

RMSDC SNOW RACE RULES 12/22

1) ELIGIBILITY

A. ENTRIES

1. An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the race, subject to entry deadlines as determined by RMSDC.
2. RMSDC may reject any entry for just cause.
3. The race-giving organization shall prohibit any person convicted of animal abuse or neglect at a misdemeanor or greater level from participating in the RMSDC organization, races, or events.
4. An entry for a minor driver (under 18 years old) shall be co-signed by parents or guardians. With their signature they declare that the minor driver is capable of participating and safely racing in the applicable class as established by the organizer. Consequently, their signature is a waiver through which they hold the organizer harmless regarding any claim, liability, any other expenses, or accusations relative to the fact that the driver concerned is not an adult.
5. Experience and age: Drivers with less than 1 year racing experience will race in a recreational or novice class. If they have documented experience with training dog teams the Race Marshall or Race Organizer may waive this requirement. If there is not a separate recreational class, they may be sent out after the experienced teams.
6. Junior class will be offered whenever possible. A junior is considered 10-14 years old. The junior trail should be less than 4 miles, mostly visible and a snowmobile to follow the class out. To be eligible to race in the adult class, drivers must be at least 14 years old, have a signed guardian authorization and race in the recreational class until they have 1 year racing experience. The Race Marshall can make an exception if the youth has documented experience training and driving dog teams. Helmets are required for all junior racers.
7. The Race Marshal may disallow entry of any driver, team, or dog for just cause.

B. HOLD HARMLESS WAIVERS

1. All participants and dog handlers must sign a hold harmless waiver prior to the event. The competitor shall hold the organizer(s), judges, officials, sponsors, co- sponsors, and other contributors to the organizer, (as distinguished from the individual competitor's sponsor) harmless from any claim or demand, based on any alleged action or non-action by the competitor, his/her dogs, agents, or others acting on his/her behalf. The competitor shall also release the organizer, judges, officials, competition sponsors, their agents and employees from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the competitor, his/her dogs, or property, including but not limited to lost or dropped dogs and misplaced food and supplies.

C. DRIVERS

1. The driver starting a team in the first heat of a race shall drive that team throughout the race, except that a change in driver can only be made as the result of illness or injury to the authorized entrant and must have the approval of the Race Marshall.
2. Drivers disqualified from a heat for animal abuse shall not be eligible for further participation in any other classes that are part of that event. And may be expelled from competing in other RMSDC events.
3. Drivers must attend the drivers' meeting held prior to the start of the races. The Race Marshal may allow for an exception if a competitor is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. However, in this case, the driver is responsible for obtaining a briefing from officials prior to the start of the competition

D. DOGS

1. The Race Marshal may disallow entry of any team or dog for just cause.
2. Any team or dog coming to the starting line, which in the opinion of the Race Marshal, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail shall be disqualified. Dogs must leave the chute on their own free will, cannot be carried, dragged, or bagged out of the start chute. Dogs must have their harness on correctly and collars on before leaving the start chute. No chains are permitted for necklines, or for collars or as gang lines.
3. Any team or dog not starting the first heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.

E. DISEASE

1. No dog or equipment shall be brought from a kennel where rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, or any other contagious disease exists. Vaccinations for Rabies, **canine distemper, parainfluenza, and parvovirus are required**. Bordetella or kennel cough vaccines are recommended. Participants are required to have Vaccination documentation available if requested by race officials.
2. If the Race Veterinarian diagnoses any dog present in the race area to have a contagious disease, they will be disqualified and shall immediately leave the race area.

F. IDENTIFICATION

1. In races of more than one heat, the Race Marshall or Race Organizer will determine if each dog shall be marked for identification either prior to the start of the first heat of the race or at the finish.

G. SIZE OF TEAM

- Limited Eight-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than 8 dogs, and not less than 6 dogs.
- A Limited Six-Dog Team shall consist of not more than 6 dogs, and not less than 4 dogs.
- A Limited Four-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than 4 dogs, and not less than 3 dogs.
- A Limited Two-Dog Class Team shall not consist of more than 2 dogs and not less than 2 dogs.
- After the first heat and each ensuing heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to minimums.

2. EQUIPMENT

A. INSPECTION: prior to the team entering the start chute & as teams are lining up. All equipment is subject to the approval of the Race Marshall.

B. HARNESES and LINES

1. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
2. All dogs shall be fastened to the gang line by a neckline and tug line except for the leader(s) who shall be harnessed in the team by a tug line. No chains are allowed as necklines, collars, or gang lines. A snub line may be carried on the sled but shall not be used other than to tie down and hold the sled.

C. SLEDS

1. A sled shall be capable of adequately carrying the driver and have a basket capable of carrying a dog.
2. A sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brush bow and snow hook. Snow hook is to be adequately secured in a snow hook holder on the sled so not to bounce out that could potentially cause an injury to the driver or a dog.
3. A sled shall be equipped with a ventilated dog bag adequate for the safety of the dog, capable of restraining a struggling or incapacitated dog and covering a dog. No part of the dog should be able to extend beyond the bottom, sides or back of the basket. A minimum of 93.0 square inches (600sq. cm.) ventilation must be provided.

D. OTHER EQUIPMENT

1. Any collar that can be hooked as a full choke shall be prohibited. No chains as collars.
2. A signal whip, of any length or any type of whip shall be prohibited.
3. A racing Bib for each driver shall be provided by the race-giving organization. The driver shall display this number on his person during the race.

3. DRAWING

A. The starting positions for the first heat of a race shall be determined by a drawing held prior to the race at a time designated by the RMSDC.

B. The order of the draw shall not be changed, due to an addition or substitution unless in the case of an exception allowed by the Race Marshall. Late entries shall be added to the end of the class. The drawing may, at the option of the race-giving organization, be grouped in a sub class by experienced drivers in the drawing and less experienced drivers in a sub grouping draw, to go out after the experienced teams, due to safety concerns.

C. SINGLE START RACE 1. The first day's starting positions shall be determined by the draw with Number 1 starting first, Number 2 starting second, etc. 2. The second day's starting positions shall be determined by the first day's times, with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.

D. Dual Start Race

1. The first heat's starting positions shall be determined by the draw, with Numbers 1 and 2 starting together first (pair 1), Numbers 3 and 4 starting together second (pair 2), etc. 1
2. The second heat's starting positions shall be determined by the first heat's times. At the option of the organizer: a) Pair 1 shall consist of the best time and second best time of the previous heat, pair 2 shall consist of the third and the fourth best times of the previous heat, etc. or b) The result list of the first heat will be divided into two groups, the first group consisting of the first half of the result list and second group of the second half of the result list. Pair 1 shall consist of the first teams of each group, pair 2 shall consist of the second teams of each group

4. RACE

A. STARTING POINT AND TIME

1. The brush bow of the sled shall determine the starting point of the team.
2. Trail time for all teams shall begin at the scheduled time of departure.
3. A team that fails to be in the start chute at its scheduled starting time shall be declared a late starting team.
- 4.. A late-starting team shall not be allowed to start until after the last team entered in its class has started, and after the prescribed starting interval.
5. A late-starting team shall not interfere with any other team.
6. If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall start in their originally scheduled starting order.
7. A team not clearing the starting chute (minimum distance 100 feet for single starts, 100 yards for group starts) prior to the scheduled start of the next team may be disqualified.

B. ASSISTANCE IN THE STARTING CHUTE 1. Unless otherwise specified by the Race Marshall prior to the start of the first heat of the event:

1. Any amount or type of assistance is allowed to a team prior to the actual starting time.
2. Once a team's starting time has commenced, the chute judge or handlers may help in the chute.

C. FINISH

- A. A team shall have finished the heat when the first dog on the team crosses the finish line.
- B. If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of its driver, that team shall have finished when the driver reaches the finish line. When the driver receives assistance such as a ride on the snowmobile, then r a 20% penalty is assessed.

E. FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

1. A team and driver shall run the entire course as established by the race-giving organization.

2. If a team leaves the trail, the driver shall return the team to the point at which they left the trail.

3. The trail shall be marked as follows:

- a. "Right Turn" shall be indicated by a red marker on the right side of the trail.
- b. "Left Turn" shall be indicated by a red marker on the left side of the trail.
- c. "Straight ahead" shall be indicated by blue or green markers. d. "Caution" shall be indicated by yellow or orange markers.
- e. The end of the Starting Chute (minimum length, 100 feet for single starts) shall be indicated by markers on both sides of the trail.
- f. A marker shall be placed to indicate the start of the 'NO-RIGHT-OF-WAY ZONE' 1/2 mile from the finish unless trail conditions dictate otherwise. The trail within the 'NO-RIGHT-OF-WAY-ZONE' should be at least 10 (ten) feet wide and aligned so that an overtaking team may pass freely on the run.

F. DRIVING A TEAM

1. A driver may ride the sled, pedal, or run as wished.

2. A driver shall not interfere with a competing team.

3. All dogs starting a heat shall complete the entire course, either hitched in the team or carried on the sled. If the Race Marshal determines that all dogs did not complete the entire course as above, that team shall be disqualified.

4. A dog removed from the team must be loaded in the sled and enclosed a dog bag adequate for the condition the dog is in. Overheated dogs should be placed in a ventilated dog bag or snow packed around dog or veterinary assistance requested.

5. Carrying a passenger at any time during the race shall be prohibited unless: a. Giving a ride to a driver in an emergency.

G. ASSISTANCE ON THE TRAIL

1. All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorized by the Race Marshall.

2. Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other in any manner

3.. Handler and spectator assistance shall be limited to holding the sled, except in the case of a loose team, or a team so unmanageable as to create a clear and present danger to itself, other teams or persons.

4. No one shall assist a team by willfully pacing it.

H. LOOSE TEAMS and DOGS

1. All drivers must assume that a loose team or dog is an endangered team or dog.

2. A loose team or dog shall not delay or interfere with another team.

3. The driver of the loose team must overtake the loose team by the quickest means available to ensure the safety of the loose team.

4. If a driver cannot quickly and safely recover his/her team, the driver must accept assistance, including a ride when available to recover his/her team. Failure to accept available assistance may result in disqualification of the driver of the loose team. The Race Marshal shall determine if a driver is to be disqualified.

5. Any person(s) is/are encouraged to stop and hold a loose team.

6. Drivers who receive a ride to recover a team will be assessed a time penalty of 20% of the total elapsed time of the heat.

I. RIGHT OF WAY 1. When teams are head on passing on a single trail: 1. The team traveling downhill shall have the right-of-way.

2. On level terrain, the Race Marshall shall determine and announce, prior to the start of the race, whether the in-coming or outgoing team has the right-of-way.

3. In the one-half (1/2) mile "No-right-of-way finish zone", no team shall have the right of way over a finishing team.

J. PASSING

1. In races where teams have started sequentially, one behind the other at predetermined intervals, passing rules are defined below:

a. When a team driver intends to pass another team, the passing team driver may demand the right of way when the lead dog(s) comes within 40 feet of the sled of the overtaken team by announcing which side of the trail they are passing on. Command "Trail, on your Right" or "on your Left".

b. The overtaken team shall make way for the passing team by steering the sled to one side of the trail, slowing his team. Moving passes are recommended to avoid the overtaken team turning into the passing team. As the passing team comes up along the sled they may request that team to stop, if needed to complete the pass safely. If a dog is trying to bite the passing team, the passing driver can command the other driver to stop, hook down and grab his dogs.

c. If the passing team becomes tangled or bunched up in the pass, needs to stop to untangle and tighten lines, that team's driver may require the overtaken team to stay stopped for up one-half (1/2) minute.

d. Once a team has been passed, that team shall not repass if the driver in front is trying to keep his team moving forward until after at least 1 minute or one-half (1/2) mile in Limited Classes involving fewer than eight (8) dogs, **b. At any lesser interval when both drivers are in agreement.**

EXCEPTION: After a pass has been completed, a team that has been passed need not hold his/her team while the other driver i. repairs gear or ii. unhooks and transfers a dog or dogs from one position in the team to another position in the team or iii. goes off the race trail before the above-mentioned distance or time interval has elapsed. Loading a dog in the sled constitutes changing a dog's position in the team.

e. A driver coming upon two or more teams stopped together, may pass all such teams. The stopped team drivers shall make every effort to clear the trail for the moving team(s).

f. Teams following each other shall maintain an interval of not less than one (1) team length, except when passing or in the "No-right-of way zone".

g. When a team is overtaken in the "No-right-of-way zone", that team does not have to stop and yield the trail.

h. No driver shall interfere with a competing team.

5. SKIJORING:

1. Equipment

A. All dogs shall be harnessed in a single file or in pairs and attached to the skier by a tugline with shock absorber.

B. The tug line shall be attached to the driver by a hip belt at least 7 cm (2 3/4 in) wide over the spine or any other harness type equipment. The belt shall have an open hook to make it easy to release the line, or a quick release connection (panic-snap).

C. The length of the expanded tug line shall not be less than 2 meters (6.6 ft) in length and a maximum of 3 meters (9.8 ft) in length in the expanded condition as measured from the dog's rear to the racers belt buckle. It is prohibited to have any form of metal hook or ring at the driver's end of the line.

D. A neckline shall be used in two-dog classes.

E. Only cross-country skis without steel edges or sharp tips, and non-dangerous for the dog(s), may be used.

F. The equipment shall be available for inspection by the race officials before and after the race.

G. All entrants shall be responsible for making sure that their equipment meets the requirement of these rules.

H. Start, trail and finish rules

6. Fat Bikejoring

A. Equipment – No motorized, e bikes or pedal assisted bikes allowed. Must have a 4" tire minimum.

1. The dog shall wear a harness and be attached to the bicycle by a tug line with shock absorber. It is prohibited to have any form of metal hook or ring at the driver's end of the line.

2. The expanded tug line shall not be less than 2 meters (6.6 ft) in length and a maximum of 3 meters (9.8 ft) in the expanded condition, when measured from the dog's rear to the bike's front axle.

3. The bicycle shall be equipped with working brakes on each wheel.

4. All drivers must wear a helmet approved by a national test registry.

B. Trail and Finish Rules The driver shall not pace the dog by driving ahead.

1. Pulling the dog or forcing the dog to move forward by any means is forbidden.

2. If a dog becomes unfit or refuses to advance for any reason, the driver is not permitted to finish the heat.

3. During the overtaking procedure, the overtaken team shall make unimpeded way for the passing team. On the command "TRAIL," the participant and the dog are obliged to hold the same side of the trail and stop pedaling.

7. CONDUCT

A) RESPONSIBILITY and SPORTSMANSHIP

A. All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handler, and themselves whenever in the race area or on the trail.

B. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshal determines that driver, handler or team conduct at any time in the race area or on the trail is detrimental to the sport/race, that team shall be disqualified.

1. ABUSE OF DOGS 1. Abuse of a dog in any manner is absolutely prohibited and is grounds for expulsion from the organization, the Race event, and any future races. RMSDC has a zero-tolerance stance and will not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse or anger displayed towards dogs and is grounds for disqualification. If the Race Marshal, or Race Officials determines that any dog has been abused, or aggressively mishandled that is deemed to be inappropriate, that team and driver shall be disqualified and may be expelled from RMSDC and entering in future events.

2. RULES VIOLATIONS

A) REPORTS BY RACE OFFICIAL 1. Race officials shall report overt rule violations to the Race Marshal verbally, in person or by radio, immediately or directly following the heat in which the violation occurred.

1. The Race Marshal shall act, at his discretion, on any overt violations witnessed and reported by race officials.

B) REPORTS BY RACE CONTESTANTS

1. Drivers must report an alleged violation of the rules by another contestant by notifying the Race Marshal immediately following the heat in which the incident occurred. Notification may be verbal.

2. All verbal driver reports shall be followed with a written report, given to the Race Marshal within one (1) hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred.

C) PROTESTS and HEARINGS 1. Any driver implicated in a report of an alleged violation of the rules may request a hearing before the Race Marshal.

D) DISCIPLINARY ACTION 1. For violation of any RMSDC Race Rule, the Race Marshal shall either issue a verbal warning to the driver or disqualify the driver and team from the race.

A. Decisions shall be announced as promptly as practical.

B. Dog bites and injuries must be documented and examined by the Race Veterinarian.

I have read the RMSDC Race Rules and agree to abide by these regulations for the safety of myself, other participants, spectators, and dogs.

Signature_____ Date:_____