2027 RULES
UP200 and Midnight Run

The UP200 organization has made a special effort to give high visibility to the UP200 Sled Dog Championship and Midnight Run. However, ensuring the safety and care of the animals and maintaining a spirit of competition while adhering to the principles of good sportsmanship are a priority. In the interest of fair competition, the UP200 will make every effort to provide the best possible volunteer support for the competitors, and the Race Marshal will use their best judgment to correct any human errors that are verifiable and correctable. 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.

RACE OFFICIALS - GENERAL OVERVIEW

UP200 Board - The elected representatives of the UP200 organization who host this race annually and have ultimate authority over all aspects of the race.

RACE MARSHAL - The official charged with enforcing all rules and policies as set down by the UP200; Governs the race (from the pre-race meetings to the awards banquet) in a manner that allows all participants an equal opportunity to succeed and a level playing field on which to compete. Oversees the Race Judges.

CHIEF VETERINARIAN - Oversees the health and safety of all dogs entered in the race. Is in charge of all dog health and safety issues from the mandatory vet check until the Awards Banquet Monday morning and, in the case of drug testing or necropsy issues, until those issues are resolved. Oversees the Veterinary staff.

TRAIL BOSS - Maintains the Trail and will have top priority in all final decisions regarding race trail matters.

RACE JUDGE(S) - Work under the direction of the Race Marshal on all aspects of rules enforcement and race safety.

RACE VETERINARIANS - Work under the direction of the Chief Veterinarian on all aspects of dog care, safety, and health. Race veterinarians may recommend withdrawing a dog or team for health reasons at any time during the race.

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

THERE WILL BE A SPLIT BIB DRAW. Entrants will be divided into two groups based on entry date. Those who entered first will draw from the first half of the needed bib numbers (example: if there are 12 entries, the first 6 will draw for positions 1 through 6).

THE UP200 BOARD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BIB DRAW AND WILL CONDUCT THE BIB DRAW DURING THE MUSHER MEETINGS. Bib numbers will be drawn in the order entries were received. The post-mark date on mailed entries constitutes the entry date. The payment posting date will be used for entries submitted on the UP200 website. Bib numbers will be announced and given to mushers at the pre-race banquet. No musher will be allowed to pick up a bib number prior to the banquet. Any issues involving the bib draw will be resolved by the UP200 Board.

1. The entry fee for the 2027 UP200 is $360.00 for entries received on the UP200.org website or postmarked on or before 11:59 PM EST November 30, 2026. The entry fee is $410.00 for entries received on the website or postmarked on December 1 through 11:59 PM EST December 31, 2026. The entry fee is $460.00 for entries received on or after January 1, 2027.

2. The entry fee for the 2026 MIDNIGHT RUN is $160 for entries received on the UP200.org website or postmarked on or before 11:59 PM EST November 30, 2026. The entry fee is $180.00 for entries received on the website or postmarked on December 1 through 11:59 PM EST December 31, 2026. The entry fee is $200.00 for entries received on or after January 1, 2027.

3. No entry will be accepted after 3:00 p.m. EST on Thursday before the race (Feb. 11, 2027).

4. Withdrawing and Refunds
    a. An entrant may withdraw for any reason on or before February 1, 2027 and receive a refund equal to 75% of the entry fee.
    b. No refunds will be issued to entrants who withdraw after February 1st.
    c. Mushers entered in either the UP200 or the Midnight Run may request a one time option to switch races, withdrawing from one and posting a new entry for the other race (including the Jack Pine 30). This one-time switch may be done until the last date for entry (3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 11, 2027), however a place on the race roster is not guaranteed. A musher switching from one race to the other is considered a new entry and will be placed at the end of the race roster for the desired race, or at the end of the waiting list (if applicable).

        The entry fee for the race being entered applies as of the date of the switch. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the original paid entry fee may be applied to the new race entry fee.

        If the musher is unable to run the race because of being on a waiting list (i.e. the roster was full when the musher opted to switch races), a 75% refund will be issued if the switch was initiated prior to February 1st. If the switch was initiated after February 1st, no refund will be issued in accordance with the refund policy in 4.b above.

d. Refunds will be issued twice during the 2027 race season. Mushers who withdraw prior to December 31, 2026 will receive the appropriate refund in January 2027. All other refunds will be issued in March 2027.

5. The UP200 reserves the right to reject any entry for just cause. Sanctions imposed by other race organizations will be honored unless the musher's entry is reviewed and approved by the UP200 board.
   a. The UP200 will be limited to 30 mushers.
   b. The Midnight Run will be limited to 30 mushers.

6. A musher biography for promotional purposes and a musher medical information sheet must be completed as part of the race entry process. The medical information sheet is confidential and will be retained at headquarters during the race as part of the UP200 Safety Plan.

I. B. MUSHERS

1. All mushers entering the UP200 must have been a finisher in a previous year or have completed the Midnight Run or a similar event with a minimum of 60 miles of continuous running and at least one checkpoint within the past three seasons. A waiver may be requested. Mushers entering the Midnight Run must have completed the Jack Pine 30 or a similar event with a minimum of 30 miles continuous running.

2. Mushers under the age of eighteen (18) may participate with approval of the UP200 Board and a waiver of liability signed by a parent or legal guardian.

3. Only one musher per team is permitted and no substitution will be allowed during the race.

4. Substitution of mushers will be allowed up to the beginning of the mandatory mushers' meeting with the approval of the UP200 board designee, or at any time from the musher meeting until before the team starts the race with approval of the Race Marshal.

5. All mushers, accompanied by one of their handlers, must attend the mandatory mushers' meeting held before the Pre-Race Banquet on Thursday, February 11, 2027.
   a. MIDNIGHT RUN mushers will meet at 4:00 (EST) on Thursday.
   b. UP200 mushers will meet at 5:00 p.m. (EST) Thursday.
   c. Only the mushers may participate in the race rules open discussion held at the meeting.
   d. A penalty of $50 may be assessed for missing the first roll call taken promptly at the beginning of this meeting.
   e. Missing the second roll call at the meeting, taken 5 minutes after the first roll call has been completed, may, at the discretion of the Race Marshal, mean disqualification. A penalty of $100 may be assessed for missing the second roll call.
   f. Musher representatives will be selected at the musher meetings to serve on an appeals jury if needed (see rules II.C.7 Appeals). There will be one representative and one alternate selected from among the entrants for each race (UP200 and Midnight Run).

I. C. DOGS

1. Each UP200 team must start the race with a minimum of 7 (seven) dogs and a maximum of 12 (twelve) dogs and leave the downbound Wetmore dog drop with a minimum of 7 (seven) dogs hooked in the team.

2. Each MIDNIGHT RUN team must start the race with a minimum of 6 (six) dogs and a maximum of 8 (eight) dogs and must leave the Chatham checkpoint with a minimum of 5 (five) dogs hooked in the team.

3. 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.

I. D. MANDATORY VETERINARY EXAM

1. All dogs entered in the race must be current with vaccinations for Parvovirus, Distemper, and Rabies. The UP200 organization 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 1-year vaccines for other vaccinations must be submitted for inspection. 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 during the Vet Check.

2. All dogs participating in the UP 200 and MIDNIGHT RUN must undergo a physical examination by one of the UP200/Midnight Run veterinary team members.
   a. The musher must be present at the pre-race Vet Check. The musher must be available for consultation with a vet prior to leaving a checkpoint if the veterinary team has any concerns about a team or specific dog(s).
   b. Only dogs found to be in good health and fit to compete will be permitted to run the race.
   c. Teams must sign up for assigned Vet Check slots.

3. All dogs leaving the starting line will be marked or tagged by the UP200 for identification along the race route.
   a. After the start of the race no switching of dogs will be permitted.
   b. Any dog riding in the musher's vehicle and not participating in the race must be "marked out" by a race veterinarian prior to leaving the start area.

I. E. VETERINARY GUIDELINES

1. BASIC GUIDELINES

The following guidelines will be in effect from the time the dogs have received their mandatory pre-race vet check until the race has officially ended as outlined in the race rules.

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.
      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 megesterol 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 Chief Veterinarian.

      <u>Prohibited drugs:</u>
      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 Chief 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 the end of the race. If, after consulting with the Chief 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 Chief Veterinarian, at random any time commencing from the official Vet Check to the beginning of the awards ceremony of the respective race. The musher or handler designated by the musher must assist the designated representative(s) of the race 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 veterinary team will use every means available to treat a dog that has a medical problem, however, the expiration of a dog on the race trail or in a check point 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 next checkpoint. 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 Chief 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. (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 (103^0 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 (99^0 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** is suggestive of life-threatening ulcers. Dog should be immediately dropped 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.

I. F. EQUIPMENT

1. All harnesses must be padded around the neck and chest areas and have a total of approximately 12" of reflective tape or material.

2. All ganglines must be arranged for single or double file disposition. All ganglines must be made of coated cable, have a cable core, or be made of iron rope. No bare cable is allowed. Ganglines will be checked at bag check.

3. A sled must be equipped with a working metal brake bolted to the sled, a brushbow and two (2) snowhook**s.**

4. A sled/dog bag capable of safely restraining a struggling or injured dog.

5. Any sticks or poling devices (e.g. ski poles) must have at least 8" of reflective tape or material.

I. G. MANDATORY GEAR

1. Two (2) complete working headlamps.
2. Sleeping bag with winter or arctic rating.
3. One set (4) of booties per dog.
4. One pound of food per dog in team leaving each checkpoint.
5. One day's ration of food for the musher leaving each checkpoint.
6. Knife
7. Ax (minimum size 22 inches).
8. First aid kit (for musher and dogs) including Ace bandages and pressure dressings for severe bleeding
9. A cable cutter you know will cut your cable gangline. (It is strongly recommended that this be carried in an easily accessible spot.)
10. Compass

11. Waterproof matches or a lighter
12. Musher's veterinary log book
13. Snowshoes – required for UP200
    a) One operational pair of snowshoes with bindings, each snowshoe to be at least 252 square inches in size.
    b) Optional for Midnight Run
14. Spot tracker GPS unit (provided by race organization)
15. Promotional materials, as determined by the UP200
16. Blinking light on lead dog is optional but strongly recommended

UP200 Iditarod Qualifying Mushers:

17. One operational cooker and pot capable of boiling at least 2 (two) gallons of water, a ladle, and dog bowls.
18. An adequate amount of fuel to boil two gallons of water.

II. OFFICIATING

A. RACE OFFICIALS

1. The Race Marshal is in charge of all aspects of the race from the mandatory mushers' meeting February 11, 2027 through the Awards breakfast on Monday, February 15, 2027.
   a. Final authority and interpretation of all rules.
   b. Final determination for alteration of race, start location and race route changes.
   c. Final determinations of winners and placing.
   d. Final determination on disqualifications from the race and any recommended sanctions.

2. The Race Judges shall act in concert with the Race Marshal and will hold authority within their specific locations as assigned by the Race Marshal.

3. The Chief Veterinarian shall have final authority over the disposition of any dogs for medical reasons.
   a. The Race Marshal and Race Judges shall consult with the Chief Veterinarian regarding any determinations of disqualification of any dogs or teams in regard to dog welfare.
   b. The Race Veterinarians are Consulting Specialists to the race and have the right to examine any dog at any checkpoint during the race. In addition to the pre-race vet check, they will be available throughout the race for consultations, first aid, and major medical situations. Their recommendations to disallow entry or remove a dog or team from the race may occur at any time during the race and will go directly to the Chief Veterinarian, who works in conjunction with the Race Marshal to determine a course of action. In the absence of the Chief Veterinarian, the concurrence of two or more veterinarians in consultation with the Race Marshal may result in disallowing entry, removal, or holding of a dog or team from the race. The Race Marshal makes the final decision.

4. The race officials, timers, judges, and race veterinarians each have immediate authority in their specific area of responsibility and will act as consultants to the Race Marshal who has ultimate responsibility for decision making.

II. B. MUSHER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Mushers are responsible for the conduct of their dogs, handlers and representatives before, during and after the race. This sport requires each competitor to be courteous, helpful, and honorable to a degree that will inspire similar behavior in all participants and volunteers. Rude behavior or inappropriate actions by a driver or handler may result in a penalty, withdrawal, or disqualification.

2. The musher is required to report all violations of race rules and regulations to the Race Marshal, a Race Judge, or if no Judge is available, they may report to a Checkpoint Official who in turn will notify a Race Judge or the Race Marshal.
   a. Forms for reporting violations will be available at every checkpoint.
   b. Any musher who knowingly fails to comply with race rules and regulations as stated herein will face disqualification, monetary penalty, or time penalty depending on the nature of the violation as determined by the Race Marshal.

3. A musher withdrawing from the race either between checkpoints or at any checkpoint for any reason MUST IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY A RACE OFFICIAL. The team must be cleared by a Judge and a Veterinarian. A musher withdrawing between checkpoints must proceed to the nearest open checkpoint to officially withdraw. Handlers may assist with transporting a team withdrawing along the trail. The team is not officially withdrawn until cleared by a judge and a veterinarian. A veterinarian may elect to check a team along the trail to complete the withdrawal process.
   a. Failure to complete the withdrawal process may result in a one-year disqualification.
   b. Race materials (e.g. sled banner, spot tracker, etc.) must be returned.

II. C. PENALTIES, DISQUALIFICATION, AND PROTEST PROCEDURE

1. Penalties and Disqualification: Rule infractions may result in an issuance of warnings, monetary penalties, time penalties, censure, or disqualification. Warnings may be issued by any Judge, with notification to the Race Marshal. Monetary penalties and time penalties require the agreement of at least one Judge and the Race Marshal. The Race Marshal, in collaboration with at least one Judge, will review any recommendation to disqualify a team. The Race Marshal has final authority regarding penalties and disqualifications. The Chief Veterinarian will be included in all decisions involving dog treatment and welfare.

2. Warnings may be issued for first time minor infractions.

3. Monetary penalties may be imposed up to $500.00 for each violation. Such penalties may be deducted from prize money. A musher with unpaid fines may not enter future UP200 races until such fines are paid.

4. Censure: The UP200 Board of Directors, following completion of the race and upon recommendation of the Race Marshal and/or Chief Vet may censure a musher. A censure may include a warning, either in public or private, and may eliminate the musher from future races.

5. Disqualifications: Mushers may be disqualified for any infractions, including but not limited to physical abuse of a dog, cheating, or a deliberate rule infraction which gives a musher an unfair advantage over another musher.
    a. A musher will be allowed to continue racing while a decision is being made, except in cases involving cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs.
    b. Any musher who violates any local, state or federal law while competing in this race may be disqualified from future races if convicted.
    c. Disqualification will result in the forfeiture of all race placements and monetary awards.
    d. Each musher shall provide and sign any and all documents requested by the UP200 prior to entering the race. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

6. Protests: Any musher wishing to lodge a protest must do so verbally at the first checkpoint following the occurrence of the act or situation to be considered.
    a. All protests shall be lodged with a RACE JUDGE ONLY and shall not be discussed with any other persons, including spectators or media.
    b. UP200: Following the verbal notification, a written protest must be submitted at the Grand Marais checkpoint for any actions occurring between the Start of the race and the Grand Marais checkpoint, or within one hour of the musher's finish of the race for any actions occurring between the Grand Marais checkpoint and the race finish.
    c. MIDNIGHT RUN: Following the verbal notification, a written protest must be submitted at the Chatham checkpoint for any actions occurring between the Start of the race and the Chatham checkpoint, or within one hour of the musher's finish of the race for any actions occurring between the Chatham checkpoint and the race finish.
    d. Protests will be decided by Race Judges no later than 2 hours before the Awards banquet. The final decision rests with the Race Marshal.

7. Appeals: A musher may appeal any decision made by the Race Officials (Race Marshal, Veterinarians, Judges) by submitting a written request to the Race Marshal for a hearing and resolution prior to the Awards banquet (Midnight Run banquet Saturday at 3:30 p.m.; UP200 Awards Banquet Monday morning 8:00 a.m.)

    a. If the appeal pertains to a Judging decision, then the Race Marshal will present information as to the reason for the decision and the Musher will present information in their defense. Both sides may bring a witness or witnesses that can corroborate their story. Witnesses are limited to Judges, Veterinarians, volunteers, or mushers having first-hand information concerning the situation being considered. A jury comprised of the Chief Veterinarian, one (1) UP200 Board member and the Musher Representative (selected by the mushers at the pre-race meeting) will render a majority decision. Note: if the musher representative is unable to serve, an alternate will be called upon to serve.

    b. If the appeal pertains to a Veterinary decision, the Chief Veterinarian will present information as to the reason for the decision and the Musher will present information in their defense. Both sides may bring a witness or witnesses that can corroborate

their story. Witnesses are limited to Judges, Veterinarians, volunteers, or mushers that have first-hand information concerning the situation being determined. A jury comprised of the Race Marshal, one (1) UP200 Board member, and the Musher Representative (selected by the mushers at the pre-race meeting) will render a majority decision. Note: if the musher representative is unable to serve, an alternate will be called upon to serve.

III. THE RACE

III A. Start/Finish

1. At the race start, all mushers, handlers, and team trucks must be in the official mushers' parking area at a specific time and location to be announced at their musher meeting. UP 200 team trucks and handlers must remain in the official parking area until the last musher has left the start chute.
    a. All UP200 teams will have their sled bags checked before the Start, leaving Grand Marais, and at the Finish.
    b. All MIDNIGHT RUN teams will have their sled bags checked before the Start and at the Finish.

2. All mushers and their lead dog will participate (if required) in Closing ceremonies.

3. The UP200 will provide additional personnel to escort teams to the starting line.
    a. Any musher who misses their pick-up time will start 2 minutes after the last scheduled team leaves the chute. If two or more teams are late, they will leave at two-minute intervals in the order that they were originally scheduled to leave. Teams so affected will have their start time adjusted to the time that they actually leave the start chute and will be assessed a 30-minute time penalty.

4. A UP200 or Midnight Run musher may choose to have a person ride in the sled, or a second sled hooked in tandem with the team, from the start of the race in Marquette to the Prince of Peace Church Rider/Sled Drop in Harvey. The Race Marshal may require a rider or second sled if warranted for safety, based on trail conditions.
    a. All riders must have a notarized signed waiver submitted to race officials by 4:00 pm Friday, February 12, 2027.
    b. Prince of Peace Church in Harvey is not a checkpoint or dog drop.

5. Subject to compliance with all race rules, regulations and determinations of the Race Marshal, a team's finish time is measured when the nose of the lead dog crosses the finish line. Checkpoint in and out times are based on the sign-in and/or sign-out sheets which mushers sign as they cross the appropriate entry and exit points of a checkpoint. If a musher fails to sign in or out, the timer's recorded entry and/or exit time becomes the official time.
    a. Should any of the mandatory gear be missing a monetary penalty may be assessed for each item missing.
    b. Expendable or consumable gear (e.g. booties, food) need not be present on arrival at a checkpoint or at the finish.

6. **UP200:** To finish the race, a team must leave the Wetmore downbound Checkpoint #3 *within a period of time not to exceed eight (8) hours from the time the first team leaves the Wetmore downbound Checkpoint (#3).* Any team unable to leave within this eight-hour period will be noted as "did not finish" (DNF) and will not be allowed to continue. Note: A team anywhere along the trail, including the Grand Marais checkpoint, whose traveling speed will clearly prohibit that team from leaving the Wetmore downbound checkpoint within the specified times may be deemed by race officials as unable to finish and will not be allowed to continue.

MIDNIGHT RUN*:* In order to finish the race, a team must leave the Chatham Checkpoint *within 3 (three) hours from the time the first team leaves the checkpoint.* Teams unable to leave within this time period will be noted as "did not finish" (DNF) and will not be allowed to continue.

III. B. CHECKPOINTS

1. Each musher must personally sign in and out from each checkpoint.
    a. UP200 teams will have bag checks at the START, leaving GRAND MARAIS, and at the FINISH.
    b. MIDNIGHT RUN teams will have bag check at the START and the FINISH.

2. All UP200 and Midnight Run teams must submit to mandatory Vet Checks at a checkpoint. *UP200 teams will be checked in Wetmore both upbound and inbound. Midnight Run teams will be checked in Chatham.* It is the musher's responsibility to locate a veterinarian, schedule the vet check, and be available either during the vet exam or prior to leaving the checkpoint should the vets have any questions or concerns as a result of the vet check exam. The musher may have the dogs checked at any time from arrival to departing the checkpoint. Having a dog pass the vet check in the checkpoint does not automatically guarantee that the dog will not be removed from the team before departure should the dog's physical condition deteriorate or a previously undiagnosed injury be diagnosed before the team has left the checkpoint.

3. Dogs may be dropped from a team only at official checkpoints.

   UP200:
   - Wetmore Upbound (assisted checkpoint, EXCEPTION: If a musher is using the UP200 as an Iditarod qualifier, this is an **unassisted** checkpoint, i.e., no handlers allowed, and the UP200 will help arrange dog transport to Grand Marais),
   - Grand Marais (assisted checkpoint), and
   - Wetmore Downbound (assisted checkpoint).

   MIDNIGHT RUN: Dogs may be dropped at Chatham.

   If a dog is to be dropped, the musher or handler must notify a race veterinarian before leaving the dog and must have the vet diary annotated. The dog must be marked out at that time.

4. Any musher leaving their team at an assisted checkpoint must do so only if a handler is available to supervise the team.

5. Accommodations (space for bedding down dogs, rest rooms, parking space, etc.) will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.
    a. Efforts will be made to give mushers every advantage in this regard, but no guarantees are tendered.
    b. Some checkpoints will have running water available, but the UP200 will make no special arrangements in this regard.

6. Each musher and their handler(s) are responsible for having the necessary food and water at the checkpoints. All checkpoints are assisted unless a UP200 musher is registered as using the UP200 as an Iditarod qualifying race.

    a. One bale of straw per musher will be available for UP200 mushers at Wetmore upbound, Grand Marais, and Wetmore downbound.

    b. Midnight Run mushers must provide their own straw. See Rule III. E. 9 regarding use of dog boxes.

    c. **Iditarod Qualifier Mushers**: Drop bags for the UP200 Unassisted Checkpoint in Wetmore (upbound) will be limited to TWO bags total. Drop bags will be given to mushers at Registration on Thursday. The maximum weight for each bag is 50 pounds. Drop bags for the UP200 must be turned in to the Drop Bag wrangler no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) Friday, February 12, 2027 (location to be announced at the musher meeting). All bags are to be marked as follows: on one side with waterproof marker: # ____ (bib number) along with last name of musher. Reverse side may be marked *bag #1* or *bag # 2*. Bags can be left at the Wetmore upbound checkpoint for use during the downbound stop.

7. Iditarod Qualifier Mushers: If a musher is registered for the UP200 as an Iditarod qualifier, Wetmore Upbound is an ***Unassisted Checkpoint***. *No handlers are allowed at this checkpoint on the way to Grand Marais.* Wetmore downbound is an assisted checkpoint.
    a. A penalty may be assessed if the qualifier team's handlers or dog truck are in the unassisted checkpoint area.

8. Outside assistance regulations for the UP200 are not in effect within the checkpoint areas of Wetmore and Grand Marais, unless the team is an Iditarod qualifier, in which case no outside assistance is permitted at Wetmore upbound. Outside assistance regulations for the Midnight Run are not in effect within the Chatham checkpoint.

9. A fine of up to $100.00 may be assessed against any team not cleaning up their site before leaving each checkpoint. Exception: No cleanup other than poop scooping is required at the unassisted checkpoint for Iditarod qualifier mushers.

III. C. LAYOVER

1. Each UP200 team will accumulate sixteen (16) hours of layover time plus the required start differential time determined by the team's starting position.

   a. Layover time will be determined by the official check-in and check-out time from each checkpoint.
   b. A minimum of five (5) hours layover time must be used at the upbound Wetmore checkpoint before leaving for Grand Marais.
   c. At the Wetmore downbound checkpoint (#3), each team will be given an official time at which they may leave the checkpoint to head for the finish line in Marquette. This time will be calculated from the arrival time at the Wetmore downbound checkpoint plus all unused time remaining from the mandatory sixteen (16) hour total layover (as determined by check-in and check-out times from the previous two checkpoints of Wetmore upbound and Grand Marais) plus the start time differential.

2. At the Chatham checkpoint, Midnight Run mushers will be given an official time at which they may leave the checkpoint to head for the finish line. This time will be calculated from the arrival time at the Chatham checkpoint plus five and one-half (5.5) hours of mandatory layover time, plus the start time differential.

III. D. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

1. No outside assistance other than that planned by the race giving organization is permitted between checkpoints.
   a. Exceptions may be made under emergency conditions as determined by the Race Marshal or a Race Judge. The Race Marshal must be informed of any exceptions.

2. Mushers may aid each other in appropriate ways under emergency conditions.

3. Outside assistance with repair to broken or destroyed equipment may be allowed under the supervision of the Race Marshal or a Race Judge. The Race Marshal must be informed of this exception.

4. 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.
   b. The Race Marshal must be notified of such a circumstance and will rule on its validity.

5. A musher may not receive assistance from any motorized vehicle between checkpoints except in the case of a medical emergency or a lost team.
   a. Pacing with a vehicle is prohibited.
   b. Dog trucks and/or handlers are allowed only at official *assisted* checkpoints unless helping a team that has officially scratched from the race (Note Rule II.B.3 regarding withdrawal).

III. E. HANDLING AND TREATMENT OF DOGS

1. The cruel and/or inhumane treatment of dogs by any musher or handler as determined by the Race Officials is strictly prohibited. The Race Marshal or judges in consultation with a veterinarian will have absolute determination regarding cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs. Cruel or inhumane treatment involves any action or inaction which causes preventable pain or suffering to a dog. Beating or abuse of a dog must be distinguished from cuffing or appropriate discipline of a dog. No whips will be allowed. The following kinds of force will be cause for immediate disqualification: kicking a dog; striking a dog with a rigid object; beating of a dog in any form, including picking up and throwing a dog to the ground. Any abuse or mistreatment of dogs, including unacceptable or unnecessary hard punishment, and excessive screaming and yelling at the dogs, is 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 racecourse.
   a. If the team and the musher have left the racecourse, 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 course of the race.

4. It is the musher's responsibility to check for traffic at road crossings on the racecourse.
   a. UP200 will attempt to secure road crossings. Toward the end of the race, when teams are spread over a several-hour stretch, it is possible, even likely, that some crossings will be unattended. The final safety is the musher's responsibility.

5. Two or more teams may not be tied together except to assist a musher at some single location along the race route.
   a. Mushers involved in such a situation must notify a race judge at the next checkpoint along the trail.
   b. No penalty will be assessed if a musher is aiding another race participant in danger for their life.

6. A musher may have another team haul their dogs only if they agree and if the musher is already hauling two or more dogs in the sled bag.

7. Expired dogs: See rules 1.E. Veterinary Guidelines, section 2.e.

8. Transportation for UP200 dogs dropped at Wetmore and Grand Marais must be arranged by a musher or their handler. Dogs dropped by Iditarod qualifier mushers at the Wetmore *upbound unassisted* checkpoint may be delivered by the race organization to the Grand Marais

checkpoint to be claimed by the handler or musher, may be transported by another teams' handlers, or may be picked up by the team's handlers at the Wetmore checkpoint after the musher has left. Note: Dogs may be dropped from a team only at official checkpoints (see rule III.B.3).

9. UP200 dogs cannot be boxed during the race.

MIDNIGHT RUN mushers may box their dogs at the Chatham checkpoint. Dogs **cannot** be boxed during the mandatory vet check. Mushers must provide their own straw regardless of whether dogs will be boxed or not.

10. Forced rehydration of a dog is the responsibility of race veterinarians only. Any dog entering a checkpoint requiring emergency or forced rehydration must be dropped from the team and placed under medical supervision.

III. F. 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" if/when they want the overtaken musher to relinquish the trail.

   a. The slower team must relinquish the trail immediately when "TRAIL" is called and assist the passing team if necessary. 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.
   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. No-Right-Of-Way Zone starts 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.

4. All race participants must abide by state and federal laws governing the transportation and use of firearms and the killing of game and non-game wildlife.

   a. In the event a musher kills a game animal protecting their life or that of their dogs, the musher must field dress the animal, remove all possible remnants of the dead animal from the race trail and then report the incident to a race judge at the next checkpoint.
   b. The UP200 will take responsibility for recovering the animal.

5. Mushers setting up camp along the trail are required to ensure that the racecourse is clear of all dogs and gear.
   a. All fires must be built a safe distance from the trail.

6. The race will continue under all but the most severe of weather conditions.

   a. Mushers must come prepared to contend with cold, wind, storm conditions, and bare sections of trail.
   b. In the event of questionable trail conditions, the UP200 will make the decision to postpone or cancel the race no later than Tuesday of race week, barring extenuating circumstances.
   c. After the start of the mushers' meeting, the Race Marshal will assume all responsibility for any further postponement or alteration of start/finish locations.
   d. The primary consideration will be the safety and well-being of the dogs and mushers, not the comfort of the musher.

7. Mushers observing littering on the trail are encouraged to report it. A musher may be fined up to $100 for intentional littering. A time penalty may also be imposed at the discretion of the race judges.

IV. CLAIMS

1. Each musher agrees to hold the UP200, the race sponsors and other contributors (as distinguished from individual sponsors of mushers and teams) harmless from any claim or demand based upon any alleged action or inaction by the musher, their dogs or others acting on their behalf.

2. Each musher agrees to hold the UP200, the race sponsors and other contributors (as distinguished from individual sponsors of mushers and teams) harmless from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the musher, their dogs, their property or others acting on their behalf.

3. The UP200 claims unconditional authority to allow race sponsors to film, photograph or otherwise collect and document information about the race and race participants for use in advertising, public relations, social media, or other publicity purposes.

4. 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 Registration or will be included in the musher entry packet. All musher information will be on the UP200.org website and can be accessed through the website.

5. Participants, including mushers and their support crew (e.g., drivers, handlers) shall abide by local, county, state and/or federal public health rules/guidelines.