

# YUKON QUEST 450 SLED DOG RACE

## 2025 RULES

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## **PREAMBLE**

This race is proposed to be an educational, cooperative, yet competitive, adventure for experienced dog mushers and those wishing to gain experience for a longer 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 all the dogs in each team. It is on this the mushers will be judged.

These rules are subject to change. Participating Mushers are responsible for ensuring their support teams are aware of such changes. Rule changes will also be notified on the website.

### **1. 2025 Yukon Quest Date**

The official starting date for the 2025 Yukon Quest race will be **Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**, at 1:00pm. local time, in Whitehorse, Yukon in the form of a Ceremonial Start. Any changes to this rule may be made by the YQ Race Marshal with approval from the YQ Race & Trail Committee. The race will be held as scheduled, regardless of weather conditions.

The restart of the YQ400 will be on **Sunday February 2, 2025**, at 1:00pm. local time in Teslin, Yukon. Teslin, Yukon will also serve as the finish line. Teams will leave the restart line in the same order as they left Whitehorse on Saturday, February 1st.

The start/ restart location may be changed by the YQ Race Marshal with approval from the YQ Race & Trail Committee, unless otherwise designated by Yukon Quest International (hereinafter referred to as YQ).

### **2. Entering the Race**

#### **a. Entries**

2025 YQ400 entries will be accepted from Tuesday October 1st, 2024 to Friday December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on a first come, first serve basis. Receipt of the non-refundable entry fee and completion of the online application process, will constitute the musher's intent to enter the race and acknowledges that the musher understands and agrees to comply with all Yukon Quest rules. YQ reserves the right to reject any entry.

Number of entries will be capped at 20 teams. Entries will not be accepted after Friday, December 20, 2024.

Once the maximum of 20 teams is reached, a waiting list will be established on a first come, first serve basis. To qualify for the waiting list, the online application process must be completed and the appropriate entry fee paid. \$100 is non-refundable if the musher withdraws from the waiting 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 3 business days after notification, up to January 15th, 2025.

Waitlisted entrants, unable to compete due to a full field of 20 teams, will receive a full refund.

If a musher chooses to downgrade their entry to the YQ175, they may do so, up until January 15th, 2025. No difference in Entry fee will be reimbursed.

**b. Entry Fees**

The entry fees are

- \$800 CDN from October 1st to October 31st, 2024.
- \$900 starting November 1st, 2024 to November 30th, 2024.
- \$1000 starting December 1st, 2024 to December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**c. Conditions of Entry**

- Entries are determined on a first-come, first-served basis.
- All registered mushers must be members in good standing with YQ.
- Musher Assessment Forms must be completed and submitted with entry.
- Kennel entries must name a musher to enter. Mushers 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 20 teams have entered or after January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- All applicants will have their applications to enter the YQ400 reviewed by the Race Marshall and the Race and Trail Committee.
- Mushers must be a minimum of 18 years of age by the start of the race.
- YQ will honour censures from the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Censures from other sled dog racing organizations may also be honoured.
- Entry will not be accepted until unpaid fines and bills to YQ are paid.
- No one convicted of animal abuse or neglect may enter the YQ races.
- Each musher grants YQ 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. YQ includes Yukon

Quest International Association (Canada); as well as their agents, officers, employees, sponsors and volunteers.

- Each musher shall also sign all documents or promotional material requested by YQ prior to or at the Musers' Meeting. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.

**d. Mandatory Meetings and Events**

It is mandatory that all competitors attend the following race meetings and events;

\*\*Failure to answer all roll calls in person, on time and when roll call is announced, will result in a \$150 fine.

- Meet the Musers & Bib Draw
- Sponsor Evening
- Ceremonial Start
- Musers and Handlers Pre-Race Meeting (muser with at least one handler must attend)\*
- Pre-race Vet Check - refer to rule 5.a
- Post-Race Muser Meeting\*
- Finish & Awards Evening (all those who have crossed the finish line)

Dates, times and locations for meetings and events, will be communicated by the office, to all competitors, once confirmed.

**e. Substitution of Musers for Medical Reasons**

Substitution of musers for unforeseen medical reasons will be permitted up to the start of the Pre-Race Musers' Meeting, upon approval of the Race Marshall and payment of a \$100 fee. Substitute musers must meet all YQ muser qualifications.

**3. Race Officials**

**a. Race Marshall**

The intent of the rules will guide the Race Marshall and Race Judges in their decisions. The Race Marshall is in charge of all aspects of the race from the first mandatory pre-race meeting/event, until 14 days after the last team crosses the finish line.

**b. Race Judges**

Race Judges will act as deputies of the Race Marshall.

**c. Head Veterinarian & Race Veterinarians**

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.

**d. Checkers**

Race checkers will record the time a team arrives and leaves a checkpoint. Race checkers will also perform mandatory gear checks as required.

**4. Dog Welfare**

**a. Vet Check**

All dogs must be examined by a licensed veterinarian sponsored by YQ at the official vet check. The YQ will not provide this service before or after the official vet check. Any dog which cannot qualify for a YQ certificate of good health at the vet check, will not run in the race. The Race Marshal in conjunction with the Head Veterinarian has authority to disqualify unfit teams examined at the official vet check.

- The vet check will take place indoors and all dogs will be examined indoors.
- All mushers must be present during the vet check of their dog team.
- Teams must have all original vaccine documentation at the vet check.

The time and place of the vet check will be announced by YQ.

**b. Vaccine Requirements**

- Combination vaccine that MUST include Parvovirus and Distemper, is required to be given before Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Previous Distemper/ Parvo vaccinations in dogs who are on a 3 year vaccination protocol CANNOT expire before the end of February 2025.
- Bordetella (kennel cough) is required either intranasal or as injectable form only, before Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. That means that previous Kennel Cough administrations CANNOT expire before the end of February 2025.
- Rabies vaccine is required before Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Previous Rabies vaccinations in dogs who are on a 3-year vaccination protocol CANNOT expire before the end of February 2025

**c. Proof of Vaccines**

Proof of all vaccines must be submitted NO LATER THAN Jan 6th, 2025 to YQ head office. Photos or scans of vaccination records will be accepted by email and must show clearly the information required below;

- Rabies vaccine certificates, including dates when given and serial # of vaccine (include vaccine stickers if possible)

- Vaccination records for Distemper/Parvo and Bordetella (kennel cough) including dates when vaccines were given.

**d. 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 Judge 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 dog drop, 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 in emergencies). Race Veterinarians, in conjunction with the Race Marshal or a Race Judge, may perform a veterinary exam or detain teams at any checkpoint or dog drop. No dog team will leave a checkpoint until the dogs in that team are fit to continue in the race.

**e. Care and Feeding of Dogs**

All care and feeding of dogs will be done by the mushers only. No force feeding of dogs is permitted. 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.

**f. Mandatory Rest and Vet Checks**

There will be a total of 32 hours mandatory rest taken in checkpoints and on the trail. 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 32 hours of mandatory rest, rest must be taken in checkpoints and on the trail as follows: 6 hours in Ross River 1 **or** Faro and 26 hours on the trail. Rest at Ross River 1 or Faro that is more than 30 minutes and less than 6 hours will count towards trail rest.

During the mandatory stop, each musher's race differential will be served, and every team will undergo a mandatory vet check. **Mushers will not be permitted to leave Ross River 2 until a YQ Veterinarian confirms there are at a minimum 8 dogs in the mushers team that are in a condition to continue the race.** The musher must be present during the evaluations. The Race Veterinarians will report their findings to the Race Official. Time penalties will be served at Faro or added at the finish line. Any time penalties assessed after Faro will be added to the overall finish time.

**g. Drugs**

The Head Veterinarian must be notified of any dogs receiving allowed medication to treat an existing medical problem. A statement from the family veterinarian, describing the diagnosis and prescribed treatment must be presented with the vaccine records, or no later than at the official vet check.



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

**Prohibited drugs or therapies for dogs participating in the race:**

- Any substance by injection (SQ, IM, IV).
- Acupuncture via handheld laser or needles.
- Cold laser therapy.
- Corticosteroids or anabolic steroids.
- Any seizure medications (AED= anti epileptic drugs like Phenobarbital).
- 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 in the race.

The musher must ensure that their dog team is 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.

**Permitted drugs for dogs participating in the race:**

An official supervising Race Veterinarian should be consulted if there is any uncertainty regarding the suitability and administration of the following drugs during race time.

- Topical medications (creams/ointments) with the exception of those containing steroids or NSAIDs. (DMSO, Voltaren, A535 and Diclofenac are not permitted).
- Cephalexin; although widely used and certainly available to mushers (leftovers from previous races or from previous prescribed treatments), this should not be used in all and every case.
- **Metronidazole (Flagyl)**; admittedly, a great antibiotic/ antiprotozoal, but it is not the “one treats all” medication for any type of gastrointestinal upset.
- **Imodium; as an antidiarrheal medication, it is of course available over the counter, but care should be taken with dose and length of treatment in dogs/ sled dogs. It should only be given if a dog is well hydrated.**  
There is a possibility that it will literally “slow the dog down” (and not just the intestines.....)  
The dose is 2 mg per 40 lbs of body weight and should be given twice a day and no longer than 2-3 days in a row.  
**NOTE;** it is an “off label” medication for dogs (human medicine)
- **Omeprazole; an anti-acid medication for reduction of stomach acid, prevention of gastric reflux and subsequently ulcer formation. It is recommend to put dogs on either Prilozec, Losec or Famotidine (pepcid) starting 5-7 days prior to and continue throughout the race.**

**To be most successful it should ideally be given 20-30 min before a meal at a dose of 20 mg per dog twice daily (if dogs are fed twice daily). This can be difficult to do under race conditions. As soon as the dog eats and food hits the stomach, stomach acid will immediately be produced, therefore, it will be much less effective if given with the meal.**

- Antibiotics (except procaine penicillin).

All dogs should be dewormed prior to the race and not during.

Oral medication, implants and injectable medications used for mismating events are no longer recommended and are considered an outdated practice. They can lead to potential severe side effects and should only be used under veterinary supervision. If any dog has undergone mismating injections or implants, this must have been administered before Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.

All other drugs and foreign substances are prohibited.

**Each 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.

#### **h. Dropped Dogs**

Any dogs that are injured, fatigued or sick 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. Every dropped dog must be examined by a Race Veterinarian.

Dogs may be dropped for emergency medical reasons at 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.

#### **i. Shipping Dropped Dogs**

Mushers will pay \$100 per dog to YQ for all transportation expenses incurred by or

relevant to the return of their dropped dogs from fly-in only (remote) dog drops and checkpoints. Transportation for dogs dropped at other checkpoints or dog drops (along the road system) may be arranged for by the musher or will be provided by YQ at the musher's expense.

**j. 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 the 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.

**5. Musher Conduct**

**a. 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 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.

**b. Race & Trail Courtesy**

Standard race courtesy shall prevail. A musher and team must relinquish the trail at the request of an 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.

**c. 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.

**d. Litter**

Litter of any kind may not be left along the trail or at cabins, including dog booties. 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. A Race Official may approach a musher at any checkpoint or hospitality stop to ensure that the garbage they generated from the last run was not abandoned and is in the sled. Failure to abide by this rule may result in disqualification, \$150 fine and/or 2 hour time penalty.

e. **Tampering**

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

f. **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 YQ400 Trail between checkpoints. In the event of a loose dog or runaway team anyone may assist the musher without penalty to the musher.

Outside assistance is allowed for a team that is arriving at or leaving a checkpoint, and at 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.

g. **Demand for Food & Shelter**

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

h. **Sleeping Areas**

Details on facilities at each checkpoint/hospitality spot will be provided in the musher/ handler package, available to the musher before the race, once they are confirmed. Mushers cannot access their truck at any point in the race for any reason. Access to a truck may result in fines and/or time penalties at the Race Marshal's discretion.

i. **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. YQ will arrange for further salvage. Any other animal killed in defense of life or property must be reported to a Race Official.

j. **Motorized Vehicles**

In no case may a musher accept assistance from any type of motorized vehicle between checkpoints (except as allowed under Rule 7.j). Pacing is prohibited.

k. **Competitiveness**

The Race Marshal may at any time withdraw or disqualify a Musher they believe

- is not making a true attempt at running a competitive race or
- is not able to keep up with the race thus endangering themselves and/or their dogs, and/or
- is causing undue burden upon the Yukon Quest race organization.

The Race Marshal will make this call based upon the condition of the team, trail and weather conditions, attitude and skill level of the musher, as well as the pace at which the team in question 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.

**1. Musher's Report / Protest Form**

The Yukon Quest will only survive if the competition is conducted fairly and the dogs are well cared for and humanely treated. It is the duty of every musher to report all violations of these Rules to the Race Marshal or Race Judges. The forms for reporting violations or protests are available from the Race Officials and at checkpoints. Any Musher's Report/Protest Forms must be submitted to a Race Official within 72 hours from when the last team crosses the finish line.

**6. Team Management**

**a. Dog Minimums and Maximums**

Mushers must start the race with no less than 10 dogs and no more than 12 dogs; and must finish with no less than 7 dogs on the line. Mushers will not be permitted to leave Ross River 2 (return trip to Teslin) until a YQ Veterinarian confirms there are at a minimum 8 dogs in the mushers team that are in a condition to continue the race. 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.

**b. Harnesses**

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

**c. Marking / Tagging of Dogs**

All dogs will be identified by tags, with the musher's bib number and a letter. YQ will provide these tags to the musher, prior to the start of the race and must be on the dogs before arriving at the vet check. No microchips are required for dogs participating in the YQ400

**d. Switching of Dogs**

Switching of dogs between teams is not permitted after teams have officially left the start line. Following the issuance of tags and dogs receiving health clearance by Race Veterinarians, any exchange of dogs by the mushers must be approved by the Race Marshal, and that must occur prior to leaving the starting line.

e. **One Musher per Team**

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

f. **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.

g. **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. No dog is to be hauled behind the musher, for instance in a trailer or back-pack, at any time.

h. **Tying Teams 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.

i. **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.

j. **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 an escaped team or a 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.

## **7. Race Trail**

a. **Start Line**

The official starting place will be Whitehorse, Yukon, on Saturday February 1st, in the form of a Ceremonial Start and the restart of the race will take place the following day, Sunday February 2nd, 2024, in Teslin, Yukon, unless otherwise designated by YQ. Any changes to this rule may be made by the YQ Race Marshal. The minimum number of dogs for the Ceremonial Start is 10 with a potential rider in front and handler being towed in the back.

Mushers must wear their Start Bib at both the Ceremonial Start in Whitehorse and at the restart in Teslin 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. The start time differential will be compensated for during each team's mandatory 6-hour layover at Ross River or Faro, musher's choice. For elapsed time purposes, therefore, the race will be a common-start event. Before the start of the race, YQ will give to each musher their total minimum layover time for their start differential (6 hours plus X). Layover time will not be changed in the event of a late start.

**b. Late Start**

Any musher who cannot leave the starting line in the order drawn will start a minimum of three 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.

**c. Race Course**

The course covers approximately 400 miles/643 kilometers of mostly Arctic wilderness. The trail will be broken and marked prior to the race. In the event of bad weather conditions, there will be no guarantee of broken trail during the race.

All teams must follow the official trail.

**d. Checkpoints, Dog Drops & Hospitality Stops**

Handlers are not permitted to provide assistance to Mushers at any checkpoint. Mushers are responsible for managing their team in the holding areas at all checkpoints.

Official Checkpoints:

- Quiet Lake:
- Ross River
- Faro

Dog Drops:

- Johnson Crossing
- Quite Lake
- Ross River
- Faro

Hospitality Spots:

- Ross River
- Faro

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.

**e. Check-In and 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.

**f. 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.

**g. Holding Areas in Checkpoints**

Only one handler per team will be authorized 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.

**h. Food and Equipment Left at Checkpoint**

After the musher leaves a checkpoint, all litter and remaining supplies must be bagged by the handler. 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 YQ.

Mushers will dispose of any litter that they generate at Quiet Lake in the manner prescribed by the Race officials.

**i. Finish Line**

The official Finish Line will be Teslin, Yukon.

Mushers must wear their Finish Bib as they cross the Finish Line. Failure to do so will result in a \$150 fine. The time of a team's official finish is when the nose of the first dog crosses the finish line.

Mandatory gear missing at the finish will result in a \$50 fine per missing item. If a musher's veterinary book is lost, the musher will be disqualified.



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.

## **8. Equipment Requirements**

### **a. Sleds**

Only one sled per musher will be used throughout the race. **Sprint sleds, as per manufacturer description, are prohibited.** 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 a long distance race model and should be capable of safely negotiating a 400-mile trail. It should be able to haul all required food, materials, equipment and any and all injured or fatigued dogs at the same time. Any injured, fatigued or expired dogs must be carried in the sled bag, being sheltered from the elements.

In the event of repairs, there must not be significant alteration of size or reduction in weight. 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.

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.

### **b. Mandatory Gear**

The following items must be presented to the checker before the race start and before checking in at each checkpoint:

- Winter sleeping bag rated to -40c or lower comfort limit.
- Hand axe with an overall length of at least 22 inches/56 centimeters.
- First aid kits for both Musher and Dogs
- One pair of adequate snowshoes with bindings, with a minimum area of approximately 250 square inches/1612 square centimeters each.
- Veterinary Book: **In the case of a lost veterinary book, the musher will be disqualified.** 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.
- Functional cooker.
- Sled Bib displayed on the sled bag at all times.

- First Aid Kit : This kit does not and should not contain any oral/systemic antibiotics or painkillers. This kit will help you deal with minor injuries/localized-superficial infections on a first aid basis immediately on the trail.
  - i. Bandage Material (gauze, non-adhered pads, vet wrap bandages, pressure bandage 4"x 4") Tape, Bandage Scissors, Assorted band aids, Antiseptic Wipes, Povidone-iodine, Few tongue depressors (for possible splinting) , Tweezers, Safety pins, Cotton tip applicators, Skin adhesive, Gloves, Nail clippers, Small scalpel blade, Zinc ointment, Polysporine skin and eye ointment.

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. There is one exception: promotional material.

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

- Minimum 2 litres of fuel, which is to be stored in a certified, approved container and clearly labelled.
- Three sets of booties, one of which may be on the team.
- Mandatory trackers must be on the sled at all times, unimpeded and not tampered with.
- Adequate food for all dogs remaining in the team must be carried when leaving a checkpoint.
- Two working headlamps
- Dog Jackets – one for every dog

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. Emergency Supplies**

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.

d. **Shipment of Food & Equipment**

All food and equipment for the race must be in **cloth burlap bags or woven poly-bags, permanently marked with the musher's name.**

- Food drop bags will be delivered to the YQ on Thursday January 30,2025. Location and time to be determined.
- All fuel/HEET will be shipped by the Musher with but not in the food drop bags for all checkpoints.
- Food drop bags will be weighed by race staff at the mushers meeting. **YQ will not ship a drop bag that is over 40lbs.**
- The Yukon Quest will provide two bales of straw per team in each checkpoint.
- Mushers are responsible for supplying all their own fuel/ HEET and this must be stored in a certified, approved container and clearly labelled. It must not be stored in food drop bags. Fuel/HEET will not be provided by YQ at any time.

e. **Communications Devices**

- 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.
- The YQ will supply one SPOT tracker per sled. If any emergency device is activated in the event of any emergency or assistance required, this will constitute withdrawal from the race or will result in disqualification from the race.
- GPS use is allowed.
- Two Way Communication: Mushers may carry and use two-way communication devices.
- Any other data loggers or tracking device(s) as requested by the Race Marshal.

9. **Scratch / Withdrawal / Disqualification**

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 YQ.

**b. Withdrawal**

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 YQ 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 YQ office for retrieval.

All decisions by the Race Marshal and/or Race Judge 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 will result in a \$150 fine.

## **10. Rule Infractions**

**a. Rules**

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

**b. Process for Determining and Issuing Penalties**

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 first mandatory pre-race meeting/ event, until 14 days after the last team crosses 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.

**c. Censure and/or Fine and/or Penalty**

In reference to action taken by the YQ Race & Trail Committee, Race Marshal or Race Judges during the race, YQ may censure and/or fine and/or penalize a musher for cause, including prohibition from entering a future race or races.

**d. Appeals**

A musher so involved may appeal the decision of the YQ. Appeals must be presented in writing to the YQ Board of Directors within 30 days of the musher being notified of the censure, fine and/or penalty. YQ will appoint an Appeal Board to conduct an

informal hearing to make a decision on the matter. The decision of the Appeal Board is final.

If the YQ 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.

**e. 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.

**Claim**

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 YQ 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.”

**Note**

English is the official language of the YQ400 Sled Dog Race.  
All dollar amounts are in Canadian currency (CAD).