

2026 RACE RULES Jack Pine 30



The volunteers helping to put on this race are dedicated and make every effort to accomplish their duties accurately. Any failure on their part does not lessen the responsibility of the musher to fulfill the demands of the race rules. Any failure of a volunteer to carry out their assigned duties DOES NOT constitute a technicality in determining a musher's performance or race finish placement.

The UP200 organization has made a special effort to offer a fun, yet competitive, sport class event. Ensuring the safety and care of the animals and maintaining the positive spirit of competition are a priority. It should be noted that in all situations race officials will attempt to follow the spirit of the rule, rather than the letter of the law, understanding that the race is to be awarded on merit and not on technicality.

I. A. REGISTRATION AND ENTRY FEE (U.S. Funds)

1. Entry fee for the February 14, 2026 race is \$75.00 per team for entries received on the UP200.org website or postmarked on or before February 1, 2026. After February 1, the entry fee is \$85.00 per team. (All entries are US funds). Entries must be received no later than 4:00 PM Thursday, February 12, 2026.
2. Entries will be limited to 25 teams. Start order is established by the date the entry is received on the UP200.org website or the postmarked date for mailed entries. Multiple entries postmarked on any one day will be randomly selected for starting order.
3. An entrant may withdraw for any reason on or before February 1, 2026 and be refunded 50% of the entry fee. **No refunds will be issued after February 1, 2026.**
4. The UP200 organization reserves the right to reject any entry for just cause.

I. B. MUSHERS

1. The UP200 strongly recommends that all mushers entering the Jack Pine 30 have sufficient experience to negotiate a moderately difficult trail.

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2. Mushers under the age of eighteen may participate with a waiver of liability signed by a parent or legal guardian.
3. Mushers under the age of fourteen need written permission from the UP200 organization.
4. Only one musher per team is permitted and no substitution will be allowed during the race.
5. Substitution of mushers will be allowed up to the beginning of the mandatory mushers' meeting.
6. All mushers must attend the mushers' meeting held the morning of the race. The first roll call will be taken at the start of the meeting. Any musher who misses the first roll call will be assessed a \$30.00 penalty. Any musher who misses the second roll call, taken 10 minutes after the first roll call, will not be allowed to run the race. The race judge may grant an exception for unusual circumstances.

I. C. DOGS

1. Each team must start the race with a minimum of four (4) dogs and a maximum of six (6) dogs.
2. Only northern breed dogs will be permitted to enter the race. Northern breeds will be determined by the UP200 Board in conjunction with the Chief Veterinarian or his/her designee.
3. All dogs starting the race must be in harness in the team at the finish line unless carried in the sled bag. There is no dog drop along the race trail.
4. After the start of the race, no switching of dogs will be permitted.

I. D. MANDATORY VETERINARY RECORDS & PRE-RACE VET CHECK

1. All dogs entered in the race must be current with vaccinations for Parvovirus, Distemper, and Rabies. The UP200 also recommends Bordetella and leptospirosis vaccines.
 - a. Proof of valid rabies vaccination from the musher's state of residence signed and dated at least two weeks prior to the race by a licensed veterinarian is required.
 - b. Proof of purchase for valid vaccines (if given by musher) or veterinarian records for other vaccinations is required. The DA2P vaccine that has been approved and licensed for 3 year duration will only be accepted if given by a licensed veterinarian. Proof that such a vaccine was given by a veterinarian will be required. Recognize that this vaccine does not protect for all things that are covered by the DA2P that is licensed for 1 year.
 - c. Race veterinarians will not vaccinate dogs on the day of the race.
2. Vaccination verification forms will be collected at the mushers' meeting on race day.

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3. All dogs entering the race will be checked by a veterinarian prior to the race start. A dog may be prohibited from starting the race if the dog's condition doesn't meet the basic criteria in Race Rules Appendix A – Veterinary Guidelines.

I. E. VETERINARIAN & VETERINARY GUIDELINES

1. Guiding Principle: No drugs or artificial means may be used to drive a dog (or dog team) or cause a dog (or dog team) to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability.
2. A veterinarian will be available during the race for emergencies. There is no dog drop along the race trail, so mushers should consult the veterinarian and err on the side of caution for any dog that may be unable to complete the race course. The race veterinarian may remove a dog from a team for just cause when the health of the dog is jeopardized.
3. Each musher is responsible for the care of their dogs and for all costs associated with any first aid, emergency care, or other veterinary services required.
4. *Appendix A – Veterinary Guidelines* contains information pertaining to dog care, prohibited substances, and criteria used to evaluate the condition of sled dogs.

I. F. EQUIPMENT

1. All harnesses must be padded around the neck and chest areas.
2. All ganglines must be arranged for either single or double file disposition. Necklines are required.
3. Each sled must be equipped with a brushbow, a snowhook, and a working metal brake bolted to the sled.
4. A sled/dog bag capable of safely restraining a struggling or injured dog is required.

I. G. MANDATORY GEAR

1. One (1) complete working headlamp
2. One set (4) of booties per dog
3. Spare collar and harness
4. Knife
5. First aid kit including Ace bandages and pressure dressings for severe bleeding
6. Compass
7. Waterproof matches or a lighter
8. If using a cable gangline, a cable cutter you know will cut your cable gangline

Sleds will be checked for equipment and mandatory gear at both the start and finish of the race.

II. OFFICIATING

II. A. RACE OFFICIALS

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1. The Race Judge has:
 - a. Final authority and interpretation of all rules.
 - b. Final decision on disqualifications.
 - c. Final determination of winners and placing.
 - d. An obligation to consult with a race veterinarian for decisions involving dog health.
2. Race officials, timers, and the race veterinarian each have immediate authority in their specific area of responsibility and will act as consultants to the Race Judge who has ultimate responsibility for any appeal.

II. B. MUSER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Mushers are responsible for the conduct of their dogs and handlers during the race event, including pre- and post-race activities.
2. The musher is required to report all violations of race rules and regulations to the Race Judge. Any musher who fails to comply with the race rules may face disqualification.
3. Mushers or handlers must clean up their team's parking area at both the start and finish.

II. C. DISQUALIFICATION

1. Mushers shall be disqualified for rules infractions, including but not limited to physical abuse of a dog (e.g. kicking or beating), cheating, or deliberate rule infractions which give a musher an unfair advantage over another musher. Mushers may also be disqualified for other acts involving cruel or inhumane treatment, including mistreatment of volunteers and race officials.

III. THE RACE

III A. Start/Finish

1. All teams will have their equipment and sled bags checked before the race start and at the finish. A five (5) minute time penalty will be assessed for each item of equipment or mandatory gear missing at the finish line. Expendable items (e.g., dog booties) need not be present at the finish.
2. Any musher who misses their start time will start two minutes after the last team leaves but will be on the clock using the original start time.
3. A team's finish time is measured when the nose of the lead dog crosses the finish line. The musher must be with the team at the time of finish.
4. In order to finish the race, a team must cross Sands Station inbound no later than 2:00 p.m. EST. Any team unable to cross Sands Station inbound by this time will be noted as "did not finish" (DNF). Teams will not be allowed to continue after they are noted as DNF.

5. No outside assistance is permitted other than that planned by the UP200 organization.
6. Mushers may aid each other in appropriate ways under emergency conditions.
7. Mushers may receive assistance in cases of uncontrolled or lost dog teams.
 - a. Outside assistance must be accepted if a musher has lost complete control of a team; this includes motorized assistance.

III. B. HANDLING AND TREATMENT OF DOGS

1. Cruel and/or inhumane treatment of dogs by any musher or handler as determined by the Race Officials is strictly prohibited.
2. In the event a team gets away from the musher, it will not be disqualified if the musher regains control provided they have not left the race course.
 - a. If the team and musher have left the race course, they must re-enter the course at the point they left it.
3. All dogs on a team must be in harness and attached to the sled.
 - a. No loose leaders will be permitted.
 - b. A musher must make every effort to secure a dog which becomes loose accidentally.
 - c. Dogs not in the team gangline must be restrained in the sled basket at all times during the race.
4. It is the musher's responsibility to check for traffic at road crossings on the race course. The UP200 will attempt to secure road crossings, but final safety is the musher's responsibility.
5. Expired dogs: Any dog expired on the trail must be covered and transported in the sled to a road crossing or the finish line. The musher must notify a race official and then complete a report and present it to the race veterinarian. An expired dog may be necropsied at the musher's expense.

III. C. THE RACE COURSE

1. Teams must stay on the race course. If the team and the musher have left the race course, they must re-enter the course at the point they left it.
2. When overtaking another team, the musher must call "TRAIL".
 - a. The slower team must relinquish the trail and assist the passing team if necessary.
 - b. When neither team is able to pull away from the other, the mushers shall agree mutually on the appropriate team to lead out.
3. Sticks and other poling aids cannot be used within 100 feet (either behind or in front) of another team and must be stowed when a musher calls for trail.

4. The No-Right-Of-Way Zone starts approximately one (1) mile from the finish line and will be marked. Mushers will no longer have the option to call trail nor will mushers be required to relinquish the trail.

IV. CLAIMS

1. Each musher agrees to hold the UP200 harmless from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the musher, their dogs, their property, or others acting on their behalf.
2. The UP200 claims unconditional authority to allow race organizers and sponsors to film, photograph or otherwise collect and document information about the race and race participants for use in advertising, public relations or other publicity purposes.
3. Each musher shall sign any and all documents as may be requested by the UP200 to accept the foregoing statements and conditions.
 - a. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
 - b. All documents will be presented to the musher at the mushers' meeting or will be included in the entry application.
4. Participants, including mushers and their support crew (e.g., drivers, handlers) shall abide by local, county, state and/or federal public health rules/guidelines.

APPENDIX A. VETERINARY GUIDELINES

1. BASIC GUIDELINES

The following guidelines will be in effect from the time of the mandatory musher meeting until the race has officially ended.

2. Guiding Principle: No drugs or artificial means may be used to drive a dog (or dog team) or cause a dog (or dog team) to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability.
 - a. Drug Policy
 1. No injectable, oral, or topical drug which may suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog.
 2. Mushers may not use a needle of any type on their dogs.
 3. The administration of any substance to a dog orally by syringe, by needle, or similar device (basting) by a musher is prohibited.
 4. Mushers may administer the following compounds to their dogs orally without veterinary consent: Vitamins, minerals, electrolytes, enzymes, probiotics, and any dietary supplements marked as such, provided that these compounds are maintained in their original containers with labels indicating their contents.

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5. The use of topical cortico steroids is limited to use on the paw/pad. The only cortico steroid containing topical products permitted for this race will be those dispensed by the race veterinarians.
6. The use of megestrol acetate (ovaban) and mibolerone (cheque drops) as an estrus suppressant is permitted in intact females that have not had an ovariohysterectomy.
7. The use of famotidine (Pepcid) or omeprazole (Prilosec) for the prevention of gastric ulcers will be permitted provided that these compounds are maintained in their original containers with labels indicating their contents.
8. Personal prescriptions written for and carried by the mushers may not be used on the dogs.

b. Prohibited Drug List

Race veterinarians may utilize any of the below 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. The use of any other drug not included on this list and deemed necessary for the health of the dog by the musher's veterinarian will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Race Veterinarian.

Prohibited drugs:

1. Anabolic steroids
 2. Analgesics (pain relievers) both prescriptive and non prescriptive.
 3. Anti-inflammatory drugs, including but not limited to:
 - a. Cortico steroids (the exception is the use on feet)
 - b. Antiprostaglandins
 - c. Non-steroidal (NSAIDS)
 - d. Salicylates
 - e. DMSO
 4. Anesthetics
 5. Central nervous system stimulants
 6. Antihistamines
 7. Bronchodilators
 8. Cough suppressants
 9. Diuretics
 10. Injectable anticholinergics
 11. Muscle relaxants
 12. Tranquilizers and Opiates
- c. Chiropractic manipulation, Acupuncture, and Therapeutic Laser are recognized veterinary treatment modalities and, as such, their use during the race is under the jurisdiction of the Race Veterinarian. Because it is impractical for the race veterinary team to ensure these treatment modalities would be uniformly available to all competitors, their use will be prohibited from the pre-race veterinary exam to

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the end of the race. If, after consulting with the Race Veterinarian, a competitor feels their dog needs to be treated with one of these modalities, a decision may be made to allow the use on that dog, but that dog must be disqualified from the race.

- d. **Drug Testing Policy:** The UP200 reserves the right to collect blood and/or urine samples, at the discretion of the Veterinarian, at random any time commencing from the musher meeting to the beginning of the awards ceremony. The musher or handler designated by the musher must assist in collecting urine samples whenever requested. If blood or urine testing of a dog reveals any of the prohibited drugs in the dog, this rule has been violated regardless of when such drugs were administered to the dog.
- e. **Dog Mortality Event:** The musher is responsible for the proper care of their dog team and should familiarize themselves with basic canine first aid and should learn to recognize preliminary symptoms that may indicate a dog has an emerging problem. The veterinarian will use every means available to treat a dog that has a medical problem, however, the expiration of a dog on the race trail may result in the disqualification of the musher and/or prohibition from participating in future race events.

Any dog that expires during the race for any reason must be transported in the sled bag to the finish line. The musher shall notify the nearest Race Official at first opportunity. If a Race Official is not available, the nearest Race Veterinarian shall be notified. At the discretion of the Veterinarian a necropsy may be ordered to ascertain the cause of death. If required it shall be performed by a licensed Veterinary Pathologist or Veterinarian.

f. **Criteria for Evaluating Dogs at a Sled Dog Race**

Position Statement: The ISDVMA is composed of veterinarians with extensive experience in sled dog care. ISDVMA veterinarians also are activists on behalf of the welfare of racing sled dogs. All decisions relating to the fitness of dogs and dog teams to continue to compete will be based on our education, experience, and commitment to the best interests of the sled dogs and the sport. Any errors made in determining the fitness of a dog or dog team to continue will be based on the side of the dog or dog team.

The following criteria will be used to determine whether or not a dog is fit to continue in the race:

1. **A cachexic body condition** (too thin) manifested by concavity of the *longissimus mm* (back muscles), a lack of palpable subcutaneous tissue over the ribs, prominent dorsal and transverse spinous processes of the lumbar vertebrae, and protruding pelvic bones.
2. **Dehydration of 8% or greater**, as indicated by skin inelasticity, sticky mucous membranes, a capillary refill time of three seconds or greater, depression of the eyes into their orbits, and markedly concentrated urine. A persistently elevated heart rate (greater than 120 bpm after resting) also can be indicative of dehydration. (Skin tenting can be difficult to assess with a harness on the dog.)
3. **An irregular heart rhythm or heart rate** that does not decrease below 120 beats per minute within one hour of resting and is accompanied by an elevated capillary refill time of 3 seconds or greater.

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(Some sled dogs will present with a slight grade I to II over VI systolic heart murmur due to athletic heart syndrome—monitor closely.)

4. **An elevated rectal temperature** that remains greater than 39.4 degrees Celsius (103⁰ F) for longer than one hour beyond arrival, or is associated with other problems, i.e., infected feet, bloody stool/vomit, etc. Hyperthermia can be a problem in warmer years. It also can be an initial indicator of pneumonia.
5. **Hypothermia** as indicated by a lowered rectal temperature of less than 37.2 degrees Celsius (99⁰ F). Dogs can be hypothermic because they are cold or because they are ill.
6. **Abnormal lung sounds** associated with edema or phlegm accumulation. (Pneumonia can be viral, bacterial, or secondary to the aspiration of food or vomit. Dogs who vomit while running should be monitored very closely.)
7. **Red or brown urine** is a sign of myopathy, or muscle break down. (If it occurs on the trail, the dog must be carried and not put back in the team no matter how much it protests. Many of these dogs also present with non-specific hind end lameness or cramping up.)
8. **Non-responsive diarrhea with blood.** Most diarrheas will respond to medication. If not, the dog should be dropped. **Melena** (black stool) and/or **coughing/vomiting blood** suggests life-threatening ulcers. Dog should be immediately dropped (placed in sled bag) and receive veterinary care.
9. **Frostbite** injuries that cannot be protected from refreezing or are accompanied by substantial swelling. Most problematic is preputial frostbite. (Excessive swelling can make it difficult for a dog to urinate normally and may result in scarring.)
10. **Illness or injuries** requiring treatment with pharmaceuticals not available at a checkpoint or which would result in a positive drug test must be dropped. (No dog should carry any foreign substance or metabolite that would cause it to perform beyond its normal capacity.)
11. **Any non-weight-bearing lameness** that the dog cannot be warmed out of. Pain and/or swelling, accompanied by lameness also can render a dog subject to disqualification. (Any loss of range of motion or symmetry will be considered in evaluation of lameness and ability to continue. Shoulder and groin injuries should be considered the most serious in evaluation of the ability to continue.)
12. **Neurologic:**
 - a. **Mental attitude** is paramount to humane racing. A sled dog's desire should be to continue the event. When desire is sufficiently diminished and repeated attempts to leave a checkpoint end in failure, that team or dog is discouraged from leaving. (**Anorexia** is a predictor of mental attitude as well as causing weight and energy loss and depression in a vicious cycle. Inappetent dogs should not run.)
 - b. **Seizures:** Any dog that seizures during an event will be dropped, regardless of cause or level of recovery.