

Part One/Race Rules

The San Juan Stage Racing Organization (SJSR) is a limited class competition: open to all dog mushers that meet the entry requirements as set forth the SJSR Organization.

The SJSR Organization may encourage and maintain the philosophy according to which the competition is set out so as to allow anyone willing to enter and complete it to do so within the limitations of the race capacity.

The race aims are to determine which musher's team will cover the race trail distance in the shortest time in compliance with the following regulations established by the SJSR Organization.

Maximum Number of Dogs

- **A musher may start THE RACE WITH TWELVE (12) DOGS FROM A SIXTEEN (16) DOG POOL. A dog may be added or returned to the sled at any stage.**

Entries should be sent to:

San Juan Stage Racing

P.O. Box 29

Hesperus, Colorado 81326

Payment of entry fee constitutes the mushers intent to enter the competition and comply with the present regulations. Mushers entering the competition are confirmed by a signed application.

The SJSR organization reserves the right to reject entries for just cause.

Veterinary/Pre-race Examination

Before the competition starts, all dogs must undergo a physical examination. Examinations will be performed by the SJSR veterinary team. All dogs must be examined at this pre-race veterinary examination or will not be allowed to race. Only dogs in good health will be allowed to participate in the completion.

All dogs must have PROOF OF current vaccinations

Claims

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

Musher's Meeting

Mushers must attend the musher's meeting as well as the official musher banquets before the start of the competition and any events as part of the race schedule. After each stage there will be a mandatory musher meeting and official community functions for all the participating mushers. Time and locations will be announced by the SJSR prior to each event.

Race Start

- A. The Race will be held as scheduled regardless of weather conditions. The Race Marshall, Race director and Chief Veterinarian may change the starting time and place as well as each succeeding stage due to bad weather and/or trail conditions.
- B. The first stage will be timed and counted, it will become part of the musher's official race time. The arrival order of the first stage will be reserved and shall become the starting order of the second stage.

- C. The starting order of the first stage will be determined by a drawing. The drawing will take place during the pre-race mushers' MEETING. The drawing order is determined by the sign up order.
- D. The fastest team each day will start in the last position the next day. This procedure will be followed throughout each stage of the race.

Dog Identification

All dogs will be identified, marked and /or tagged with any marking technique provided by the SJSR.

Part Two/Main Race Procedures

Stages and Checkpoints

- A. The distance between each start and arrival is considered a stage. The start and arrival locations are considered checkpoints. Mushers will be requested to personally sign in upon arrival at a checkpoint and have their mandatory gear checked upon any Race Official's request.
- B. In addition to the start and arrival checkpoint, there may be checkpoints along each stage. Mushers may be requested to sign an official control paper.

Race Timing and Starting Procedures

- A. Teams will leave the starting line at TWO (2) minute intervals. A team not cleaning the starting chute-minimum distance 100 feet shall make way for the next starting teams(s) and in no way shall interfere with their progress. Any musher not able to start according to the order drawn will have to do so three (3) minutes after the scheduled last place musher. Trail time for each team shall begin at its original start time. If a team fails at a second aftermath to the Race Marshall may invoke a time penalty or withdraw the team.
- B. Late start teams will leave in a succeeding three (3) minute interval order. Additional time may be allowed at the discretion of the Race Marshall.
- C. The Race Marshall may impose a mandatory stop during any stage. This stage will be considered one stage with one total accumulated time.
- D. To be valid, each stage and related times must be certified by the Race Marshall. The Race Marshall may refuse to certify the times and not allow a stage if he and the judges find any evidence that reveals irregularities in officiating including trail breaking, marking and timing. The Race Marshall may either cancel or request the stage to be run again.

Sled

Each musher may choose his own sled providing it meets the necessary SJSR requirements, that is tandem hitch with one tow line and not fan type hitch. Braking devices must be placed between the runners and not extend beyond the length of the runners; all sleds must be provided with a brush bow. The sled must have a brake and be capable of carrying an injured dog as well as carrying mandatory equipment and food. The bag must be of equal dimensions, supported by the basket.

Mandatory Items/GEAR

1. Snow Hook
2. Race Bib on sled
3. Headlamp
4. Knife
5. Sled bag for injured dog
6. Waterproof matches and lighter

7. Full set of dog booties
8. Issued trail map
9. Extra necklines
10. Dog First Aid kit: (ace wrap, pressure dressing, tape, etc.)
11. SPONSOR PACKAGE, SUPPLIED BY RACE OFFICIALS

Suggested Gear:

1. Sleeping bag
2. Extra food for musher and dog
3. Ax or hatchet/BOW SAW
4. Snowshoes
5. Complete First Aid kit
6. Compass and avalanche beacon
7. Pot for melting water

Dropped/Pulled Dogs

- A. A musher may drop dogs at designated start and arrival checkpoints. A musher may drop a dog up until the team leaves the starting line.
- B. The Chief Veterinarian and stag reserve the right to pull a dog from a team at any time. Any dog pulled by a veterinarian from the race will be identified b, marked and not allowed to re-enter the race until such a time that the dog is recertified by the Chief Veterinarian .Recertification dogs must be requested at least two hours prior to the mushers designated start time.
- C. Care and transportation of all dogs is the responsibility of the musher.

Dog Care

In joint agreement between the Chief Veterinarian, the Race Marshall, and the Race Director, a musher may be penalized if the musher does not take proper care of the dogs, including dropped dogs, from the start until the end of the race.

Dog Handling

A dog may not be carried by another team except during an emergency. Dogs must be carried in a humane manner and must be covered. Dogs may not be tied up behind the sled or allowed to run loose. NO ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR TOWARDS DOGS WILL BE TOLERATED!

Expired Dogs

Any dog expired on the trail must be covered and hauled in the sled to a checkpoint. The musher may transport the dog either to the checkpoint just passed or to the upcoming one. The Chief Veterinarian must be notified and the musher and the Chief Vet will decide the best care for the expired dog.

Whips

No whips of any kind will be allowed.

Harnesses

The neck and breast panel of all harnesses must be padded. Harnesses must always be in good condition.

Drug Use

No inject able, oral, or topical drug which may suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. No other drugs or other artificial means may be used to drive a dog or cause a dog to

perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability. A musher may not inject any substance into their dogs.

Unmanageable Team

Musher may receive aid to control an unmanageable team and may continue in the race providing that it does not interfere with the progress of another team.

Following Marked Trail

All teams and mushers must complete the entire race as marked and check in whenever requested.

Driverless Team

Anyone may stop and secure a driverless team or a loose dog. The musher may recover his dogs either on foot or with another musher's help and then continue the race. Any assistance must be reported to a Race Official at the next checkpoint. Should a team be picked up in an emergency, the team must be returned to where it left the trail if it is to be continued in the race.

Teams Tied Up Together

Two or more teams may not be tied up together except during an emergency. In that case, the teams involved must notify Race Officials at the next checkpoint.

Motorized Vehicles

Musher may not receive motorized assistance, except in an emergency. No pacing allowed. Any motorized assistance must be reported to the Race Marshall immediately upon entering a checkpoint.

Passing

When a team catches up with another team within a distance of fifty (50) feet, the team behind has the immediate right-of-way upon request by saying "trail". The musher ahead must stop his dogs and hold them to the best of the musher's ability for a maximum of one (1) minute or until the other team has passed, whichever occurs first. The team which was passed may continue racing yet must remain behind for a least four (4) minutes or one mile before the musher must request the right-of-way.

If the passing team becomes entangled as a result of the passing, the team's driver may require the overtaken team to stop for no longer than one (1) minute.

No Man's Land

A "no man's land" will begin one half mile from each finish line.

Parking of Team Along the Trail

During the race, mushers must select a campsite at least ten (10) feet off the race trail so as to avoid dogs interfering with the progress of other teams. Musher needing to stop momentarily must not interfere with the progress of the other teams. At checkpoints, teams must be parked in location which does not interfere with the movement of other teams and mushers.

Litter

No littering on the trail, in camps or parking areas. Mushers are responsible for clean-up for team and self, including mandatory gear and food and especially dog excrement AND STRAW.

Outside Assistance

Musher may not receive outside assistance between a stage start and finish. Dog care and feeding between the start and finish is the musher's responsibility only. If a driver is present in an emergency situation, help is limited to holding the sled. If the driver is not present, the team may be stopped and held until the driver or a Race Official claims the team. Any assistance must be reported to the Race Marshall immediately after.

Abandoned Teams/Loose Dogs

- A. A musher who loses or abandons his team during a stage, whatever the reason, for a period of time in a location that does not allow the musher to exercise direct care and control over the team, may be required to withdraw from the race.
- B. All dogs starting a stage must return to the finish line either on the towline or in the basket. In the event a dog leaves the team during a stage for any reason and cannot be retrieved, a musher cannot continue and is disqualified.

One Musher Per Team

There will be one musher per team only and that musher must complete the entire competition.

Finish

An official finish is determined by the nose of the first dog to cross the finish line. If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of its musher, the team shall have finished when the musher crosses the finish line. Arriving teams are required to continue through the closed chute area past the second arrival to avoid any delaying other arriving teams.

Prize Awards

The final prize award ceremony will be held no later than 24 hours following the first team's arrival.

Purse

The final purse will be publicized when the musher arrives to claim the race rules and official information. Thereafter, the money distribution should not decrease and the organizers reserve the right to compensate all racers adequately in all categories.

Good Samaritan Rule

A musher will not be penalized for helping another musher during an emergency. Incidents should be reported to a Race Official at the next checkpoint.

Interference

No musher may tamper with another musher's dog, food, or gear or interfere in any manner in the progress of any other team.

Sportsmanship

Mushers shall conduct themselves in civil, sportsmanship-like manner throughout the competition. No abusive behavior towards anyone will be tolerated. Mushers will also be responsible for their handler's actions.

Use of Drugs and Alcohol

The San Juan Stage Racing Organization endeavors to provide a competition that is free of these drugs and medications that could unfairly enhance the performance of the musher or might endanger the musher's animals or the musher's health. For this reason, drugs which are banned by the International Olympic Committee are prohibited from the competition start until the competition ends, including the prize awards ceremony.

Part Three/Race Officials and Penalties

Race Officials

The Race Marshall and Judges are responsible for the enforcement of all the Race rules.

- A. The veterinary staff is also responsible to assist with enforcement of dog care and treatment rules. In addition, the Chief Veterinarian is responsible to assist the race Marshall in all decisions that involve dog care and treatment.
- B. The Race Marshall and Chief Veterinarian will consult with the Race Director prior to trail changes, disqualification, withdrawals, press releases and penalties. ALL DECISIONS WILL BE FINAL.

Penalties

A rule infraction may lead to the issuance of a warning, fines, time penalties, censure, or disqualification. Any Race Official may issue a warning which must be reported to the Race Marshall. Time penalties are issued by the Race Marshall. Disqualification by the Race Marshall is based on recommendation of the other Race Officials. The Chief Veterinarian and Race Director will be included in all cases involving cruel and inhumane treatment. The Race Marshall's decision is final.

Ethics in Sponsoring

The San Juan Stage Racing Organizations is and must remain with its own ethics and with an original and particular spirit which together make up its value and interest.

The Race Organization must make sure that the spirit of the race is not deviated by events which are against such a spirit, especially as far as advertising and sponsoring are concerned.

The mushers as well as the people who for any reason participate in the race, even if they accompany or represent the musher or are bound to the musher by private agreements, must behave according to the spirit established by the race organization and refrain from any behavior which may be against this spirit.

The musher may not wear clothes and use equipment that are against the interest of the race or cause damage to the race organization or to the official sponsors.

Therefore, the race bibs will be attached in such a way that they are visible. The race organization reserves the right to have a communication space on each sled.

For the protection of each participant and for the image of the San Juan Stage Racing Organization, every musher and handler participating in the race gives their authorization to support and broadcast the photos and video footage representing the musher and his dogs taken before, during and after the event to be used for all kinds of support, through any technical supports as much by way of reproduction as by way of advertising, and the musher allow the San Juan Stage Racing organization to transmit these authorized uses to other parties.

Final Note

The intent of these regulations is to ensure a fair competition. The San Juan Stage Racing Organization's appointed officials are responsible for interpreting the rules to insure that intent.

