

Junior Yukon Quest

2012 RULES

Official Race Rules for the 10th Junior Yukon Quest Sled Dog Race

English is the official language of the Junior Yukon Quest Sled Dog Race; dollar amounts are in US currency.

The purpose of the Junior Yukon Quest is to provide an educational, cooperative, yet competitive distance mushing experience for the Junior Musher.

GENERAL RACE PROCEDURE

1. Race Start – Date / Time / Place / Weather:

The Official starting date and time for the 2012 race will be March 10, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. The Official starting place will be Fairbanks and the race will be held as scheduled unless otherwise designated by the Junior Yukon Quest race officials. The race distance is approximately 130 miles.

2. Entry Fee, Dates, Limits:

A MINIMUM OF 5 MUSHERS MUST BE SIGNED UP BY THE DEADLINE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012 OR THE RACE WILL NOT BE HELD. The entry fee is \$50.00 (fifty dollars) payable until the close of entry DEADLINE. Entry applications must be received by the Yukon Quest office (Alaska) or postmarked no later than February 24, 2012. Late entries will be accepted with an additional fee of \$50 US (total \$100), by 5:00 p.m. in the Yukon Quest office only through Monday, March 5, 2012. Any entry received otherwise will be returned and the musher will not be permitted to participate in the 2012 Junior Yukon Quest. Receipt of the entry fee and required paperwork will constitute the musher's intent to enter the race and further acknowledge the musher agrees to comply with every rule as written and/or interpreted by Race Officials. **THE JUNIOR YUKON QUEST RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY ENTRY.** The entry fee includes distribution of required food and supplies to the half way checkpoint and 1 (one) ticket to the Junior Yukon Quest awards banquet.

a. Conditions of Entry:

- All mushers must submit required paperwork and other material by **close of business or postmarked**, Friday, February 24, 2012 Required paperwork includes:
 1. Musher's application
 2. Biography
 3. Contact information (including local contact) and Medical treatment permission.
 4. Sponsor list (if you have sponsors)
 5. Birth certificate (a photocopy is acceptable)
 6. Veterinary Form (provided by Yukon Quest to bring to Pre-race Veterinary Check-up)
 7. Current photo

- Age
 1. All drivers must be a minimum of fourteen (14) and a maximum of seventeen (17) years of age the day the race begins.
 2. PROOF OF AGE MUST BE IN THE FORM OF A BIRTH CERTIFICATE. (A photocopy is acceptable.)

b. One Musher per Team and Substitutes:

Only one musher will be permitted per team and musher must complete the race with that team only. If the signed up musher should become ill, a replacement may be substituted only before the mushers meeting and with the Junior Yukon Quest committee approval.

3. Withdrawal Before Race:

An entrant withdrawing for any reason on or before 9:00 a.m. March 9, 2012 will be refunded the entry fee. The withdrawal WILL be in writing.

4. Checkpoints:

The course covers approximately 130 miles through northern, interior, boreal forest on river and woodland trails to the halfway checkpoint at Twin Bears Camp on Chena Hot Springs Road in the Chena River State Recreation Area, returning by the same route on the following day.

Checkpoints – CKP / Dogdrops - DD

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| 1. Fairbanks-CKP-START | 6. Pleasant Valley Store-DD |
| 2. Nordale Road Bridge-DD | 7. North Pole-inbound-CKP (4-hr layover) |
| 3. North Pole-outbound-DD | 8. Nordale Road Bridge_DD |
| 4. Pleasant Valley Store-DD | 9. Fairbanks-CKP-FINISH |
| 5. Twin Bears Camp-CKP (8-hour layover) | |

5. Promotional Material:

No musher will be permitted to carry promotional material over the trail unless first receiving the permission of the Junior Yukon Quest committee. Requests must be made in writing and will not be considered for anything over five (5) pounds.

6. Shipping of Food and Gear:

All mushers' food, supplies and dog food must be delivered to the designated food drop on Friday, March 9, 2012. The Junior Yukon Quest will receive and care for these supplies until they reach the layover checkpoint.

- Each musher will be allowed two (2) bags which will be kept frozen prior to delivery to checkpoint.
- Individual bag weight will not exceed 50 pounds. NO exceptions without prior arrangement.
- All items to be shipped MUST be in tough bags tied with strong rope, zip ties, duct tape or otherwise secured.

Allowable items to be shipped to the halfway point include only dog food, minimum of two (2) pounds per dog, human food, dog booties, extra clothing items and/or mushing-related gear. NOTHING ELSE MAY BE SHIPPED TO THE TWIN BEARS CHECK POINT. Mushers will supply their own and their dogs' food along the trail. All items to be shipped MUST be clearly marked with first and last name of the driver. All items shipped or carried to the layover points that are not used or carried back by the driver or handler, become property of the Junior Yukon Quest Committee. In addition, a time penalty will be imposed if all items are not taken by the driver or handler. Straw will be available at the halfway checkpoint and at the North Pole layover.

7. Dropped Dogs:

All dogs dropped must be picked up by a designated dog handler.

8. Race Marshal and Race Veterinarian:

The race marshal and the official veterinarian will have absolute authority over the dog teams. Their judgment as to withdrawal of a dog or dogs from the race or any other condition relative to dog care on the trail shall be FINAL.

9. Pre-race Examination:

All dogs will undergo a thorough physical examination at the scheduled pre-race examination sponsored by the Junior Yukon Quest and held in conjunction with the food drop in Fairbanks on Friday, March 9, 2012. A dog which cannot qualify for a certificate of good health will not run in the race. All dogs must have a current rabies vaccination; certificates and invoices will be required to prove vaccination status. Rabies vaccinations must have been given no later than February 8, 2012. All dogs must have current distemper and parvo vaccines. The distemper parvo vaccine must have been administered between the dates of March 9, 2011 and March 9, 2012. Verification will be made by the examining veterinarian. Proof of distemper parvo can be in the form of a detailed receipt. It is imperative that a handler is with the team at all times during the examination.

10. Musher's Meeting and Drawing:

The mandatory musher's meeting will be in Fairbanks at a location and time to be announced. **Failure to attend this meeting will prohibit the musher from participating in the race.** Starting positions will be drawn at this time and a discussion of rules and trail will take place. Failure to appear prior to the start of the meeting (i.e., arriving late) will result in a time penalty to be determined by race officials. **All mushers must draw his/her own starting number.**

11. Trophies and Prizes:

First through third place trophies, a lantern for last place, and participation trophies for the remainder of the mushers will be awarded at the Junior Yukon Quest awards banquet. Special awards to be given are Sportsmanship Award (determined by fellow mushers) and Humanitarian award (determined by the head veterinarian). Prizes will be awarded according to donations.

12. Sled:

Each musher has a choice of his/her own sled, subject to the condition that some kind of sled or toboggan equipped with a brake, a snow hook, brush bow, sled bag and handle bar must be drawn. The sled or toboggan must be capable of safely negotiating the trail and of hauling any injured or fatigued dogs and the required food, materials and equipment. Tail-draggers may be removed at any Checkpoint but may only be attached at the start line. The design is the musher's option. All sleds will be NO shorter than four (4) feet of useable basket. This does not include the turn-up out to the brush bow. Start Order Numbers will be displayed on bib banners secured to the front of the sled bag. Musher's must provide snub line to secure the front of the gangline at Twin Bears camp.

13. Clearing the Trail:

Musher's setting up camp must clear the trail of their dogs and gear and select a campsite far enough off the trail so that the dogs cannot swing into the trail at any time.

14. Trail Etiquette:

Litter of any kind may not be left along the trail or at any campsites. Camps must be cleaned up before moving on down the trail. THE TRAIL WILL BE KEPT CLEAN! Twin Bears checkpoint will be inspected prior to any musher's departure and before the Handlers come in to clear up after the team. Be aware YOUR DEPARTURE TIME MAY BE DELAYED IF YOUR CAMPSITE IS NOT CLEAN! Refuse found belonging to a musher after departure or on the trail may result in a time penalty at the finish line or disqualification in severe cases. The trail is a public trail and continued use of it depends upon compliance with this policy. This means trash and gear must be cleaned up, also waste, dog food and human food. Food left in the trail can cause problems for a fellow musher's team.

15. Awards Presentation:

The awards presentation ceremony shall be held at 5:00, the evening of March 11, 2012. (The location will be announced.) All musher's who have crossed the finish line at the time of the banquet must be present at the awards ceremony. NO EXCEPTIONS.

16. Claims:

Each musher shall sign any and all documents as may be required by the Junior Yukon Quest. Parents and/or legal guardian(s) must also agree to sign any required documents. If any musher or parent / legal guardian(s) refuses to sign the documents requested by the Junior Yukon Quest, the musher will not be permitted to participate in the race.

17. Protest:

To be recognized as a legitimate protest, any infraction observed by a musher must be protested, in writing, at the next checkpoint, at the latest the finish line and/or at least two (2) hours before the awards are given out at the banquet.

18. Censure:

The Junior Yukon Quest may censure a musher for cause, prohibiting a musher from entering future races. The musher so involved may request an informal hearing before the Junior Yukon Quest Race Committee. Such requests shall be granted and the hearing shall be held within thirty (30) days of the request.

19. Race Officials:

The RACE MARSHAL is in charge of all aspects of the race from the pre-race veterinary examination and musher's meetings to the awards presentation. Race Judges will act as deputies of the Race Marshal. The intent of the rules will guide the Race Marshal and Race Judges in their decisions. The Race Marshal may waive or reduce penalties for unforeseen calamities that may befall a driver. The Race Marshal or a Race Judge in conjunction with the Race Veterinarians shall have final authority to remove a dog from the race for medical or other reasons. Race Veterinarians are present throughout the race to monitor the health and welfare of all dogs, advise drivers in caring for their dogs' medical needs, and provide veterinary treatment for dropped dogs, if necessary.

20. Parents, Handlers, and/or Visitors:

All parents, handlers, and/or visitors planning to go to any checkpoint must provide their own transportation and housing. A Junior Yukon Quest race official must be present during any / all conversations between mushers and their handler / parents. NO alcohol or drugs will be permitted in any of the checkpoints. Parents, handlers and/or visitors at the checkpoints may not aid, handle or enter the mushers' area at a layover checkpoint. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE MUSER TO INFORM ALL HIS / HER FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND HANDLERS OF THIS RULE. FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OR PENALTY TO THE MUSER.

TRAIL PROCEDURE

1. Sportsmanship:

All mushers will conduct themselves in a civil and sportsman like manner before, during and after the racing event so long as it might reflect on the Junior Yukon Quest race. A musher's conduct is a direct reflection on the Junior Yukon Quest and the public reputation of the event, so be Ambassadors of your sport.

2. Common Start/Late Start:

For elapsed time purposes the race will be a common start event. Each musher's elapsed time between the starting line and the halfway point and back to the start/finish line will be calculated using 11:00 on March 10, 2012 as the starting time. It is the musher's responsibility to be at the starting line at the appropriate time. Any team that cannot leave the starting line in the order of the draw will be started after the leaving time of the last musher, leaving at three (3) minute intervals. If the musher is unable to leave at least one (1) minute before the next musher's start time, that musher must wait until three (3) minutes after all mushers have started in the order of their draw. Any team that cannot leave the starting line within thirty (30) minutes of the last team's departure will be disqualified. All mushers must be present one (1) hour before the race start. All sleds must be checked one half (1/2) hour before the race start. Failure to comply will result in starting late.

3. Competitiveness:

The race marshal shall have the authority to withdraw a team that is out of the competition and is no longer making a valid effort to compete, i.e. camping on the return trip.

4. Dogs:

Mushers must start the race with no less than seven (7) dogs and no more than ten (10) dogs and must finish the race with no less than five (5) dogs on the towline. (It is the intent of this rule that no dogs shall be loose. They will be on the towline or snapped securely into the sled and not led behind, beside or out of the sled in any fashion.)

Switching of dogs between mushers will not be permitted after the teams have completed the mandatory veterinary exam.

There will be no cruel, inhumane or inappropriate treatment of dogs. Decision of the Race Marshal, acting in conjunction with the race veterinarians, shall be final.

5. Care and Feeding of Dogs:

All care and feeding of dogs between checkpoints will be done by the mushers ONLY. Only mushers may assist one another between checkpoints. Additionally, no planned help or a prearranged buddy system at the checkpoint or any planned time throughout the race is allowed. Incidental help at the checkpoints may be given by RACE OFFICIALS AND CHECKERS. At non-checkpoints, a musher may accept hospitality for him/herself only. No force feeding or watering of the dogs will be allowed.

6. Hauling Dogs:

A musher may not allow any of his/her dogs to be hauled by another team. A musher's dogs hauled in his own sled must be contained within the sled bag and secured, in a humane fashion.

7. Unmanageable Teams:

Outside assistance will be allowed only if a team is unmanageable. (Whether a team is unmanageable will be ruled upon by the Race Officials in each separate instance.)

Loose Leaders - There will be no loose leaders. All other dogs will be fastened in the team or properly secured in the sled. All dogs must have necklines (except for the lead dog(s), and must be attached to the main towline.

8. Marking/Tagging of Dogs:

All teams leaving the starting line must be marked and /or tagged with the official tags/markers provided by the Junior Yukon Quest.

9. Harnesses and Gangline:

The neck and breast panel of all harnesses must be padded. Cable down the main towline is mandatory, but anyplace else is PROHIBITED! No chain or cable may be used in collars, tug lines or necklines. Six (6) square inches of reflector tape must be visible on each harness. If a dog coat is used over the harness, six (6) square inches of reflector tape must be visible on the dog coat.

10. Teams Tied Together:

Two or more teams may not, in any way, be tied together except to assist another musher in trouble at some immediate location. Any teams so involved must notify officials at the next checkpoint along the trail. (It is the intent of this rule that a musher will not be penalized for helping another musher in imminent danger.)

All injured, fatigued or sick dogs that are dropped must be dropped at a designated dog drop. The Junior Yukon Quest will NOT supply stake out chains or cables for dropped dogs. It will be the responsibility of the mushers to have their handlers pick up any dropped dogs.

Any dog that expires (dies) on the trail for ANY REASON must be taken to the next checkpoint. If it is to the musher's advantage time wise, the expired dog may be taken back to the checkpoint just passed. A necropsy shall be performed on all expired dogs by a Junior Yukon Quest Veterinarian and the results reported to the Junior Yukon Quest. If the race officials determine the dog died as a result of cruel, inhumane or inappropriate treatment while competing in the Junior Yukon Quest, the musher will automatically be disqualified.

11. Tampering:

No musher may, without permission, handle another musher's dogs, food, or gear.

12. Outside Assistance:

No musher may receive outside assistance unless an emergency is declared by the Race Officials, or subsequently so ruled. This includes verbal assistance. No two-way communications devices are allowed.

13. Firearms:

NO firearms of any type may be carried by the musher on his/her person, in his/her sled bag or gear. ANY infraction of this rule will result in disqualification and possible banning from competing in future Junior Yukon Quest races.

14. Tying of a Musher to the Sled:

NO tying of the musher to his/her sled in any manner. There may be no apparatus on the handle bar or any place on the sled that may be used to tie the musher to his/her sled. Any infraction of this rule will result in disqualification.

15. Mandatory Gear:

Every musher must have in his/her possession at all times, the following items:

1. Emergency Food – 1 day's ration per dog (minimum 1 pound each or equivalent freeze dried w/adequate fuel for melting snow in sled.
2. Proper cold weather sleeping bag.
3. Proper cold weather clothes and boots.
4. One pair snowshoes (not collapsible) with bindings, each at least 28" long and 9" wide.
5. One head lamp and an alternate battery powered light.
6. Eight (8) booties for each dog either in use or in the sled.
7. Restraint to hold a dog(s) in the sled bag securely.
8. Matches or a lighter to start a fire.
9. Dog food cooker (approved by the Race Marshal).
10. Adequate fuel.
11. Hand Ax with an overall length of at least twenty-two (22) inches/56 centimeters.
12. Vet Bag (provided by JYQ) with record book.
13. (Promotional material if requested by the Junior Yukon Quest committee)

If a musher loses a required article of gear between checkpoints, he/she cannot sign in at the next checkpoint until the lost item is replaced and a time penalty assessed. (It is the intent of this rule that mushers have these items in their possession at all times. However, in the event of accidental or unavoidable loss along the trail, the musher will be allowed to replace the missing item(s) at the next checkpoint BEFORE CHECKING IN.)

16. Mandatory Layovers:

There will be a mandatory 8-hour layover at the halfway point at Twin Bears and a 4-hour mandatory layover at the North Pole Checkpoint on the return leg. The Race Marshal, assisting the timekeeper, will set a restart time based on each musher's arrival. A musher is not officially checked in until he/she has accounted for all required gear for the checker. Any musher not reaching the layover point within five (5) hours after the first musher arrives at the half way point may not be permitted to finish the race. (Adjustment to this time requirement may be made by the Race Marshall in conjunction with Race Officials.)

During the mandatory stops a Junior Yukon Quest veterinarian will check each team. During this time drivers will be expected to tend to their dogs and sled on their own. Dog teams will be staked out in a designated area. The gangline may be used to stake the team.

NO parents, guardians, or handlers will be allowed in the holding area. Drivers must remain in the camp for the duration of the layover. After each driver leaves the checkpoint, the handlers will be required to pick up and clean the area. Any gear, food, or garbage left must be bagged and stacked neatly by the musher for the handler to pick up.

It is the musher's responsibility to be at the start line when his/her layover is finished. The musher's time begins at the designated time and continues whether he/she is on the trail or not.

Specifications for performance at the North Pole layover will be provided by the Race Marshal at Twin Bears in a Musher's Meeting.

17. Pacing:

Pacing will not be permitted in any way.

18. Lost Team:

In the case of a lost team, the team will not be disqualified if the driver regains control of the team, provided that the team and driver complete the entire race trail and comply with the rules including checkpoint requirements. All teams must follow the trail as marked. (As long as the team and driver continue on the trail when separated, the driver may continue on when regaining control.) Musers may receive assistance from another musher in recovering their team. It is the intent of this rule that all teams follow the trail(s) as marked. If a driver goes off the trail he/she may continue the race if he/she returns to the trail at the point in which he/she left the trail and continues on from there. **Only in case of an emergency will a musher accept assistance from any type of motorized vehicle for him/herself or his/her team.** Withdrawal or disqualification will be the result of this action.

19. Drugs and the Dogs:

No injectable, oral, or topical drugs, which may suppress the signs of illness or injury, may be carried or used by the musher. The Junior Yukon Quest race veterinarians shall have the authority to collect blood or urine samples at any random point prior to the race, commencing at the official Junior Yukon Quest veterinary check, March 9, 2012, and at any time after the official starting of the race. The Junior Yukon Quest veterinarian also has the authority to collect blood and/or urine samples within three (3) hours after the finish of each team. It will be the musher's responsibility to assist the race veterinarian in collecting these samples. It will be at the veterinarian's discretion as to whether blood and urine samples will be drawn prior to, during or after the race. Injections may be administered by a race veterinarian only. THE JUNIOR YUKON QUEST MAY SCREEN FOR DRUG ABUSE. The following drugs are prohibited:

1. Analgesics (pain relievers) prescriptive or non prescriptive
2. Anti-inflammatory drugs including corticosteroids, anti-prostaglandins, salicylates, and DMSO. THE EXCEPTION TO THIS RULE WILL BE THE USE OF TOPICAL STEROIDS FOR USE IN TOPICAL FOOT OINTMENT.
3. Nervous systems stimulants
4. Cough suppressants
5. Diuretics
6. Muscle relaxants
7. Antihistamines
8. Diet pills

It is the intent of this rule that NO drugs or other artificial means be used to drive a dog beyond its natural ability. A musher must have his/her team free of these prohibited drugs at the time of the vet check and during the race. If, in view of a race veterinarian, it is necessary to use one of these drugs for the dog's well being, that dog will be dropped from the race.

20. Drugs and the Musher:

No musher will use any illegal drugs during the race.

21. Passing:

Standard race courtesy shall prevail. An overtaken driver and team must relinquish the trail at the request of the overtaking driver, except within one (1) mile of the finish line. The driver ahead must stop his/her dogs and hold them to the best of his/her ability until the other team has passed. The overtaken team must remain at least 50 feet behind for at least ten (10) minutes before demanding the trail. Ski poles may not be used within 100 yards of another team.

22. Finish:

The nose of the first dog crossing the finish line shall determine an official finish.

23. Disqualification and Penalties:

Failure to adhere to the published rules shall result in disqualification, censure or time penalties. This will be the responsibility of the Race Marshal. A disqualified musher will FORFEIT all placements and prizes.