

SANDWICH SLED DOG RACE

NORTH SANDWICH, NH

February 17-18, 2012

General Rules & Driver Information

1. Race Course

The 45 and 20 mile races cover the Sandwich and North Sandwich scenic White Mountain National Forest, historic Wonalancet and Tamworth trails that include winding tight trails, narrow bridges over brooks, steep hills and open fields. **This is a challenging trail you will enjoy, but not forget.**

2. Community Schedule

This race is a community-sponsored event and the local residents enjoy being able to interact with the drivers and their families. The Sandwich Central School PTO sponsors a family supper at the School cafeteria on Friday before the Race at 5:30 p.m. **Please support our community** since it is the backbone of this race.

3. Conditions of Entry

Each driver agrees to not hold the Sandwich Sidehillers, North Country Musers, co-sponsors, landowners and/or Race Committee liable for any reason whatsoever. The driver also agrees to release the above from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the driver, his/her dogs, or his/her property. All drivers agree to treat everyone at the race site and on the trail with respect and courtesy.

A musher must be at least 18 years old. If not, Entry Form must include a signed copy of the parent/guardian consent form. (Please contact Race Secretary to obtain one.)

All applicants must be able and willing to adhere to the rules of the race. In no case will the limit on the number of entries be exceeded. The Race Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any entry.

This race is limited to 60 teams

- ❖ **6-8 Dog 45 mile Class** will be limited to 25 teams.

Drivers must start the race with no fewer than 6 dogs and not more than 8 dogs. Drivers must finish the race with no fewer than 4 dogs.

- ❖ **6-Dog 20 mile Class** will be limited to 25 teams.

Drivers must start the race with no fewer than 5 dogs and not more than 6 dogs. Drivers must finish the race with no fewer than 4 dogs.

- ❖ **1 - 2-Dog Skijor Class** will be limited to 10 teams.

Must finish with at least 1 dog.

Receipt of all of the following items will confirm that the musher intends to enter the race and agrees to comply with all race rules:

- ❖ Valid payment of the full entry fee.
- ❖ Completed and signed entry form.
- ❖ A signed consent form from parent or guardian if the musher is a minor.

To ensure entry, please register early!

The Sandwich Sidehillers will begin to accept applications on November 1st.

Registration deadline is at 2:00pm Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

All entrants MUST attend the Drivers' meeting on Friday, February 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sandwich Elementary School Cafeteria. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. All drivers or their representatives are required to check in with the Race Secretary at the Sandwich Central School between 5:00pm - 6:45pm on Friday. This applies to all three races. UTD vaccination certificates must be available to the Race Secretary at the Drivers' Meeting.

If the driver or representative fails to check in before 6:45 p.m., the Sandwich Sled Dog Race cannot guarantee that team a position in the race.

Late entries may be accepted (if space allows) at the Drivers' meeting between the hours of 5:00 - 6:45pm. There will be a **late fee of \$10.00** for each class entered in this manner. You must have all necessary forms, cash (no checks) and UTD Vaccination Certificates. **Absolutely no registrations or check-ins will be accepted on Saturday morning!**

4. Entry Fees & Assignment of Bib Numbers

The entry fee is \$60.00 for the 45-mile race, \$30.00 for the 20-mile races. This does not include the mandatory North Country Musher's Membership Fee.

Entries will not be confirmed until the Sandwich Sled Dog Race Secretary receives the entry fee and all properly completed and executed documents. Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. **Bib numbers are assigned in order of entry.**

A \$20 cash deposit will be required for the bib and after the race the deposit will be returned when bib is returned.

5. Sandwich Sled Dog Race Refund Schedule

Drivers' withdrawing before January 31st will receive a full entry refund, except the NCM Membership fee and a \$5.00 administration fee. No refunds after the Wednesday prior to the Race unless you are on a waiting list. Pre-registered no shows will receive no refund.

In the event our race is cancelled, all entry fees will be returned (minus the NCM membership). We will announce the cancellation on the Sandwich Sled Dog Race website by 5:00 pm the Wednesday prior to the Race, as well as on Sled Dog Central.

6. Dogs

All dogs must be available for examination before the start of the race, if deemed warranted or at the discretion of the Race Committee.

All dogs must have a current certificate of Rabies inoculation signed by a licensed veterinarian. Copies of Rabies certificates need to be available to the Race Secretary or Race Committee upon request. In accordance with current New Hampshire law, three-year rabies vaccinations are accepted. Dogs must also be current on Distemper and Parvo virus vaccinations and proof of vaccinations must be available to the Race Committee upon request.

Any dog deemed not healthy enough to participate may be ejected from the race, at the discretion of the Race Committee and/or Race Veterinarian.

Drivers are expected to pay extraordinary veterinary expenses they might incur during the race. Prize monies will be awarded minus any unpaid veterinary expenses charged to the driver.

7. Race Officials

The Race Committee shall resolve any and all disputes and interpret the race rules in regard to infractions and penalties and shall also have the authority to establish rules to cover special or unforeseen situations. **All decisions of the Race Committee are final.**

8. Trail Procedures & Race Course

To allow for potential pre-race dog and gear checks, teams are required to be present at the staging area on Saturday morning by 7:15 a.m. Have bibs in a place so we can see them during the check time.

Driver substitution may be made until two hours before the race starts. The driver starting the race shall drive the team throughout the race. Final decisions in this matter rest with the Race Committee. Any driver who is not prepared to leave as scheduled will be rotated to the end of the starting lineup, but the driver's recorded start time shall remain unchanged.

The start shall be from Bennett Street, Floyd's Field and will finish there as well.

Teams will leave the starting line at two-minute intervals beginning at 9:00 a.m. starting with the 45-mile teams, then the 20-mile teams and finishing with the 20 mile Skijor teams.

We rely on private landowners for the use of trails and checkpoint facilities. Please respect their property. Please clean up all waste at your truck (food, straw, poop, etc.) and be prepared to take all waste with you.

Trails will be broken, groomed, and marked before the race; however, due to weather, there is no guarantee of broken trails during the races. The Race Course is on a multi-use trail system and you can expect to meet snowmobiles and skiers. Trails are designed to minimize road crossings, but due to the length of the course, multiple road crossings are inevitable. **Crossing volunteers are solely responsible for their junction and are to be obeyed without question.** The race course may be re-routed by the race organization, as conditions require. All teams must follow and complete the trail as marked or as redirected by trail officials. Any team not following the exact race course may be assessed a time penalty or disqualified depending on the severity of the infraction. Questions regarding race course direction and/or signage should only be directed to checkpoint or crossing volunteers; **asking directions from spectators is not advised!** You must bring your trail map with you and consult it often to make sure you know where you are!!

9. Required Gear

Drivers' shall wear their identifying bibs throughout the race. The bibs will need to be visible at all times. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file. All harnesses shall be padded around the neck and chest areas. Reflective tape is required on harnesses and recommended on the dog sled. It is recommended that dogs and driver's names be written on or attached to each dog's collar.

Ganglines may be cable, cable core, or any synthetic or natural material, but chains are not allowed. If cable ganglines are used, the driver **must have** easily accessible cable cutters, which are known to be capable of cutting the gangline.

Each driver must have on his or her sled or person at all times during the race:

- ❖ **Trail Map provided at the Driver's Meeting**
- ❖ A sled capable of accommodating injured or fatigued dogs as well as the required materials and equipment. The same sled must be used throughout the race. Spare parts are the responsibility of the driver. The sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brushbow, snowhook and a snubline that is at least 8 feet long. Note: A snowhook cannot substitute for a snubline.
- ❖ A sled bag capable of safely restraining a struggling dog and, if necessary, covering a severely injured or expired dog.
- ❖ Fire starting material (must be kept on person at all times)
- ❖ One pair snowshoes with bindings.
- ❖ Knife (must be kept on person at all times)
- ❖ Working headlamp with batteries
- ❖ First aid kit

- ❖ 4 booties per dog on team. They may be used if conditions warrant
- ❖ Skijoring teams must be attached via harness and tow line to the skijorer's belt in a safe and secure manner, leaving the skijorer's hands free of the line. The line length shall be a minimum of seven (7) feet and a maximum of twelve (12) feet as measured from the skiers belt buckle to the snap on the dog's harness. The minimum width of the skijoring belt across the back shall be three (3) inches in the interest of safety; there must be a quick release device within arm's length of the skijorer.

Skijorer's must carry at all times:

- ❖ Working headlamp with batteries
- ❖ Knife
- ❖ Fire starting material
- ❖ 4 booties per dog on team

10. Sportsmanship

The rigors of this race and the history of the sport require that each competitor be courteous, helpful and honorable to a degree that will inspire similar behavior in all participants and volunteers. Rude or inappropriate behavior by drivers or handlers may result in a penalty. If a driver or his/her agent tampers with another's dogs, food or gear, then the driver will be disqualified. Unsportsmanlike conduct, either to other race participants or their dogs, will not be tolerated. Any complaints by another musher or infractions will be decided by the Race Marshal and Race Committee, and those decisions are final.

Possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs by drivers is strictly prohibited.

11. Treatment of Dogs

No whips of any kind or the use of brush, branches or any object as a whip or to create a frightening noise is expressly prohibited. Muzzles or full choke chains will not be permitted. Cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs, either belonging to the driver or any other team, will result in the immediate expulsion of the driver. The Race Committee will have absolute determination regarding the treatment of dogs.

Dogs may not be switched between teams after they have officially left the start line.

A driver may drop a dog or dogs for any reason. A dropped dog may not be added to the team at a later time. Dogs may be dropped only at designated checkpoint or at the start. Any dog deemed by race officials unfit to continue the race must be dropped.

12. Prize Money

To be determined

The awards ceremony will take place after the Race at the Sandwich Elementary School Cafeteria at 5:00pm on Race Day. All winners must be present.