

# YUKON QUEST®

## 2009 RULES

Official Race Rules for the 26th Annual Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race

As adopted by Yukon Quest International June 24, 2008

**English is the official language of the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race**

**All dollar amounts are in U.S. currency**

### **GENERAL RACE PROCEDURE**

#### **1. Race Start:**

The official starting date for the 2009 race will be **Saturday, February 14, 2009** at **11:00 am** local time. The official starting place will be Whitehorse, Yukon unless otherwise designated by Yukon Quest International (hereinafter referred to as YQI). Any changes to this rule may be made by the Race Marshal with approval from the YQI Rules Committee. The race will be held as scheduled, regardless of weather conditions.

#### **2. Entry Fee, Dates, Limits:**

2009 Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race entry opens August 9, 2008. **Receipt of the entry fee, completed application form, completed musher's profile, and musher photo will constitute the musher's intent to enter the race, and further acknowledges that the musher understands and agrees to comply with each and every Rule as stated.** YQI reserves the right to reject any entry. Entries are determined on a first-come, first-served basis. Entries close at midnight local time December 12, 2008. Entries sent certified and postmarked by this date will be accepted. Late entries received from December 13, 2008 through the end of the business day on January 9, 2009 will be accepted. The maximum number of teams for the race is 50. Once the maximum of 50 is reached, a waiting list will be established, again on a first-come, first-served basis. To qualify for the waiting list, the official entry form must be completed, and a \$25 non-refundable fee paid. If a musher withdraws from the list of 50, the name at the top of the waiting list will be moved up to the entry list, upon receipt of the rest of the required fees. **The slot will be held open for no more than seven (7) days after notification. The entry fee is \$1,000, with an additional \$500 for food drop, straw, methanol, membership, and administrative costs (total of \$1,500). The entry fee for late entries is \$2,000.**

##### **a. Conditions of Entry:**

- All mushers entered in the race must be members in good standing of YQI.
- Kennel entries must name a musher to enter. Mushers may be changed or entries may be transferred to another kennel up to January 9, 2009, for a fee of \$100.
- Kennel transfers and musher changes for non-medical reasons are not allowed after 50 teams have entered or after January 9, 2009.
- Mushers must be a minimum of 18 years of age by the start of the race.
- Mushers must have a demonstrated ability to complete a long-distance sled-dog race. Rookie mushers must submit written verifications of their completion of a **300 mile YQI sanctioned race and one other YQI sanctioned race of at least 200 miles (500 miles minimum). Yukon Quest entrants who reach Dawson City will be considered to have fulfilled both qualifiers. Completing at least 300 miles of the Yukon Quest or Iditarod will fulfill the 300 mile race requirement. Qualifying races must be completed within 42 months of the start of the Yukon Quest race.** Iditarod Finishers are qualified to enter the Yukon Quest. YQI may deem that previous or other racing experience is considered equivalent to one or both of the qualifiers. Mushers applying for this consideration or any exemption to any Rule(s) must do so in writing by the closing date of regular entries.
- All applicants will have their applications to enter the Yukon Quest reviewed by the YQI Rules Committee.
- **YQI will honor censures from the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.** Censures from other sled dog racing organizations may be honored. **Entry will not be accepted until unpaid fines and bills to YQI are paid.**
- **No one convicted of animal abuse or neglect may enter the Yukon Quest.**
- **Each musher shall sign any and all documents or promotional material requested by YQI prior to or at the Mushers' Meeting. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.**

**b. Definition of Rookie:**

Any first time entrant or any previous entrant of the Yukon Quest who has not reached the Finish Line.

**c. Substitution of Mushers for Medical Reasons:**

Substitution of mushers for medical reasons will be permitted up to the start of the pre-race mushers' meeting, upon approval of the YQI Rules Committee and payment of a \$100 fee.

**d. Withdrawal Before Race:**

An entrant withdrawing for any reason on or before midnight January 9, 2009 will be refunded all but \$150 of the entry fee. An entrant withdrawing between January 10, 2009 and January 30, 2009 will be refunded all but \$500 of the entry fee. An entrant withdrawing or failing to qualify after midnight January 30, 2009 will forfeit the entire entry fee.

**3. Course and Checkpoints:**

The course covers approximately 1,000 miles/1,600 kilometers of mostly Arctic wilderness, much of it on and along the Yukon River. 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. Checkpoints are as follows:

- |               |                   |                      |               |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Whitehorse | 4. Pelly Crossing | 7. Circle            | 10. Fairbanks |
| 2. Braeburn   | 5. Dawson City    | 8. Central           |               |
| 3. Carmacks   | 6. Eagle          | 9. Chena Hot Springs |               |

**4. Food/Equipment Shipment [Food Drop; January 31, 2009]:**

All food and equipment shipped to checkpoints for the race must be in CLOTH BURLAP BAGS OR WOVEN POLY-BAGS, PERMANENTLY MARKED WITH MUSER NAME. GROSS WEIGHT NOT TO EXCEED 40 POUNDS / 18.1 KILOGRAMS. Bags must be turned in to YQI prior to food shipment deadline or delivered to the checkpoints prior to the start of race. **Straw is not to be shipped in drop bags.** NO FOOD OR EQUIPMENT WILL BE DELIVERED TO CHECKPOINTS AFTER START OF RACE with the exception of Dawson City.

If a musher obtains dog food between checkpoints, that musher may be penalized or disqualified.

**5. Promotional Material and Events [Pre-Race Meet the Mushers; February 11, 2009]:**

YQI may require a small amount of promotional freight as part of the mandatory load. Promotional material must be turned in to a race official at the completion of the race, or when a musher scratches, is withdrawn, or disqualified. Attendance at the Pre-Race Meet the Mushers reception is mandatory. **Failure to answer roll call in person will result in a \$500 fine.**

**6. Shipping Dropped Dogs:**

Mushers will pay \$50 per dog to YQI for all transportation expenses incurred by or relevant to the return of their dropped dogs from fly-in only dog drops and checkpoints. Transportation for dogs dropped at other checkpoints or dog drops (along the road system) may be arranged for by the musher, or will be provided by YQI at the musher's expense.

**7. Race Officials (Race Marshal and Race Judges) and Race Veterinarians:**

The intent of the rules will guide the Race Marshal and Race Judges in their decisions. **The RACE MARSHAL is in charge of all aspects of the race** from the Pre-Race Mushers' Meeting to the Finish Banquet. Race Judges will act as deputies of the Race Marshal. **The Race Marshal may waive or reduce monetary or time penalties for unforeseen calamities that may befall a musher.**

The Race Marshal or a Race Judge in conjunction with a Race Veterinarian shall have final authority to remove a dog(s) from the race for medical or other reasons.

Race Veterinarians are present throughout the race to monitor the health and welfare of all dogs, advise mushers in caring for their dogs' medical needs, and provide veterinary treatment for dropped dogs, if necessary.

**8. Vet Check; February 7 or 8, 2009:**

All dogs will undergo a thorough physical examination before the race starts. Any dog which cannot qualify for a certificate of good health will not run in the race. All examinations must be done within 15 days prior to the start of the race. All dogs entered in the race shall have had parvovirus and distemper vaccinations between March 7, 2008 and

January 14, 2009. Rabies vaccinations must be current and given no later than January 14, 2009. Certificates and invoices will be required to prove vaccination status. All dogs must be examined by a qualified YQI approved licensed veterinarian of the musher's choice at the musher's expense, or by a licensed veterinarian sponsored by YQI at an official vet check. **YQI will not provide this service after the official Vet Check.** The Race Marshal in conjunction with the Head Veterinarian has authority to disqualify unfit teams examined outside of the official vet check up to the start of the race.

**Rookie entrants must have their dogs examined at a YQI official Vet Check. Rookies who can not participate in the official Vet Check cannot start the race.**

The official YQI health certificate must be submitted prior to the start of the Pre-Race Musher's Meeting. **Failure to comply will result in disqualification.** The time and place of the Vet Check will be announced by YQI.

#### 9. Pre-Race Musher's Meeting and Drawing; February 12, 2009:

It will be mandatory for all rookies to attend a meeting on February 12, 2009. All entrants are required to attend the Pre-Race Musher's Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on February 12, 2009. **Failure to answer all roll calls in person will result in a \$500 fine.** A handlers' meeting will also be held on February 12, 2009. The time and location of these meetings will be announced by YQI. Each musher must draw their starting position in person at the Start Banquet on February 12, 2009.

#### 10. Prize Money (U.S. Currency):

Following is the breakdown of prize money.

1. \$35,000	4. \$16,500	7. \$11,000	10. \$7,000	13. \$5,000
2. \$25,000	5. \$14,500	8. \$9,000	11. \$6,500	14. \$4,500
3. \$20,000	6. \$13,000	9. \$8,000	12. \$6,000	15. \$4,000

Any additional finishing mushers will receive \$1,000.

#### 11. Sled:

Only one sled per musher will be used throughout the race. Each musher has a choice of sled, subject to the condition that some kind of sled or toboggan equipped with a brake must be drawn. The sled or toboggan must be capable of safely negotiating a 1,000 mile trail, and of hauling any injured or fatigued dogs and the required food, materials, and equipment. In the event of repairs, there must not be significant alteration of size or reduction in weight. Tail-draggers may be removed at any checkpoint, but may only be attached at the start line or attached or re-attached at Dawson City. Help with sled repairs, that is available to all mushers, may be allowed with prior approval of the Race Marshal and/or Race Judge. On prior approval of the Race Marshal, a destroyed sled **may** be replaced by a comparable size and weight sled, with **a time penalty of 8 hours served at the next designated mandatory stop.**

#### 12. Finish Banquet; February 28, 2009:

The Finish Banquet will take place in Fairbanks on Saturday, February 28, 2009. All mushers who have crossed the finish line up to 2 hours before the ceremony will be present. The winner will have a representative of his/her dog team present for recognition. An official finish is a prerequisite for receiving awards. **Mushers placing 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> will receive 50 percent of their prize money and any additional finishing mushers will receive \$500 at the Finish Banquet. The rest will be disbursed to the mushers after negative drug test results have been confirmed, and fines / fees are assessed, within 30 days.** Those who do not attend the Finish Banquet may be fined up to \$500.

#### 13. Claims:

Each musher agrees to hold YQI, the race sponsor(s), and other contributors (that is, sponsors and contributors of the race corporations, as distinguished from the sponsors of individual mushers) harmless from any claim or demand based on any alleged action or inaction by the musher, his/her dogs, agents, or others acting on his/her behalf. The musher also agrees to release YQI, race sponsor(s), their agents, employees and volunteers from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the musher, his/her dogs, or his/her property. Further, YQI has the unqualified and unrestricted authority to permit YQI designated race photographers to photograph and otherwise collect information for advertising, public relations, or other publicity and revenue generating purposes.

#### 14. Musher's Report/Protest Form:

This sled dog race will only survive if the competition is conducted fairly and the dogs are well cared for and humanely treated. **It is the duty of every musher to report all violations of these Rules to the Race Marshal or Race Judges.** The forms for reporting violations or protests are available from the Race Officials and at checkpoints. Any Musher's Report/Protest Forms must be submitted to a Race Official within 48 hours of the final team crossing the Finish Line or within 48 hours of the Finish Banquet, whichever is later.

#### 15. Censure and/or Fine:

In reference to action taken by the YQI Rules Committee, Race Marshal or Race Judges during the race, the Boards of YQI may censure and/or fine a musher for cause, including prohibition from entering a future race or races. The musher so involved may request in writing an informal hearing by a written review board within 30 days of the date of censure and/or fine. In the event that the musher so involved may, by clear and convincing evidence, show that the action taken should be reversed, the musher so involved understands and agrees that the maximum financial recovery shall be limited to the prize money for the finishing position that the musher so involved could realistically have attained but for the action taken. The musher so involved further agrees that this remedy shall be the sole and exclusive remedy. In no event shall the musher so involved be entitled to incidental or consequential damages as they are outside the sole and exclusive remedy above provided.

#### 16. Statutory Compliance:

Any musher who violates a state, territorial, national or international law while in the race may be disqualified if convicted. Hand guns are not allowed in Canada.

### **TRAIL PROCEDURE**

#### 1. Common Start/Late Start:

Mushers must wear their Start Bib as they start the race. Failure to do so will result in a \$500 fine. Teams will leave the starting line at three-minute intervals. Any musher who cannot leave the starting line in the order drawn will be started after the scheduled departure time of the final team. Any team that cannot leave the starting line within sixty (60) minutes of the last team's departure may be disqualified. The starting time differential will be compensated for during each team's mandatory 36 hour layover in Dawson City. For elapsed time purposes, therefore, the race will be a common-start event. Before the start of the race, YQI will give to each musher their total layover time in Dawson, which will not be changed in the event of a late start.

#### 2. Gear and Equipment:

The following items must be presented to the checker before checking in at each checkpoint:

1. Proper cold weather sleeping bag.
2. Hand ax with an overall length of at least 22 inches/56 centimeters.
3. One pair of snowshoes with bindings, with an area of at least 250 square inches/1,612 square centimeters each.
4. Veterinary records (loss will incur a \$500 fine). The veterinary book must be submitted to a Race Judge upon completion of the race or when a musher exits the race for any reason.
5. Any promotional material that YQI has asked the musher to carry to Fairbanks/Whitehorse. YQI may require 1 or 2 banners of up to 400 square inches (2,580 square centimeters) be displayed on the sled as directed.
6. Functional cooker

In addition, 8 booties for each dog, either in the sled or in use and in the sled, are required when a musher signs out of each checkpoint.

Mushers should have these items in their possession at all times. If a musher loses a required article of gear between checkpoints, he/she cannot check in at the checkpoint until he/she has acquired and replaced the lost item. In the event of accidental and unavoidable loss along the trail, the musher will be allowed to replace the missing item(s) from a public source at the next checkpoint before checking in. The musher may also obtain items from a private source with the approval of the Race Marshal or Race Judge and a time penalty of 30 minutes at the **next designated mandatory stop**.

In addition to the mandatory gear listed above, items relative to the safety of the dog teams and mushers (i.e. sled brakes, mittens, etc.) may be replaced with the Race Marshal or Race Judge's approval and the 30 minute time penalty assessed at the **next designated mandatory stop**.

Should any mandatory gear be missing at the finish, 30 minutes per item will be added to the finish time.

A map, compass, parka, canine first aid kit, flares, and dog blankets are recommended. PLBs (Personal Locator Beacons) will be allowed at the Musher's discretion. Activation of a PLB will constitute voluntary withdrawal from the race. **GPS will be allowed as long as there is no communication between persons** (no voice, no email, no text messaging, etc.) GPS and the like must be declared to the Race Marshal prior to the start of the race. **Two-way communication devices of any kind will not be allowed.** Excess food or gear may be given only to residents along the trail or to other mushers.

### 3. Checkpoint:

#### a. Check-in/Sign out:

Each musher must personally check in and sign out at each checkpoint before going on. Mushers must also check in and sign out at the Mile 101 dog drop. The time into the checkpoint is recorded upon the team's arrival and the required gear will be checked immediately. Any musher failing to sign out, or to leave within **sixty (60)** minutes of signing out will be assessed a time penalty of 2 hours at the **next designated mandatory stop or a musher and team may return on the trail to a checkpoint to sign out without penalty.** The 60 minute rule may be extended with the approval of the Race Marshal or judge. Teams may return to a checkpoint for additional rest and/or supplies (with the Race Marshal's or a Race Judge's approval) without penalty. The checkpoints will be staffed 24 hours a day for a period of 60 hours after the first team arrives. The checkpoint may be staffed on a limited basis after that, until all the teams have passed.

#### b. Dogs Entering and Leaving Checkpoints:

All dogs must leave checkpoints in harness and attached to the tow line. A dog may arrive at a checkpoint in the sled and leave in harness attached to the tow line.

#### c. Food and Equipment:

Prior to leaving the checkpoint all litter and remaining supplies must be bagged by the musher. Straw collection procedure for each checkpoint will be determined by the Race Marshal or Race Judge. A handler with the approval of the Race Marshal or a Race Judge may collect supplies remaining after a musher has left a checkpoint. Any items not retrieved become the property of YQI.

### 4. Thirty-six (36) hour Stop (Dawson City):

There is one mandatory 36 hour stop at Dawson City, Yukon. Time begins when the musher checks in at Dawson City. The starting-time differential is added to the layover time here. All dogs continuing in the race must be kept in the designated holding area. THE FOLLOWING IS ALLOWED IN DAWSON CITY: (a) Delivery of food and equipment after the start of the race; (b) Assistance with feeding dogs and repairing equipment; **(c) Tent shelters for dogs, limited to an open-ended, non-heated shelter;** (d) There are no restrictions as to where mushers may sleep during the mandatory 36 hour layover at Dawson City. THE FOLLOWING IS NOT ALLOWED IN DAWSON CITY: (a) Removing dogs from the holding area; (b) Housing dogs in dog boxes or autos and trucks; **(c) Taking dogs other than those continuing in the race into the holding area.**

### 5. Mandatory Stops:

In addition to Dawson City, for each team there will be a mandatory 2 hour stop at Braeburn and a mandatory 4 hour stop at Eagle. There will be a mandatory 8 hour stop at Chena Hot Springs. During each mandatory stop, every team will be evaluated by a YQI veterinarian. Race Veterinarians will report their findings to Race Officials. Time penalties will only be served at **designated mandatory stops;** Braeburn, Dawson City, or Chena Hot Springs. No time penalties will be served at Eagle. Any time penalties assessed after Chena Hot Springs will be added to the overall finish time.

### 6. Race Course:

All teams must follow the trail as marked or as instructed by the Race Marshal.

### 7. Standard Race Courtesy:

Standard race courtesy shall prevail. An overtaken musher and team must relinquish the trail at the request of the overtaking musher, except within 1 mile/1.6 kilometers of the finish line in Fairbanks/Whitehorse. Ski poles may not be used within 100 yards / 92 meters of another team.

## **8. Clearing the Trail:**

Mushers setting up camp must clear the trail of their dogs and gear. Build fires a safe distance off the trail.

## **9. Litter:**

Litter of any kind may not be left along the trail or at cabins. Camps must be cleaned up before the team moves on. This is a historic trail, and its continued use for the race relies upon compliance with this policy. Failure to abide by this rule may result in disqualification, \$500 fine and/or time penalty at the **next designated mandatory stop**.

## **10. One Musher Per Team:**

Only one musher per team is permitted, and that musher must complete the race with that team only.

## **11. Tampering:**

No musher may tamper with another musher's dogs, food or gear.

## **12. Teams Tied Together:**

Two or more teams may not, in any way, be tied together except to assist a musher in trouble at some immediate location. The mushers of any teams so involved must notify officials at the next checkpoint along the trail. A musher will not be penalized for helping another musher in danger for his/her life.

## **13. Outside Assistance:**

No planned help is allowed throughout the race, with the exception of Dawson City. No musher may receive outside assistance between or at checkpoints unless an emergency has been declared by the Race Marshal, or is subsequently so ruled. The intended spirit of this race dictates that the musher be self-sufficient and therefore able to help other mushers in case of real need. No assistance which would result in competitive advantage may be accepted or solicited. Handlers are not allowed on the Yukon Quest Trail between checkpoints.

## **14. Demand for Food and Shelter:**

A musher may not make demands for food or shelter along the trail or at checkpoints.

## **15. Sleeping Areas:**

Sleeping areas for mushers and mushers only will be designated at each checkpoint and dog drop. A musher has the option of sleeping outside by his or her own team and sled. **Only these areas may be used.**

## **16. Killing of Game Animals:**

In the event that an edible game animal (moose, caribou, elk, etc.) is killed in the defense of life or property, the musher must salvage the meat for human use before proceeding along the trail. A food animal must be gutted. This incident must be reported at the next checkpoint. YQI will make arrangements for further salvage. Any other animal killed in defense of life or property must be reported to a YQI Race Official.

## **17. Motorized Vehicles:**

In no case may a musher accept assistance from any type of motorized vehicle between checkpoints (except as allowed under Rule 30). Pacing is prohibited.

## **18. Care and Feeding of Dogs:**

All care and feeding of dogs will be done by the mushers only, except at Dawson City. Neither force feeding nor stomach tubing is allowed. Dawson City is the only location along the trail at which the musher may be more than a few minutes away from his/her team without permission of the Race Marshal or a Race Judge. Mushers may assist one another between checkpoints. At non-checkpoints, a musher may accept hospitality for himself or herself only. At no time during the race may a musher house dogs in heated shelters.

## **19. Dog Minimums and Maximums:**

Mushers must start the race with no less than 8 dogs and no more than 14 dogs; and must finish with no less than 6 dogs. Dogs may not be added to a team after the start of the race. An expired dog does not count as a dog for the minimum required.

Only dogs suitable for arctic travel will be permitted to enter the race.

## 20. Harnesses:

The neck (and breast panel where applicable) of all harnesses must be padded.

## 21. Marking/Tagging of Dogs:

All dogs leaving the starting line will be identified by a micro-chip and a current year only YQI collar tag. Legible musher and dog names are required on each collar. Micro-chips are at the musher's expense.

## 22. Switching of Dogs:

Switching of dogs between teams will not be permitted after they have officially left the start line. Following the issuance of tags and acceptance of dogs for the race by Race Veterinarians, any exchange of dogs by the mushers must be approved by the Race Marshal prior to leaving the starting line.

## 23. Treatment of Dogs:

There will be no cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs. No use of whips will be allowed. The Race Marshal or Race Judges in conjunction with a Race Veterinarian will have absolute authority over the dog teams. Their judgment as to withdrawal of a dog or dogs from the race, or any other conditions relative to dog care on the trail, shall be final.

The health and condition of all dogs will be visually assessed at every checkpoint. Dogs may not be examined without the musher's knowledge. Race Veterinarians in conjunction with the Race Marshal or a Race Judge may deem it necessary to detain teams at any checkpoint if the health and welfare of a team warrants it. No dog team will leave a checkpoint until the dogs in that team are fit to continue in the race.

## 24. Hauling Dogs:

A musher may not allow any dogs to be hauled by another team. A musher's dogs hauled in the sled must be hauled in a secured, protected, humane manner.

## 25. Dropped Dogs:

**Any injured, fatigued or sick dogs may be dropped at checkpoints or dog drops, as designated by the Race Marshal, without penalty.** Each dropped dog must be left with 2 days food. Mushers are responsible for providing cable necklines, collars, as per Trail Procedure Rule #21, and proper amounts of food for dropped dogs. The required amount of food is two pounds/one kilogram per day per dog. Every dropped dog must be examined by a Race Veterinarian.

Dogs may be dropped for emergency medical reasons between checkpoints and designated dog drops. This action must be reported to the Race Marshal or Race Judge at the next checkpoint, and the musher **may** be subject to an 8 hour penalty, regardless of the number of dogs dropped, at the **next designated mandatory stop**. The musher remains responsible for that dog and all fees incurred. The dog must be examined by a Race Veterinarian and accounted for within 48 hours or prior to the start of the Finish Banquet, whichever is sooner.

## 26. Drugs:

The musher must have his/her dog team free of all prohibited drugs and foreign substances from the time of the Vet Check until released by a Race Veterinarian or Race Official after the team has finished the race. Dogs that are continuing in the race shall not receive any of the following:

1. Any substance by injection
2. Acupuncture
3. Cold laser therapy
4. Any other treatment or therapy that, in the opinion of the Head Veterinarian, is not in the best interest of a dog that is to continue on in the race.

The Head Veterinarian must be notified of any dogs receiving allowed medication to treat an existing medical problem and a statement from the attending veterinarian describing the diagnosis and treatment must be presented with the YQI health certificate.

YQI Veterinarians or Veterinary Assistants may randomly collect blood and/or urine samples beginning at the Vet Check and continuing until the Finish Banquet. It is the responsibility of the musher to assist the Race Veterinarian or Veterinary Assistant in the collection of the samples. The musher or the musher's handler **must** be present at all times during the taking and sealing of such samples. Documents evidencing the procedure **shall** be signed by the musher or their handler. No person may interfere in any way with the collection of samples or procedures conducted under this rule.

If a Race Veterinarian finds it necessary to treat a dog with a prohibited drug, that dog must be dropped from the race.

The following drugs will be permitted subject to the approval of the official supervising Race Veterinarian:

1. Topical medications including DMSO
2. Dewormers
3. Antibiotics (except procaine penicillin)
4. Antidiarrheals (except those with salicylates, i.e. Pepto-Bismol)
5. Ovaban and/or Cheque Drops (milbolerone - estrus {heat} suppressant use only)

**All other drugs and foreign substances are prohibited.**

The musher is required to protect and guard his/her dog team against the administration, either internally or externally, of any foreign substance. **A positive test indicating the presence of a foreign substance shall give rise to a presumption that the musher has failed to meet the duties imposed upon him/her.**

Fines or penalties levied for violations of this rule shall be based on the seriousness of the offense and will be assessed after completion of the race. The Rules Committee will be responsible for assessing these penalties.

The Racing Commissioner's International Uniform Classification Guidelines of Foreign Substances, will serve as a guideline in establishing these penalties which may be as severe as disqualification and censure from future races.

**27. Expired Dogs:**

**The death of any dog may result in the disqualification of the musher, and/or prohibition from entering future races.** Any dog that expires during the race for any reason must be taken to the next or just passed checkpoint or dog drop and submitted to the Race Official, or it may be directly submitted to a Race Official at a sooner opportunity. If no Race Official is present, the dog may be submitted to a Race Veterinarian. A necropsy will be performed on all expired dogs by a licensed veterinary pathologist or veterinarian.

**28. Unmanageable Team:**

Outside assistance will be allowed only if a team is unmanageable. Whether a team is unmanageable will be ruled upon by the Race Marshal or Race Judge in each separate instance.

**29. Team Configuration:**

There will be no loose leaders; necklines are not required on leaders. All team dogs will be either attached to the towline, no more than 2 dogs abreast, or hauled in the sled. **Mushers are required to be in possession of functional necklines for the entire team at all times. The use of necklines may be required for individual dogs, individual teams, or all teams, at the discretion of the Race Officials.** Dogs may not be led behind the sled.

**30. Lost Team:**

A lost team will not be disqualified if the musher regains control of it, provided that the team and musher complete the entire race trail and comply with the rules including checkpoint requirements. As long as the team and musher continue on the trail when separated, the musher may remain in the race when regaining control. A musher may receive assistance from another musher in recovering his/her team. A musher may receive assistance from a motorized vehicle to regain control of a lost team as long as the musher and team return to the point at which the team was lost and continue the race from that point. The incident shall be reported to a Race Official at the next checkpoint.

**31. Scratch / Withdraw / Disqualification:**

**All decisions by the Race Marshal and / or Race Judges shall be final.**

a) **Scratch** - Mushers wishing to end their participation in the race may do so by filling out and signing a Scratch form and submitting it to a Race Official or checker. Mushers are responsible for making their own arrangements for retrieving personal gear. Items remaining become the property of YQI.

b) **Withdraw** - A team may be involuntarily withdrawn from the race by the Race Marshal. This decision would be made to protect the dogs, the musher, or the event itself, and does not imply deliberate misconduct or rule violation. Food drop bags will be immediately removed from checkpoints and a reasonable attempt will be made to return personal gear to the closest YQI office for retrieval.



c) **Disqualification** - Failure of a musher to comply with the published Rules of General Race Procedure and/or Trail Procedure may result in disqualification, monetary fine, or a time penalty, or a combination of these measures. Disqualified mushers will forfeit all placements and monetary values. Food drop bags will be immediately removed from checkpoints and a reasonable attempt will be made to return personal gear to the closest YQI office for retrieval.

### **32. Finish:**

Mushers must wear their Finish Bib as they cross the Finish Line. Failure to do so will result in a \$500 fine. Subject to checking of mandatory gear, the time of a team's official finish is when the nose of the first dog crosses the finish line. Should any mandatory gear be missing, 30 minutes per item will be added to the finish time. **Dog teams must remain at the finish line or within the holding area until all blood and/or urine samples are collected or until the team is released by the Race Marshal, a Race Judge, or a Race Veterinarian.**

### **33. Sportsmanship:**

The Code of the North dictates that all travelers be courteous, helpful, generous and honorable. Conduct yourself well enough so that the next musher will be welcomed with equal hospitality.

**Rude behavior or inappropriate actions by a musher or handler may result in a penalty, withdrawal, or disqualification.**

Any competitor or athlete worthy of the name realizes that all people—officials, volunteers, sponsors, media, and fans—are equal participants in this event, and that it is the musher's responsibility to define the upper limits of human performance. A true Sportsman is an inspiration to all witnesses.