

**ALTITUDE 5000 SLED DOG GROUP INC**  
**2010 ADVANCE Sleddog Challenge Race Rules**

15th May 2010

**DEFINITIONS**

- (a) **Race Area:** includes the race site, the townships of Dinner Plain and Mount Hotham, all public car parks and each carpark designated for dog truck and trailer parking.
- (b) **Race Marshall (s):** includes either a single Race Marshall (l) or an appointed panel of Race Marshals
- (c) **Race Giving Organisation (RGO) :** Altitude 5000 Sled Dog Group Inc
- (d) **Race Weekend:** Sunrise Friday preceding scheduled race date to Sunset Monday immediately following scheduled race date. (4 days)

**A. ELIGIBILITY**

**A1. ENTRIES**

- a. An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the race, subject to entry deadlines, conditions and entry limits as determined by the RGO and or other governing bodies.
- b. The RGO may reject any entry for just cause.
- c. At their discretion the RGO shall determine and advise competitors of a pre-race bib draw.
- d. See section Q for additional Eligibility.

**A2. DRIVERS**

- a. The driver starting a team in the first heat of a race shall drive that team throughout the race, except that:
- b. A change in driver can only be made as the result of illness or injury to the authorised entrant and must have the approval of the race Marshall (s).
- c. A driver disqualified in any heat of the race is not eligible to compete in the remainder of the race or any other scheduled heat or race class across the race weekend.

**A3. DOGS**

- a. The Race Marshall (s) may disallow entry of any team or dog for just cause.
- b. Any team or dog coming to the start line that, in the opinion of the Race Marshall (s), is unfit or incapable of safely completing the race trail shall be disqualified.
- c. Any team or dog not starting in the first heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race.
- d. Any team or dog disqualified in any heat of the race shall not be eligible to compete in the remainder of the race or any other race classes across the race weekend.

**A4. DISEASE**

- a. No dog or equipment shall be brought to the race area from a kennel where distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, or any other contagious disease exists.
- b. If the Race Veterinarian diagnoses any dog present in the race area (including Mt Hotham and Dinner Plain) to have a contagious disease, that team shall be disqualified and must immediately leave the race area.

**A5. IDENTIFICATION**

- a. In races of more than one heat, each dog may be marked for identification prior to the start of the first heat of the race.
- b. Dogs dropped from teams after the first heat of a race involving more than two heats, may be marked a second time to indicate their disqualification to run in subsequent heats.

**A6. SIZE OF TEAM**

Subject to paragraph A6 (f & g) below:

- a. A Limited Two-Dog Class Team shall consist of two (2) dogs,
- b. A Limited Three-Dog Class Team shall consist of three (3) dogs,
- c. A Limited Four-Dog Class Team shall consist of four (4) dogs,
- d. A Limited Six-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than six dogs, and not less than five (5) dogs.
- e. A Limited Eight-Dog Class Team shall consist of not more than eight dogs, and not less than seven (7) dogs.
- f. After the first heat and each subsequent heat, a driver may voluntarily reduce the size of their team.**
- g. A reduced team must continue to compete in the same race class they commenced in.**

**B. MEDICATIONS ADMINISTERED TO DOGS**

**B1. PROHIBITED DRUGS**

- a. All dogs shall be presented free of:
  - (i) Stimulants and depressants.
  - (ii) Analgesics, prescriptive and non-prescriptive.
  - (iii) Anti-inflammatory agents including, but not limited to, corticosteroids, anti-prostaglandins and salicylates,
  - (iv) Anti-anxiety agents
  - (v) Anabolic steroids
  - (vi) Diet pills or.
  - (vii) Any substance that may affect the performance of the dog is prohibited.
  - (viii) Any state, federal or territory restricted substance is prohibited.

**B2. DRUG TESTING**

- a. If the RGO intends to test for prohibited drugs, it shall nominate which Drug Testing Procedures it will use and shall declare so on the entry form.
- b. Whenever a specimen is requested for testing, the owner or driver shall be present (or his/her representative) and shall declare in writing to the sampling official all medications administered to the dog(s) within 72 hours preceding the start of the event.
- c. If an owner or driver refuses to allow a sample from a dog, that team shall be disqualified from the event.
- d. If any dog in a team shows a positive test of a prohibited drug, that team is subject to disqualification, this decision to be made following a hearing.

**C. EQUIPMENT**

**C1. INSPECTION**

- a. Drivers, teams and equipment shall be available for inspection in the vehicle holding area at least fifteen (15) minutes before their scheduled time of departure.
- b. A team in harness shall not be required to stand for inspection longer than twelve (12) minutes before the scheduled time of departure.
- c. Inspection shall take place in an area that does not interfere with teams in the start or finish chutes.
- d. A team shall be available for inspection after each heat at the request of the Race Marshall (s).
- e. All race equipment including Musher personal protection equipment is subject to approval of the Race Marshall (s).

**C2. HARNESES AND LINES**

- a. All dogs shall be harnessed in a single or double file.
- b. All dogs shall be fastened to the tug line by a neckline and tail line with the exception of the leader(s) that shall be harnessed in the team by a tail line. Dual leaders shall be connected by a neckline.
- c. A snub line **must be** carried on the sled but it shall not be used in any manner other than tie down or secure a sled.

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- d. The snub line should be a **minium** length of no less than from a teams lead dog to the rear of the sled.

### C3. SLEDS

- a. A sled **must** be structurally sound, capable of adequately carrying the driver and a minimum of one (1) retired dog.
- b. A sled **must** be equipped with an adequate and functional sled brake, brushbow, snowhook, snub-line, cable cutters (for cable lines), and side cutters.
- c. A sled used in any race classes **must** be equipped with a sled/dog bag capable of safely restraining a struggling dog and if necessary, covering a severely injured or dead dog.
- d. Appropriate headlamps **must** be used for twilight or night racing. At a minimum, headlamps are to be fixed to a drivers Helmut.

### C4. OTHER EQUIPMENT

- a. A muzzle or any collar that can be hooked as a full choke shall be prohibited.
- b. A racing number for each driver shall be provided by the RGO. A driver shall display this number on his/her person throughout the race.
- c. The RGO prohibits the use of signal whips on any or all portions of the race trail and surrounding race site.

### D. FINISH TIME DISQUALIFICATION

- a. All entrants shall be notified, prior to entry, if the RGO elects that a time qualification factor is to be used, stating which factor and to which classes it shall be applied.
- b. If a finish time disqualification is elected a team shall be disqualified from competing in subsequent heats if its total elapsed time exceeds either 1.25 or 1.50 times the average time of the three fastest teams in the same heat of the same class.

### E. START-FINISH RULES

#### 1. DRAWING

- a. Starting positions for the first heat of a race shall be determined by a drawing held prior to the race at a time and place designated by the RGO.
- b. The owner, driver or designated proxy of each team shall draw his or her own starting position. In their absence, the Race Marshall (s) or representative shall draw the starting position.
- c. The order of the draw shall not be changed, whether by addition or substitution. Late entries shall be added in order of receipt.
- d. At the discretion of the RGO the bib draw may, be modified by seeding (formula to be determined by the RGO) or computer software generated.

### E2. SINGLE START RACE

- a. The first heat starting positions shall be determined by the race class Bib draw i.e. Bib#1 first, Bib#2 second and so on.
- b. The second heat starting positions shall be determined by the RGO.
- c. In races of **more** than two (2) heats:
- (i) The total elapsed time of the previous 2 heats shall determine the starting positions with the fastest team leaving first, second fastest team leaving second, etc.
- (ii) or at the option of the RGO, the elapsed time of the previous single heat shall determine the starting positions with the fastest teams starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.
- (iii), if the optional start (ii, above) is to apply to the race, all entrants shall be notified prior to making entry, stating to which classes it shall apply.

### E3. DUAL START RACE

- a. The first heat starting positions shall be determined by the draw with numbers 1 and 2 starting together first, numbers 3 and 4 starting together second etc.
- b. The second heat starting positions shall be determined by the first heat times. The finishing list will be divided into two groups, with the fastest in the faster group starting with the fastest team in the slower group, followed by the second fastest teams in each group, etc.
- c. In races of more than two heats, the total elapsed time of the previous heats will determine the grouping and the starting positions, with the fastest teams in each group starting first, etc.

### E4. EQUAL TIMES

- a. If the total elapsed time of two teams is identical, the order of start for those teams shall be the reverse order in which they started in the preceding heat.
- b. Teams with equal times for the entire race, shall be awarded the higher finishing position.
- d. The purse for the tied place and the next lower place/s shall be combined and divided equally among those teams tied for that place.

### H. STARTING POINT AND TIME

- a. The brushbow of the sled shall determine the starting point of the team.
- b. Trail time for all teams shall begin at the originally scheduled time of departure
- c. A team, which fails to be in their starting position at their scheduled starting time will be, declared a late starting team.
- d. A late starting team shall not be allowed to start until after the last team entered in that class has started, and after the prescribed starting interval.
- e. A late starting team shall not interfere with any other team.
- f. If more than one team is declared late, those teams shall start in their originally scheduled starting order.
- g. If a team is late to the starting line for its second scheduled time of departure for any one heat, that team shall be disqualified.
- h. A team not clearing the Starting Chute area (minimum distance 30 meters) prior to the scheduled start of the next team **may** be disqualified.

### H1. ASSISTANCE IN THE STARTING CHUTE

- a. The amount and type of assistance in the starting chute shall be determined and announced by the Race Marshall (s) prior to the start of the first heat of the event.
- b. Once a team is beyond the starting chute area (30 meters) in an official start, all Trail Rules shall apply.

### H2. FINISH

- a. A team shall have completed a scheduled race heat when the first dog of that team crosses the finish line.
- b. If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of its driver, that team shall have finished when the driver reaches the finish line.
- c. When a dual starting chute is used as a finishing chute. A team may return on either side of trail.

### I. TRAIL RULES

#### 1. FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

- a. A team and driver shall run the entire course as established by the RGO.

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- 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:
  - (i) A **RED** marker on the right side of the trail shall indicate "Right Turn"
  - (ii). Left Turn" shall be indicated by a **RED** marker on the left side of the trail.
  - (iii). **BLUE** markers shall indicate "Straight ahead".
  - (iv). **YELLOW** or **ORANGE** markers shall indicate "Caution".
  - (v). The "End of the Starting Chute" (minimum length 30 meters) shall be indicated by markers on both sides of the trail.
  - (vi). A 1/2 Kilometer" marker shall be placed approximately one-half kilometer from the finish line to indicate the start of the "No-right-of-way Zone."

#### J. DRIVING A TEAM

- a. A driver may ride the sled or run as wished.
- b. During the race a driver accepting an unauthorised ride on any vehicle other than his/her own sled 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 sled
- e. A dog becoming unfit after departure shall be carried on the sled.
- f. Carrying a passenger on the sled at any time during the race is prohibited unless:
  - (i). Called for in the conditions of the race.
  - (ii). Giving a ride to a driver in an emergency situation.

#### K. ASSISTANCE ON THE TRAIL

- a. All teams may receive similar assistance of any type from officials stationed at designated points along the trail as authorised by the Race Marshall (s).
- b. Drivers running in the same heat may assist each other in any manner authorised by Race Marshall (s).
- c. Handler and spectator assistance shall be limited to holding the sled, 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 beside it.

#### L. LOOSE TEAMS and DOGS

- a. A loose team or dog(s) shall not delay or interfere with another team.
- b. 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 authorised outside assistance.
  - (i). Authorised outside assistance is limited to holding a loose team or dog once it has been stopped.
  - (ii). Any qualified person(s) may (and is encouraged to) stop and hold a loose team or dog
  - (iii). For dog team and general public/spectators an authorised snow machine operator may give chase, capture and secure a loose dog team.
- d. In the event of a team driver requesting or accepting a ride from a motorized vehicle e.g. snow machine to capture or re board a loose team they immediately forfeit any race placing.

#### M. RIGHT OF WAY

- a. In a dual start, the team with the lead dog farthest ahead at the end of the chute barrier shall have right of way.

- b. When teams are passing on a single trail,
  - (i). The team travelling downhill shall have right of way.
  - (ii). On level terrain, the Race Marshall (s) shall determine and announce, prior to the start of the race, whether the in-coming or out-going team has right of way.
  - (iii). Within the one-half (1/2) kilometer "no right-of-way finish zone," no team shall have right of way over a finishing team.

#### N. PASSING

- a. When one team driver intends to pass another team, the passing team driver may request right of way when the lead dog(s) come within fifteen (15) meters of the sled of the overtaken team.
- b. The overtaken team driver shall make way for the passing team by moving to one side of the trail by slowing his team, or stopping if requested to do so by the overtaking team driver.
- c. Once a team has been passed, that team shall not re-pass until:
  - 1. In Limited classes involving three (3) or more dogs. after no less than 30 seconds or two hundred (200) meters.
  - 2. In Limited classes involving two (2) dogs or less, after no less than 30 seconds or two hundred meters (200).
  - 3. At any lesser interval when both drivers are in agreement.

#### EXCEPTIONS

- 1. After a pass has been completed, a team that has been passed need not hold his/her team while the other driver:
  - a) Repairs gear on their team/equipment
  - b) Unhooks and transfers a dog or dogs from one position in the team to another position in the team or
  - c) Goes off the race trail before the above mentioned distance or time interval has elapsed. Loading a dog in the sled constitutes changing a dog's position in the team.
- 2) If the passing team becomes tangled as a result of the pass (and to allow time to straighten the lines) that teams driver may require the overtaken team driver to stop for no longer than one minute in classes involving eight or more dogs, one half minute in all other classes.
- 3) A driver coming upon two or more teams stopped together may pass all such teams. The stopped team drivers shall make every effort to clear the trail for the moving team(s).
- 4) Teams following each other shall maintain an interval of no less than one team length, except when passing or in the no right of way zone. (1/2 kilometer zone)
- 5) When a team is overtaken in the no right of way zone, that team does not have to stop and yield the trail.
- 6) No driver shall interfere with a competing team.

#### O. CONDUCT RESPONSIBILITY AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- a. All drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handlers and themselves whenever in the race areas of the trail and public presence of the race site e.g. Dinner Plain and Mount Hotham precinct.

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- b. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail. If the Race Marshall (s) determine that driver, handler or team conduct at any time at the race site or on the trail is detrimental to the sport/race, that team shall be disqualified and or asked to leave the race site.

**O1. ABUSE OF FELLOW COMPETITORS, RACE OFFICIALS, SPECTATORS AND DOGS**

- a. Abuse of a dog, with or without an implement, shall be prohibited.
- b. Any driver found by the RGO and or the Race Marshall to have physically or verbally abused a fellow competitor, race official or spectator, or abused a dog over the race weekend period shall be disqualified from the current race and future Altitude 5000SDG races for a period of no less than two (2) consecutive years.

**O2. AGGRESSIVE DOGS**

- a. Aggressive dogs will not be tolerated at the race site pre-race, over the race weekend or post race period.
- b. Aggressive dogs shall be deemed by the RGO or the Race Marshall not fit to compete over the race weekend period and may be disqualified from the current race and future Altitude 5000 SDG races for a period of no less than two (2) consecutive years.
- c. Aggressive dogs will be reported to VSDRA in accordance with the 1999 VSDRA aggressive dog policy.

**P. REPORTS BY RACE OFFICIALS**

- a. Race Officials i.e. Corner Marshals and any RGO Volunteers shall report overt rule violations to the Race Marshall (s) verbally, in person or by radio, immediately or directly following the heat in which the violation occurred.
- b. The Race Marshall (s) shall act, at their discretion, on any overt violations witnessed and reported by race officials.

**P1. REPORTS BY TEAM DRIVERS**

- a. Drivers wishing to report an alleged violation of the race rules shall notify the Race Marshall (s) no later than 20 minutes immediately following the heat in which the alleged violation occurred. Notification may be verbal.
- b. All verbal driver reports shall be followed by a written report, a deposit of \$50.00 and given to the Race Marshall (s) within one hour of the completion of the heat in which the alleged violation occurred.
- c. If the protest is upheld the Driver who lodged the protest, shall be refunded the \$50.00 deposited with the initial protest.
- d **The decision of the Race Marshall (s) shall be final.**

**P2. 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 Marshall (s).
- b. Said hearing shall be granted by the Race Marshal (s).
- c. If the protest is upheld the Driver who lodged the protest, shall be refunded the \$50.00 deposited with the initial protest.
- d. **The decision of the Race Marshall (s) shall be final.**

**P3. DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

- a. For violation of the RGO's Race Rules and or Race Site conditions, the Race Marshall (s) shall either issue a verbal warning to the driver, or disqualify the driver and team from the race for a specified period.
- b. No other disciplinary action shall be imposed.

- c. Decisions shall be announced as soon as practical, but no later than three (2) hours after the last heat of the day.
- d. Any disciplinary action following the final shall be acted upon prior to the awards ceremony.
- e. In the case of drug testing, the above time schedule does not apply to allow time for laboratory findings and hearings, should the latter become necessary.
- f. A race conduct report may be lodged with VSDRA i.e. in accordance to VSDRA's 1999 Abusive Musher policy
- g. **The decision of the Race Marshall (s) shall be final.**

**Q. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE**

- a. With the exception of Junior Race Classes, all Drivers competing in any scheduled classes must be of 15 years of age or older to be deemed eligible to compete.
- b. Drivers competing in Junior Classes must be either 12, 13 or 14 years of age to be deemed eligible to compete.
- c. Any driver 15 years or older wishing to compete must have completed a minimum of 3 dirt track races to be deemed eligible to compete.
- d. Any Junior drivers e.g. 12, 13, 14 years of age wishing to compete must have completed a minimum of 3 dirt track Junior races and be deemed to have the physical strength to hold a 2 dog team (on snow) and be competent at driving a minimum 2 dog (team on snow) to be deemed eligible to compete.
- e. The RGO and or Race Marshal reserve the right to refuse entry and or request proof of qualifying age from any competitor in any of the scheduled race classes.

**Q1. DRIVER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING**

- a. For a driver to be deemed race worthy to compete and therefore enter a start chute each Team Driver must be dressed in minimum protective clothing of - suitable footwear including long trousers (not shorts), long sleeved shirt (not short sleeved shirts). Personal Protective Clothing also includes the wearing of head protection namely a properly fitted Helmet. Minimum Helmet required is an Australian Standards Bicycle Helmet (recommended) or a Snow Ski/Boarder Helmet (highly recommended)