

Colorado Mountain Mushers
RACE RULES
Revision 4/2005

PART I – ENTRY RULES

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. ENTRIES

- a. An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the race, subject to entry deadline as determined by the Race Giving Organization (RGO) or Race Organizer (RO).
- b. The RGO/RO or Race Marshall may reject any entry for just cause.
- c. Race entry fees shall be determined by RGO/RO, in line with general CMM policy.
- d. Non CMM members may be charged a \$10 non-member fee in addition to race entry fees.

2. DRIVERS

- a. The driver starting in the first heat of a race shall drive that team throughout the race.
- b. A change in driver can only be made as a result of illness or injury to the authorized entrant and must have the approval of the Race Marshall. There may be no changes of dogs on the team and replacement driver will display the same bib number as the original driver.
- c. Any driver disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- d. Each driver must sign a race entry form containing the following 'AGREEMENT: I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO ABIDE by the rules governing this race. I further acknowledge that the Race Marshall has the final decision and agree to abide by his/her decisions. I agree not to hold Colorado Mountain Musher's Association, Inc. or its officers, the Race Giving Organization or its agents, sponsors, or property owners liable for any injury or accident which may occur during this event. I further agree, that in event of a cancellation, Colorado Mountain Mushers, its officers, the Race Giving Organization or its agents, sponsors, or property owners will not be responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of the cancellation other than the refund of the entry fees. I further attest that my dogs are in good health, have received all vaccinations required by state law, and are physically prepared for this event. I will be solely responsible for the conduct and safety of my dogs and handlers.'
- e. Parent signature/waiver is required for all drivers under 18 years of age.
- f. Drivers racing in classes other than Sportsman must meet the minimum age requirements for their class (unless exempted before hand by a qualified Board Member or Race Official), and may be asked to demonstrate handling skills required to ensure a safe race. These skills may include: hooking down and switching dogs, bagging a dog, turning a team around, stopping a dog fight, passing other teams, and negotiating the sled through difficult terrain.

3. DRIVERS & CLASSES DEFINED

Sprint drivers shall have the following age limitations and classes. The Race Marshall may allow exceptions to the age limitations based on driver ability and safety. Parent signature/waiver is required for all drivers under 18 years of age.

- a. Limited classes may be Skijor, 4 Dog, 6 Dog, 8 Dog, or Sportsman.
- b. Minimum age limitations are as follows: Age 13 and up for skijor; age 14 and up for (4) dog; age 16 and up for (6) dog and (8) dog sprint. Drivers under age 13 shall run in the Sportsman class unless exempted by the Race Marshall or a qualified Board member.
- c. Sportsman class may include juniors, novice, inexperienced or training teams, or teams wanting additional trail support. Drivers participating in this class shall not participate in another limited class during the race. Only Junior mushers shall accumulate year-end points, no other Sportsman racers will receive club points.
- d. RGO/RO shall determine race classes offered and driver eligibility for each race event.

Mid-distance drivers shall have the following age limitations and classes. The Race Marshall may allow exceptions to the age limitations based on driver ability and safety. Parent signature/waiver is required for all drivers under 18 years of age.

- a. Limited classes shall be 6 Dog, 10 Dog, or Skijor.
- b. Minimum age limitations are as follows: Age 18 and up for any mid-distance classes. Drivers under the age of 18 may be allowed to run per the discretion of the Race Marshall.
- c. Open class shall be unlimited team size. RGO/RO or the Race Marshall may restrict maximum team size for a specific event.
- d. RGO/RO shall determine race classes offered and driver eligibility for each race event.

4. DOGS

- a. The Race Marshall or RGO/RO may disallow entry of any team or dog for just cause.
- b. Any team or dog coming to the starting line which in the opinion of the Race Marshall is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail shall be removed or disqualified.
- c. Any team or dog not starting the first heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- d. Any team or dog removed or disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- e. RGO/RO may require a veterinary exam and certification for all dogs competing in mid-distance events.
- f. Aggressive dogs will not be allowed to compete in CMM events. Aggressive behavior may include lunging, snapping, biting, or any behavior that could indicate an unacceptable risk to other dogs or humans.

5. DISEASE

- a. All dogs at a CMM event are required to have current vaccinations required by state law and should include distemper, parvo, and rabies. Vaccination must be given at least 14 days prior to the start of the race.
- b. No dog or equipment shall be brought from a kennel where rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, or other contagious disease has existed for a period of one year.

6. IDENTIFICATION

- a. In races of more than one heat, each dog may be marked for identification prior to the start of the first heat of the race.

7. SIZE OF TEAM

Sprint classes shall have the following team size limitations:

- a. A Sportsman Class team shall consist of not more than four dogs, and not less than two dogs.
- b. A Four-Dog Class team shall consist of not more than four dogs, and not less than two dogs.
- c. A Six-Dog Class team shall consist of not more than six dogs, and not less than three dogs.
- d. An Eight-Dog Class team shall consist of not more than eight dogs, and not less than five dogs.
- e. A Skijor class team shall consist of not more than three dogs, and not less than one dog.
- f. After the first heat and each ensuing heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to class minimums.
- g. The Race Marshall may reduce the size of any team that he determines is too large for the designated driver, or his or her capability.
- h. Under no circumstances may any dog be substituted for a dog that has run in a previous heat.
- i. The Race Marshall must be advised in advance of any dog running in more than one class.

Mid-distance classes shall have the following team size limitations:

- a. A Six-Dog Class team shall consist of not more than six dogs, and not less than four dogs.
- b. A Ten Dog Class team shall consist of not more than ten dogs, and not less than six dogs.
- c. An Open Class team shall consist of not more than a maximum number of dogs designated by the Race Marshall and not less than six dogs.
- d. A Skijor class team shall consist of not more than three dogs, and not less than one dog.
- e. After the first heat and each ensuing heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to class minimums.
- f. The Race Marshall may reduce the size of any team that he determines is too large for the designated driver, or his or her capability.

- g. Under no circumstances may any dog be substituted for a dog that has run in a previous heat.

B. EQUIPMENT

1. INSPECTION

- a. Drivers, teams, and equipment shall be available for inspection in the team holding area at least thirty (30) minutes before time of departure.
- b. A team in harness shall not be required to stand for inspection longer than ten (10) minutes before time of departure.
- c. Inspection shall take place in an area that does not interfere with teams in the start or finish chutes.
- d. A team shall be made available for inspection after each heat at the request of the Race Marshall.
- e. All equipment is subject to the approval of the Race Marshall or inspecting judge before each heat.

2. HARNESSSES & LINES

- a. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
- b. All dogs shall be fastened to the tug line by a neck line and tail line. Double leaders shall be attached by a neck line. Single leader does not require a neckline.
- c. A snub line may be carried on the sled but it shall not be used in any manner other than to tie down and hold the sled.
- d. Harnesses and ropes must be in good condition for the safety of the dogs, public, other teams, etc.

3. SLEDS

- a. A sled shall be capable of adequately carrying the driver and have a basket capable of carrying a dog.
- b. A sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brushbow, and snowhook, and shall be structurally safe.
- c. A sled shall be equipped with a ventilated dog bag capable of safely restraining a struggling dog and if necessary, covering a severely injured or dead dog.

4. OTHER EQUIPMENT

- a. A muzzle or any collar that can be hooked as a full choke collar shall be prohibited. Head leads or basket muzzles may be used while getting a team to the starting line before the start for the safety of the handlers, but must be removed prior to running the race.
- b. Use of whips and signal whips shall be prohibited.
- c. A racing number for each driver shall be provided by the RGO/RO. The driver shall display this number on his/her body throughout the race.
 - CMM's racing bibs are required to be returned. Drivers who fail to return a bib may be required to pay a \$10.00 replacement fee and may not be allowed to run in subsequent races until restitution is made.
- d. Ski pole(s) may be used in skijor and mid-distance classes. Use of a ski pole is prohibited within 50 feet of another team and while passing. At no time shall a ski pole come in contact with any dog. Any improper use of ski poles (whipping dogs, obstructing the trail, etc) may be cause for action against the racer, up to and including disqualification.
- e. Helmets are recommended for all racers and may be required by the RGO/RO under certain circumstances.
- f. RGO/RO may require additional safety and/or survival equipment for mid-distance races. Additional equipment may include a first aid kit. First aid kit should include (minimum) ace bandage, pressure dressing, tape, and knife to treat bleeding.

PART II – START / FINISH RULES

A. DRAWING

- 1. The starting position for the first heat of a race shall be determined by the RGO or RO.

2. When drawing for positions, the owner, driver or designated proxy of each team shall draw their own starting position. In their absence, the starting position shall be drawn by the Race Marshall or his representative. RGO/RO may perform the drawing for all drivers as an alternative or use the order of entry received.
3. The order of the draw shall not be changed, and shall proceed with number 1 starting first, number 2 starting second, etc.

B. SINGLE START RACE

1. The first day's starting positions shall be determined by the draw as described above.
2. The second day's starting positions shall be the first day's times, with the fastest teams starting first, second fastest starting second, etc. The RGO/RO may choose to reverse the second day's starting positions and have the slowest teams first, second lowest seconds, etc.
3. In races of more than two heats, the total elapsed time of the previous heats shall determine starting positions with the fastest team starting first, etc. Alternatively, slowest teams may start first.

C. DUAL START RACE

1. Dual starts may be utilized in large classes to help the race progress in a timely manner.
2. Dual starts involve (2) teams leaving the start line at the same time.
3. The start chute will be divided into (2) separate lanes to avoid interaction between teams.
4. The team that is ahead at the end of the starting chute shall have the right-of-way.
5. Teams will leave in pairs in the starting order presented at the driver meeting.

D. ORDER OF CLASSES

1. Race order of classes shall be determined by RGO/RO, and/or Race Marshall.

E. EQUAL TIMES

1. If the total elapsed time of two teams is identical, the order of start for those teams shall be the reverse order in which they started in the preceding heat.
2. Teams with identical times for the entire race shall share the finishing position in the race and share equal division of any purse monies.

F. STARTING POINT AND TIME

1. The brushbow of the sled shall determine the starting point of the team.
2. Trail time for all teams shall begin at the originally scheduled time of departure.
3. A team that fails to be in or up to the starting position at its scheduled starting time shall be declared a late starting team.
 - a. A late starting team shall not be allowed to start until after the last team entered in its class has started, and after the prescribed starting interval.
 - b. Time for a late starting team shall begin at the time originally scheduled in the starting chute.
 - c. A late starting team shall not interfere with any other team.
 - d. If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall start in their originally scheduled starting order.
 - e. If a team is late to the starting line for its second schedule time of departure for any one heat, that team shall be disqualified.

G. ASSISTANCE IN THE STARTING CHUTE

1. The amount and type of assistance in the starting chute shall be determined and announced by the Race Marshall prior to the start of the first heat of the event.
2. Once a team is beyond the starting chute area in an official start, all *Trail Rules* shall apply.

H. FINISH

1. A team shall have finished the heat when the first dog on the team crosses the finish line.
2. If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of its driver, that team shall have finished when the driver reaches the finish line having completed the trail without assistance or cutting the trail.
3. A team crossing the finish line shall have all dogs attached to their gang line or restrained in a sled bag. Having a loose dog does not constitute having a complete team.

4. If a team interferes with another team on the trail causing problems for another driver such as tangles, fighting or similar problems, the team may be disqualified, pending a review by the Race Marshall.
5. The RGO/RO will supply the CMM Race Coordinator with accurate race results for each event in a timely manner.

PART III – TRAIL RULES

A. FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

1. A team and driver shall run the full course as established by the RGO or RO.
2. If the team leaves the trail, the driver shall return the team to the point at which they left the trail.
3. The trail shall be followed as marked:
 - a. “Right Turn” may be indicated by a red marker on the right side of the trail.
 - b. “Left Turn” may be indicated by a red marker on the left side of the trail.
 - c. “Straight Ahead” may be indicated by blue markers.
 - d. “Caution” may be indicated by a yellow or orange marker.
 - e. The end of the “Starting Chute” (minimum length 100 feet) shall be indicated by markers on both sides of the trail.
 - f. A “1/2 Mile” marker shall be placed one-half mile from the finish line to indicate the start of the finishing “*No Right of Way Zone*”, or at the discretion of the Race Marshall.

B. DRIVING A TEAM

1. A driver may ride the sled, pedal or run as wished.
2. Any driver accepting a ride during the race on any vehicle other than his/her own sled shall be disqualified, except for drivers who have lost their team and use additional assistance as outlined in the “loose team” section, part III-D.
3. A driver shall not interfere with another competing team.
4. All dogs starting a heat shall complete the entire course, either hitched in the team or carried on the sled.
5. A dog becoming unfit after departure shall be carried on the sled.
6. Carrying a passenger at any time during the race shall be prohibited unless:
 - a. Called for in conditions in the race, or
 - b. Giving a ride to a driver in an emergency situation

C. ASSISTANCE ON THE TRAIL

1. All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorized by the Race Marshall.
2. Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other in any manner authorized by the Race Marshall.
3. Handler or spectator assistance shall be limited to holding the sled, except in the case of a loose team, or a team so unmanageable as to create a clear and present danger to themselves, other teams or persons.
 - a. If a driver is present in a non-emergency situation, help is limited to holding the sled
 - b. If the driver is not present, the team may be stopped and held until the driver or a race official claims the team.
4. No one shall assist a team by willfully pacing it.
5. Teams may not be called in from handlers at the finish line. Such action may result in disqualification.

D. LOOSE TEAM

1. A loose team or dog shall not delay or interfere with another team.
2. Drivers may use any means possible to retrieve his/her lost team. This includes accepting rides from other drivers. It is also acceptable to use assistance from snowmobiles as necessary. Time penalties may be assessed to drivers using outside assistance. Drivers using snowmobile assistance will result in disqualification unless driver and team return to the point where the team was lost and complete the race course successfully.

3. A loose team or dog may resume the trail without penalty provided the team/dog has completed the entire trail and the driver has received only authorized outside assistance.
 - a. Authorized, outside assistance is limited to holding a loose team or dog, once it has been stopped.
 - b. Any person(s) may (and is encouraged to) stop and hold a loose team or dog.

E. RIGHT-OF-WAY

1. In a dual start, the team with the lead dog farthest ahead at the end of the divided chute shall have the right of way.
2. When teams are passing in opposite directions on a single trail:
 - a. The team travelling downhill shall have the right of way.
 - b. On level terrain, the Race Marshall shall determine and announce, prior to the start of the race, whether the incoming or outgoing team has the right of way.
3. In the one-half mile “*No Right of Way*” finish zone, no team shall have the right of way over a finishing team.

F. PASSING

1. When one team intends to pass another, the passing team driver may request the right of way when the lead dog(s) come within fifty (50) feet of the sled of the overtaken team.
 - a. A call of “*TRAIL*” by the overtaking driver shall be construed as a request for trail.
2. The overtaken team shall make way for the passing team by moving to one side of the trail and by slowing, or stopping if requested by the overtaking team driver.
3. Once a team has been passed, that team shall not re-pass the overtaking team:
 - a. Until one-half (1/2) mile or not less than two (2) minutes has passed, or
 - b. At any lesser interval whenever both drivers agree.
4. If the passing team tangles as the result of the pass, that team’s driver may require the overtaken team driver to stop for no longer than one (1) minute.
5. A driver coming upon two or more teams stopped together may pass all such teams. The stopped team drivers shall make every effort to clear the trail for moving team(s).
6. Teams following each other shall maintain an interval of not less than one team length, except when passing or in the “*No Right of Way*” zone.

PART IV – CONDUCT

A. RESPONSIBILITY AND SPORTSMANSHIP

1. All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handler(s), and themselves whenever at the race site or on the trail.
2. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshall determines that driver, handler, or team conduct, at any time in the race area or on the trail is detrimental to the sport/race, that team shall be disqualified.

B. ABUSE OF DOGS

1. Abuse of a dog, with or without an implement, shall be prohibited.
2. Use of whips and signal whips shall be prohibited.
3. Abuse of dogs may subject the driver to disciplinary action, including race disqualification and/or suspension of future race privileges, as determined by the board.

C. OTHER

1. Each driver shall thoroughly clean up his/her parking area at the conclusion of the race and dispose of and/or remove all their waste, including all bedding materials, dog waste, and trash. Failure to comply will result in a \$20 cleanup fee from CMM and driver may not be allowed to run in subsequent races until restitution is made.
2. Feeding dogs on the trail is permitted only for mid-distance events. All uneaten food/snacks and containers must be picked up. Leaving or dropping food or litter on the trail is prohibited and may result in disqualification or time penalty.

PART V – RULES VIOLATION

A. REPORTS BY RACE OFFICIALS

1. RGO/RO must announce the person designated as Race Marshall to racers prior to the start of the first race.
2. Race officials shall report overt rule violations to the Race Marshall verbally, in person, or by radio immediately or directly following the heat in which the violations witnessed and reported by race officials.
3. The Race Marshall shall act, at his discretion, on any overt violations witnessed and reported by race officials.
4. RGO/RO will notify the CMM Race Coordinator of any reported infractions or incidents. Any exceptions to the normal race rules (i.e. driver substitution) will also be reported to the Race Coordinator.

B. REPORTS BY CONTESTANTS

1. Drivers wishing to report an alleged violation of the rules by another contestant shall notify the Race Marshall immediately following the heat in which the incident occurred.
2. All driver reports shall be followed by a written report, given to the Race Marshall within one (1) hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred.
3. Protests regarding time disputes must be filed no later than two hours prior to the start of any ensuing heat(s).

C. PROTESTS AND HEARINGS

1. Any driver or race official implicated in a report of an alleged violation of the rules may make a protest and request a hearing before the Race Marshall.
2. Said hearing shall be granted by the Race Marshall.

D. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. For violation of a Race Rule, the Race Marshall shall either issue a verbal warning to the driver, or disqualify the driver and team from the race, or issue a time penalty.
 - a. No other disciplinary action shall be imposed by the Race Marshall.
 - However, if a driver displays poor sportsmanship, or abuses animals in such a way to be considered detrimental to the racing event or sport; the club may vote to bar the driver from future CMM events.
 - Circumstances involving aggressive dogs, dog bites, or dog attacks will be reviewed by the Board and may result in the banning of the dog(s) involved from CMM events.
 - b. Decisions shall be announced as promptly as practical but no later than two hours prior to the start of any ensuing heat(s).
 - Any disciplinary action following the final heat of the race shall be acted upon prior to the awards ceremony.
 - c. Decisions of the Race Marshall shall be final, or the Race Marshall may defer any issue to the CMM Race Coordinator and/or Board of Directors.