

McCall Ultra Sled Dog Challenge 2018 Rules

SECTION 1: Entry, Pre-Race and Equipment

A. Entry information

1. 12-dog Mid-Distance Class, Continuous, 200 miles
2. Receipt of the entry fee and entry form will constitute the musher's intent to enter the race and further acknowledges the musher agrees to comply with each rule as stated.
3. Starting positions for the race will be determined by a drawing after the musher's meeting. Order of the drawing will be determined by receipt of the entry fee postmark date.
4. MUSC reserves the right to reject an entry.

B. Musher

1. The musher starting at the beginning of the race shall drive the team throughout the race.
2. A musher must be a minimum of 18 years old. An experienced musher of 16 or 17 may apply, in writing, to waive the minimum age rule. Application must include number of years of experience, references from at least two veteran long distance mushers and written consent from parent or guardian.
3. There will be one musher per team.
4. Each musher is responsible for their own handling, truck transport and dropped dogs.
5. We wish to promote a good neighbor policy by, when possible, leaving a place better than we found it.
6. Handlers are responsible for cleanup and removal of straw, droppings, litter etc.

C. Musher's Meeting

All mushers must attend the mandatory musher's meeting. Meeting time and location will be announced.

D. Musher Conduct

1. All mushers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, crew and themselves when in the race staging area or on the trail.
2. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. All mushers must use civil conduct and act in a sportsmanlike manner throughout the race. Abusive treatment of any person or animals is prohibited. Conduct yourself well enough that the next driver will be welcomed with equal hospitality. If the Race Marshall determines that driver, handler or team conduct at any time in the race or on the trail is detrimental to the race or sport as a whole that team may be disqualified.

E. Dogs

1. It is the intent of this race, its officials, sponsors and supporters that dog care be the most important aspect of the race.
2. This race stresses dog care and expects the musher to manage their team in such a way to not push dogs beyond their limits.

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3. Cruel and inhumane treatment of dogs is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate disqualification and a letter sent to other race organizations, both sprint and distance. Cruel and inhumane treatment involves any action or inaction that causes preventable pain or suffering to a dog.
4. Any dog that expires on the trail, for any reason, must be carried in the sled, fully covered, to the next available race official. Any dog that expires on the trail, at the discretion of the Head Veterinarian, may be required to undergo a necropsy at the owner's expense. The death of any dog on the trail may, upon the combined decision of the Head Veterinarian and the Race Marshall, result in the disqualification of the musher.
5. A musher may not allow any of their dogs to be hauled by another team. There will be no loose leaders or dogs. All dogs must be in the team or in the sled.
6. Teams shall consist of not more than twelve (12) dogs with the minimum number to start being eight (8). Minimum dogs on the line at the finish of the race is six (6).

F. Veterinary Check

Each dog, prior to the race, will be examined by an MUSC Veterinarian. At the pre-race examination a dog may be withdrawn for health reasons upon the opinion of two race veterinarians.

G. Vaccinations

All dogs entered in the race must have current parvo, distemper and *lepto* vaccinations given within the 12 months prior to the race date. All dogs must have received a kennel cough (tracheobronchitis) vaccine no sooner than 4 months prior to the race date and no later than 14 days prior to the race date. Rabies vaccinations must be current for the state of residence and be administered by a licensed veterinarian. Owners who self-vaccinate with the annual combo shot (distemper and parvo) may submit invoices indicating purchase of required vaccine. Musher must provide proof of all vaccinations.

H. Drugs

1. The intent of the rules concerning the use of any medications is that all competing dogs are racing in a state of acceptable normal health with natural ability. This is to ensure the safety, health and well-being of the dogs.
2. No injectable, oral or topical drug which may suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. No drugs or other artificial means may be used to drive a dog or cause a dog to perform beyond its natural ability. A musher may not use injections on their dogs.
3. The following drugs are prohibited:
 - Analgesics (prescriptive or non-prescriptive)
 - Anti-inflammatory drugs including but not limited to:
 - Corticosteroids (the use of corticosteroid ointment on the feet is allowed. Steroid preparations are detrimental if splits, wounds or infection are present.)
 - Non-steroidal agents (antiprostaglandins, Salicylates, etc.)
 - DMSO --Central Nervous System Stimulants

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- Cough Suppressants
- Anesthetics
- Diuretics
- Anabolic Steroids
- Muscle Relaxants
- Injectable Anticholinergics
- Antihistamines

4. Dogs are subject to the collection of urine or blood samples at the discretion of the Head Veterinarian at any point from the pre-race examination until two (2) hours after the teams cross the finish line. The musher or handler will remain with the dogs. All samples will be sealed and signed for before the tests are considered complete. A musher or handler must assist the Race 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 drug was administered to the dog. A positive test may lead to disqualification of the musher once the Race Marshall and Head Veterinarian talk with the musher and make a decision.
5. The use of Megesterol acetate (Ovaban) or Mibolerone (Cheque Drops) as an estrus suppressant is permitted.
6. The practice of blood doping, i.e. injection of whole blood, blood products or any blood substitutes is prohibited.
7. Race Veterinarian's 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.

I. Equipment

1. All harnesses shall be padded around the neck and chest areas.
2. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
3. Some type of sled shall be drawn.
4. Sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brushbow, snowhook.
5. A sled bag capable of safely restraining a struggling or severely injured dog is required. Sled and sled bag shall be large enough to contain all required equipment in addition to hauling an injured dog. If you have questions about this contact the Race Marshall.
6. If cable or chain necklines are used there must be a weak link incorporated into the neckline. If you have questions about this contact the Race Marshall.
7. All dogs must have their name either written on their collars or attached to their collars in some fashion.

J. Mandatory Gear in Sled:

1. Mandatory gear must be in the sled at the start, turn-around checkpoint and at the finish line.
2. Gear shall consist of:
 - a. Arctic parka
 - b. Proper cold weather sleeping bag.
 - c. A usable three (3) gallon cooker and appropriate amount of fuel

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- d. Ax with head weight 1.5 pounds minimum and a handle at least twenty-two (22) inches long.
- e. Two working headlamps.
- f. Ganglines must be made of cable or have cable core.
- g. Cable cutters.
- h. Any promotional materials provided by the MUSC
- i. Vet book
- j. Knife
- k. Two (2) full sets of booties for each dog either on the sled or being worn by dogs.
- l. First-aid kit (minimum of ace bandage, pressure dressing and tape.)
- m. Waterproof matches or lighter.
- n. Snowshoes
- o. Trail Map

K. Mandatory Food

1. One pound for each dog in the team must remain in the sled throughout the race for emergency use only. Should a musher arrive at the checkpoint or finish without this mandatory emergency food, an explanation must be addressed with a race official. This food should be considered only as a bare minimum. Bad weather and common sense will dictate when additional food should be packed. Littering on the trail is prohibited. Dumping food to lighten the load after leaving the start or checkpoint is prohibited.
2. One day food ration for the musher.

SECTION II: The Race

A. Start

1. All mushers and team trucks must be in the official start parking area at a specified time to be announced at the musher's meeting. At this time each participant's sled and mandatory equipment must be ready and available for inspection.
2. All mushers and dogs will be required to take part in pre-race ceremonies and photo session.
3. Time differentials for the race will be adjusted at the six (6) hour layover. Handlers will be allowed at the start of race only to assist team and musher. After race start, handlers will not be allowed to assist mushers and teams during the race.
4. A team unable to leave at its specified time will depart after the last team leaves and will observe the specified interval between teams. Any musher who cannot leave the starting line within ten (10) minutes of the last team's departure may be disqualified at the Race Marshall's discretion, unless extenuating circumstances prevail.

B. Finish

1. The nose of the first dog crossing the finish line signals a team's official finish. In the event the musher is not with the team when it finishes, the finish time will be officially recorded when the musher crosses the line after the team.

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2. Mushers must make a sincere effort to continue in the race in a timely manner or they will be disqualified at the race officials' discretion.

C. Checkpoint/Mandatory Layover

1. Each musher must sign in and out of all checkpoints.
2. There is a minimum 6 hour mandatory rest at the Cascade Lake Checkpoint after completion of Leg 3, (or Anderson Creek Snow Park contingency). Times will be adjusted to correct for starting times at this mandatory layover. An additional 6 hour mandatory floating rest may be divided between the Cascade Lake (or Anderson Creek contingency) and Platt Warming Hutt checkpoints, either inbound or outbound, mushers choice. The mandatory rest periods will be credited only in whole hour increments, and will be rounded down to the nearest hour. For instance, if a musher takes 2 hours and 45 minutes rest at a checkpoint, they will only be credited with 2 hours, with 4 hours mandatory rest remaining. The floating rest cannot be tacked onto the 6 hour mandatory at the Cascade Lake Checkpoint.
3. Each musher must leave each checkpoint with mandatory gear in sled. Equipment must be checked by checkpoint official.
4. During the race no outside assistance is allowed except for that offered by MUSC. Handlers may stage supplies for their teams at the checkpoints, but that is the extent of help mushers can receive from their handlers. If a musher must retrieve something from their truck they first need to notify a Race Judge or Race Marshall.
5. Mushers may help each other at the checkpoint camp spot. Example: one musher may watch two teams while the other goes for water.
Boisterous behavior on the part of any musher around other resting teams is strictly prohibited.

D. Running the Course

1. The MUSC is a guest on land of the United States Forest Service and private landowners. In light of this, mushers will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and will at no time demand "rights" to the trail from other users external to the race.
2. Passing:
 - a. When overtaking another team the musher shall call "trail." The overtaken team must relinquish the trail and assist the passing team when necessary.
 - b. When neither of two teams is able to pull away from the other, the mushers shall mutually decide on the appropriate team to lead out.
 - c. In a head-on passing situation the homeward bound team has the right-of-way and the outbound team must relinquish the trail. The exception is when the outbound team is moving downhill, in which case the outbound team has the right-of-way.
 - d. There shall be no calling of "trail" in No Man's Land. No Man's Land will be announced at the driver's meeting.
3. Lost Team
 - a. In the case of a lost team the team will not be disqualified if the musher regains control of the team, provided the team and musher complete the entire race trail and comply within the rules including checkpoint requirements.
 - b. A musher may receive any assistance from anyone in recovering their team.

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- c. All teams must follow the trail as marked. As long as the team and musher continue on the trail when separated, the musher may continue after regaining control.
4. Teams inadvertently leaving the course must regain the course at the point at which it was left.
5. Safety:
 - a. It is the musher's responsibility to check for traffic at road crossings.
 - b. Be cautious when overtaking, encountering or being overtaken by snow machines. Always use your headlamp to signal snow machines during night travel.
 - c. In the case of an emergency or an unmanageable team outside assistance may be accepted without penalty. All situations will be reported by the musher to a race official at the next checkpoint.
6. Stopping on the trail:
 - a. When stopped on the trail adequate room must be allowed for teams to get past and assistance given if necessary. Every effort should be made to get completely off the trail while stopped.
 - b. If snacking, watering or feeding on the trail the team must be completely off the trail if at all possible. An honest effort should be made to keep the trail clean of food or debris.
 - c. Pack out all garbage. Littering is prohibited.
7. Identification, if supplied, will be worn at the start, finish, entering and leaving each checkpoint. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in time and/or monetary penalties.
8. Neckline must be on leaders at the start, finish, entering and leaving each checkpoint. Team dogs must also have a neckline.
9. Drivers wishing to scratch from the race may do so by notifying the Checker, Race Judge or Race Marshall and signing an official scratch form. Drivers are responsible for retrieving personal gear.
10. Dogs may only be dropped at the official checkpoint. Each dog will be turned over to the handlers of the team after being checked by a race vet at the checkpoint.

E. Weather and Trail Conditions

1. The race will continue under all but the most severe trail and weather conditions.
2. Postponement or cancellation of the race will be made no less than ten (10) days prior to the start of the race.
3. In the event of questionable trail conditions the Race Marshall will decide which portion(s) of the trail will be altered.
4. The Race Marshall is responsible for alteration of starting and/or finishing locations.

SECTION III: Race Officials

A. Race Marshall and Judges

1. The Race Marshall and Judges are responsible for the enforcement of all MUSC policies and race rules. Race officials shall consult with the Head Veterinarian on all matters relating to dog care and treatment.

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2. The Race Marshall is in charge of all aspects of the race from the vet checks/pre-race driver's meeting to the awards presentation. The Race Marshall may impose, reduce or waive monetary or time penalties.
3. The Race Marshall shall have the authority to withdraw a team that is out of the competition based on his/her progress down the trail. The Race Marshall also has the authority to withdraw a musher whose conduct, in the Race Marshall's sole and exclusive judgment, constitutes an unreasonable risk of harm to either themselves or other persons.
4. Failure of a musher to comply with the published rules may result in a monetary fine, time penalty or disqualification. In the event a fine is imposed application to enter future MUSC races will not be accepted until full payment is received by the MUSC. Disqualified mushers will forfeit all placements. All decisions by the Race Marshall shall be final.

B. Head Veterinarian and Race Veterinarians

1. The race veterinarians are present throughout the race to monitor the health and welfare of all dogs, advise mushers in caring for their dog's medical needs and provide veterinary treatment for dropped dogs if necessary.
2. The Head Veterinarian, in conjunction with the Race Marshall, shall have authority to hold a dog or dogs at any checkpoint for medical reasons.
3. The decision to remove a dog, dogs or a team from the race shall be the responsibility of the Head Veterinarian in conjunction with the Race Marshall.

SECTION IV: Protest and Hearing

- A. Protests must be submitted in writing to the Race Marshall or Race Judge within one (1) hour of the protester's race finish and shall not be discussed with spectators, media representatives or the general public prior to a decision being handed down.
- B. An official decision will be made by the Race Marshall following a hearing attended by all parties involved.

SECTION V: Awards Presentation

It is the desire of MUSC officials that all mushers finishing in the races be present at the awards ceremony. Absence may result in disqualification and/or forfeiture of winnings. Purse monies will be awarded only to participants who are designated official finishers of the MUSC.

SECTION VI: Claims

Each musher is responsible for their own actions and the actions of their dogs and crew. The musher also agrees to release the sponsors, MUSC and their agents, employees, contractors from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the musher, their dogs, property or the property of their crew. MUSC has the unqualified and unrestricted authority to authorize the race sponsor(s) to photograph and otherwise collect information about the race and all participants therein and to use such photographs and information for advertising, public relations or other publicity purposes.

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Every musher shall sign any and all documents as may be requested by MUSC evidence the foregoing. These documents will be executed at the musher's meeting. Any musher who does not sign the documents requested by MUSC officials will not be allowed to participate in the race.

