

# **AURORA DOG MUSHERS CLUB**

## **RACING RULES**

*Revised 12/10*

### **I. PRE-RACE PROCEDURE**

#### **A. COURSE**

1. The course shall be clearly laid out with a sufficient number of highly visible markers.
  - a. Right turn: Red marker on right (preferably 40-70 feet before turn).
  - b. Left turn: Red marker on left (preferably 40-70 feet before turn).
  - c. Straight ahead: Blue marker.
2. The starting chute shall extend for a distance of 50 yards from the starting line and shall be suitably marked.
3. The "no-right-of way" zone from the finish line shall be suitably marked or designated.

#### **B. ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS, TEAMS AND DRIVERS**

1. ADMC may reject any entries submitted for due cause.
2. Disease:
  - a. No dog shall be brought from a kennel where hepatitis, distemper, leptospirosis or other contagious diseases currently exists.
3. Dogs recorded for the first departure are the only dogs that may be used during the race. The penalty for breaking this rule shall be disqualification. Further, the driver shall be barred from ADMC races for a period of two years from the date of infraction.
4. Dogs may be marked for identification. Dogs will be marked in races of more than one heat.
5. Any team or dog coming to the starting point which, in the opinion of the Race Marshal, is unfit or incapable of completing the course, will be disqualified at the discretion of the Race Marshal.
6. Each team entered in ADMC races shall consist of not less than the following:

Open Class min. 5 dogs  
 8 Dog Class min. 5 dogs  
 6 Dog Class min. 3 dogs  
 4 Dog Class min. 2 dogs

7. Any team or dog not starting any heat of a race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
8. The driver starting a team in the first heat of a race must drive the team throughout that and all ensuing heats of the race unless incapacitated by injury or illness which has been verified by a doctor's written statement.
9. All dogs must be properly harnessed in the team.
  - a. All dogs must be fastened with necklines.
  - b. Exceptions: The lead dog(s) must be harnessed in the team but may run with or without a neckline.
10. No dog shall compete in more than one class, to include the Junior races, with the exception of the one-dog Junior class race.
11. No driver under 18 years of age will be allowed to compete in the races.
12. Any driver coming up to the starting line in an intoxicated condition shall be barred from running in the race.
13. Any driver must be a member of the Aurora Dog Musers Club in good standing.
14. Anyone convicted of animal cruelty and/or abuse is prohibited from participating in any ADMC sponsored event.

### **C. MEDICATIONS**

1. Prohibited drugs are all those deemed harmful to the dog and to the sport - including stimulants, depressants, local anesthetics and analgesics.
2. Permitted drugs are those deemed not harmful to the dog - including antibiotics and antibacterial.
3. Vitamins are permitted.
4. If the race-giving organization tests for drugs, it shall:

- a. So declare on its entry form.
  - b. Use ISDRA drug control procedures.
5. Whenever a specimen is requested for testing, the use of any medication whatsoever within seventy-two (72) hours of the race must be declared in writing by the owner or driver to the sampling official.

#### **D. EQUIPMENT**

1. Inspection

- a. Drivers, teams, and equipment shall be available for inspection in the vehicle holding area ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled time of departure each day.
  - b. A team will be available for inspection in the vehicle holding area fifteen (15) minutes from the team's finish time after each heat at the request of the judges.
2. Sleds
- a. Must be capable of adequately carrying the driver.
  - b. Must be capable of adequately carrying a dog.
  - c. Must be equipped with snub rope or snow hook, a suitable brake and a brush bow.
  - d. A sled mat and/or dog bag is required.
3. Prohibited Equipment
- a. Collars which can be hooked as full choke collars.
  - b. No chains will be allowed in any part of the racing rig - this includes collar, neck chains or bridle.
  - c. Passengers, unless called for in the conditions of the race.

## **II. STARTING PROCEDURE**

### **A. ENTRY FEE**

- 1. All entry fees will be determined by ADMC.
- 2. Drivers are required to pay the entry fee before they or their proxy will be able to race.
- 3. Any driver not signed up prior to the drawing will be charged a \$5.00 late fee.

### **B. DRAWING**

- 1. Starting position and time for each team entered will be determined by the drawing.
- 2. Such drawing is to be held prior to the race at a time and place designated by the Race Marshal.
- 3. The owner or driver or designated proxy of each team will draw his/her position.

4. In the absence of the owner, driver or proxy, the position of any legally entered will be drawn by the Race Marshal or his/her representative.

### **C. RACE START**

1. The first day's starting positions will be determined by the drawing outlined above, with #1 starting first, #2 starting second, etc.
2. The second day's starting position will be determined by the first day's times, with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.
3. In races of more than two heats, the total elapsed time of previous heats will determine starting positions, with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest starting second, etc.

### **D. STARTING POINT OF TEAM**

1. Starting time for each team will begin when such team is scheduled to leave the starting line.
2. Teams failing to be at the starting line on that team's prescribed starting time for any heat will not be allowed to start until after the last team has left and at the prescribed starting interval. If more than one teams starts late, each shall start in the respective order they were originally scheduled to start.

## **III. TRAIL PROCEDURES**

### **A. TRAILS**

1. Trails to be run will be determined at a regular meeting.
2. If sections of the trail are unrunable, the Race Marshal has the ultimate decision to change the route, or cancel the race after viewing the trails, by snowmachine or other methods to make the final decision.

### **B. DRIVER**

1. A driver may ride, pedal or run as and when he wishes.
2. Abuse of the dogs with or without an instrument is prohibited.

- a. The snub line may not be used in any way other than for hitching.
  - b. The whip, or other implement may be used only as a signal by snapping, except when the dogs are unmanageable.
  - c. The cruel and inhumane treatment of the dogs by any driver is strictly prohibited under penalty of losing the race and being barred from racing for a period of two (2) years. The judges of the races shall be the judges of what consists of "cruel and inhumane treatment" of the dogs.
3. Interference by a driver with a competing team is prohibited.

### **C. DOGS**

1. All dogs starting a heat must complete it.
2. All dogs must be hitched in the team or carried on the sled.
3. Any dog that drops on the trail shall be picked up immediately and carried in the sled.

### **D. FOLLOWING THE COURSE**

1. A team and driver must run the full course to the point at which the team left the course.
2. If a team leaves the course:
  - a. The driver must return the team to the point at which the team left the course.
  - b. The driver and team must return to the point at which they left the course under their own power.
  - c. A team and driver meeting the above requirements may continue the course without penalty.
  - d. A team and driver not meeting the above requirements shall be disqualified.

### **E. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**

1. All teams may receive similar assistance of any kind by officials stationed at designated points along the trail if so authorized by the Race Marshal.
  - a. Each driver may have one self appointed handler to assist the driver and team past the

team's home kennel and/or trail leading directly off racing course toward such home kennels. Should conditions prevail, the names of any such handler and proposed place for such assistance must be made known to the judges in writing 24 hours in advance of such race. No such handlers may be used without prior approval of the judges.

2. An individual team may receive assistance from anyone only when unmanageable.
3. Individual team assistance may consist of stopping the team. After the team is stopped:
  - a. If a driver is present, help is limited to holding the sled.
  - b. If the driver is not present, the team may be held or snubbed until he/she arrives.
4. No one is allowed to assist a team by willfully pacing it.
5. Brushing is only intended as a signal to the driver of a wrong trail, and not intended to prevent dogs from taking a wrong trail.
  - a. All brushing will be done by race officials or designated by the Race Marshal.
6. No one, except the Race Officials, is allowed on or near the trails except as noted above.

## **F. LOOSE TEAMS**

1. Anyone is encouraged to stop and hold a loose team.
2. A loose team must not delay or interfere with other teams.
3. The driver must overtake his team or loose dog(s) on foot.
4. Both team and driver must cover the entire course without unauthorized assistance.
5. A team and driver meeting all the above requirements may continue the course without penalty.
6. A team and driver not meeting all the above requirements will be disqualified.
7. In the event a driver does not overtake his team prior to the team's having crossed the finish line, the time when the driver crossed the finish line will be the finished time.

## **G. RIGHT OF WAY**

1. A team not clearing the chute prior to the starting time of the next team shall be disqualified.
2. When passing in opposite directions on a single trail:
  - a. On a hill, the team travelling downhill shall have the right-of-way.
  - b. On level ground, the incoming team will have the right-of-way.

## **H. PASSING**

1. When one team shall overtake another, within fifty (50) feet, the team behind shall have the immediate right-of-way upon demand. The driver ahead must stop his dogs and hold them to the best of his/her ability until the other team is by.
2. The overtaken team may request and receive the right-of-way as above:
  - a. After four (4) minutes or one (1) mile.
  - b. If the concerned drivers are in agreement, a lesser time and mileage intervals.
3. A passing driver with a tangled team as the result of a pass may require the following driver to wait no longer than one (1) minute. If the overtaking team should stop for any other reason than above, the overtaken team may repass at his/her discretion.
4. Teams following shall maintain an interval of not less than fifty (50) feet.

## **I. USE OF WHIPS OR OTHER IMPLEMENTS**

1. No driver may use a whip or other implement within fifty (50) feet of any other team.
2. No whip or other implement may be used in the staging area or either chute.
3. No physical disciplinary action may be taken against any dog in the staging area or either chute unless the dogs are unmanageable.

## **IV. FINISHING PROCEDURES**

### **A. FINISHING POINT**

1. The finishing point of the team will be the first dog to finish line unless otherwise determined by the Race Marshal prior to the start of the race.

2. In the event of a loose team crossing the finish line ahead of the driver, the finish point for that team will be the driver.

## **V. CONDUCT**

1. All drivers are responsible for the conduct of their dogs and handler before, during and after the race.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct in the race area and on the race course is prohibited.

## **VI. PROTESTS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

### **A. PROTESTS**

1. Any entrant wishing to protest any violation of the rules must do so immediately following the heat in which the alleged violation occurred. The protest may be verbal, but must be accompanied by \$10.00. This money will be refunded upon receipt of a written protest. Protest must be received by the Race Marshal within two hours following the finish of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred.
2. In the event of a protest concerning the use of drugs, the protesting driver shall follow the normal protest procedure above, except that the protest filing fee shall be \$50.00.
  - a. If the accused driver is found guilty, penalties are as follows:
    - 1) Disqualification from the race.
    - 2) Pay for drug tests for each dog in his/her team.
    - 3) Barred from ADMC for a period of two (2) years from the date of the above race.
    - 4) The driver filing the protest shall be refunded \$50.00.
  - b. If the accused driver is not found guilty, the driver filing the protest forfeits the \$50.00.
3. In the event of a protest by an entrant, the concerned parties may request a hearing.
  - a. Such a hearing shall be granted by the Race Marshal.

### **B. DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

1. For any infraction of these rules, the Race Marshal with or without the recommendation of the judges, may impose a warning or disqualification for that race.

2. The decision of the Race Marshal is final.

## **VII. POINTS RACES**

1. The club will designate a set number of races each year as points races.

2. Points will be awarded as follows:

First Place	10 points
Second Place	7 points
Third Place	5 points
Fourth Place & Below	1 point

3. To qualify for high points at year end, a person must run in at least three points races during that racing season.