

Yukon Quest 450 Sled Dog Race

2023 RULES

Official Race Rules for the 2023 YQ450 Sled Dog Race

As adopted by Yukon Quest International Association (CND) on July 4th, 2022.

English is the official language of the YQ450 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 honour on the trail is only achieved through 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 2023 Yukon Quest races will be **Saturday, February 11, 2023**, at 11:00 a.m. local time. The YQ450 will start at 11:00 a.m., followed by the YQ250, followed by the YQ100. 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 YQ Race Marshal with approval from the YQI Race & Trail Committee. The race will be held as scheduled, regardless of weather conditions.

2. Entry Fee, Dates, Limits:

2023 YQ450 entry opens Saturday August 6th, 2022. Receipt of the \$550 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 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 \$650 starting September 6th, 2022.
- The entry fee will be \$750 starting January 6th, 2023.
- Entries close at 3:00 p.m. Yukon time February 4th, 2023.
- To accommodate possible COVID-19 interruptions, entry fees will be refunded if the race is cancelled prior to the start of the race due to COVID-19 Regulations.

- All Musher and Handlers must abide by current Yukon Territory COVID-19 Rules.
- An entry fee will be refunded if a musher is not able to enter the Yukon (or 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 immediately prior to the start of the race and therefore cannot race. If any entered musher tests positive for COVID-19 and is then verifiably recovered, they will remain eligible to compete.
- A musher is eligible for an entry fee refund if anyone cohabitating with the registered musher tests positive for COVID-19 immediately prior to the start of 2023 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. YQI reserves the right to make last-minute decisions and changes as needed.

a) Conditions of Entry:

- All registered mushers must be members in good standing with YQI.
- Kennel entries must name a musher to enter. Musher may be changed, or entries 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 4th, 2023 (last day of signup).
- Musher must be a minimum of 18 years of age by the start of the race.
- All applicants will have their applications to enter the YQ450 reviewed by the YQI Race & Trail Committee.
- YQI will honour censures from the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Censures from other sled dog racing organizations may be honoured. 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 YQ450.

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

c) Substitution of Musher for Medical Reasons:

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

d) Waiting List

- To qualify for the waiting list, the official entry form must be completed, and the waiting list fee of \$550/\$650 paid (\$750 starting January 6th, 2023), of which \$100 is non-refundable if the musher withdraws from the waiting list.

- The waiting list fee of \$550/\$650 paid (\$750 starting January 6th, 2023) 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 11th, 2023.
- If a musher chooses to Downgrade their entry to the YQ250 or YQ100, they can do so until the Musher's Meeting February 9th at 3:00 p.m. No difference in Entry fee will be reimbursed.

e) Withdrawal Before Race:

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

3. Course and Checkpoints:

The course covers approximately 450 miles/725 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. Whitehorse Start
2. Braeburn
3. Carmacks
4. Pelly Crossing
5. Dawson Finish

Official Dog Drops are as follows:

1. Scroggie Creek
2. McCabe Creek

Official Time Station:

1. TS1: on the Whitehorse to Braeburn portion of the Dawson Trail approximately halfway between Whitehorse and Braeburn
2. TS2: Mandanna Lake
3. Granville - Indian River Bridge: between Scroggie Creek and Dawson

Official Hospitality Stop:

1. Stepping Stone

The Yukon Quest organization may relocate, remove, or add a checkpoint or dog drop should it deem it necessary for the benefit of the race and the participants.

4. Food / Equipment Shipment:

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

- Drop Bags for Braeburn, Carmacks and Pelly: to be delivered by the handlers to the designated drop off, upon the handler's arrival in the checkpoint and before the arrival of the musher.
- Drop Bag for Scroggie: one drop bag, maximum 40 lbs will be delivered by YQ. The drop bags for Scroggie will be at the Mushers' Meeting location, immediately before the meeting starts. If no food drop bag is delivered at the musher meeting, the musher will carry all supplies in their sled for Pelly to Dawson in their sled from Pelly
- The Yukon Quest will provide 1 bale of straw per team in each checkpoint and one 1 bale of straw in Scroggie.
- Mushers may order extra straw bales at \$10 per bale for them to carry to the Time Stations.
- Mushers must supply their own HEET/fuel which is to be stored in a certified, approved container and clearly labelled. It must not be inside Food Drop bags but can be placed beside the drop bags in checkpoints. Fuel will be supplied by YQ in Scroggie.

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:

- Pre-race Mushers' & Handlers' Meeting
- Pre-race Meet the Mushers
- Pre-race Sponsor & Musher Evening
- Pre-race Vet Check
- Finish & Awards Evenings (optional, but strongly recommended for non-finishers)

6. Shipping Dropped Dogs:

Mushers will deliver dropped dogs to the vet team in each checkpoint. The vet team will check the dog's health and deliver the dog to the musher's handler. Dogs can be dropped at Scroggie to be flown to Dawson at \$100 per dog,

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 Mushers' Meeting to

the Finish & Awards Evening, 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 mushers 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 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 10th, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. until completion.

Vaccine requirements:

- Combination Vaccine that includes but is not limited to Parvovirus and Distemper between March 2, 2022 and January 14, 2023.
- Bordetella (kennel cough) intranasal or injectable between September 2, 2022, and January 13, 2023.
- Rabies Vaccine given no later than January 14, 2023.
- Rabies Certificates and Vaccine Records will be required to prove vaccination status.
- Dates of administration of parvo, distemper, 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.

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 Mushers' Meeting. Failure to comply will result in disqualification. The time and place of the Vet Check will be announced by YQI.

9. Mushers' and Handlers' Meeting and Bib Draw:

All entrants and at least one handler per team are required to attend the Mushers' and Handlers' Meeting at Mount McIntyre. The Mushers' Meeting will be Thursday, February 9th, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. followed by Meet the Mushers and Bib Draw from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Failure to answer all roll calls in person will result in a \$50 fine.

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 450-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 Evening:

The Finish and Awards Evening 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 Evening.

Those who do not attend the Finish and Awards Evening will forfeit any prize money due their placing and the money will become property of 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 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 (Canada); as well as 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 pro-tests 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 Race & Trail 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. Handguns 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 honour 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 start a minimum of 3 minutes after the scheduled departure time of the final team. Any team that cannot leave the start line within 60 minutes of the last team's departure may be disqualified. The start time differential will be compensated for during each team's mandatory 6 hour layover at Braeburn or Carmacks, musher's choice. 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 minimum layover time at for their start differential (6 hours plus X). Layover time will not be changed in the event of a late start.

18. Gear and Equipment:

a) The following items must be presented to the checker before the Race Start and before checking in at each checkpoint:

1. Proper cold weather sleeping bag.
2. Hand axe 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 books (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.
7. Sled Bib displayed on the sled bag.

If a musher loses a required article of gear between checkpoints, he/she cannot check in at the checkpoint until he/she has acquired and replaced the lost item. The exceptions are: vet book and promotional material.

b) To be presented at the start line and when leaving checkpoints, but not required when checking in:

1. Minimum 2 litres of fuel, which is to be stored in a certified, approved container and clearly labelled.

2. Three sets of booties, one of which may be on the team.
3. Mandatory trackers must be on the sled at all times, unimpeded and not tampered with.
4. Adequate food for all dogs remaining in the team must be carried when leaving a checkpoint.

The musher may obtain items from a public or private source with the approval of the Race Marshal or Race Judge. A fine of \$50 will be assessed for each item replaced.

Dogs are expected to be bedded down and cared for prior to replacing lost item(s).

In addition to the mandatory gear listed above, items relative to the safety of the dog teams and mushers (i.e. sled brakes, mittens, etc.) may be replaced with the Race Marshal or a Race Judge's approval. A fine of \$50 will be assessed for each item. Should any mandatory gear be missing at the finish, a fine of \$50 will be assessed for each 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 can not reasonably ensure enforcement of a ban on two-way communication. The use of any device for the purpose of two-way communications is allowed on the trail.

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

NOTE: It is strongly recommended that an adequate amount of emergency food, in addition to what you carry for routine feeding and snacking, be carried in the sled at all times. A map, compass, parka, human and canine first aid kits, flares, and dog blankets are recommended.

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 failing to leave within 60 minutes of signing out will be assessed a \$50 penalty. 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 in Checkpoints: Only one handler per team will be authorized to be in the holding area at any time to monitor the team, and to intervene only in the case of a dog emergency / distress. If the musher is in the holding area, the handler must leave. Handlers cannot travel to the Time Stations.

Dogs Entering and Leaving Checkpoints: All dogs must leave checkpoints in harness and attached to the gang line. A dog may arrive at a checkpoint in the sled and leave in harness attached to the gang line upon approval of the race marshal and vet team. Handlers may assist a team to the exit of the checkpoint, but the musher may not lead the team out of a checkpoint. Additional assistance in leaving a checkpoint is based upon the approval of a race official. Dogs must leave from the exit point on their own volition at the verbal command of the musher. No jingles or intimidation may be used to compel a team to leave a checkpoint or time station.

Food and Equipment: After the musher leaves a checkpoint, all litter and remaining supplies must be bagged by the handler. Straw collection procedures 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 will be a total of 34 hours of floating rest taken in checkpoints, hospitality stops, dog drops time stations, and on the trail, combined. Mandatory Rest will be recorded and applied in 30-minute increments. Any amount less than a 30-minute increment will not be applied against Mandatory Rest remaining.

Of those 34 hours there will be one six hour mandatory stop in either Braeburn or Carmacks, musher's choice.

During the mandatory stop, each musher's race differential will be served, and every 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 Checkpoint or added at the finish line. Any time penalties assessed after Pelly will be added to the overall finish time.

21. Race Course:

All teams must follow the trail.

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 who is not able keep up with the race thus endangering themselves and/or their dogs, and/or causing undue burden upon the Yukon Quest race 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 is deemed to expose the dogs or musher to 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 2 hour time penalty.

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 or at checkpoints unless an emergency has been declared by the Race Marshal, or if an emergency is ruled to have occurred, after the fact. The intended spirit of this race dictates that the musher be self-sufficient and therefore able to help other mushers in case of real need. No assistance which would result in competitive advantage may be accepted or solicited. Handlers are not allowed on the YQ450 Trail between checkpoints.

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.

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:

Mushers may sleep in their dog truck or in a tent put up by their handlers. Details on facilities at each station along the trail will be given to mushers before the race, as soon as they are established. NO DOGS can be brought into the truck, tent or facility except by an official or vet for assessment purposes.

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 a Race Judges in conjunction with a Race Veterinarian, will have absolute authority over dog teams. Their judgment as to withdrawal of a dog(s) from the race, or any other conditions related to dog care, shall be final.

The health and condition of all dogs may be assessed at any checkpoint or time station; or in the case of a suspected emergency, at any point along the trail. 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 time station. 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. Dogs will never be fed by any mode other than voluntarily on the part of the dog. Mushers may assist one another with care and feeding of dogs between checkpoints. 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 8 dogs and no more than 12 dogs; and must finish with no less than 7 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 may 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 YQ450.

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 dogs being receiving health clearance for the race by Race Veterinarians, any exchange of dogs by the mushers must be approved by the Race Marshal, and that must be 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 and the dog must be in front of the musher, not behind, for instance in a trailer.

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 pounds of dog food, which is deemed to be one day's worth. In addition, mushers are responsible for providing cable necklines, collars with identification as per Rule 38. 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 in total, regardless of the number of dogs dropped, at the finish line. The musher remains responsible for dogs dropped outside of checkpoints and dog drops, and for all fees incurred. The dog(s) thus dropped 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.
2. Acupuncture.
3. Cold laser therapy.
4. Corticosteroids or anabolic steroids.
5. Any seizure medications.
6. 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 (DMSO and anti-inflammatories are not allowed, i.e. Voltaren with diclofenac).
2. De-wormers.
3. Antibiotics (except procaine penicillin).
4. Anti-diarrheals (except those with salicylates, i.e. Pepto-Bismol).

5. Omeprazole or famotidine (i.e. Pepcid or Prilosec).
6. Oral medication, implants and injectable medications used for mismating events have potential for severe side effects and should be used under veterinary supervision. All mismating 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 banned 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:

Any dog that expires during the race for any reason must be taken to the next or just passed checkpoint or dog drop and delivered to a Race Official, or it may be directly delivered 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.

If death of a dog has occurred through obvious external forces, i.e. run over by a snow machine, the musher may continue.

If death of a dog has occurred through indeterminate reasons, the musher will be declared withdrawn from the race.

The death of any dog may result in the disqualification of the musher, and/or prohibition from entering future races.

44. Unmanageable Team:

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

45. Team Configuration:

There will be no loose leaders; necklines are not required on leaders or team dogs. All team dogs will be either attached to the gang line or safely 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 by 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 honourable. 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 manager, official, volunteer, the Yukon Quest organization, or their sponsors or supporters. This 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 valued and important participants in this event. It is the musher's responsibility to embody the upper limits of human performance. A true Sportsman is an inspiration to all.

Yukon Quest International Association

#2 - 1109 Front Street

Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5G4

(867) 668-4711

E-mail: yukonoperations@yukonquest.com