to satisfy the Jr. Iditarod vet check requirements.

The following conditions will prohibit a dog from participating: seizures (epilepsy), syncope (fainting) and/or pregnancy. Any musher not attending the official pre-race veterinary exam must notify the Chief Veterinarian no later than 8 a.m. on the day of the pre-race vet exam.

All dogs entered in the race must have current distemper, hepatitis, parvo, and rabies vaccines. Proof of rabies vaccination must be a current rabies certificate that is acceptable to the state of Alaska. Proof of distemper/hepatitis/parvo vaccination must be a signed statement from a licensed veterinarian, detailed purchase receipt or labels from the vaccine. Proof must include date of actual vaccination.

All vaccines must be given no later than two (2) weeks before the race and Rabies vaccination must be current through the race according to Alaska State regulations. Distemper/Parvo/Hepatitis vaccine is valid for three (3) years if the dog was one (1) year old or more when vaccinated and was vaccinated at least once previously, with a minimum of three (3) weeks separating the vaccinations.

**Rule 47. Jurisdiction and Care:** All dogs entered in the race are under the jurisdiction of the Race Marshal from the time they enter the staging area at the start until 72 hours after they have been released by the Jr. Iditarod veterinarians or 48 hours after the final musher finishes. The Chief Veterinarian shall have the authority to determine in his or her exclusive discretion whether any dogs require veterinary care and to select the provider, including treatment by medical specialists and or 24-hour care facilities, prior to an animal's release. In such case, financial responsibility shall be borne by the musher. If the financial responsibility is not satisfied within 30 days of the banquet, finishing status will be withdrawn until satisfied. In addition, the Chief Veterinarian will have immediate access to medical records and updated status reports of all dropped dogs for up to 72 hours after their release. In the event that a death occurs within the 72- hour period following release, an ITC representative will participate in a necropsy of that animal.

**Rule 48. Expired Dog:** All dog deaths are regrettable, but there are some that may be considered unpreventable. Any dog that expires on the trail must be taken by the musher to a checkpoint. The musher may transport the dog to either the checkpoint just passed, or the upcoming checkpoint. An expired dog report must be completed by the musher and presented to a race official along with the dog.

All dog deaths will be treated as a priority, with every effort being made to determine the cause of death in a thorough and reliable manner.

**Rule 49. Dog Tags:** The Jr. Iditarod will provide drivers with dog tags at the mushers meeting. All dogs must wear tags and the tag numbers must correspond with the dog name and tag numbers written in the vet book. Only current tags are permitted.

**Rule 50. Dropped Dogs:** All dogs that are dropped from the Race must be left at the checkpoint with a completed and signed dropped dog form. Any dropped dog must be left with two (2) pounds of dog food and a reliable chain or cable and collar.

**Rule 51. Hauling Dogs:** A musher may haul dogs in the sled at his/her discretion, however, the musher may not allow any of the dogs to be hauled by another team. Dogs must be hauled in a humane fashion and must be covered if conditions require, at the Race Marshal's discretion.

**Rule 52. Food Drops:** Entrant's food drops must be shipped to: Jr. Iditarod – ITC Headquarters, 2100 S Knik Goose Bay Road, Wasilla, AK 99654; or delivered to the ITC Headquarters – Mi. 2.2 Knik-Goose Bay Road, Wasilla, Alaska. Delivery date/time for the 2020 Jr. Iditarod will be between the hours of 12PM – 2PM, on February 15, 2020. Exceptions without prior arrangements will result in a \$75.00 dollar fine. Upon receipt of food drop bags, the Jr. Iditarod will accept responsibility for the care and transport of all designated race supplies to the layover checkpoint.

All items to be shipped should be in strong bags tied with strong cord or rope (no wire). Mushers may ship up to three (3) bags, one (1) of which may include supplies that need to be kept frozen. The frozen bag should be clearly marked – FREEZE. Freezer bag may ONLY contain contents which must be frozen. Bags should be clearly marked with musher's first and last name. Maximum weight per bag is forty (40) pounds. Total combined weight of all three (3) drop bags is not to exceed eighty (80) pounds.

A minimum of four (4) pounds of dog food per dog must be shipped to the layover checkpoint. Adverse weather/trail conditions and dropped dogs should be taken into consideration when planning food drops. The entrant must provide adequate supplies for personal nourishment and hydration.

Mushers must plan on cooking dog and personal food at the layover checkpoint. Allowed items in drop bags include: dog food, personal food, dog booties, gloves, socks, hats, headbands, face masks, hand warmers, and batteries. Please note that lithium batteries MUST be in their original packaging. All other supplies/gear must be carried on mushers sled.

**DROP BAGS WILL BE OPENED AND INSPECTED AT FOOD DROPS.**



Items of gear to consider when packing sled include: feeding and cooking utensils for team and self, fuel, batteries, wrist wraps, and dog coats. Please contact the Iditarod office for clarification.

Please do not try to ship HEET in the drop bags. Straw for the dogs and HEET for cooking will be available at the halfway checkpoint. All items shipped or carried to the layover checkpoint that are not used or carried back by the entrant become property of the Jr. Iditarod Trail Committee.

**Rule 53. Race Officials:** The Race Marshal and race officials are responsible for the enforcement of all Jr. Iditarod policies and race rules. Race officials shall consult with the Chief Veterinarian on all matters relating to dog care and treatment. Race officials will consist of (1) Race Marshal, 2) Race Judges, and 3) Chief Veterinarian. The Race Marshal and Chief Veterinarian will have absolute authority over the dog teams. Their judgment to withdraw a dog, dogs, or team from the race, or any other condition relative to dog care on the trail, shall be final.

**Rule 54. Protests:** Any infraction observed by a musher must be protested, in writing, at the next checkpoint, at the finish line, and/or at least two (2) hours before the awards are given out at the banquet.

**Rule 55. Censure:** The Jr. Iditarod may censure a musher for cause, including time penalties and prohibiting a musher from entering future races. The musher so involved may request an informal hearing before the Jr. Iditarod Board of Directors. Such requests shall be granted and the hearing shall be held within ninety (90) days of the request.

**Rule 56. Finish:** An official finish shall be determined by the nose of the first dog across the finish line.

**Rule 57. Official Finisher:** A musher who completes the entire race course in compliance with the rules.

**Rule 58. Awards Presentation and Finishers' Banquet:** The awards banquet and presentation ceremony is mandatory and shall be held the evening of March 1, 2020. All mushers who have finished the race are required to be present at the awards banquet.

Awards will include:

1. 1st thru 5th place
2. Red Lantern for the last official finisher
3. Participation for all finishing mushers
4. Sportsmanship (by vote of finishers)
5. Rookie of the Year
6. Blue Harness (by vote of finishers)

7. Humanitarian (as determined by Chief Veterinarian)

**Rule 59. Parents, Handlers and/or Visitors:** Parents, handlers, and/or visitors may not aid a musher or handle a team at any point along the trail, checkpoint, or at the layover checkpoint. Entry to the musher's area at the layover checkpoint is prohibited. It is the duty of the musher to inform family and friends of this rule. Failure to comply may result in disqualification or penalty to the musher. Plans to observe the race along the trail or at a checkpoint becomes the sole responsibility of the parties involved. Plans to observe the race at Yentna, the layover checkpoint, must be cleared with the Jr. Iditarod Race Director no later than the date of the mushers meeting. Accommodations at Yentna are limited and reservations with the lodge are suggested. Plans for travel on the trail and to the checkpoints should be made known to the Jr. Iditarod to aid in the planning of trail and air traffic.

The phone at Yentna Lodge is NOT to be used for calls or messages to the mushers except in an emergency and only if accompanied by a race official.