

## **2019 Denali Doubles Invitational Sled Dog Race Rules**

The Denali Doubles Invitational Sled Dog Race (DDISDR) is a sled dog race for cash prizes along the Denali Highway. The race begins in Cantwell, Alaska, runs to a point east of Maclaren River Lodge and then returns to Alpine Creek Lodge for the finish with stops at designated checkpoints along the trail.

1. The race begins in Cantwell, Alaska on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. Each entered team will consist of two mushers and one dog team. Single sled, Tandem sleds (drag sled), Gee Pole Sled, or sled and an attached skier are authorized team configurations. At no time can a team be changed into two separate units. Additional configurations must be cleared by Race Marshall prior to race start.
2. The entry fee is \$300. Entry fees will be accepted beginning Wednesday, February 13, 2019 by PayPal to [info@huskyhomestead.com](mailto:info@huskyhomestead.com), or by check. The last date for payment of the \$300 entry fee is Sunday, March 24, 2019. The entry fee must be either postmarked or received by the Race Committee by that date. The fee is non-refundable after the race application has been approved by the Race Committee. Teams must enter by declaring eligible musher (Musher #1 on entry form). Musher #2 may be designated in writing no later than March 18, 2019. DDISDR reserves the right to authorize substitute mushers at a later date. DDISDR will cap entries at a 20 team limit.
3. To be eligible, Musher “#1” on race entry form must have placed in the top 5 places, *or* received Humanitarian Award *or* have been awarded Rookie of the Year in any dogsled race prior to sign up. Musher “#2” must not completed the Yukon Quest or the Iditarod within the past 10 years. Race organization reserves the right to deny participation. Teams will be notified by email of their acceptance into the DDISDR within two weeks of receipt of entry application. Entries not accepted will receive a full refund of entry fees paid within 14 days. A waiting list of qualified entries will be kept provided entry fee has been paid in full.
4. A team finishes the race when the nose of any dog in the team crosses the finish line at Alpine Creek Lodge.
5. Each musher must be present at the racer’s meeting on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the start location. There will be no drawing. The start order for the Denali Doubles will be determined by a computer generated random drawing.
6. Mushers may wish to attend the breakfast banquet that follows the race and the post-race racers meeting Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at Alpine Creek Lodge. Attendance at the banquet and post-race racers meeting is not mandatory. (All you-can-eat breakfast is free for mushers; all others are \$10/each.)

7. Racers must provide as many handlers as are required to keep their teams under control at the starting point. In the event of poor trail conditions racers may be required to take additional steps to control their team at the start. Any racer may use an ATV or snow machine for control at the start for as far as deemed appropriate by the racer. Racers must start in their assigned position and time. In addition, racers must wear any bib or banner provided by the committee on their back at the starting line – if so provided.
8. Teams must begin the race with no more than 16 dogs and no fewer than 12 dogs. At no time may a team travel with less than 10 dogs in harness and attached to the gang line. No dogs are to be added to a team after leaving the starting line. Each dog must wear an identification tag if provided by the Race Committee.
9. All dogs are subject to a mandatory veterinary check at any time prior to, during, or after the race. Dogs not fit to begin or continue the race may be removed from the race at the discretion of the Race Marshall. The Race Marshall may also require a racer to delay his team at a checkpoint if the race personnel believe dogs in the team require additional rest. No drugs or injectable substances may be used on any dog at any point during the race.
10. Unsafe or inhumane treatment of dogs is not permitted.
11. Any action or inaction on the part of any team that results in the suffering of a dog will result in disqualification. All teams must be prepared to humanely carry an injured or fatigued dog(s) in the sled.
12. Dead dogs are not allowed. Any fatality of a dog will result in the immediate withdrawal of the team.
13. Mushers can leave dogs at Alpine Creek Lodge (outbound), and they will be cared for by volunteers and/or race officials. Mushers may also drop a dog at Maclaren River Lodge (outbound) checkpoint but must pick up the dog and finish the race at Alpine Creek Lodge. Racers may choose to leave dogs at the Maclaren River Lodge checkpoint on the outbound trail *provided these dogs rejoin the team and finish the race at Alpine Creek Lodge*. Such dogs will be fed and cared for by race volunteers and/or race officials, however, the race organization accepts no legal responsibility for these dogs during the musher's absence. Dogs left at either Alpine Creek Lodge or Maclaren River Lodge checkpoint must be left with adequate food and a drop cable to attach to a picket line.
14. Race will provide one bale of straw at the Alpine Checkpoint. All food must be carried by the musher. Mushers who wish to have straw at Maclaren River Lodge can carry it from Alpine Creek Lodge.
15. Racers may not utilize food or equipment from any other location along the trail except in an emergency situation. Use of such food or equipment in an emergency must be reported to a race official before leaving the next checkpoint. Any food or equipment used outside of

the designated food drops must be hauled during the race by the dog team using it. Food and gear left at Alpine Creek Lodge or Maclaren River Lodge can only be used by the team that transported it to the checkpoint.

- 16.** Racers may not accept help in the care or feeding of their dogs, or the establishment of their camps at any point along the trail, including checkpoints. Racers must obtain their dog food and water from a location designated by the Checker. All dog food and water must be carried from the designated location by a race team member who will use it for their team. Racers may accept hospitality at a location where such hospitality is generally available to all racers. Hospitality includes food and beverage, sleeping quarters, wake up calls and bathroom facilities. Racers may not accept hospitality in other locations.
- 17.** Prize Money. "Musher #1" of the winning Team is guaranteed \$1000. Additional purse to be announced by March 24, 2019. It is the intention of the Denali Doubles race that any sharing of the awarded purse between Musher #1 and Musher #2 will be at the sole discretion of Musher #1.
- 18.** Motorized vehicles may not lead or pace teams unless at the direction of the race officials. The race officials may include the Race Marshall, the Race Veterinarian and any race judges. All officials will be identified to the racers at the pre-race meeting.
- 19.** There is no mandatory equipment.
- 20.** Each racer must execute a Release of Liability before entering the race. Each racer must show proof that dogs in his team have been vaccinated for rabies.
- 21.** Racers under the age of 18 may enter the race by receiving special permission from the race committee. Letters or personal presentation of each case must be received or heard by the race committee prior to March 18, 2019.
- 22.** The three checkpoints for the 2019 race will include: Clearwater Creek Lodge (outbound only), Alpine Creek Lodge (outbound only), and Maclaren River Lodge (outbound and inbound).
  - Clearwater Mountain Lodge: Rooms are available for rent by mushers and/or spectators. Food will be available for purchase, however the bar is closed. Contact Clearwater Mountain Lodge directly for info and booking.
  - Alpine Creek Lodge (outbound): Two cabins are available as sleeping space for mushers only. An endless pot of stew/soup will be available for mushers as well. Rooms are available for rent by mushers/and or spectators, and additional food is available for purchase. The Triple B will be open all night on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Contact Alpine Creek Lodge Directly for info and booking.
  - Maclaren River Lodge (outbound & inbound): "Whitey's Cabin" (sleeps 15) will be available for sleeping for mushers only. An endless one-pot meal will be available for

mushers as well. Rooms are available for rent by mushers/and or spectators, and additional food is available for purchase. Contact Maclaren River Lodge directly for info and booking.

- 23.** Mushers are expected to finish at Alpine Creek Lodge between 11:00am and midnight on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.
- 24.** A total of 6 hours mandatory rest must be taken throughout the race at checkpoints. Additional rest is encouraged and is each team's prerogative to be taken as needed, where needed. A total of 6 hours of mandatory rest (in 30-minute increments only) must be taken throughout the race. Teams may take their mandatory rest at any of the three checkpoints, or a combination of any of the three checkpoints.  
\*In ADDITION to the above mentioned 6 hours of mandatory rest any start differential MUST be taken in its entirety at the FIRST outbound checkpoint that a team stops at, Clearwater, Alpine or Maclaren.
- 25.** Race Veterinarian or Race Marshall may inspect each dog to determine its fitness to travel any portion of the trail to the finish line.
- 26.** A one (1) hour penalty will be assessed for littering on the trail and especially at the checkpoint. The Race Committee will provide bags for litter at all checkpoints. All litter must be properly disposed of at checkpoints and may not be left along the trail.
- 27.** When any team approaches to within 50 feet of another team, the team behind has the immediate right of way upon demand. The musher ahead must stop their dogs and hold them to the best of their ability for a maximum of one minute or until the other team has passed, whichever occurs first. The passed team must remain behind at least 15 minutes before demanding the trail. The passing rule does not apply in No Man's Land, which will be identified at the race meeting. Ski poles may not be used within one hundred (100) yards of another team.
- 28.** Mushers must utilize the same sled(s) throughout. No change of equipment allowed throughout the race.
- 29.** Mushers must conduct themselves in a sportsman-like manner. Discussions about these rules or other aspects of the race must be conducted with race officials at an appropriate time and place. At all race functions, conduct detrimental to the Denali Double's Sled Dog Race, its sponsors or its volunteers, is subject to penalty.
- 30.** There is a \$75 fine for whining.
- 31.** DDISDR reserves the right to make changes to these rules prior to March 18, 2019.

**32.** Any observed violations of the Race Rules must be reported to a Race Official within one (1) hour of the time that the racer registering the protest crossed the finish line. The decision of the race officials shall be final. Racer's who do not return race bibs may be charged for replacement costs.

**33.** Rule violations subject the violator to the following charge of penalties:

1. Warning (oral or written);
2. Censure (public or private);
3. Monetary;
4. Time delay;
5. Disqualification

**34.** Race officials may administer penalties 1 through 5. The Race Committee urges each entrant in this year's race to fully prepare themselves and their team for possible hazardous trail conditions. Interior Alaska is subject to high winds, low temperatures, and severe snowstorms during the month of March. Racers might also expect temperatures as high as 40 degrees with rain. Arctic style cold weather gear is recommended - Including a heavy duty sleeping bag with an outer bag or tarp to break the wind. A set of rain gear is also recommended. Daylight can be expected from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Part of the trail will be in lightly traveled areas and racers who lose the trail must be prepared for survival in such an emergency situation. Bare gravel and pavement is to be expected on some portion of the Denali Highway during this month. The trail will be extensively marked and the progress of racers will be closely monitored. However, weather may prevent a racer from being helped in the event he is lost. Please plan accordingly. The race will adhere to its schedule unless weather or trail conditions force a delay. Such changes would not be made except in extraordinary circumstances. The Race Committee at all times endeavors to conduct a safe event that is fair for all competitors.

If you have questions about these rules or other aspects of the race, contact the Denali Doubles Invitational Sled Dog Race Committee by email to [info@huskyhomestead.com](mailto:info@huskyhomestead.com), by telephone to 907-683-2904, or by mail to PO Box 48, Denali Park, Alaska 99755.