



DITAROD TRAIL INTERNATIONAL SLED DOG RACE

OFFICIAL 2006 RULES

Policy Preamble --The Iditarod Trail International Sled Dog Race shall be an open class race for all dog mushers meeting the entry qualifications as set forth by the Board of Directors of the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. Recognizing the varying degrees of experience, monetary support and residence locations of a musher, with due regard to the safety of mushers and the humane care and treatment of dogs, The Trail Committee shall encourage and maintain the philosophy that the race be constructed to permit all qualified mushers who wish to enter and complete the race to do so. The object of the race is to determine which musher and dogs can cover the race in the shortest time under their own power and without aid of others. That is determined by the nose of the first dog to cross the finish line. To that end, the Iditarod Trail Committee has established these rules and policies to govern the race.

Rule 1 -- Checkpoints: A musher must personally sign in at each checkpoint before continuing, except at the re-start.

Rule 2 -- Mandatory Stops: A musher must personally sign in and out to start and complete all mandatory stops.

Twenty Four-Hour Stop: A musher must take one mandatory twenty-four (24) hour stop during the race. The twenty-four (24) hour stop may be taken at the musher's option at a time most beneficial to the dogs. The checker must be notified by the musher that he/she is taking his/her twenty-four (24) hour stop. Time begins upon notification. The starting differential will be adjusted during each team's twenty-four (24) hour stop. It is the musher's responsibility to remain for the entire twenty-four (24) hour period plus starting differential. The ITC will give each musher the required time information prior to leaving the starting line.

Eight Hour Mandatory Stops: In addition to the mandatory twenty-four (24) hour stop, a musher must take one eight (8) hour stop on the Yukon and one eight (8) hour stop at White Mountain.

None of the three (3) mandatory stops may be combined.

Rule 3 -- Bib: A musher is required to carry his/her official ITC bib from White Mountain checkpoint to Safety checkpoint. The musher must wear the bib in a visible fashion from Safety Checkpoint to Nome. The winner shall continue to wear the bib through the lead dog ceremony. All promotional material, except the bib, must be returned to the ITC at the finish line, or in the case of mushers who scratch, to the checker accepting the musher's scratch form.

Rule 4 -- Sled: A musher has a choice of sled subject to the requirement that some type of sled or toboggan must be drawn. The sled or toboggan must be capable of hauling any injured or fatigued dogs under cover, plus equipment and food. Braking devices must be constructed to fit between the runners and not to extend beyond the tails of the runners. No more than three (3) sleds can be used by a musher during the race. No more than two (2) sleds can be shipped beyond the re-start. Should a musher use another musher's sled for any reason, that will be considered one (1) of the three (3) allowable sleds. These sleds may be used at the musher's discretion. Sleds or mushers may not be assisted with sails or wheels. Ski poles are allowed. No other sled changes are permitted except that a sled damaged beyond repair may be replaced if approved by an official. Once a sled has been left behind, it cannot be transported along the trail. It cannot be used again unless approved by the race marshal as a replacement for a broken sled.

Rule 5 -- Mandatory Items: A musher must have with him/her at all times the following items:

- Proper cold weather sleeping bag weighing a minimum of 5 lbs.
- Ax, head to weigh a minimum of 1-3/4 lbs., handle to be at least 22" long.
- One pair of snowshoes with bindings, each snowshoe to be at least 252 square inches in size.
- Any promotional material provided by the ITC.
- Eight booties for each dog in the sled or in use.
- One operational cooker and pot capable of boiling at least three (3) gallons of water at one time.
- Veterinarian notebook, to be presented to the veterinarian at each checkpoint.
- An adequate amount of fuel to bring three (3) gallons of water to a boil

When leaving a checkpoint adequate emergency dog food must be on the sled. (This will be carried in addition to what you carry for routine feeding and snacking.)

Gear may be checked at all checkpoints except Eagle River, the restart, Knik and Safety.

Mushers' diaries will be checked by a veterinarian or in the absence of a veterinarian may be checked by a designated race official.

Rule 6 -- Dog Maximums and Minimums: The maximum number of dogs a musher may start the race with is sixteen (16) dogs. A musher must have at least twelve (12) dogs on the line to start the race. At least five (5) dogs must be on the towline at the finish line. No dogs may be added to a team after the re-start of the race. All dogs must be either on the towline or hauled in the sled and cannot be led behind the sled or allowed to run loose.

Rule 7 -- Unmanageable Teams: A musher may seek the aid of others to control an unmanageable team.

Rule 8 -- Driverless Team: A team and driver must complete the entire race trail including checking in at all required locations. A driverless team or loose dog may be stopped and secured by anyone. The driver may recover his/her team either on foot, with assistance from another musher or mechanized vehicle and continue the race. If a dog team is picked up during an emergency, it is the race marshal's discretion as to whether or not that team must be returned to that point if it is to continue the race. Motorized assistance must be reported to an official at the next checkpoint. If mechanized help is used, the team or dog may be returned to the point where it was lost before the team or dog may continue.

Rule 9 -- Scratched Mushers: ITC will provide transportation to either Anchorage or Nome for any musher who scratches from the race, including his or her dogs and accompanying gear. A musher must accompany the team to a destination selected by the ITC. A \$500 fine will be assessed if promotional material is not turned in.

Rule 10 -- Hauling Dogs: A musher may haul dogs in the sled at his/her discretion, however, the musher may not allow any of the dogs to be hauled by another team. Dogs must be hauled in a humane fashion and must be covered if conditions require.

Rule 11 -- Teams Tied Together: Two or more teams may not be tied together except in an emergency. Any team so involved must notify officials at the next checkpoint.

Rule 12 -- Pacing: Pacing is not allowed.

Rule 13 -- Motorized Vehicles: A musher may not be accompanied by or accept assistance from any motorized vehicle that gives help to the musher, including aircraft and snow machines, except when recovering a loose dog or driverless team. [Mushers shall discourage snowmachine following by family, friends and sponsors to prevent damage to the trail.]

Rule 14 -- Dog Care: Dogs must be maintained in good condition. All water and food must be ingested voluntarily.

Rule 15 -- Shelter for Dogs: Dogs may not be brought into shelters except for race veterinarians' medical examination or treatment. Dogs must be returned outside as soon as such examination or treatment is completed unless the dog is dropped from the race.

Rule 16 -- Cruel and Inhumane Treatment: There will be no cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs. Cruel or inhumane treatment involves any action or inaction, which causes preventable pain or suffering to a dog.

Rule 17 -- Injured, Fatigued or Sick Dogs: All injured, fatigued or sick dogs that are dropped from the race must be left at a designated dog drop with a completed and signed dropped dog form. Any dropped dog must be left with four (4) pounds of dog food and a reliable chain or cable (16" to 18" in length) with swivel snap and collar.

Rule 18-- Expired Dogs: Any dog that expires on the trail must be taken by the musher to a checkpoint. The musher may transport the dog to either the checkpoint just passed, or the upcoming checkpoint. An expired dog report must be completed by the musher and presented to a race official along with the dog. The chief veterinarian will cause a necropsy to be carried out by a board certified pathologist at the earliest opportunity and shall make every attempt to determine the cause of death. If a board certified pathologist is not available to perform the necropsy within the time frame to preserve the tissues appropriately, (as determined by the race marshal), the gross necropsy and tissue collection will be performed by a trail veterinarian following the guidelines in the *Musher and Veterinary Handbook*. These tissues will then be examined by a board certified pathologist. The race marshal or his/her appointed judges, will determine whether the musher should continue or be disqualified.

Rule 19 -- Harness and Cables: Dog must leave checkpoints with functional, non-chafing harnesses. A musher must carry cable tie-out lines or have cable in the towline capable of securing the team. Equipment and team configurations deemed unsafe by race officials is prohibited.

Rule 20 -- Drug Use: No injectable, oral or topical drug which may suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. A musher may not inject any substance into his or her dogs. No other drugs or other artificial means may be used to drive a dog or cause a dog to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability. The following drugs are prohibited:

- Anabolic Steroids
- Analgesics (prescriptive and non-prescriptive)
- Anesthetics
- Antihistamines
- Anti-inflammatory drugs including but not limited to:
 - Cortico-steroids (the exception is for use on feet)
 - Antiprostaglandins.
 - Non-steroidals.
 - Salicylates.
 - DMSO.
- Bronchodilators
- Central Nervous System Stimulants
- Cough Suppressants
- Diuretics
- Injectable Anticholinergics
- Muscle Relaxants
- Tranquilizers & Opiates

Dogs are subject to the collection of urine or blood samples, at the discretion of the testing veterinarian, at any point from the pre-race examination until six (6) hours after the team's finish in Nome. The musher or a designee will remain with the dogs. All results will be sealed and signed for before the tests are considered complete.

A musher must assist the 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 drugs were administered to the dog.

Mibolerone (Cheque Drops) is permitted only for use as an estrus suppressant in intact females that have not had an ovariectomy. Megesterol acetate (Ovaban) is permitted for use of estrus suppression and medical conditions for which progesterone therapy is appropriate, as approved by the chief veterinarian.

The practice of blood doping, i.e., injection of whole blood, packed blood cells or blood substitutes is prohibited.

Race veterinarians 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. The use of local or general anesthetics will not be allowed in any form unless the dog is withdrawn from the race.

Personal prescriptions written for and carried by the mushers may not be used on the dogs.

MUSHER CONDUCT

Rule 21 -- Good Samaritan Rule: A musher will not be penalized for aiding another musher in an emergency. Incidents must be explained to race officials at the next checkpoint.

Rule 22 -- Interference: A musher may not tamper with another musher's dogs, food or gear or interfere in any manner with the progress of another team.

Rule 23 -- Food and Gear at Checkpoint: A musher's personal gear, equipment and supplies may not be transported along the trail by mechanized means without the consent of the race marshal.

Rule 24 -- Passing: When one team approaches within fifty (50) feet of another team, the team behind shall have the immediate right of way upon demand. The musher ahead must stop the dogs and hold them to the best of his/her ability for a maximum of one minute or until the other team has passed, whichever occurs first. The passed team must remain behind at least fifteen (15) minutes before demanding the trail.

Rule 25 -- Sportsmanship: Any musher must use civil conduct and act in a sportsmanlike manner throughout the race. Abusive treatment of anyone is prohibited.

Rule 26 -- Parking: A musher must select a campsite off the race trail so that the team cannot interfere with other teams, i.e., no snacking of dogs on the trail. A musher needing to stop momentarily must not interfere with the progress of another team. Teams must be parked at checkpoints in places that do not interfere with the movements of other teams and mushers. A musher is responsible for properly securing an unattended team. No parking or camping is permitted within one (1) mile of checkpoints or villages.

Rule 27 -- Accommodations: Mushers may only use accommodations at officially authorized locations.

Rule 28 -- Litter: No litter of any kind may be left on the trail, in camps, or in checkpoints. All material remaining in checkpoints must be left in designated areas. In localized holding area and on the trail, excessive left over dog food is considered litter. For purposes of these rules, straw is not considered litter. Straw must be removed from plastic bags before it is taken from the holding area at checkpoints.

Rule 29 -- Use of Drugs and Alcohol: Use of illegal drugs as defined by state law or excessive use of alcohol by mushers during the race is prohibited. Iditarod has the right to conduct random drug testing. A musher is subject to collection of urine samples at any point from the start until one (1) hour after each team's finish in Nome.

Rule 30 -- Demand for Food and Shelter: A musher may not make demands for food and shelter along the trail.

Rule 31 -- Outside Assistance: A musher may not receive outside assistance between checkpoints. All care and feeding of dogs will be done only by that team's musher. No planned help, including verbal assistance (i.e. coaching) is allowed throughout the race, at or between checkpoints. All dog maintenance and care of dog teams and gear in checkpoints will be done in the designated localized holding area only. A musher relinquishing the care of his team to leave checkpoint and or village must withdraw from the race. Penalty for infraction of this rule will be a warning, a time penalty at White Mountain or disqualification.

Rule 32 -- Lost Food: A musher may replace lost or unusable dog food shipments at checkpoints through whatever methods are available.

Rule 33 -- No Man's Land: No man's land is the trail between Ft. Davis Roadhouse and the official finish line in Nome. A musher need not relinquish the trail on demand in this area.

Rule 34 -- One Musher per Team: Only one musher will be permitted per team and that musher must complete the entire race.

Rule 35 -- Killing of Game Animals: In the event that an edible big game animal, i.e., moose, caribou, buffalo, is killed in defense of life or property, the musher must gut the animal and report the incident to a race official at the next checkpoint. Following teams must help gut the animal when possible. No teams may pass until the animal has been gutted and the musher killing the animal has proceeded. Any other animal killed in defense of life or property must be reported to a race official, but need not be gutted.

Rule 36 -- Two-Way Communication Device, ELT or Satellite Tracking Device: While a musher may carry an emergency tracking device, such as an emergency locator transmitter (ELT) or other similar satellite tracking device, activation will make a musher ineligible to continue and will result in withdrawal from the race. No two-way communication device shall be allowed unless provided by ITC.

Rule 37 -- Navigation: Mushers are restricted to the use of traditional forms of navigation. This includes time, distance as known or measured on a map, speed as is computed with simple arithmetic and direction as indicated by magnetic compass. Electronic or mechanical devices that measure speed and direction are prohibited, i.e. Loran, night vision goggles and GPS'.

PRE-RACE PROCEDURE

Rule 38 -- Entries: Entries will be accepted from June 25, 2005, until December 1, 2005 by the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC), P.O. Box 870800, Wasilla, Alaska 99687-0800. Kennels entering must indicate the musher's name with their entry. Entries may be presented to the ITC in person by the musher, or by mail.

Mushers who enter in person will sign a log indicating the date and time that they arrived at ITC Headquarters which shall be utilized in determining the order of sign up. A musher will maintain his or her place in the sign up order so long as he or she does not leave ITC property.

Mailed entries will be recorded by postmark. Entries received with the same postmark will be recorded alphabetically for southern route races and in reverse alphabetical order for northern route races.

An entry will **not be considered complete until the entry fee is paid in full, the race application is completed, signed and turned in, the participant's release is signed, notarized and turned in, and the Nome housing form is completed and turned in.** The local contact form and the dog care agreement will be turned in **no later than food drop.**

The ITC reserves the right to reject entries not in conformance with these policies and rules or from mushers who do not exemplify the spirit and principle of the Iditarod Trail Committee as set forth in the rules, policy, bylaws and mission statement. The decision to reject any entry will be made by the executive committee. A

musher may appeal such a decision to the full Board of Directors within fourteen (14) days. The decision of the full Board will be final and binding.

No one convicted of a charge of animal abuse or neglect, as such are defined under Alaska law, may enter the Iditarod Trail Sled dog Race.

Any entry received after December 1, must be accompanied by a \$1750 non-refundable fee. The qualified musher will be allowed to enter after all normal policies and procedures have been met, the normal entry fee has been received and another musher withdraws. No musher will be allowed to sign up after February, 16, 2006.

Rule 39 -- Entry Fee: The entry fee is \$1,850.00 US, which includes Iditarod and P.R.I.D.E. membership dues and return postage, payable on or after June 25, 2005. (The ITC will furnish mushers with postage paid labels for their return bags.) This entry fee must be received by the ITC or postmarked by midnight, December 1, 2005. Payment of the \$1,850.00 US constitutes the musher's intention to enter the race and acknowledges that the musher agrees to comply with these policies and rules.

Upon written request, mushers withdrawing from the race on or before the close of business on January 26, 2006 will receive a \$1,500 refund of their entry fee. Upon written request, mushers withdrawing after January 26, 2006 and before the close of business on February 16, 2006, will receive a \$1,000 refund of their entry fee. After February 16, 2006, no part of the entry fee will be refunded.

Entry fees received that are not in compliance with this policy shall be refunded and the musher shall not be allowed to participate.

Rule 40 -- Substitutes: There will be no substitute drivers unless approved by the race marshal in case of medical emergency.

Rule 41 -- Musher Qualifications: Mushers must be 18 years of age as of the starting date of the race. For the 2006 race, since July 1, 2003, a rookie musher (one who has not completed a previous Iditarod) must have completed two approved qualifying races with an accumulated total of at least 500 miles or must have completed one race of at least 800 miles within the last five racing seasons and a 300 mile race in either the current or previous racing season. A musher must complete any qualifying race and finish in the top 75% of the field or in an elapsed time of no more than twice the elapsed time of the race winner. Written proof of completing this requirement must be submitted to the ITC prior to February 15. Rookie mushers will be reviewed by a qualifying board, which shall be composed of Iditarod veterans, which may make recommendations to the executive committee regarding rejection. Rookie mushers will be notified of acceptance or rejection under this rule within (30) days of application. Rookies completing their qualifying race or races after entering must notify the ITC prior to February 15, 2006 to confirm their entry. Rookie mushers must attend the entire rookie musher meeting to be held at 9:00 A.M., Saturday December 3, 2005 and Sunday, December 4, 2005.

Rule 42 -- Purse: It is anticipated that total prize money paid out directly by ITC will slightly exceed \$835,000 with teams finishing in places 1-30 sharing \$794,800 in prize money. In addition, beginning with 31st place, \$1,049.00 will be paid to each remaining finisher.

Rule 43 -- Shipping of Food and Gear: A musher must comply with shipping directions provided by the ITC. Each container must be clearly marked with name and destination and must weigh no more than 70 pounds. No boxes of any kind may be used as the primary container. No straw, charcoal, fuel or other combustible material, or hazardous materials (including lithium batteries) may be shipped through the ITC food drops. No cookers, plastic buckets, coolers or dog dishes may be shipped except with any sled that is shipped. Used items must be removed from checkpoints with dropped sleds only.

The musher is advised that food delivered to ITC should be frozen hard. ITC will make every reasonable effort to keep it frozen until picked up by the musher.

All mandatory food must be sent through Iditarod food drops. Additional food and gear not described above may be shipped prior to the start but must be shipped through the checker. Gear damaged beyond repair may be replaced if approved by officials.

Shipping of food and gear must be paid for before the mushers meeting.

Iditarod will ship straw for the teams. Straw can be delivered by the mushers through the mail to supplement the Iditarod program at checkpoints where mail is delivered.

Rule 44 -- Shipping Amounts: An adequate amount of food is required to be shipped to the following checkpoints (minimum of 60 pounds combined weight of food and gear):

| | | | |
|------------|---------|------------|----------------|
| Skwentna | Takotna | Galena | Elim |
| Rainy Pass | Ophir | Kaltag | White Mountain |
| Rohn | Cripple | Unalakleet | Nome |
| Nikolai | Ruby | Shaktoolik | |
| McGrath | Nulato | Koyuk | |

Food and/or gear will **not** be shipped to the checkpoints of Yentna, Finger Lake or Golovin.

The Safety checkpoint is optional for shipment of gear and/or food.

Rule 45 -- Pre-Race Veterinary Exam: Veterinary paperwork, including Pre-Race Exam forms (one for each dog with proof of vaccination), Dog Microchip Identification Sheet (maximum 20), Verification of Deworming Form and the Veterinarian Signature Form (the letter from the chief veterinarian addressing the veterinarian who performs the physical exams which must be signed along with each Pre-Race Exam Form), has to be delivered to ITC Headquarters by the deadline of 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 1. Non-compliance will result in a fine of \$100.

Mushers will get appointments for blood tests and ECGs (EKGs) on first come first served basis, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Friday December 2, 2005. Mushers will be notified of time and location for blood tests and ECGs by January 1, 2006. The chief veterinarian will have the authority to remove any dog from competition if, after consultation with a veterinary cardiologist or internist (when available), it is the professional opinion of the chief veterinarian that the dog has an abnormality which may predispose it to a significant risk of injury or death. [It is critical that mushers adhere to their appointment schedules, as staffing and laboratory constraints make rescheduling very difficult.]

A musher must have the team physicals performed at the official pre-race veterinary examination or by an ITC approved veterinarian, on or after February 17, 2006. The following conditions will prohibit a dog from participating: seizures (epilepsy), syncope (fainting) and/or pregnancy.

A musher is permitted to have a maximum of **24 dogs** screened (microchips, EKG's and bloodwork) in preparation for Iditarod 2005. (All **24 dogs** must be screened at the original appointment date. There will be **no** additional screening after that time.) From these, a musher may select a maximum of **20 dogs** for listing on the Dog Microchip Identification Sheet, which must be submitted to ITC Headquarters by the previously stated deadline of 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2. To be listed on the Microchip Identification Sheet, dogs must have had pre-race screening by Iditarod personnel, including a documented microchip implant number, an ECG (EKG) recording and bloodwork. In addition, each must have had a pre-race physical exam to be eligible to race. The musher may select his/her dogs for the start from any dogs previously qualified. Dogs for the re-start may be selected from any dogs previously qualified and not run in another team on Saturday. The maximum number of dogs permitted at the start will be determined by the Race Marshal. A maximum of 16

dogs may be selected for the re-start. Once a dog has run in a team, that dog cannot be switched to another team.

All dogs entered in the race must have current distemper, hepatitis, parvo, and rabies vaccines. Proof of these vaccinations, except for rabies, must come from a veterinarian or a certified lay vaccinator or if administered by the musher, records must include type of vaccine, proof of purchase (i.e., receipt), and date of vaccination in writing. The distemper/hepatitis/parvo/vaccine must have been given between April 1, 2005, and February 19, 2006.

Proof of rabies vaccine must come from a licensed veterinarian or certified lay vaccinator. Rabies vaccines must be given no later than February 18, 2006 and must be current through April 1, 2006 according to Alaska State regulations.

All teams must be de-wormed for Echinococcus Multilocularis with a medication approved by the ITC on or after February 22, 2006. The ITC is currently negotiating with the sponsor for donation of this de-worming medication. However, mushers should be prepared to pay for this medication if it is not available from the sponsor.

For those mushers who have volunteered and signed consent forms, ITC will be allowed to collect samples and gather data from dropped dogs and dogs that have completed the race, in the effort to gather information to improve dog care.

Rule 46 -- Jurisdiction and Care: Finishing dogs are under the jurisdiction and care of the chief veterinarian and the veterinary staff from the time they enter the staging area at the start until 72 hours after the team finishes in Nome.

Dropped dogs and those from scratched, withdrawn or disqualified teams are under the jurisdiction of the chief veterinarian and veterinary staff from the time they enter the staging area at the start until 72 hours after they have been released by the ITC veterinarians. The chief veterinarian shall have the option of selecting treatment by medical specialists and or 24-hour care facilities prior to an animal's release. In such case, financial responsibility shall be borne by the ITC. In addition, the chief veterinarian will have immediate access to medical records and updated status reports of all dropped dogs for up to 72 hours after their release. In the event that a death occurs within the 72-hour period following release, an ITC representative will participate in a necropsy of that animal.

Rule 47 -- Expired Dog: No dog death is acceptable, but there are some that may be considered unpreventable.

The expired dog must be in the sled bag and covered when the musher arrives at a checkpoint. The musher is to inform a race judge of the expired dog as soon as he/she has checked in.

An expired dog report must be filled out by the musher as soon as he/she reaches the checkpoint.

The musher and or his/her representative has the option to be present during the trail evaluation and necropsy.

A musher will remain at the initial reporting checkpoint for up to, but no longer than, eight hours to commence the investigation. This period is not to be used as a penalty. A musher will also make him/herself available at all future checkpoints to assist in the investigation. The race marshal or his/her appointed judges may release a musher before the eight hours have expired if the judge is satisfied that the musher is no longer needed to further the investigation. Dog deaths resulting in disqualification are:

- Signs of cruel, inhumane or abusive treatment
- Cause of death is heat stress, hyperthermia.

- A musher will be disqualified if he/she had been advised in writing by a race veterinarian or judge to drop the dog at a previous checkpoint, but opted not to do so, unless the cause of death is clearly unrelated to this written recommendation.

The musher will not be penalized and may continue the race if:

- Cause of death can not be determined
- The cause of death is due to a circumstance, nature of trail, or force beyond the control of the musher. This recognizes the inherent risks of wilderness travel.
- Cause of death is from some unpreventable or previously undiagnosed medical condition.

All dog deaths will be treated as a priority, with every effort being made to determine the cause of death in a thorough and reliable manner.

It is the policy of the ITC to report a dog death to the public in a timely fashion. The ITC will accomplish this by:

- The race marshal shall immediately issue a press release to members of the media identifying the dog's death
- Immediately following the final decision, the race marshal will notify the musher of the decision and will issue a press release containing the findings and the circumstances of the death.

Rule 48 -- Dog Description: Only dog breeds suitable for arctic travel will be permitted to enter the race. Those breeds will be determined by race officials.

Rule 49 -- Dog Tags: All dogs leaving the starting line will be electronically marked and tagged. Electronic markers will be installed by ITC personnel unless other arrangements are approved by ITC. Only current tags are permitted. Dogs must be listed by name and tag number/letter and electronic ID on the "team list" provided by the ITC.

Rule 50 -- Dropped Dogs: Mushers may drop dogs at designated dog drops. Dogs dropped at checkpoints may be moved to the closest dog collection area at Anchorage, McGrath, Unalakleet, or Nome. Dogs may be shipped from the collections' area to a location designated by the musher at the musher's expense.

- Dogs dropped in ANCHORAGE, EAGLE RIVER & the restart are the musher's responsibility.
- GOLOVIN & NOME are not dog drops.
- Dogs dropped in ALL OTHER CHECKPOINTS will be transported by the ITC.

A musher is responsible for all of the dogs in the team when at a checkpoint as a race participant and if that musher subsequently scratches, is withdrawn or is disqualified from that checkpoint. If dogs are not moved out of the checkpoint twenty-four (24) hours after the musher's departure, dogs can be moved by a commercial carrier at the musher's expense.

Dropped dogs left unclaimed at Eagle River Correctional Center after four days after their arrival will incur boarding charges at the current rate.

Rule 51 -- Food and Gear at Checkpoints: Dog food and supplies must remain at the checkpoint storage area until such time as the musher is officially checked in. Dog food left behind and dog food from scratched, withdrawn and disqualified mushers becomes the property of the ITC and may be used at the discretion of race officials.

Rule 52 -- Advertising, Public Relations & Publicity: The Iditarod Trail Committee has the unqualified and unrestricted authority to authorize the photographing and collecting of information about the race and all participants therein, and to use such photographs and information for its use in advertising, public relations or other publicity purposes. Each musher shall sign any and all documents as may be requested by the Iditarod Trail Committee. These documents must be executed at the mushers' meeting.

Rule 53 -- Rookie Meeting, Musers' Meeting and Drawing: Rookie mushers must attend the entire two-day rookie musher meeting to be held on Saturday, December 3, 2005, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday, December 4, 2005, also beginning at 9:00 a.m. All mushers must attend the entire mushers meeting beginning at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, March 2, 2006. A fine of from \$50 to \$500 will be assessed for tardiness at either of these meetings.

The **selection of starting positions will be done at the pre-race banquet on Thursday, March 2, 2006.** Each musher will personally choose his/her starting position. Selections will be made in order of sign up and mushers may choose any position that hasn't previously been chosen.

The musher must be present at the banquet on March 2, 2006, to draw for his or her starting position.

Rule 54 -- Race Start and Re-Start: The official starting date and time for the 2006 race will be March 4, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. in Anchorage, Alaska.

The re-start will be on Sunday March 5, 2006 at 2:00 p.m./ at a designated location in the Mat Su Valley. Teams will leave the re-start line in the same relative order as they left Anchorage on Saturday.

The race will be held as scheduled regardless of weather conditions. The starting place and/or re-starting place may be changed by the race marshal due to weather and/or trail conditions. A handler may be required at the start and/or re-start at the discretion of the race marshal.

Rule 55 -- Race Timing: For elapsed time purposes, the race will be a common start event. Each musher's total elapsed time will be calculated using 2:00 p.m., Sunday March 5, 2006, as the starting time. Teams will leave the re-start at two (2) minute intervals, and the time differential will be adjusted during the twenty-four (24) hour mandatory layover. No time will be kept between Anchorage and Eagle River.

Any musher who cannot leave the starting line and/or re-starting line in the order drawn must start two (2) minutes after the musher who drew last place has left. Succeeding late start teams will leave in succeeding order at two (2) minute intervals. At the start, every fifth team will leave after three (3) minutes. Time differential for late starters will be calculated according to their scheduled starting time rather than the actual starting time.

Rule 56 -- Competitiveness: The race marshal shall have the authority to withdraw a team that is out of the competition and is no longer making a valid effort to compete. The race marshal also has the authority to withdraw a musher whose conduct, in the race marshal's sole and exclusive judgment, constitutes an unreasonable risk of harm to either himself or other persons.

Rule 57 -- Media: Interviews and/or videographic opportunities shall be granted to credentialed members of the media at the discretion of the individual musher prior to, during, and following the Race, utilizing the following as specific guidelines:

- Only the broadcast rights holder shall be granted *live* interviews and/or videographic opportunities from two hours prior to the start of the Race and until one hour has elapsed following arrival in Nome.
- In the event that more than one camera crew is present in any checkpoint, the first opportunity for an interview shall be granted to the rights holder.
- No special arrangements for the carrying of the broadcasting and/or recording equipment of any sort may be made by any musher without the express written approval of the Executive Director.
- A musher will use his/her best personal effort to insure that the spirit of these guidelines is adhered to. Alleged violation(s) will be reported to the ITC Board of Directors. Flagrant or knowing violations of these guidelines shall be subject to penalties assessed by the ITC Board of Directors including, but not limited to, disqualification and the potential forfeiture of his or her entire purse winnings.

Rule 58 -- Awards Presentation: All mushers who have crossed the finish line up to two (2) hours before the awards presentation must be present and the winner must have his/her lead dog(s) present for recognition. Any musher crossing the finish line who is able to attend the awards presentation ceremony prior

to its beginning, will be included in the awards presentation ceremony in the proper order. All mushers reaching the banquet before its conclusion will be introduced and given the opportunity to appear before the audience.

OFFICIALS AND PENALTIES

Rule 59 -- Race Officials: The race marshal and judges are responsible for the enforcement of all ITC policies and race rules. Race officials shall consult with the chief veterinarian on all matters relating to dog care and treatment.

Rule 60 -- Protests: A musher may protest any action of a competitor that he/she feels is contrary to the intent of these rules. To be recognized as a legitimate protest, any infraction observed by a musher must be presented in writing at the next checkpoint and in no case more than twenty-four (24) hours after a musher finishes the race.

Rule 61 -- Penalties: Policy and rule infractions may result in issuance of warnings, monetary penalties, time penalties, censure or disqualification. Warnings may be issued by any official. Monetary penalties, censures and time penalties require a majority decision of a three-member panel of race officials appointed by the race marshal. Disqualifications require a unanimous decision of a three-member panel of race officials appointed by the race marshal. The chief veterinarian will be consulted in all cases involving cruel or inhumane treatment.

- Warnings: Written warnings may be issued for first time or minor violations.
- Monetary penalties may be imposed up to \$1,000 per violation. Such penalties may be deducted from prize money. A musher with unpaid fines may not enter future Iditarod races until such fines are paid.
- Censure: The Board of Directors, following completion of the race, may censure a musher. A censure may include a warning, either public or private and may eliminate the musher from future races. A written warning, monetary penalty or disqualification must have occurred before censure.
- Time Penalties: Time penalties may be imposed up to a maximum of two (2) hours per infraction and will be added to the twenty-four (24) hour layover, the eight-hour layover on the Yukon River or the eight (8) hour layover at White Mountain. Time penalties will not be levied past White Mountain.

Withdrawal: Withdrawal is a process that may be imposed by a three-judge panel, either by a majority or unanimous vote, and which has the effect of involuntarily eliminating the musher and team from the race but which does not imply any deliberate misconduct or violation. The team and musher must leave the trail and will be assisted by the ITC.

Disqualifications: Mushers shall be disqualified for rule infractions involving physical abuse of a dog, or for cheating or deliberate rule infractions that give a musher an unfair advantage over another musher. Mushers may also be disqualified for other acts involving cruel and inhumane treatment. It is intended that the nearest involved officials be included on the panel. The musher will be given the opportunity to present his case to each member of the panel prior to the decision.

Disqualified and withdrawn teams must leave the trail or forfeit the right to enter future Iditarods.

Rule 62 -- Appeals: Mushers may appeal race official decisions. Appeals pertaining to warnings or monetary fines must be presented in writing to the ITC within ten (10) days following the awards banquet. Appeals pertaining to censure must be presented in writing to the ITC within ten (10) days after receipt of the censure by the musher. Appeals pertaining to withdrawals, disqualifications or time penalties must be presented in writing to ITC within 10 days following the awards banquet. Appeals will be considered at an informal hearing before an appeals board appointed by the president of ITC which will be held within forty-five (45) days of filing the appeal. Review by the appeals board is the exclusive, final and binding remedy for any dispute

regarding application of the rules by race officials to a musher and that the decision of the appeals board is non-reviewable either in state or federal courts.

The ITC shall appoint a rules committee immediately after the 2006 race. The rules committee shall be mandated to complete the rules and policy by sign up date.

Policy Intent-- THE INTENT OF THESE RULES IS TO ENSURE FAIR COMPETITION AND THE HUMANE CARE OF SLED DOGS. THE RACE SHOULD BE WON OR LOST BY THE MUSER AND DOGS ON MERIT RATHER THAN TECHNICALITIES. RACE OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE ITC ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERPRETING THE RULES IN KEEPING WITH THAT INTENT.