

# Yukon Quest 300 Yukon 2022 RULES

**Official Race Rules for the 2022 YQ300 Yukon Sled Dog Race**  
As adopted by Yukon Quest International Association (CND) on August 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

**English is the official language of the YQ300 Sled Dog Race**  
**All dollar amounts are in Canadian currency**

This race is proposed to be an educational, cooperative, yet competitive, adventure for experienced dog mushers and those wishing to gain experience for a long distance race.

**CODE OF THE TRAIL:** Competitive efforts in the spirit of the Yukon Quest are only valid if dog care is implemented at the highest level. A dog musher recognizes and accepts that honor on the trail is only achieved through the constant respect and care for the dogs. It is on this the mushers will be judged.

## **GENERAL RACE PROCEDURE**

### **1. Race Start:**

The official starting date for the 2022 Yukon Quest (Yukon) race will be **Saturday, February 19, 2022** at 3:00 p.m. local time. The official starting place will be Whitehorse, Yukon unless otherwise designated by Yukon Quest International (hereinafter referred to as YQI). Any changes to this rule may be made by the YQ300 Race Marshal with approval from the YQI Rules Committee. The race will be held as scheduled, regardless of weather conditions.

### **2. Entry Fee, Dates, Limits:**

2022 YQ300 entry opens Saturday August 21st, 2021. **Receipt of the \$500 CDN non-refundable entry fee, completed application form, completed musher's profile, completed Code of Conduct form, and musher photo (minimum 1 MB) will constitute the musher's intent to enter the race, and further acknowledges that the musher understands and agrees to comply with each and every Rule as stated.** YQI reserves the right to reject any entry.

- Entries are determined on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The entry fee will be \$ 600 from January 19th, 2022 on.
- Entries close at 3:00 p.m. local time February 12th, 2022.
- To accommodate possible COVID Interruptions entry fees will be refunded if the race is cancelled prior to the start of the race due to COVID Regulations.
- Any Musher and Handler must abide by current Yukon Territory COVID Rules.

- An entry fee will be refunded if a musher is not able to enter the Yukon (Canada) because of border crossing restrictions related to COVID-19.
- An entry fee refund will be granted if a musher tests positive for COVID-19 prior to the start of the race. If any entered musher tests positive for COVID-19 and is then verifiably recovered, they will remain eligible to compete.
- An entry fee is eligible for a refund if anyone cohabitating with an entered musher tests positive for COVID-19 prior to the start of 2022 race.

**The maximum number of teams for the race is 25.** Once the maximum of 25 is reached, a waiting list will be established on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**a) Conditions of Entry:**

- All mushers entered in the race must be members in good standing of YQI.
- Kennel entries must name a musher to enter. Mushers may be changed or entries may be transferred to another kennel for a fee of \$100.
- Kennel transfers and musher changes for non-medical reasons are not allowed after 25 teams have entered or after February 12th, 2022 (last day of signup).
- Mushers must be a minimum of 18 years of age by the start of the race.
- All applicants will have their applications to enter the YQ300 reviewed by the YQI Rules Committee.
- **YQI will honor censures from the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.** Censures from other sled dog racing organizations may be honored. **Entry will not be accepted until unpaid fines and bills to YQI are paid.**
- **No one convicted of animal abuse or neglect may enter the YQ300.**

**b) Each musher shall sign any and all documents or promotional material requested by YQI prior to or at the Mushers' Meeting. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.**

**c) Substitution of Mushers for Medical Reasons:**

Substitution of mushers for unforeseen medical reasons will be permitted up to the start of the Pre-Race mushers' meeting, upon approval of the YQI Rules Committee and payment of a \$100 fee. **Substitute mushers must meet all YQI musher qualifications.**

- To qualify for the waiting list, the official entry form must be completed, and the waiting list fee of \$500 paid (\$ 600 after January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022), of which \$100 is non-refundable if the musher withdraws from the waiting list.

- The waiting list fee of \$500 paid (\$ 600 after January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022) will be fully refunded should a musher on the waiting list not make the entry list.
- If a musher withdraws from the race, the name at the top of the waiting list will be moved up to the entry list.
- The slot will be held open for no more than 5 business days after notification, up to February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- If a musher chooses to Downgrade their entry to the 100 Mile Race to Braeburn, they can do so until the Musher's Meeting on Friday February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. No difference in Entry fee will be reimbursed.

**d) Withdrawal Before Race:**

An entrant withdrawing for any reason will forfeit the entire entry fee.

**3. Course and Checkpoints:**

The course covers approximately 300 miles/500 kilometers of mostly Arctic wilderness. The trail will be broken and marked prior to the race, but due to weather conditions there will be no guarantee of broken trail during the race.

**Official Checkpoints are as follows:**

1. Braeburn
2. Carmacks
3. Pelly.

**There are 4 Time Stations:**

1. TS1 on Dawson Trail (non-road accessible 32 miles past the start, possibly announce different location closer to the half way point upon commencing with trail work in December 2021).
2. TS2 at Mandana Lake (non-road accessible 53 miles past Braeburn).
3. McCabe Creek which is also a dog drop.
4. Stepping Stone (non-road accessible).

**4. Food / Equipment Shipment:**

All food and equipment shipped to checkpoints for the race must be in CLOTH BURLAP BAGS OR WOVEN POLY-BAGS, PERMANENTLY MARKED WITH MUSER NAME.

- There is no Yukon Quest organized Food Drop date.
- Food Drop is to be delivered by the Handlers to the designated drop off in each of the 3 Checkpoints of Braeburn, Carmacks and Pelly.

- The food drop is to be dropped off before the Musher's arrival.
- The Yukon Quest will provide 1 Bale of Straw per Team in each of the 3 Checkpoints. Extra Straw is to be provided by the Musher's handlers.
- Musher to supply their own HEET in separate containers from Food Drop bags for all Checkpoints (Braeburn, Carmacks, Pelly).

#### **5. Promotional Material and Events:**

YQI may require a small amount of promotional freight as part of the mandatory load. Promotional material must be turned in to a race official at the completion of the race, or when scratching, withdrawn, or disqualified.

The following events are mandatory:

1. Musher's and Handlers' meeting
2. Meet the Musher's event pre-Race
3. Finish and Awards Banquet (optional, but strongly recommended for non-finishers)

#### **6. Shipping Dropped Dogs:**

Musher's will be responsible for all dogs dropped at checkpoints or dog drops.

#### **7. Race Officials (Race Marshal and Race Judges) and Race Veterinarians:**

The intent of the rules will guide the Race Marshal and Race Judges in their decisions. ***The RACE MARSHAL is in charge of all aspects of the race*** from the pre-race musher's meeting to the Finish Banquet or until the last team has crossed the finish line. Race Judges will act as deputies of the Race Marshal.

#### **The Race Marshal may waive or reduce monetary or time penalties for unforeseen circumstances that may befall a musher.**

The Race Marshal or a Race Judge in conjunction with a Race Veterinarian shall have final authority to remove a dog(s) 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 musher's in caring for their dogs' medical needs, and provide veterinary treatment for dropped dogs, if necessary.

#### **8. Vet Check:**

All dogs will undergo a thorough physical examination before the race starts. Any dog which cannot qualify for a certificate of good health will not run in the race. All examinations must be done the day prior to the start of the race. All teams attending the Vet Check will have the entered musher present. Vet Check date is Friday February 18th, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. till completion.

## Vaccine requirements:

- Combination Vaccine that includes, but is not limited to, **Parvovirus** and **Distemper** between **March 2, 2021** and **January 14, 2022**.
  - **Bordetella** (kennel cough) **intra-nasal or injectable** between **September 2, 2021** and **January 14, 2022**.
  - **Rabies Vaccine given no later than January 14, 2022.**
- ### Certifications and Records Requirements

- Rabies Certificates and Vaccine Records will be required to prove vaccination status.
  - **Dates of administration** of DAPP. Bordetella and Rabies Vaccines are required.
  - **Serial numbers** of the vaccines are required for those who self-vaccinate their dogs.
    - Save the stickers / serial numbers from the vaccine vials as proof.
- Those entrants who cannot participate in the official Vet Check cannot start the race.**

The official YQI health certificate must be presented prior to the start of the Pre-Race Musers' Meeting. **Failure to comply will result in disqualification.** The time and place of the Vet Check will be announced by YQI.

## 9. Musers' and Handlers' Meeting and Drawing:

All entrants and at least one handler from their team are required to attend the Musers' and Handlers' Meeting. Drivers meeting will be Friday February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. followed by Meet the Musers from 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.

**Failure to answer all roll calls in person will result in a \$50 fine.** The location of this meeting will be announced by YQI. Each musher will draw their starting position at a time and place to be announced by YQI.

## 10. Prize Money (CDN Currency):

The purse will consist of a minimum of \$35,000; breakdown is as follows:

1st 19% (\$6,650)	2nd 16% (\$5,600)
3rd 14% (\$4,900)	4th 12% (\$4,200)
5th 9% (\$3,150)	6th 8% (\$2,800)
7th 7% (\$2,450)	8th 6% (\$2,100)
9th 5% (\$1,750)	10th 4% (\$1,400)

### **11. Sled:**

Only one sled per musher will be used throughout the race. Each musher has a choice of sled, subject to the condition that some kind of sled or toboggan equipped with a brake must be drawn.

- The sled or toboggan must be capable of safely negotiating a 300 mile trail, and of hauling any injured or fatigued dogs and the required food, materials, and equipment.
- In the event of repairs, there must not be significant alteration of size or reduction in weight.
- Tail-draggers may be removed at any checkpoint, but may only be attached at the Start Line. If the tail-dragger is removed and remains in the musher's possession, it may be re-attached at any point.
- Help with sled repairs, that is available to all mushers, may be allowed with prior approval of the Race Marshal and/or Race Judge.
- On prior approval of the Race Marshal, a destroyed sled **may** be replaced by a comparable size and weight sled. A penalty may be assessed for such replacement.

### **12. Finish and Awards Banquet:**

The Finish and Awards Banquet will take place at a time and place to be announced by the YQI. All mushers who have crossed the finish line up to two hours before the ceremony will be present. An official finish is a prerequisite for receiving awards.

- **Mushers will receive 100 percent of their prize money at the Finish and Awards Banquet.**
- Those who do not attend the Finish and Awards Banquet will forfeit any prize money due their placing and the money will become property to the Yukon Quest

### **13. Claims:**

Each musher agrees that they are participating in the competitive event entirely upon their own initiative, risk and responsibility and will release, hold harmless and forever discharge YQI and their agents, officers, employees, sponsors and volunteers from any and all claims, demands, action or causes of action on account of themselves, their dogs and their support personnel which may occur from any cause during the YQ or any phase of the YQ, including scheduled events before or after the YQ, and emergency medical treatment or rescue. Each musher agrees to read, understand, sign, have notarized and submit to YQI the Musher Release and Hold Harmless Agreement before the start of the race.

Further, each musher grants YQI the unqualified and unrestricted right to use any and all written information, photographs, video tape or other visual media of the musher, dogs and their support personnel taken during the YQ or any phase of the YQ, including scheduled events before or after the YQ, for promotional, revenue generating and/or other purposes, without compensation of any kind and without the right to approve the media or its usage.

YQI includes Yukon Quest International Association (Yukon); Yukon Quest International, Ltd. (Alaska) as well as all of their agents, officers, employees, sponsors and volunteers.

#### **14. Musher's Report/Protest Form:**

The Yukon Quest will only survive if the competition is conducted fairly and the dogs are well cared for and humanely treated. **It is the duty of every musher to report all violations of these Rules to the Race Marshal or Race Judges.** The forms for reporting violations or protests are available from the Race Officials and at checkpoints. Any Musher's Report/Protest Forms must be submitted to a Race Official within 48 hours of the final team crossing the Finish Line.

#### **15. Censure and/or Fine and/or Penalty:**

In reference to action taken by the YQI Rules Committee, Race Marshal or Race Judges during the race, YQI may censure and/or fine and/or penalize a musher for cause, including prohibition from entering a future race or races. A musher so involved may appeal the decision of the YQI. Appeals must be presented in writing to the YQI Board of Directors within 30 days of the musher being notified of the censure, fine and/or penalty. YQI will appoint an Appeal Board to conduct an informal hearing to make a decision. The decision of the Appeal Board is final. If the YQI Appeal Board finds the decision should be set aside, the musher so involved understands and agrees that the maximum financial recovery shall be limited to the prize money for the finishing position that the musher so involved could realistically have attained but for the action taken. The musher so involved further agrees that this remedy shall be the sole and exclusive remedy. In no event shall the musher so involved be entitled to incidental or consequential damages as they are outside the sole and exclusive remedy above provided.

#### **16. Statutory Compliance:**

Any musher who violates a state, territorial, national or international law while in the race may be disqualified if convicted. Hand guns are not allowed in Canada.

### **TRAIL PROCEDURE**

**CODE OF THE TRAIL:** Competitive efforts in the spirit of the Yukon Quest are only valid if dog care is implemented at the highest level. A dog musher recognizes and accepts that honor on the trail is only achieved through the constant respect and care for the dogs. It is on this the mushers will be judged.

#### **17. Common Start/Late Start:**

Mushers must wear their Start Bib as they start the race. Failure to do so will result in a \$150 fine. Teams will leave the starting line at three-minute intervals. Any musher who cannot leave the starting line in the order drawn will be started after the scheduled departure time of the final team. Any team that cannot leave the starting line within 60 minutes of the last team's departure may be disqualified. The starting time differential will be compensated for during each team's mandatory 6 hour layover at Braeburn or Carmacks. For elapsed time purposes, therefore, the race will be a common-start event. Before the start of the race, YQI will give to each musher their total layover time at Braeburn or Carmacks. Layover time will not be changed in the event of a late start.

## **18. Gear and Equipment:**

a) Mandatory Gear when checking in AND out of a checkpoint, and when leaving the start line, and arriving at the finish line.

The following items must be presented to the checker before the Race Start and before checking in at each checkpoint including the Finish Line:

1. Proper cold weather sleeping bag.
2. Hand ax with an overall length of at least 22 inches/56 centimeters
3. One pair of adequate snowshoes with bindings, with a minimum area of approximately 250 square inches/1612 square centimeters each.
4. Veterinary records (loss will incur a \$ 50 fine.) The veterinary book must be returned to a Race Judge upon completion of the race or when a musher exits the race for any reason.
5. Any promotional material that YQI has asked the musher to carry. YQI may require one or two banners of up to 400 square inches / 2580 square centimeters be displayed on the sled as directed.
6. Functional cooker.

Mushers must have the above items in their possession at all times. If a musher loses a required article of gear between checkpoints, they cannot check in to the checkpoint until the item has been replaced.

The musher may obtain items from a store or person (public or private source) with the approval of the Race Marshal or Race Judge. Dogs are expected to be cared for and bedded down prior to replacing lost items.

A fine of \$50 will be assessed for each item missing, both when checking into checkpoints and at the finish line.

Items other than mandatory gear but also associated with the safety of dogs and mushers (sled brakes, mittens, etc.), may be replaced with the approval of the Race Marshal or Race Judge. A fine of \$50 will be assessed for each item replaced.

b) Mandatory Gear Required only when Leaving Checkpoints and the Start Line:

1. Eight booties per dog. Booties may be on the dogs and/or in the sled.
2. A minimum of 2 litres of cooker fuel, which is judged sufficient to boil 6 gallons (two cookers) of water.
3. Adequate food for all dogs remaining in the team must be carried when leaving a checkpoint.



Mushers will not be allowed to check out of a checkpoint or the start line until these items are in their sleds. If they must acquire these items from a source other than their drop bags, they will be assessed a \$50 fine per item.

#### c) Communication Devices

1. Personal Locator Beacons), SPOT, Satellite Emergency Notification Devices, etc. may be carried at the Musher's discretion. Activation of any such emergency beacon will constitute withdrawal from the race or will result in disqualification from the race.
2. GPS use is allowed.
3. Two Way Communication: Mushers may carry and use two-way communication devices. We cannot reasonably ensure enforcement of a ban on two-way communication. In order not to disadvantage mushers following the rule, we will not have the rule. There are also safety benefits to carrying two-way devices. And in certain situations having 2-way communication could benefit the race organization.

Carrying emergency food at all times, in addition to food for routine feeding and snacking, is strongly recommended. A map, compass, parka, human and canine first aid kits, flares, and dog blankets are also strongly recommended.

All mushers are expected to abide by these rules to ensure fair competition, and to demonstrate the honor and integrity which exemplifies the Yukon Quest.

#### **19. Checkpoint:**

##### **Check-in/Sign out:**

Each musher must personally check in and sign out at each checkpoint before going on. The time into the checkpoint is recorded upon the team's arrival and the required gear will be checked immediately.

- Any musher failing to sign out, or to leave within **60** minutes of signing out will be assessed a **\$50 penalty** or **a musher and team may return on the trail to a checkpoint to sign out without penalty.**
- The 60 minute rule may be extended with the approval of the Race Marshal or Judge.
- Teams may return to a checkpoint for additional rest and/or supplies (with the Race Marshal's or a Race Judge's approval) without penalty.  
**Race Veterinarians and mushers shall sign the vet book at all checkpoints. At checkpoints not requiring a mandatory vet check, the Race Marshal / Race Judge may sign the vet book if a Race Veterinarian is not present.**
- **Holding Area**  
Only one handler per team will be authorized to be in the holding area at any time to observe only or intervene in case of a dog emergency / distress. If the musher is in the holding area, the handler must leave.

- **Dogs Entering and Leaving Checkpoints:**  
All dogs must leave checkpoints in harness and attached to the tow line. A dog may arrive at a checkpoint in the sled and leave in harness attached to the tow line. Musher may not lead team out of a checkpoint.
- **Food and Equipment:**  
After the musher leaves a checkpoint, all litter and remaining supplies must be bagged by the handler. Straw collection procedure for each checkpoint will be determined by the Race Marshal or Race Judge. A handler with the approval of the Race Marshal or a Race Judge may collect supplies remaining after a musher has left a checkpoint. Any items not retrieved become the property of YQI.

## **20. Mandatory Stops:**

There are 32 hours of floating mandatory rest taken in three Checkpoints (Braeburn, Carmacks, Pelly), and four Time Stations (TS1 Dawson Trail, TS2 Mandana Lake, TS3 McCabe (also a dog drop), and TS4 Stepping Stone).

Rest can be taken in 30 minute increments. BECOMES: Mandatory rest served accrues and will be recorded in 30 minute increments. For example, 2hr 48min in a Time Station or Checkpoint will be counted as 2.5 hours toward Mandatory Rest served.

Of the 32 hours of Mandatory Rest, there is one six hour mandatory stop in the mushers' choice of either Braeburn or Carmacks. During this mandatory 6 hour stop, each team will be evaluated by a YQI Veterinarian. The musher must be present during the evaluation. The Race Veterinarians will report their findings to the Race Official.

Time penalties will be served at Pelly Crossing Checkpoint. Any time penalties assessed after Pelly will be added to the overall finish time.

## **21. Race Course:**

All teams must follow the trail as marked or as instructed by the Race Marshal.

## **22. Competitiveness Rule**

The Race Marshal shall at any time withdraw or disqualify a Musher they feel is not making a true attempt at running a competitive race or is in a position to not keep up with the race thus endangering themselves, their dogs and/or causing undue burden upon the Yukon Quest organization. The Race Marshal shall make this call based upon the condition of the team, trail and weather conditions, attitude and skill level of the musher and the pace at which the team and other teams are traveling. Any musher whose conduct, lack of skills and/or conditioning of their team to meet trail conditions which would expose the team or musher to personal risk in the judgment of the Race Marshal, shall also be withdrawn or disqualified.

## **23. Standard Race Courtesy:**

Standard race courtesy shall prevail. An overtaken musher and team must relinquish the trail at the request of the overtaking musher, except within 1 mile/1.6 kilometers of the Finish Line. Ski poles may not be used within 100 yards / 92 meters of another team.

#### **24. Clearing the Trail:**

Mushers setting up camp must clear the trail of their dogs and gear. Build fires a safe distance off the trail. Failure to do so may result in fines and / or time penalties at the Race Marshal's discretion.

#### **25. Litter:**

Litter of any kind may not be left along the trail or at cabins. Camps must be cleaned up before the team moves on. Excess food or gear may be given only to residents along the trail or to other mushers.

This is a historic trail, and its continued use for the race relies upon compliance with this policy. Failure to abide by this rule may result in disqualification, \$150 fine and/or 2hr time penalty at the **mandatory stop at Pelly** or at the finish line.

#### **26. One Musher Per Team:**

Only one musher per team is permitted, and that musher must complete the race with that team only.

#### **27. Tampering:**

No musher may tamper with another musher's dogs, food or gear.

#### **28. Teams Tied Together:**

Two or more teams may not, in any way, be tied together except to assist a musher in trouble at some immediate location. The mushers of any teams so involved must notify officials at the next checkpoint along the trail. A musher will not be penalized for helping another musher in danger for his/her life.

#### **29. Outside Assistance:**

No planned help is allowed throughout the race. No musher may receive outside assistance between checkpoints unless an emergency has been declared by the Race Marshal, or is subsequently so ruled.

Outside assistance is allowed for a team that is arriving at or leaving a checkpoint, including the start line. Any person may assist a distracted, tangled or off course team if it becomes apparent that help is required for that team to enter or exit in a safe and orderly manner. This allowance is made in the interests of dog safety and is in consideration of the distraction of crowds, insufficient snow to hook down a team so the musher can untangle or redirect a team on their own, coupled with the danger of nearby highways.

No assistance which would result in competitive advantage may be accepted or solicited. Handlers are not allowed on the YQ300 Trail between checkpoints.

### **30. Demand for Food and Shelter:**

A musher may not make demands for food or shelter along the trail or at checkpoints.

### **31. Sleeping Areas:**

Sleeping areas for mushers and mushers only will be designated at each checkpoint and dog drop. A musher has the option of sleeping outside by his or her own team and sled. **Only these areas may be used.**

**In case of COVID Rules, the sleeping areas might include Mushers Trucks if common sleeping areas are not permitted by COVID Regulations. Decision TBA closer to race time.**

### **32. Killing of Game Animals:**

In the event that an edible game animal (moose, caribou, elk, etc.) is killed in the defense of life or property, the musher must salvage the meat for human use before proceeding along the trail. A food animal must be gutted. This incident must be reported at the next checkpoint. YQI will make arrangements for further salvage. Any other animal killed in defense of life or property must be reported to a Race Official.

### **33. Motorized Vehicles:**

In no case may a musher accept assistance from any type of motorized vehicle between checkpoints (except as allowed under Rule 46). Pacing is prohibited.

### **34. Treatment of Dogs:**

Treatment of Dogs: There will be no cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs. Dogs will not be compelled by any form of intimidation. Mushers are responsible for the health and welfare of their dogs. The Race Marshal or Race Judges in conjunction with a Race 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 conditions relative to dog care on the trail, shall be final. The health and condition of all dogs will be assessed at every checkpoint. Dogs may not be examined without the musher's knowledge (except for emergencies). Race Veterinarians in conjunction with the Race Marshal or a Race Judge may perform a veterinary exam or detain teams at any checkpoint or dog drop. No dog team will leave a checkpoint until the dogs in that team are fit to continue in the race.

### **35. Care and Feeding of Dogs:**

All care and feeding of dogs will be done by the mushers only. Neither force feeding nor stomach tubing is allowed. Mushers may assist one another between checkpoints. At non-checkpoints, a musher may accept hospitality for themselves only. At no time during the race may a musher house dogs in heated shelters.

### **36. Dog Minimums and Maximums:**

Mushers must start the race with no less than eight dogs and no more than twelve dogs; and must finish with no less than six dogs. Dogs may not be added to a team after the start of the race. An expired dog does not count as a dog for the minimum required. **Only dogs suitable for Arctic travel will be permitted to enter the race.**

### **37. Harnesses:**

The neck (and breast panel where applicable) of all harnesses must be padded.

### **38. Marking/Tagging of Dogs:**

All dogs leaving the starting line MIGHT be identified by a marking system as determined by YQI. Legible musher and dog names are required on each collar. **No Microchips are required for dogs participating in the YQ300.**

### **39. Switching of Dogs:**

Switching of dogs between teams will not be permitted after they have officially left the start line. Following the issuance of tags and acceptance of dogs for the race by Race Veterinarians, any exchange of dogs by the mushers must be approved by the Race Marshal prior to leaving the starting line.

### **40. Hauling Dogs:**

A musher may not allow any dogs to be hauled by another team. A musher's dogs hauled in the sled must be hauled in a secured, protected, humane manner.

### **41. Dropped Dogs:**

**Any injured, fatigued or sick dogs may be dropped at checkpoints or dog drops, as designated by the Race Marshal, without penalty.** Each dropped dog must be left with two days food. Mushers are responsible for providing cable necklines, collars, as per Trail Procedure Rule #38, and proper amounts of food for dropped dogs. The required amount of food is two pounds/one kilogram per day per dog. Every dropped dog must be examined by a Race Veterinarian.

Dogs may be dropped for emergency medical reasons between checkpoints and designated dog drops. This action must be reported to the Race Marshal or Race Judge at the next checkpoint, and the musher **may** be subject to an 8 hour penalty, regardless of the number of dogs dropped, **at** the finish line. The musher remains responsible for that dog and all fees incurred. The dog(s) must be examined by a Race Veterinarian and accounted for at the Finish Line.

### **42. Drugs:**

The musher must have their dog team free of all prohibited drugs and foreign substances from the time of the Vet Check until released by a Race Veterinarian or Race Official after the team has finished the race. Dogs that are continuing in the race shall not receive any of the following:

1. Any substance by injection
4. Acupuncture
5. Cold laser therapy
6. Corticosteroids or anabolic steroids
7. Any seizure medications
8. Any other treatment or therapy that, in the opinion of the Head Veterinarian, is not in the best interest of a dog that is to continue on in the race.

The Head Veterinarian must be notified of any dogs receiving allowed medication to treat an existing medical problem and a statement from the attending veterinarian describing the diagnosis and treatment must be presented with the YQI health certificate.

If a Race Veterinarian finds it necessary to treat a dog with a prohibited drug, that dog must be dropped from the race.

The following drugs will be permitted subject to the approval of the official supervising Race Veterinarian:

1. Topical medications without steroids (note: DMSO is no longer allowed)
2. Dewormers
3. Antibiotics (except procaine penicillin)
4. Antidiarrheals (except those with salicylates, i.e. Pepto-Bismol)
5. Omeprazole or Famotidine (e.g. Pepcid or Prilosec)
6. Oral medication, implants and injectable medications used for mis-mating events have potential for severe side effects and should be used under veterinary supervision. All mis-mating injections must be given no later than 28 days prior to race start.

**All other drugs and foreign substances are prohibited.**

The musher is required to protect and guard their dog team against the administration, either internally or externally, of any foreign substance. **A positive test indicating the presence of a foreign substance shall give rise to a presumption that the musher has failed to meet the duties imposed upon them.**

Fines or penalties levied for violations of this rule shall be based on the seriousness of the offense and will be assessed after completion of the race. The Rules Committee will recommend fines or penalties to the Board of Directors for final decision.

The Racing Commissioners International Uniform Classification of Foreign Substances will serve as a guideline in establishing these penalties which may be as severe as disqualification and censure from future races.

#### **43. Expired Dogs:**

**The death of any dog may result in the disqualification of the musher, and/or prohibition from entering future races.** Any dog that expires during the race for any reason must be taken to the next or just passed checkpoint or dog drop and submitted to the Race Official, or it may be directly submitted to a Race Official at a sooner opportunity. If no Race Official is present, the dog may be submitted to a Race Veterinarian. A necropsy will be performed on all expired dogs by a licensed veterinary pathologist or veterinarian.

#### **44. Unmanageable Team:**

Outside assistance will be allowed only if a team is unmanageable. Whether a team is unmanageable will be ruled upon by the Race Marshal or Race Judge in each separate instance.

#### **45. Team Configuration:**

There will be no loose leaders; necklines are not required on leaders. All team dogs will be either attached to the towline, no more than two dogs abreast, or humanely hauled in the sled.

**Mushers are required to be in possession of functional necklines for the entire team at all times. The use of necklines may be required for individual dogs, individual teams, or all teams, at the discretion of the Race Officials.**

Dogs may not be led behind the sled.

#### **46. Lost Team:**

A lost team's musher will not be disqualified if the musher regains control of the team. The team and musher must complete the entire race trail including checking in at all checkpoints. Anyone may stop and secure a musherless team or loose dog. The musher may continue the race after their team is recovered, whether it is on foot, with assistance from another musher or motorized vehicle. Motorized assistance must be reported to a race official at the next checkpoint. If motorized help is used and advantage gained, the Race Marshal may impose appropriate sanctions.

#### **47. Scratch / Withdraw / Disqualification:**

**All decisions by the Race Marshal and / or Race Judges shall be final.**

**All Scratched, Withdrawn, and Disqualified teams must have a complete vet check prior to being released from the race. Failure to do so may result in a \$150 fine.**

a) **Scratch** - Mushers wishing to end their participation in the race may do so by filling out and signing a Scratch Form and submitting it to a Race Official or checker. Mushers are responsible for making their own arrangements for retrieving personal gear. Items remaining become the property of YQI.

b) **Withdraw** - A team may be involuntarily withdrawn from the race by the Race Marshal. This decision would be made to protect the dogs, the musher, or the event itself, and does not imply deliberate misconduct or rule violation. Food drop bags will be immediately removed from checkpoints and a reasonable attempt will be made to return personal gear to the closest YQI office for retrieval.

c) **Disqualification** - Failure of a musher to comply with the published Rules of General Race Procedure and/or Trail Procedure may result in disqualification, monetary fine, time penalty, or a combination of these measures. Disqualified mushers will forfeit all placements and monetary values. Food drop bags will be immediately removed from checkpoints and a reasonable attempt will be made to return personal gear to the closest YQI office for retrieval.

#### **48. Finish:**

Mushers must wear their Finish Bib as they cross the Finish Line. Failure to do so will result in a \$50 fine. The time of a team's official finish is when the nose of the first dog crosses the finish line.

Any mandatory gear missing at the finish will result in a \$50 fine per missing item.

**Dog teams must remain within the finish staging area until the final veterinary exams are performed and the vet book is signed by the Race Veterinarian and Musher.** The team will then be released by the Race Marshal, a Race Judge, or a Race Veterinarian.

#### **49. Sportsmanship:**

The Code of the North dictates all travelers be courteous, helpful, generous and honorable. Conduct yourself well enough so the next musher will be welcomed with equal hospitality.

**Rude behavior or inappropriate actions by a musher or handler may result in a penalty, withdrawal, or disqualification. This includes any publication, sharing, posting or comments deemed false, derogatory or negative towards any musher, race personnel, volunteer, the Yukon Quest organization or their supporters.** The rule is in effect from musher sign-up until 30 days after the finish banquet.

Any competitor or athlete worthy of the name realizes that all people—officials, volunteers, sponsors, media, and fans—are equal participants in this event, and that it is the musher's responsibility to define the upper limits of human performance. A true Sportsman is an inspiration to all witness.



Yukon Quest International Association  
#2 - 1109 Front Street  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A5G4  
(867) 668-4711  
E-mail: [yukonoperations@yukonquest.com](mailto:yukonoperations@yukonquest.com)