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YUKON QUEST®

2016 RULES

Official Race Rules for the 33rd Annual Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race
As adopted by Yukon Quest International June 10, 2015

English is the official language of the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race

All dollar amounts are in U.S. currency

GENERAL RACE PROCEDURE

1. Race Start:

The official starting date for the 2016 race will be **Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 11:00 am** local time. The official starting place will be Fairbanks, Alaska unless otherwise designated by Yukon Quest International (hereinafter referred to as YQI). Any changes to this rule may be made by the 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:

2016 Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race entry opens August 1, 2015. **Receipt of the entry fee, completed application form, completed driver's profile, and driver photo will constitute the driver's intent to enter the race, and further acknowledges that the driver 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. Entries close at midnight local time December 4, 2015. Entries sent certified and postmarked by this date will be accepted. Late entries received from December 5, 2015 through the end of the business day on January 4, 2016 will be accepted. The maximum number of teams for the race is fifty (50). Once the maximum of fifty is reached, a waiting list will be established, again on a first-come, first-served basis. To qualify for the waiting list, the official entry form must be completed, and a \$100.00 non-refundable fee paid. This \$100.00 fee can be used towards the entry fee should a position become open. If a driver withdraws from the list of fifty, the name at the top of the waiting list will be moved up to the entry list, upon receipt of the rest of the required fees. **The slot will be held open for no more than seven (7) days after notification. The entry fee is \$1,300, with an additional non-refundable \$700 for food drop, straw, methanol, membership, and administrative costs (total of \$2,000). The total entry fee for late entries is \$2,500.**

a. Conditions of Entry:

- All drivers entered in the race must be members in good standing of YQI.
- Kennel entries must name a driver to enter. Drivers may be changed or entries may be transferred to another kennel for a fee of \$100.
- Kennel transfers and driver changes for non-medical reasons are not allowed after 50 teams have entered or after January 4, 2016.
- Drivers must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age by the start of the race.
- Drivers must have a demonstrated ability to complete a long-distance sled-dog race. Rookie drivers must complete a **300 mile YQI sanctioned race and one other YQI sanctioned race of at least 200 miles (500 miles minimum).** Yukon Quest entrants who reach Dawson City will be considered to have fulfilled both qualifiers. Completing at least 300 miles of the Yukon Quest or Iditarod will fulfill the 300 mile race requirement. Qualifying races

must be completed within 42 months of the start of the Yukon Quest race. Iditarod Finishers are qualified to enter the Yukon Quest. YQI may deem that previous or other racing experience is considered equivalent to one or both of the qualifiers. Drivers applying for this consideration or any exemption to any Rule(s) must do so in writing by the closing date of regular entries.

- **NOTE: No race allowing outside assistance (optional or otherwise) will be approved or accepted as a qualifier for the 2016 Yukon Quest.**

- All applicants will have their applications to enter the Yukon Quest 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 Yukon Quest.**
- **Each driver shall sign any and all documents or promotional material requested by YQI prior to or at the Drivers' Meeting. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.**

b. Definition of Rookie:

Any first time entrant or any previous entrant of the Yukon Quest who has not reached the Finish Line.

c. Substitution of Drivers for Medical Reasons:

Substitution of drivers for medical reasons will be permitted up to the start of the pre-race drivers' meeting, upon approval of the YQI Rules Committee and payment of a \$100 fee.

d. Withdrawal Before Race:

An entrant withdrawing for any reason on or before midnight January 4, 2016 will be refunded \$1,300 of the entry fee. An entrant withdrawing between January 4, 2016 and January 15, 2016 will be refunded \$ 650 of the entry fee. An entrant withdrawing or failing to qualify after midnight January 15, 2016 will forfeit the entire entry fee.

3. Course and Checkpoints:

The course covers approximately 1000 miles/1600 kilometers of mostly Arctic wilderness, much of it on and along the Yukon River. 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. Fairbanks | 5. Circle | 9. Carmacks |
| 2. Two Rivers | 6. Eagle | 10. Braeburn |
| 3. Mile 101 | 7. Dawson City | 11. Whitehorse |
| 4. Central | 8. Pelly Crossing | |

Official Dog Drops are as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Slaven's Roadhouse | 2. Scroggie Creek | 3. McCabe Creek |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|

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 shipped to checkpoints for the race must be in CLOTH BURLAP BAGS OR WOVEN POLY-BAGS, PERMANENTLY MARKED WITH DRIVER NAME. GROSS WEIGHT NOT TO EXCEED 40 POUNDS / 18.1 KILOGRAMS. Bags must be turned in to YQI prior to food shipment deadline. **Straw is not to be shipped in drop bags.** NO FOOD OR EQUIPMENT WILL BE DELIVERED TO CHECKPOINTS AFTER START OF RACE with the exception of Dawson City.

If a driver obtains dog food between checkpoints, that driver may be penalized or disqualified.

5. Promotional Material and Events:

YQI may require a small amount of promotional freight, including a GPS Tracker, 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. Attendance at the pre-race Meet-the-Musher reception is mandatory. **Failure to attend will result in a \$500.00 fine.**

Participation in the **Quest Guest Program** is mandatory. Net proceeds from this program will be added on top of the purse.

The following events are mandatory:

1. Pre-race Meet-the-Musher
2. Pre-race rookie meeting (rookies only)
3. Pre-race drivers' meeting
4. Start Banquet
5. Finish Banquet

6. Shipping Dropped Dogs:

Drivers will pay \$50 per dog to YQI for all transportation expenses incurred by or relevant to the return of their dropped dogs from fly-in only dog drops and checkpoints. Transportation for dogs dropped at other checkpoints or dog drops (along the road system) may be arranged for by the driver, or will be provided by YQI at the driver's expense.

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 Meet-the-Musher reception 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 calamities that may befall a driver.**

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 drivers in caring for their dogs' medical needs, and provide veterinary treatment for dropped dogs, if necessary.

8. Pre-Race 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 within fifteen (15) days prior to the start of the race. All dogs entered in the race shall have had

parvovirus and distemper vaccinations between March 6, 2015 and January 6, 2016. Bordetella (intra-nasal or injectable) vaccine must have been given between September 6, 2015 and January 6, 2016. Rabies vaccinations must be current and given no later than January 6, 2016. Certificates and invoices will be required to prove vaccination status. All dogs must be examined by a qualified YQI approved licensed veterinarian of the driver's choice at the driver's expense, or by a licensed veterinarian sponsored by YQI at an official vet check. **YQI will not provide this service after the official vet check.** The Race Marshal in conjunction with the Head Veterinarian has authority to disqualify unfit teams examined at the official vet check.

Rookie entrants must have their dogs examined at a YQI official Vet Check. Rookies who can not participate in the official Vet Check cannot start the race. A waiver may be considered in certain circumstances. Drivers applying for this consideration or any exemption to any Rule(s) must do so in writing by the closing date of regular entries.

The official YQI health certificate must be presented prior to the start of the pre-race drivers' meeting. **Failure to comply will result in disqualification.** The time and place of the vet check will be announced by YQI.

9. Drivers' Meeting and Drawing;

It will be mandatory for all rookies to attend a meeting at a time to be announced on the day of the Start Banquet. All entrants are required to attend the drivers' meeting at 1:00 p.m. on the day of the Start Banquet. **Failure to answer all roll calls in person will result in a \$500.00 fine.** A handlers' meeting will be held at a time to be announced. The location of these meetings will be announced by YQI. Each driver must draw their starting position in person at the Start Banquet.

10. Prize Money (U.S. Currency):

Following is the breakdown of prize money pay-out by percentage.

1. 20.37%	6. 8.43%
2. 14.92%	7. 7.35%
3. 12.21%	8. 6.26%
4. 10.32%	9. 5.72%
5. 9.24%	10. 5.18%

The 2016 purse will be announced prior to opening day sign-up on August 1, 2015.

Net proceeds from the **Quest Guest Program** will be added on top of the purse. Breakdown of these proceeds will follow the current prize money breakdown and distribution for 2016.

11. Sled:

Only one (1) sled per driver will be used throughout the race. Each driver 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 1000 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 or attached or re-attached at Dawson City. 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 drivers, 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, with **a time penalty of eight (8) hours served at Dawson or the last designated mandatory stop.**

12. Finish Banquet:

The Finish Banquet will take place in Whitehorse at a time and place to be announced by YQI. All drivers who have crossed the finish line up to two (2) hours before the ceremony will be present. The winner will have a representative of his/her dog team present for recognition. An official finish is a prerequisite for receiving awards. **Drivers will receive fifty (50) percent of their prize money at the Finish Banquet. The rest will be disbursed to the drivers after negative drug test results have been confirmed, and fines / fees are assessed, within 30 days.** Those who do not attend the Finish Banquet may be fined up to five hundred dollars (\$500).

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 (Canada); Yukon Quest International Limited (Alaska) as well as all of their agents, officers, employees, sponsors and volunteers.

14. Driver's Report/Protest Form:

This sled dog race 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 driver 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 Drivers' Report/Protest Forms must be submitted to a Race Official within 48 hours of the final team crossing the Finish Line or within 48 hours of the Finish Banquet, whichever is later.

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 driver for cause, including prohibition from entering a future race or races. The driver so involved may request in writing an informal hearing by a written review board within thirty (30) days of the date of censure and/or fine and/or penalty. In the event that the driver so involved may, by clear and convincing evidence, show that the action taken should be reversed, the driver so involved understands and agrees that the maximum financial recovery shall be limited to the prize money for the finishing position that the driver so involved could realistically have attained but for the action taken. The driver so involved further agrees that this remedy shall be the sole and exclusive remedy. In no event shall the driver so involved be entitled to incidental or consequential damages as they are outside the sole and exclusive remedy above provided.

16. Statutory Compliance:

Any driver 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

1. Common Start/Late Start:

Mushers must wear their Start Bib as they start the race. Failure to do so will result in a \$500 fine. Teams will leave the starting line at three-minute intervals. Any driver 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 sixty (60) minutes of the last team's departure may be disqualified. The starting time differential will be compensated for during each team's mandatory four (4) hour layover at either Mile 101 or Central. For elapsed time purposes, therefore, the race will be a common-start event. YQI will give to each driver their total layover time at Mile 101 or at Central, driver's choice, which will not be changed in the event of a late start.

2. Gear and Equipment:

- a. The following items must be presented to the checker before checking in at each checkpoint:
 1. Proper cold weather sleeping bag.
 2. Hand ax with an overall length of at least twenty-two (22) inches/56 centimeters.
 3. One pair of adequate snowshoes with bindings, with a minimum area of approximately two hundred and fifty (250) square inches/1612 square centimeters each.
 4. Veterinary records (loss will incur a five hundred dollar (\$500) fine.) The veterinary book must be returned to a Race Judge upon completion of the race or when withdrawing for any reason.
 5. Any promotional material that YQI has asked the driver to carry to Fairbanks/Whitehorse. YQI may require 1 or 2 banners of up to 400 square inches (2580 square centimeters) be displayed on the sled as directed.
 6. Functional cooker
 7. An adequate amount of fuel to bring three (3) gallons of water to a boil.

Drivers should have these items in their possession at all times. If a driver 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 driver may obtain items from a public or private source with the approval of the Race Marshal or Race Judge. A fine of \$500 will be assessed for each item.

In addition to the mandatory gear listed above, items relative to the safety of the dog teams and drivers (i.e. sled brakes, mittens, etc.) may be replaced with the Race Marshal or Race Judge's approval. A fine of \$500 will be assessed for each item.

Should any mandatory gear be missing at the finish, a fine of \$1500 will be assessed for each item.

b. In addition, eight (8) booties for each dog, either in the sled or in use and in the sled, are required when a driver signs out of each checkpoint.

c. 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, canine first aid kit, flares, and dog blankets are recommended.

d. PLBs (Personal Locator Beacons) will be allowed at the Driver's discretion. Activation of a PLB will constitute withdrawal or disqualification from the race.

e. **GPS will be allowed as long as there is no communication between persons** (no voice, no email, no text messaging, etc.) GPS and the like must be declared to the Race Marshal prior to the start of the race.

f. **Satellite Communication Devices, Cell Phones, and Radios are prohibited on the trail. The use of any device for the purpose of two way communications is not allowed on the trail and will result in disqualification.**

g. Excess food or gear may be given only to residents along the trail or to other mushers.

3. Checkpoint:

a. Check-in/Sign out:

Each driver 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 driver failing to sign out, or to leave within **sixty (60)** minutes of signing out will be assessed a \$500.00 penalty or **a driver and team may return on the trail to a checkpoint to sign out without penalty.** The sixty (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. The checkpoints will be staffed twenty-four (24) hours a day for a period of sixty (60) hours after the first team arrives. The checkpoint may be staffed on a limited basis after that, until all the teams have passed.

b. 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.

c. Food and Equipment:

Prior to leaving the checkpoint all litter and remaining supplies must be bagged by the driver. 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 driver has left a checkpoint. Any items not retrieved become the property of YQI.

4. Thirty-six (36) hour Stop (Dawson City):

There is one mandatory thirty-six (36) hour stop at Dawson City, Yukon. Time begins when the driver checks in at Dawson City. All dogs continuing in the race must be kept in the designated holding area. THE FOLLOWING IS ALLOWED IN DAWSON CITY: (a) Delivery of food and equipment after the start of the race; (b) Assistance with feeding dogs and repairing equipment; **(c) Tent shelters for dogs, limited to an open-ended, non-heated shelter;** (d) There are no restrictions as to where drivers may sleep during the mandatory 36 hour layover at Dawson City. THE FOLLOWING IS NOT ALLOWED IN DAWSON CITY: (a) Removing dogs from the holding area; (b) Housing dogs in dog boxes or autos and trucks; **(c) Taking dogs other than those continuing in the race into the holding area.**

5. Mandatory Stops:

In addition to Dawson City, for each team there will be a mandatory four (4) hour stop at either Mile 101 or Central, driver's choice. The starting time differential is added to the layover time at the chosen checkpoint. There will be a mandatory four (4) hour stop at Eagle and a mandatory eight (8) hour stop at Braeburn. During each mandatory stop, every team will be evaluated by a YQI

veterinarian. The driver must be present during the evaluation. Race Veterinarians will report their findings to Race Officials. Time penalties will only be served at the following **designated mandatory stops**: Dawson City or Braeburn. Any time penalties assessed after Braeburn will be added to the overall finish time.

6. Race Course:

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

7. Standard Race Courtesy:

Standard race courtesy shall prevail. An overtaken driver and team must relinquish the trail at the request of the overtaking driver, except within one (1) mile/1.6 kilometers of the finish line in Fairbanks/Whitehorse. Ski poles may not be used within 100 yards / 92 meters of another team.

8. Clearing the Trail:

Drivers setting up camp must clear the trail of their dogs and gear. Build fires a safe distance off the trail.

9. 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. 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, five hundred dollar (\$500) fine and/or time penalty at Dawson or the last **designated mandatory stop**.

10. One Driver Per Team:

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

11. Tampering:

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

12. Teams Tied Together:

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

13. Outside Assistance:

No planned help is allowed throughout the race, with the exception of Dawson City. No driver may receive outside assistance between or at checkpoints unless an emergency has been declared by the Race Marshal, or is subsequently so ruled. The intended spirit of this race dictates that the driver be self-sufficient and therefore able to help other drivers in case of real need. No assistance which would result in competitive advantage may be accepted or solicited. Handlers are not allowed on the Yukon Quest Trail between checkpoints.

14. Demand for Food and Shelter:

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

15. Sleeping Areas:

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

16. 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 driver 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 YQI Race Official.

17. Motorized Vehicles:

In no case may a driver accept assistance from any type of motorized vehicle between checkpoints (except as allowed under Rule 30). Pacing is prohibited.

18. Care and Feeding of Dogs:

All care and feeding of dogs will be done by the drivers only, except at Dawson City. Neither force feeding nor stomach tubing is allowed. Dawson City is the only location along the trail at which the driver may be more than a few minutes away from his/her team without permission of the Race Marshal or a Race Judge. Drivers may assist one another between checkpoints. At non-checkpoints, a driver may accept hospitality for himself or herself only. At no time during the race may a driver house dogs in heated shelters.

19. Dog Minimums and Maximums:

Drivers must start the race with no less than eight (8) dogs and no more than fourteen (14) dogs; and must finish with no less than six (6) 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.

20. Harnesses:

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

21. Marking/Tagging of Dogs:

All dogs leaving the starting line will be identified by a micro-chip and a current year only YQI collar tag. Legible driver and dog names are required on each collar. Micro-chips are at the driver's expense.

22. 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 drivers must be approved by the Race Marshal prior to leaving the starting line.

23. Treatment of Dogs:

There will be no cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs. No use of whips will be allowed. 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 visually assessed at every checkpoint. Dogs may not be examined without the driver's knowledge. Race Veterinarians in conjunction with the Race Marshal or a Race Judge may deem it necessary to perform a veterinary exam or detain teams at any

checkpoint if the health and welfare of a team warrants it. No dog team will leave a checkpoint until the dogs in that team are fit to continue in the race.

Each time entries are made by the Race Veterinarians, the driver must sign the veterinary book.

24. Hauling Dogs:

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

25. 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 (2) days food. Drivers are responsible for providing cable necklines, collars, as per Trail Procedure Rule #21, 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 driver **may** be subject to an eight (8) hour penalty at Dawson or the last **designated mandatory stop**, regardless of the number of dogs dropped. The driver remains responsible for that dog (or dogs) and all fees incurred. The dog(s) must be examined by a Race Veterinarian and accounted for within 48 hours or prior to the start of the Finish Banquet, whichever is sooner.

26. Drugs:

The driver must have his/her 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.

YQI Veterinarians or Veterinary Assistants may randomly collect blood and/or urine samples beginning at the Vet Check and up until 2 hours after a dog team has finished, scratched, or been withdrawn or disqualified from the race. It is the responsibility of the driver to assist the Race Veterinarian or Veterinary Assistant in the collection of the samples. The driver or the driver's handler **must** be present at all times during the taking and sealing of such samples. Documents evidencing the procedure **shall** be signed by the driver or their handler. No person may interfere in any way with the collection of samples or procedures conducted under this rule.

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 driver is required to protect and guard his/her 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 driver has failed to meet the duties imposed upon him/her.**

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 be responsible for assessing these penalties.

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

27. Expired Dogs:

The death of any dog may result in the disqualification of the driver, 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.

28. 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.

29. 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 2 dogs abreast, or hauled in the sled. **Drivers 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.

30. Lost Team:

A lost team will not be disqualified if the driver regains control of it, provided that the team and driver complete the entire race trail and comply with the rules including checkpoint requirements. As long as the team and driver continue on the trail when separated, the driver may remain in the race when regaining control. A driver may receive assistance from another driver in recovering his/her team. A driver may receive assistance from a motorized vehicle to regain control of a lost team (or dog(s)) as long as the driver and team return to the point at which the team (or dog(s)) was lost and

continue the race from that point. The incident shall be reported to a Race Official at the next checkpoint.

31. 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 \$500 fine.

a) **Scratch** - Drivers 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. Drivers 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 driver, 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 driver to comply with the published Rules of General Race Procedure and/or Trail Procedure may result in disqualification, monetary fine, or a time penalty, or a combination of these measures. Disqualified drivers 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.

32. Finish:

Mushers must wear their Finish Bib as they cross the Finish Line. Failure to do so will result in a \$500 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 \$1500 fine per missing item. **Dog teams must remain at the finish line or within the holding area until all blood and/or urine samples are collected or until the team is released by the Race Marshal, a Race Judge, or a Race Veterinarian.**

33. Sportsmanship:

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

Rude behavior or inappropriate actions by a driver or handler may result in a penalty, withdrawal, or disqualification.

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 driver's responsibility to define the upper limits of human performance. A true Sportsman is an inspiration to all witnesses.