

Darby Dog Derby  
January 12-14, 2018  
OFFICIAL RULES AND INTERPRETATION

**SECTION I -ENTRY, PRE-RACE AND EQUIPMENT**

This is a two day event with accumulative distances of 46, 28, 12, 8, and 5.2 miles

1) ENTRY FEE

| <b>Class Entered</b>      | <b>Mileage</b>            | <b>Entry Fee</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| _____ 8 dog**             | 23 mile (x 2 days)        | \$100.00 *       |
| _____ 6 dog**             | 14 mile (x 2 days)        | \$85.00 *        |
| _____ 4 dog**             | 6 mile (x 2 days)         | \$62.00*         |
| _____ 3 dog junior**      | 2.6 mile (x 2 days)       | \$45.00 *        |
| _____ Mid-distance Skijor | 6 mile (x 2 days)         | \$50.00 *        |
| _____ Sprint Skijor       | 4 mile (x 2 days)         | \$45.00 *        |
| _____ Pee Wee             | 100 yards (Saturday only) | \$5.00           |

\* Includes the musher dinner for Friday

\*\*8-dog, 6-dog, 4-dog and 3-dog entry fees include a \$10 refundable bib fee upon return of the bib.

Deadline for entry is January 12, 2018 (entries the last week, please email us a “heads up”)

- a) Mushers may withdraw their entry until January 7, 2018 and receive a refund of one-half of the entry fee or carry-over registration money to the next year’s race without penalty. No carryovers or refunds will be awarded for withdrawals made after the January 7, 2018 deadline.
- b) Receipt of the entry fee will constitute the musher’s intent to enter the race and further acknowledges that the musher agrees to comply with every rule as stated.

2) MUSHER

- a) A musher must be eighteen (18) years of age or older. However, an experienced musher under 18 years of age wishing to enter the race must be considered capable to compete at the distance they enter and wear an appropriate helmet unless a guardian signs a waiver stating that they can race without one. All mushers under 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the entry form.
- b) The musher beginning the race must drive the team throughout the race. There will be

one musher per team.

- c) The Darby Dog Derby Race Committee reserves the right to reject an entry at its discretion.
- d) Conviction for any offense pertaining to the humane treatment of animals or a prior documented instance of unacceptable treatment of animals in this or other events could, at the discretion of the Race Committee, disqualify a musher from entering this race.

### 3) MUSHERS MEETING

- a) All registered mushers must attend the mandatory mushers meeting on January 12, 2018. Roll call will be taken at the start of the meeting. Late mushers may be penalized at the Race Marshall's discretion.
- b) Only mushers will participate in the rules discussion.

### 4) DRAWING

- a) The starting positions for Saturday's leg shall be determined by a drawing held at the pre-race musher meeting on Friday. All mushers must be present.
- b) The order of the draw shall be in the order in which entries were received by Darby Dog Derby. [An entry is defined as when the race officials receive both the entry form and fee]. In the event more than one entry is received on any day, those entries that are hand delivered will be listed first followed by mail entries. When more than one entry arrives by mail, the date of the postmark will determine their order. If entries are postmarked the same day, the order will be determined alphabetically.
- c) The start order for Sunday's leg shall be determined by Saturday's times with the last place team leaving first and the first place team leaving last.

### 5) DOGS

- a) Teams entered in the 23 mile race must start with 5-8 dogs, and finish with at least 5 dogs. Teams entered in the 14 mile race must start with 4-6 dogs and finish with at least 4. Teams entered in the 6 mile race must start with 2-4 dogs and finish with at least 2. Teams entered in the junior race must start with 1-3 dogs and finish with at least 1. All skijors must start with 1-2 dogs and finish with at least 1. Pee-wees will run 1-2 dogs.
- b) All dogs must either undergo a veterinary check prior to the start of the race at a time to be announced or the musher must sign an affidavit stating that their dogs are of sufficient health and conditioning to run the distances for the race they enter. Being late for or missing your vet check may result in a penalty being assessed.
- c) Any dogs not qualifying for a certificate of good health may not run in the race.
- d) All dogs entered in the race must have current parvo, rabies, and distemper vaccinations according to the AVHA guidelines. Each musher must present proof of such vaccinations at the veterinary check. This will consist of proof-of-purchase for current vaccine and/or vaccination certificates. All vaccinations must be current (every three years according to AAHA guidelines) or appropriate titers and administered prior to January 5, 2018.
- e) The dogs that cross the start line Saturday constitutes the team. No dogs may be substituted or added to a team after the start.

- f) Any dog dropped by the musher or any team disqualified at any point of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- g) It is the musher's responsibility to ensure that all dogs in his/her team are healthy and conditioned adequately to complete the race.

#### 6) DISEASE

- a) No dog, equipment or clothing shall be brought from a kennel where rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, or other contagious diseases exist.
- b) If the race committee deems any dog present to potentially have a transmissible disease, that team shall be disqualified and shall immediately leave the race area.

#### 7) DRUGS

The intent of the rules concerning the use of drugs, injectable vitamins, and/or nutrients in racing sled dogs is to insure that all competing dogs are racing in a state of acceptable normal health, with natural ability. This is to insure the safety, health, and well-being of the dogs.

- a) Allowable drugs that may be administered by the driver:
  - i) Topical Drugs. Preparations containing antibiotics, antibacterials, antiseptics, and/or germicidals, i.e., Furacin, triple antibiotic ointment, povidine (betadine) ointment, may be used externally on the foot pads and/or in the web of the foot. Topical drugs allowed under wrist wraps include Furacin ointment and Algyval liniment. The use of all topicals should be judicious and used in combination with boots/wraps where appropriate, excess amounts may be licked off, swallowed, and then be absorbed in the general body circulation. DMSO in any form or combination is prohibited. Topical ointments that don't contain anti-inflammatory drugs are permitted.
  - ii) Anti-Diarrheals. Drugs not absorbed in the gastrointestinal tract, such as kaolin, bismuth compounds and pectin (Kaopectate), may be used to control diarrhea and vomiting. These may be combined with systemic absorbable drugs, if prescribed by a veterinarian.
  - iii) Pepto-Bismol is strictly prohibited (contains aspirin).
- b) Allowable drugs that may be administered by the driver under the authority of a veterinarian (by prescription only):
  - i) Antibiotics. The use of oral or injectable antibiotics is allowed if prescribed by a veterinarian. This is for the benefit of the dog, to allow continuance in the race where it will not mask a condition which could cause harm to the dog.
  - ii) Anti-Diarrheals. Systemic absorbable drugs may be used if prescribed by a veterinarian.
  - iii) Topical ointments which contain steroids.
- c) Prohibited Drugs. All DEA listed stimulants and depressants, analgesics, prescriptive and non-prescriptive, anti-inflammatory drugs, including but not limited to corticosteroids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, anti-prostaglandins and aspirin or any of its salts or derivatives (e.g. salicylates), anti-anxiety drugs, anabolic steroids, or antihistamines. Any state or federally-restricted substance or any substance that would artificially enhance the performance of the dog is strictly prohibited. Exceptions: Estrual suppressant drugs such

as Cheque may be used in appropriate doses to suppress heat cycles in female dogs and anti-inflammatory drugs used topically in foot ointments.

- d) Other. Vitamins, minerals, electrolytes, enzymes, probiotics and dietary supplements are considered foods and are allowed only if administered orally.
- e) If, during the time period for which restrictions are stipulated, any competing musher or team is guilty of violating the banned substance rules, that team will be immediately disqualified from the race and will automatically and irrevocably forfeit all prizes, money, entry fees, titles, recognition and/or other considerations awarded that team.

## 8) EQUIPMENT

- a) All harnesses shall have padded neck and chest areas.
- b) All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
- c) All teams must be equipped with functional necklines. Necklines are not mandatory, however mushers are required to maintain control of their team so as not to interfere with passing teams. If appropriate control is not maintained, the musher in question will be required to use necklines in order to continue with the race.
- d) If a cable or cable-core gangline is used, a cable cutter must be carried in a readily accessible place. If a rope gangline is used, a knife must be carried in an accessible place.
- e) A snub line may be carried on the sled but shall not be used in any manner that would constitute abuse of the dogs or interfere with the progress of another team.
- f) Some type of sled shall be drawn.
- g) A sled shall have an adequate brake, brush bow, snowhook, and snub line.
- h) A sled/dog bag capable of safely restraining a struggling or injured dog and all mandatory gear is required.
- i) 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 "trail". Failure to do so may result in a penalty at the discretion of the race marshall.

## 9) MANDATORY GEAR IN SLED/ON MUSHER

- a) 8 and 6 dog classes
  - i) Set of booties (4) for each dog either on the sled or on the dogs
  - ii) Race Number
  - iii) Any promotional material provided by the race

All mandatory gear must be present on the sled at all times. Competitors found without required equipment will be penalized at the Race Marshall's discretion.

## **SECTION II--OFFICIATING**

### 1) RACING OFFICIALS

- a) The Race Marshall has the final word over all safety considerations for both dogs and mushers. He/she has authority to interpret rules at the mushers meeting, alter the time and

location of the start, alter the race route, alter a participant's official running time, levy monetary penalties, disqualify dogs, teams and mushers, refer questions to the Rules Interpretation Committee, stop the race, order drug testing, and determine winners and subsequent placing. The Race Manager will supply any information as required by the Race Marshal for the purpose of providing the best possible decision. The Race Marshal may have one or more assistants.

- b) The Rules Interpretation Committee is a three person committee available for consultation with a Race Marshal prior to, during and following the race. Once called together by the Race Marshal on a specific issue, its decision becomes the final word on that issue. The Rules Interpretation Committee will consist of a Race Marshal, and Race Manager.
- c) The Trail Boss is responsible for laying out the trail. The Trail Boss will be responsible for scheduling maintenance of the trail and making trail breaking decisions.
- d) The Start/Finish Coordinators, Timers and Checkpoint Coordinators each have immediate authority in their areas and will act as consultants to the Race Marshals, who ultimately have the final word.

## 2) CONDUCT AND DISQUALIFICATION

- a) Mushers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs and crew at any race function, on the trail, and at the race staging area.
- b) Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshal determines that the conduct of the musher or crew at any time in any race area or on the trail is detrimental to the sport in general, or to Darby Dog Derby, the team may be disqualified. This includes negative comments made in the presence of the public or the media. It is expected that complaints or criticisms will be directed privately to race officials. In the event that agreement cannot be reached readily, a protest should be filed (see Protest and Hearing below).
- c) Willful failure to adhere to the published rules may result in disqualification.
- d) The penalties which may be assessed by the Race Marshal include disqualification, fines, or time penalties, and will depend on the nature and severity of the infraction. Disqualified mushers will forfeit all entry fees, awards, placements, and participation in the purse. Time penalties will be added to finish time as appropriate and may affect the final place of the team. Fines will be paid before the awards ceremony or will result in a deduction from any award from the purse, or will be added to the entry fee for a subsequent year's race.
- e) The use of illegal drugs and/or illegal substances as defined by state law or the excessive use of alcohol by mushers during the race is strictly prohibited. Mushers are subject to collection of urine until one hour after each team finishes.
- f) If a musher withdraws from the race before completing the entire course, he/she must return race property to a Race Official and check out with the Race Marshal before leaving the race site.

## 3) PROTEST AND HEARING

- a) Any musher wishing to register a protest must do so in writing no later than one hour fol-

lowing the protester's finish. Only mushers may register written protests and the protest must be accompanied by a \$25.00 deposit.

- b) Protest fee refunds may be obtained at the Awards Ceremony providing written protests have been filled out as prescribed and upon presentation of receipt.
- c) Protests must be submitted directly to a Race Official (Race Marshal, Assistant Race Marshal, Veterinarian, or Race Manager) and shall not be discussed with spectators, media representatives or the general public prior to a decision being handed down.
- d) An official decision will be made by the Rules Interpretation Committee following a hearing attended by all parties involved.

### **SECTION III--THE RACE**

#### **1) START**

##### *a) Pre-Start Schedule*

- i) All mushers, handlers, and team trucks must be in the official parking area at a specified time to be announced at the mushers meeting.
- ii) All mushers and dogs will be required to take part in ceremonial festivities and functions.

##### *b) Start Times*

- i) Teams will start Saturday's leg in 2-minute intervals in the order drawn at the pre-race dinner.
- ii) Teams will start Sunday's leg in 2-minute intervals in the reverse order of Saturday's finish.

##### *c) Finish*

- i) The nose of the lead dog crossing the finish line signals a team's official finish. In the event that the musher is not with the team when it finishes, the finish time will be officially recorded when the musher crosses the line after the team.
- ii) Mushers must make a sincere effort to continue in the race in a timely manner or they will be disqualified.
- iii) There will be no calling of trail in the section called "no-man's land." This section of trail will be identified and announced at the mushers meeting.

#### **2) OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**

- a) Absolutely no outside assistance on the trail.
- b) Mushers may assist each other in appropriate ways in an emergency. Good sportsmanship is encouraged.
- c) Race participants may not accept rides on any motorized vehicles unless an emergency exists. An emergency exists when the safety of the driver or dogs is in jeopardy, for example, a loose team or severely injured dog or driver.
- d) Pacing of any kind is strictly prohibited.
- e) The use of two-way radios by mushers will not be permitted.

#### **3) MANAGEMENT/HANDLING OF DOGS**

- a) Cruel and inhumane treatment of dogs by any musher and/or his/her handlers is strictly

prohibited. Cruel and inhumane treatment is any action or inaction which causes pain or suffering to a dog that could have been prevented.

- b) No whips of any kind shall be allowed.
- c) Expired Dogs
  - i) Any dog that expires on the trail for any reason must be taken to the finish.
  - ii) Expired dogs must be completely covered when being carried on the sled. An autopsy may be performed on any expired dog by a designated veterinarian.
- d) Carrying Dogs
  - i) A musher may not allow any of his/her dogs to be carried by another team except in an emergency.
  - ii) A musher's dogs carried in his/her own sled must be transported in a humane fashion.
- e) Loose Dogs
  - i) All dogs will be in the team, on the sled, or appropriately restrained.
  - ii) In the event that a dog becomes loose from its team, the musher may not leave the staging area until the dog is recovered.
  - iii) Good sportsmanship is encouraged between mushers in recovering a loose dog. If the dog cannot be recovered, the team will be disqualified.

#### 4) PLANNED ASSISTANCE

- a) Planned assistance is acceptable in the race staging areas only.
- b) Any veterinary expense incurred by a musher is his/her responsibility.

#### 5) FOOD AND WATER

- a) Each musher and their handlers are responsible for having necessary food and water at the start/finish.

#### 6) RUNNING THE COURSE

- a) Darby Dog Derby is a guest on lands of the Bitterroot and Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests. In light of this fact, mushers will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and will at no time demand "rights" to the trail. Please clean-up the parking area of any dog feces and trash before leaving.

##### *b) Passing*

- i) When overtaking another team, the musher shall call "trail." The overtaken team must relinquish the trail, must stop if asked, and assist the passing when necessary.
- ii) When neither of two teams is able to pull away from the other, the mushers shall mutually decide on the appropriate team to lead out.
- iii) In a head-on passing situation, the homeward bound team has the right-of-way, and the outward bound team must relinquish the trail. The exception is when the outward bound team is moving downhill; then the outward bound team has the right-of-way.

##### *c) Lost Team*

- i) In the case of a lost team, the team will not be disqualified if the musher regains control of the team, provided that the team and musher complete the entire race trail and comply with the rules.
- ii) All teams must follow the trail as marked. As long as the team and musher continue

- on the trail when separated, the musher may continue after regaining control.
- iii) Mushers may receive assistance from another musher in recovering their team.
  - iv) Teams inadvertently leaving the course must regain the course where it was first left.
- d) *Safety*
- i) The Darby Dog Derby official trail is part of a multi-use trail system. Be cautious when overtaking, encountering or being overtaken by snow machines or skiers.
- e) *Stopping on the trail*
- i) When stopped on the trail, adequate room must be allowed for teams to get past and assistance given, if necessary. Every effort should be made to get completely off the trail while stopped.
  - ii) If snacking, watering or feeding on the trail, the team must be completely off the trail, if possible. The trail must be free of food or debris. Penalties may be imposed by the Race Marshal for not complying with this rule.
  - iii) Pack out all garbage, including runner plastic and dog booties removed by the musher. Littering is prohibited and will be penalized.
- f) *Bibs*
- i) Numbered bibs must be worn or on the sled at all times.

#### 7) WEATHER AND TRAIL CONDITIONS

- a) The race will continue under all but the most severe trail and weather conditions.
- b) Postponement or cancellation of the race will be made no less than seven (7) days prior to the start of the race.
- c) In the event of questionable trail conditions, the Race Committee and Race Marshall will decide which portion(s) of trail will be altered.
- d) The Race Marshals are responsible for alteration of starting and/or finishing locations.

#### **SECTION IV--AWARDS PRESENTATION**

- 1) It is the desire of the Darby Dog Derby Race Committee that all mushers finishing the race be present at the awards ceremony. Absence will result in disqualification and/or forfeiture of winnings. Extenuating circumstances may be considered. The Darby Dog Derby Race Committee encourages all non-finishing mushers to be present at the awards ceremony.
- 2) Purse money will be awarded only to participants who are designated official finishers. Official finishers will share the total purse.

#### **SECTION V--CLAIMS**

- 1) Each musher is responsible for his/her own actions and the actions of his/her dogs and crew. The musher also agrees to release the sponsors, the Darby Dog Derby Race Committee and their agents, volunteers, and employees, from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the musher, his/her dogs, property or the property of his/her crew. The Darby Dog Derby Race Committee has the complete authority to authorize the race sponsor(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.



- 2) Each musher shall sign any and all documents as may be requested by the Darby Dog Derby Race Committee to evidence the foregoing. These documents will be executed at the mushers meeting. Any musher who does not sign the documents requested by the Darby Dog Derby Race Committee will not be allowed to participate in the race.