



Great North Woods Sled Dog Challenge

2023 Official Race Rules - 1 Day Race

I. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Drivers:

- a. Each driver agrees to hold the Race Giving Organization (RGO), race sponsor(s), landowners, snowmobile clubs and other contributors harmless from any claim or demand based on any alleged action or inaction by the driver, his dogs, agents, or others acting in his/her behalf. The driver also agrees to release the RGO, sponsors, snowmobile clubs, contributors and volunteers from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the driver, his/her dogs, or his/her property.
- b. Further, the RGO has the unqualified and unrestricted authority to authorize the race sponsor(s) and or any RGO affiliated individual(s) or organization(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. Before participating in the race, each driver must agree to the foregoing by signing all documents required by the RGO. Documents may be signed at the time of registration.

A musher must be at least 10 years old. Mushers under the age of 18 must have written consent from parent or guardian. Receipt of the entry fee and completed entry/profile form will confirm that the musher intends to enter the race and agrees to comply with all race rules.

- c. The RGO will provide each driver with an official bib, which displays his/her start number. Bibs must be worn throughout the race. **A 20-dollar deposit will be required.** Any driver who cannot leave as scheduled will be rotated to the end of the starting lineup, but the driver's recorded start time shall remain unchanged. Drivers should be prepared to start as scheduled to avoid lost time. Upon approval by the Race Marshal, substitution of qualified drivers may be made until one hour before the start of the race. The driver starting the race shall drive the team throughout the race.

2. Dogs:

- a. No drugs or other artificial means may be used to drive a dog beyond its natural ability. Any dog receiving a prohibited medication or any injection will be removed from the race and the team will be disqualified. The following drugs are permitted (All **other drugs are prohibited**):

Topical medications (**except DMSO**)

De-wormers

Antibiotics (**except procaine penicillin**)

Anti-diarrheals (**accept those with salicylates, e.g., Pepto-Bismol**)

Estrus suppressants, such as Ovaban or Cheque Drops without analgesic or stimulative properties

Oral food supplements such as Glycoflex, Cosequin etc. with solely nutritive properties

- b. All dogs entered in the races shall have had DHLPP vaccinations within the 3 years previous to the race, but **at least 21 days before the race day**. Owners who vaccinate their own dogs must provide purchase receipts or documentation of vaccinations for each dog. Validated Rabies certificates must be presented to prove that Rabies vaccinations are current. Both Rabies certificates and proof of DHLPP vaccinations will be presented at the pre-race Veterinary check.

A Veterinarian will be on hand in case needed. Drivers are expected to pay Veterinary expenses they might incur during the race.

3. Entry Fees & Refunds:

- a. Current 2022-2023 NCM members will receive a \$20 discount from the entry fees listed below. Non-members will be automatically enrolled in the North Country Mushers for the 2022-2023 Season (11/1/2022 - 10/31/2023).

In the event that the race needs to be cancelled, all entry fees will be refunded minus the \$20 membership fee.

Race Class	Entry Fee	Withdrawal
4-6 Dog 1 Day	\$50.00 (US)	Withdrawal from race prior to March 9th will get full refund of entry fee. Withdrawal on or after March 9th receives no refund.

**A \$35.00 fee will be charged for any bad checks.
All out of country mushers must send money orders or certified checks or use Paypal.**

II. RACE PERSONNEL

1. The Race Marshall shall resolve disputes among drivers and interpret the race rules in regard to infractions and penalties. He/She shall also have the authority to establish rules to cover special or unforeseen situations. The Race Marshal will have ultimate authority in all other disputes from the start of the race to the finish. Race judges may act as deputies of the Race Marshal.

III. TRAIL PROCEDURES

1. Race Course:

- a. Trails will be broken, groomed and marked before the race, and trails will be broken again on the morning of the race. However, due to weather, there is no guarantee of broken trails during the race.
- b. The race course may be re-routed by the RGO as conditions require. All teams must follow the trail as marked or as redirected by the trail officials. Except within one mile of the finish line, an overtaken driver and team must relinquish the trail at the request of the overtaking driver. The overtaken team must move to the side of the trail as far as possible and slow down or stop until the overtaking team has completely passed. Except within one mile of the finish line, the passed team must remain behind for at least 5 minutes before demanding the trail, unless both mushers agree. Drivers resting, snacking, or untangling dogs must clear the trail of their dogs and gear, making passage safe for other teams.

2. Outside Assistance:

- a. The spirit of this race is for the drivers to be self-sufficient. A driver will not be penalized for helping another driver whose life is endangered or for helping to recover a lost team. No assistance which would result in a competitive advantage may be solicited or accepted. Drivers may not accept assistance from any type of motorized vehicle, except to recover a lost team. Therefore drivers should not help each other except to ensure safety and animal welfare. Drivers are encouraged to solicit or accept any available help recovering a lost team. However, if the Race Marshal determines that a musher has thereby gained a competitive advantage then the Marshal may impose an appropriate time penalty. Pacing with snowmobiles is prohibited.

- b. A *handler* is anyone who helps a team. Handlers may help their driver and team before the team starts and after the team finishes for the day. **If personal handlers assist the team in any way while on the trail, the team shall be penalized or disqualified at the discretion of the race marshal.**

Mushers may request help from the trail crew or spectators at intersections or road crossings if help is needed, but may not receive this help from personal handlers.

3. Sportsmanship:

- a. Each competitor should remember to be courteous, helpful and honorable. Rude and/or inappropriate behavior by drivers or handlers may result in a penalty. Disqualification shall result if a driver or his/her handler tampers with another drivers' dogs, food or gear.

- b. Any driver who uses ski poles must stop poling and place the poles in or on the sled whenever his/her team is within 100 feet of another team or whenever an approaching driver calls "Poles" or "Trail". Failure to do so may result in a time penalty.

4. Treatment of Dogs:

- a. Whips of any kind or the use of brush, branches or any object as a whip or to create a frightening noise is expressly prohibited. Cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs will result in the immediate expulsion of the driver from this race, and driver will be banned from participating in any future North Country Musher races. The RGO, Race Marshal or judges in consultation with a veterinarian will have absolute determination regarding the cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs.

- b. Any dog that expires for any reason during the race shall be completely covered in a sled bag and delivered as soon as possible to a race official. The Chief Veterinarian will examine the body to determine the cause of death. If needed, a full necropsy may be performed at the driver's expense. Death of a dog may result in disqualification of the driver.

5. Teams Tied Together:

- a. Two or more teams may not be tied together in any way, except to assist a driver in trouble. The drivers of any teams so involved must notify race officials as soon as possible.

6. Loose Dogs and Lost Teams:

- a. There will be no loose dogs. All dogs will be either on the towline or in the sled. Dogs hauled in the sled must be hauled in a protected, humane manner. A driver must make immediate efforts to secure a dog which becomes loose. A lost team will not be disqualified if the driver regains control, provided that the entire racecourse is covered by both team and driver. A driver may accept help from another driver in recovering his/her team without penalty.

7. Switching Dogs:

- a. Dogs shall not be switched between teams after they have officially left the starting line.

8. Dropped Dogs:

- a. Dogs may only be dropped at the start. If a driver returns to the start to drop a dog, the number of dogs remaining in the team must still equal or exceed the minimum required at the race start.

IV. RACE PROCEDURES

1. Musher's Meeting

- a. Musher's are required to attend the Musher's Meeting the morning of **Saturday March 11th** at **Ramblewood Cabins & Campground** in Pittsburg NH. Details will be announced on the website prior to the race. The Race Marshall may waive the rule if a musher is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

2. Race Start

- a. The one day race is held on **Saturday March 11th, 2023** in Pittsburg, NH.

Starting time will be 1/2 hour after the last Stage Race team finishes. An approximate start time will be given at the driver's meeting. Teams should plan to be at the staging area well in advance of their starting time.

- b. The Race will be held as scheduled regardless of weather conditions. The Race Officials may change the starting times and place due to bad weather and/or trail conditions.
- c. The starting order will be the order in which teams sign up for the race.
- d. Teams must start with a minimum of 4 dogs and a maximum of 6 dogs.

3. Starting Procedures

- a. Teams will leave the starting line at two (2) minute intervals. Any musher not able to start according to the order drawn will have to do so two (2) minutes after the last musher scheduled to start. Trail time for each team shall begin at its original start time.

4. Mandatory Gear

- a. Drivers shall wear their identifying bibs throughout the race.
- b. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file. All harnesses shall be padded around the neck and chest areas. Reflective tape is required on the harnesses.
- c. A sled capable of accommodating injured or fatigued dogs as well as the required food, materials and equipment. The sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brushbow, snowhook, snubline and reflective tape.
- d. A bag capable of safely carrying an injured dog and, if necessary, covering an expired dog. Any expired dog shall be completely covered.
- e. Knife kept easily accessible
- f. Adequate first aid kit.
- g. Fire starting equipment (lighter or waterproof matches).
- h. Working headlamp.

Gear will be checked at the finish. Missing equipment will result in a 2 minute time penalty per item.

5. Finish

- a. 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.

6. Awards

The awards ceremony will be held following the race at Ramblewood Cabins & Campground. Awards will be given to the top 3 teams.