

## **Chugiak Junior Dog Mushers (CJDM) Racing Rules**

**Adopted: November 29, 1989**

**Revised: November 6, 2018**

### **GOALS**

1. To participate in Alaska's state sport and promote its future.
2. To teach junior mushers the responsibilities of care, health and training of sled dogs.
3. To appreciate the physical and mental abilities of sled dogs.
4. To learn and practice good sportsmanship.
5. To create a place where mushers can come to meet new mushers and people from different areas of dog mushing.

### **PRE-RACE PROCEDURE:**

1. Course:
  - A. The course shall be clearly marked/gated to the approval of the Race Marshal.
  - B. The "NO\_RIGHT OF WAY ZONE" shall be marked approximately ½ mile from the finish line, unless trail conditions indicate otherwise.
2. Eligibility of dogs, teams, and drivers:
  - A. CJDM may reject any entries submitted for due cause.
    - 1) No dog shall be brought from a kennel where Hepatitis, Distemper, Leptospirosis or other contagious disease exists.
    - 2) No equipment or clothing shall be brought to the race if it has come in contact with a dog having any contagious disease.
    - 3) Any teams of dogs coming to the starting point that, in the opinion of the judges, is unfit or incapable of completing the course will be disqualified by the Race Marshal.
  - B. Dogs recorded for the first departure are the only dogs that may be used during the race.
  - C. Dogs will be marked in a race of more than one heat.
  - D. Number of dogs in a team:
    - 1) Speed Races:
      - a. Seven (7) Dog Class: 7 dogs maximum, 4 dogs minimum
      - b. Five (5) Dog Class: 5 dogs maximum, 3 dogs minimum
      - c. Three (3) Dog Class: 3 dogs maximum, 2 dogs minimum
      - d. Two (2) Dog Class: 2 dogs maximum, 2 dogs minimum
      - e. One (1) Dog Class: 1 dog maximum, 1 dog minimum
    - 2) Any team or dog not starting any heat of a race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.

- 3) Any team or dog disqualified in any heat of a race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
  - 4) After the first heat, the driver may drop any dog(s) s/he wishes from ensuing heats subject to the minimums specified in Rule 2.D.1 above.
  - 5) All dogs must be properly harnessed in the team.
    - a. All dogs must be fastened with necklines.
  - 6) No dog shall compete in more than one class on the same day. Exception: A dog participating in the One Dog class one time may participate in one other class the same day. A dog participating in only the One Dog class may run multiple times.
  - 7) The time of a team driven in a race of more than one day by two drivers shall be counted in the season standings, provided such change of drivers has the approval of the judges. Such change of drivers is permitted only by an injury or illness accompanied by a doctor's statement. Any driver dropping out cannot return on a subsequent day.
  - 8) All drivers shall not exceed eighteen (18) years of age.
- E. Guidelines on Age: The minimum age and experience requirements are as follows:
- 1) One Dog: Musher must have attained 4th birthday by the day of the race.
  - 2) Two Dogs: Musher must have attained 8th birthday by the day of the race.
  - 3) Three Dogs: Musher must have attained 10th birthday by the day of the race.
  - 4) Four Dogs: Musher must have attained 12th birthday by the day of the race or have attained 11th birthday and have completed at least three races with three dogs.
  - 5) Five Dogs: Musher must have attained 13th birthday by the day of the race or have attained 12th birthday and have completed at least three races with three dogs.
  - 6) Six-ten Dogs: Musher must have attained 15th birthday by the day of the race or have attained 14th birthday and have completed at least three races with five dogs or have completed Jr. Iditarod.
  - 7) Exceptions to age limits may be requested 48 hours in advance of race. A 1-year age exception may be granted by Race Marshal if child is proven to have competence with requested class. Child may be requested to have the last number in the draw to minimize passing.

### 3. Mediations:

- A. The administration of any drug to a dog before, during or after the race, except for medical purpose, is prohibited.
- B. Any race to be tested for drugs shall:
  - 1) Be declared on the entry form
  - 2) Use CDMA, ISDRA, ASDRA control procedures.
  - 3) Whenever a specimen is requested for testing, the use of any modifications within 72 hours of the race must be declared in writing by the owner or driver to the sampling official.

### 4. Equipment:

- A. Inspection:

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. Eligibility to race, in case of inability to meet this requirement, will be at the discretion of the judges.

- B. Sleds:
  - 1) Must be capable of adequately carrying the driver;
  - 2) Must be capable of adequately carrying the dog.
  - 3) Must be equipped with a snow hook, a suitable brake and a brush bow. Snow hook is not required for the One Dog class.
  - 4) Must be equipped with a dog bag, capable of safely carrying a dog or dogs, and must be used to confine any loaded dog(s) in the sled. Dog bags are not required in the 1 and 2 dog class.
- C. Prohibited:
  - 1) Collars which can be hooked as full choke collars.
  - 2) Passengers, unless called for in the conditions of the race. However, providing rides to drivers who have lost teams is allowed and encouraged.
  - 3) No chains will be allowed in any part of the racing rig, including collar, neckline or bridle.
- D. A racing number for each driver will be provided by the Race Marshal. The driver will display this number on his or her person throughout the race.
- E. Junior mushers are required to wear a helmet at all CDMA and CJDM events.

#### **STARTING PROCEDURE:**

- 1. Entry Fee and Drawing
  - A. All competitors in CJDM sponsored races must be members of CJDM
  - B. Club membership and dog fees must be paid, and waivers must be signed before the driver may leave the starting line.
  - C. Starting position and time for each team entered will be determined by drawing, with No. 1 leaving first, No. 2 leaving second, etc.
  - D. The owner or driver or designated proxy of each team will draw his or her own position.
  - E. In the absence of the owner, driver, or proxy, the position of any legally entered team will be drawn by the Race Marshal or his or her representative.
- 2. Race Start:
  - A. In races of two (2) heats, the second heat'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.
  - B. Race Marshal and Jr. Advisors have the right to cancel a race because of weather or trail conditions. Race delays shall be for not more than one hour.
  - C. Starting point of the team shall be determined by the brush bow and the starting line.
  - D. Starting time for each team will begin when such team is scheduled to leave the starting line.

- E. Teams failing to be at the starting line at the designated departure time will not be allowed to start until after the last team has left, and at the prescribed starting interval. If more than one team starts late, each shall start in their originally scheduled order.

3. Times/Points

- A. All CJDM races will be timed and recorded in minutes and seconds.
- B. Season trophies for preliminary races will be awarded to the first three places in each class based on the following point system:
  - 1) 5 points – 1st place
  - 2) 4 points – 2nd place
  - 3) 3 points – 3rd place
  - 4) 1 point – All other finishers
- C. Season points shall be totaled for the four points races by class. Musher's may earn season points only in the highest class in which they race that season.

**TRAIL PROCEDURE:**

1. Driver:

- A. A driver may ride, pedal or run as and when s/he wishes.
- B. Abuse of the dogs with or without an instrument is prohibited.
  - 1) The snub line may not be used in any way other than for hitching.
  - 2) Any abuse of dogs by whips or in any manner whatsoever is prohibited.
- C. Interference by a driver with a competing team is prohibited.

2. Dogs:

- A. All dogs starting a heat must complete it.
- B. All dogs must be hitched in the team or carried on the sled.
- C. A dog becoming unfit after departure must be carried on the sled.

3. Following the course:

- A. A team and driver must run the full course as established by CJDM.
- B. If a team leaves the course:
  - 1) The driver must return the team to the point at which the team left the course.
  - 2) A team and driver meeting the above requirement may continue the course without penalty.

4. Outside Assistance:

- A. All teams may receive similar assistance of any kind by officials stationed at designated points along the trail is so authorized by the Race Marshal. Dog safety and musher safety is the most important, and if either is in danger, any amount of help is not only allowed by encouraged.
- B. An individual team may receive assistance from anyone when unmanageable.
- C. Individual team assistance may consist of stopping the team. After the team is stopped:
  - 1) If a driver is present, help is limited to holding the sled.

- 2) If the driver is not present, the team may be held or snubbed until the driver arrives.
- D. No one is allowed to assist a team and driver by willfully pacing it.
- 5. Loose teams:
  - A. Anyone is encouraged to stop and hold a loose team.
  - B. A loose team must not delay or interfere with other teams.
  - C. The driver must overtake his/her team by the quickest means available to ensure the dogs' safety. This may include a ride from another team or from a motor vehicle.
  - D. Both team and driver must cover the entire course without unauthorized assistance.
  - E. A team and driver meeting all the above requirements may continue the course without penalty.
  - F. In the event a driver does not overtake his/her team before the team crosses the finish line, the time of finish will be when the driver crosses the finish line.
- 6. Right of way:
  - A. A team late to the starting line shall not interfere with other teams.
  - B. A team not clearing the chute prior to the starting time of the next team shall be disqualified.
  - C. When passing in opposite directions on a single trail, the right-of-way, if any, will be determined at the driver's meeting prior to the race.
  - D. No incoming team has the right-of-way over another incoming team within the "no-right-of-way" zone at the finish line.
- 7. Passing:
  - A. When one team overtakes another within fifty (50) feet, the team behind shall have the immediate right-of-way upon demand. The driver ahead must slow his/her team or stop, if necessary, to allow passing until the other team is by.
  - B. The overtaken team may request and receive the right-of-way as above:
    - 1) In the 2 and 3 dog classes, after 2 minutes or ½ mile.
    - 2) In the 5 and 7 dog classes, after four minutes or one mile.
  - C. A passing driver with a tangled team may require the following driver to wait no longer than one minute.
  - D. Teams following shall maintain an interval sufficient so as not to interfere with the driver on the team in front.

**FINISHING PROCEDURE:**

The finish is determined by the nose of the first dog across the finish line as long as the driver is with the team. If the driver is separated from his/her team, the finishing time is determined when the driver makes it across the finish line.

**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 by the driver, handlers, and parents is prohibited and is grounds for disqualification. This rule will be strictly enforced.

**PROTESTS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION:**

1. Any entrant wishing to protest any violation to the rules must do so in writing immediately following the heat in which the violation occurred.
2. Violation of any of these rules may be cause for disqualification from the race in which the violation occurs.
3. The decision of the Race Marshal shall be final.

**CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO RACE RULES:**

See Section XI of Chugiak Dog Musher's Racing Rules