

GATEWAY SLED DOG CLUB'S RACE RULES

2008

Race officials shall consist of a Chief Marshal and Assistant Marshals, whom shall be appointed by the Race Committee. They shall be responsible for all administration of rules by consensus.

ENTRY RULES

I. ELIGIBILITY

A. ENTRIES

1. For races:
 - a) All drivers are to be GSDC members in good standing.
 - b) An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the race, subject to entry deadlines as determined by the race organizers.
 - c) The race organizers may reject any entry for a just cause.

B. DRIVERS

1. Driver must be proficient in handling the team with voice or hand commands and skilled in the use of the rig or sled, for the safety of all human and dog contestants and spectators.
2. The driver starting a team in the first heat of a race shall drive that team throughout the race.
3. A change of driver can only be made as the result of illness or injury to the authorized entrant and must have the approval of a Race Official.
4. Any driver disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
5. Drivers under 18 years of age, who meet requirement "I" at a club practice and have signed parental permission may race.

C. DOGS

1. A consensus of Marshals may disallow entry of any team or dog for just cause.
2. Any team or dog coming to the starting line which, in the opinion of a Race Official, is unfit or incapable of safely completing the trail, shall be disqualified.
3. Any team or dog not starting the first heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race (pertaining to weekend races).
4. For member only races, all dogs must be owned by a member. Members may use each others dogs (owned or fostered) for all races including dashes. Drivers using borrowed dogs are responsible for their behavior.

D. DISEASE

1. No dog or equipment shall be brought from a kennel where rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, or any other contagious disease exists.
2. If the Race Veterinarian diagnoses any dog present in the race area to have a contagious disease, that team shall be disqualified and shall immediately leave the race area.
3. Drivers must sign a statement of current vaccinations of their teams.

E. IDENTIFICATION

1. In races of more than one heat, each dog shall be marked for identification prior to the start of the first heat of the race.
2. Dogs dropped from teams after the first heat of the race involving more than two (2) heats, shall be marked a second time to indicate their disqualification to run in subsequent heats.
3. All dogs must each wear I.D. tags on the collar with owner(s) telephone number.

F. SIZE OF TEAM

1. A Limited Eight-Dog Class Team shall start with no less than eight (8) dogs and not less than six (6) dogs, and finish with no less than four (4) dogs.
2. A Limited Six-Dog Class Team shall start with no less than six (6) dogs and not less than four (4) dogs, and finish with no less than three (3) dogs.
3. A Limited Four-Dog Class Team shall start with no less than eight (4) dogs and not less than three (3) dogs, and finish with no less than three (3) dogs.
4. A Limited Three-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than three (3) dogs and not less than two (2) dogs.

5. A Limited 1-Dog Class Team shall consist of one (1) dog up to and including 1 mile.
6. After the first heat and each subsequent heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of the team, subject to class minimum.

G. TEMPERATURE

1. If the temperature reaches 70 degrees Fahrenheit at any time prior to or during the race, the classes not yet run shall be cancelled for that day.
2. If, at the discretion of a Race Official, the heat index has reached a high that would be detrimental to the health of the dogs, the classes not yet run shall be cancelled for that day.
3. Rain, on the day of the event, cancels the event.

H. MEDICATIONS ADMINISTERED TO DOGS

1. Dogs on prescriptive medications must have verification from a veterinarian.
2. Any substance which may affect the performance of the dog(s) is prohibited.

II. EQUIPMENT

A. INSPECTION

1. Drivers, teams and equipment shall be ready for inspection in the staging area at check-in time.
2. A team in harness must be on deck no later than two (2) minutes before the scheduled time of departure.
3. Inspection shall take place in an area that does not interfere with teams in the start or finish chutes.
4. A team shall be available for inspection after each heat at the request of a Race Official.
5. All equipment is subject to the approval of a Race Official.

B. HARNESSSES AND LINES

1. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.
2. All dogs shall be fastened to the tug line by a neck line and tail line with the exception of the leader(s), which shall be harnessed in the team by a tail line. Double leads shall have necklines.
3. A snub line must be carried on the gig to use as a tie down to hold the gig or as a safety line attached to the harness.

C. WHEELED GIGS

1. Shall have a platform and be equipped with a dog bag capable of safely restraining a struggling dog and if necessary, covering a severely injured or dead dog. This rule will be for races at or over three (3) miles.
2. Shall have an adequate locking brake system.
3. May have three or four wheels but shall be capable of being driven and controlled by a single driver, but with harness as in "B2" above.
4. Shall be equipped with a manual steering mechanism.
5. Shall not exceed sixty-four inches (64") overall width.
6. Saco-type races could be held separately in the future.

D. EQUIPMENT NOT ALLOWED

1. A muzzle or pinch or any collar that can be hooked as a full choke shall be prohibited.
2. No whips may be used. Voice or hand commands only.

3. Leashes attached to collar while racing shall be prohibited.

E. REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

1. Megawhistle or air horn, to use in emergency.
2. Sled bag with the following items:
 - Spare snaps, lines and harnesses (may substitute weight pull harness if nothing else)
 - Poop bags
 - Extra gloves
 - Pocket knife
 - Pliers and screw driver
 - First aid kit for human and animal
 - Snub line
 - Matches
 - Flashlight or headlamp
 - Person Id with telephone number
 - Water and bowl(s)
 - Map (if provided)
 - Helmets for dry land racing only

START – FINISH RULES

I. Starting Positions

- A. The starting position of the race will be determined by draw.*
- B. The order of the start may be modified, if approved by the Race Marshals.*
- C. In a two-day race, the second day's starting position shall be determined by the first day's times, with the fastest teams starting first, the second fastest teams second, and so on.*
- D. In a two-day race, if the times for those two teams are identical, the order of start for the two teams shall be in reverse order in which they started the day before.*

II. Starting Point and Time

- A. The front wheel of the gig, or the brush guard of a sled, shall determine the starting point of the team.*
- B. Entrants must listen for their name and respond immediately.*
- C. Trail time for all teams shall begin at the originally scheduled time of departure.*
- D. Teams that fail to start at the scheduled time shall be called a "late starting team".*
 - 1. This team shall not be allowed to start until after the last team entered in its class has started and after the prescribed starting interval.*
 - 2. A late starting team shall not interfere with any other team.*
 - 3. If more than one team is late, the teams shall start in the original order.*
 - 4. If a team is late a second time, that team shall be disqualified.*
- E. A team not clearing the starting chute (100 ft. min) prior to the scheduled start of the next team may be disqualified.*

III. Assistance at the Starting Point

- A. The amount and type of assistance in the starting chute shall be determined and announced by the Race Marshals prior to the start of the first entrant.*
- B. Once a team is beyond the starting line in an official start, all Trail Rules apply.*

IV. Finish

- A. A team shall have finished the heat when the first dog on that team crosses the finish line.*
- B. If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of the driver, that team shall have finished when the driver reaches the finish line.*
- C. In the case of exact time ties, places will be determined by a coin toss per position. (Exception: Cash prizes will be divided equally.)*

TRAIL RULES

I. Following the Trail

- A. A team and driver shall race the entire course as established by the race-giving organization.
 - 1. The course shall be of a suitable surface, avoiding such surfaces as concrete and sharp rock gravel.
 - 2. Black top trails may be used for short races up to two (2) miles.
- B. If a team leaves the trail, the driver shall return the team to the point at which they left the trail.
- C. The trail shall be followed as marked:
 - 1. "Right Turn" shall be indicated by a red marker on the right side of the trail.
 - 2. "Left Turn" shall be indicated by a red marker on the left side of the trail.
 - 3. "Straight Ahead" shall be indicated by blue markers.
 - 4. "Caution" shall be indicated by yellow or orange markers.
 - 5. A "1/2 Mile" marker shall be placed one-half mile from the finish line to indicate the start of the "No-right-of-way Zone".

II.

- A. A driver may ride the gig, pedal, or run as wished.
- B. Any driver accepting a ride during the race on any vehicle other than his/her gig shall be disqualified.
- C. A driver shall not interfere with a competing team.
- D. All dogs starting a heat shall complete the entire course, either hitched in the team or carried on the gig.
- E. A dog becoming unfit after departure shall be carried on the gig.
- F. Carrying a passenger at any time during the race shall be prohibited unless:
 - 1. Called for in the conditions of the race.
 - 2. Giving a ride to a driver in an emergency situation.

III. Assistance on the Trail

- A. All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorized by the Race Marshals.
- B. Drivers running the same heat may assist each other in any manner authorized by the Race Marshals.
- C. Handler assistance shall be limited to holding the gig, except in the case of a loose team, or a team so unmanageable as to create a clear and present danger to themselves, other teams, or persons.

- D. No one shall assist a team by willfully pacing it.

IV. Loose Teams and Dogs

- A. A loose team or dog(s) shall not delay or interfere with another team.
- B. The driver shall overtake a loose team or dog on foot.
- C. A loose team or dog may resume the trail without penalty provided the team/dog has completed the entire trail and the driver has received only authorized outside assistance.
 - 1. Authorized outside assistance is limited to holding a loose team or dog once it has been stopped.
 - 2. Any qualified person(s) may (and is encouraged to) stop and hold a loose team or dog.

V. Right of Way

- A. When teams are passing on a single trail:
 - 1. The team traveling downhill shall have the right of way.
 - 2. On level terrain, the Race Marshals shall determine and announce, prior to the start of the race, whether the in-coming or out-going team has the right of way.
- B. In the one-half (1/2) mile “no right-of-way zone”, no team shall have the right of way over a finishing team.

VI. Passing

- A. When one team driver intends to pass another team, the passing team driver may request the right of way when the lead dog(s) come within fifty (50) feet of the gig of the over-taken team.
- B. The passing driver must yell “TRAIL!” as loudly as possible.
- C. The overtaken team shall make way for the passing team.

CONDUCT

I. Responsibility and Sportsmanship

A. All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handler and themselves whenever in the race area or on the trail.

B. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshals determine that driver/handler, or team conduct at any time in the race area is detrimental to the sport/race, that team shall be disqualified.

II. Abuse of Dogs

A. Abuse of a dog, with or without an implement, shall be prohibited.

B. No whips are allowed at Gateway Sled Dog Club races.

RULES VIOLATIONS

I. Reports by Race Officials

A. Race officials shall report overt rule violations to the Chief Marshal verbally, in person or by radio, immediately or directly following the heat in which the violation occurred.

B. The Marshals shall act, at their discretion, on any overt violations witnessed and reported to race officials.

II. Reports by Race Contestants

A. Drivers wishing to report an alleged violation of the rules by another contestant shall notify a Race Marshal immediately following the heat in which the incident occurred. Notification may be verbal.

B. All verbal driver reports shall be followed with a written report, given to the Chief Marshal within one (1) hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred.

III. Protests and Hearings

A. Any driver or race official implicated in a report of an alleged violation of the rules may make a protest and request a hearing before the Race Marshals.

B. Said hearing shall be granted by the Race Marshals.

IV. Violation of any Race Rule

A. The Race Marshals shall either issue a verbal warning to the driver or disqualify the driver and team from the race.

- 1. No other disciplinary action shall be imposed.**
- 2. Any action shall be made prior to the awards ceremony.**
- 3. The decisions of the Race Marshals shall be final.**