



The 2026 Two Rivers 200/100 Race Rules

Bib Draw & Musher Meeting: Thursday, January 22 6pm at Two Rivers Lodge- 4968 Chena Hot Springs Road.

Vet Check: Friday, January 23, 9 am at TBD Location

Races Start: Friday, January 23, 12:00 pm at TBD Location

Finish Banquet: 2pm Sunday, January 25 at Two Rivers Lodge- 4968 Chena Hot Springs Road.

Race Qualifications:

- Mushers must be at least 18 years of age by the start of their race. Exceptions for juniors in the 100 can be made by the Race Marshall and with one recommendation from an experienced musher and with TRDMA Board approval.
- No one convicted of animal abuse or neglect will be eligible to participate in any TRDMA race.
- TRDMA may honor a censure from any other sled dog racing organization.

Registration and Entry Fees: Entry fee for the 100 Mile is \$150 and entry fee for the 200 Mile is \$250. Registration can be found on the TRDMA website and will close at midnight Sunday January 11, 2026. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. TRDMA membership is not a requirement.

Refunds, Substitutions, Withdrawals, and Switching Races: Mushers that withdraw prior to the race start will forfeit their entire entry fee. Substitutions by mushers associated with the same kennel will be permitted if all requirements are met. Mushers may switch from the 100-mile to 200 mile or vice versa with adequate notice (1 week or more), this will be permitted on a case-by-case basis with approval from Race Officials. Any difference in fees will be addressed as needed.

Limit of Entries: The maximum number of teams will be 15 teams in the 100 Mile race and 20 teams in the 200 Mile race. If a race reaches the maximum number of entries, a wait list of up to 10 mushers for each race will be created.

Race Purses: If there is a race purse, it will be based off number of entrants and will be announced at the bib draw.

Finish Banquet: Award presentations will be held at **2pm** Sunday, January 25th at location mentioned above. Each musher will receive one tickets for the finish banquet and additional tickets can be purchased at the door at \$20 per person. Time and location subject to change depending on race route and conditions.

Race Cancellation: If the temperature at start line is colder than -44°F at 10:00 am on Friday, January 23, 2026, the races will be postponed or canceled at the discretion of the race officials. After the race has started, it will continue regardless of temperatures.



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Start Positions: Start positions will be determined by luck of the draw based upon the order entries are received. The Bib Draw will take place at 6:00 pm on January 22 at Two Rivers Lodge- 4968 Chena Hot Springs Road.

Start Interval: Teams will leave the starting line at two-minute intervals. Any team that cannot leave the starting line within one minute of its designated time will be required to start two minutes after the scheduled departure of the final team of the respective race. Any team that cannot leave the starting line within 30 minutes of the last team's scheduled departure will be disqualified. The 200 Mile race will start at 12:00 noon and the 100 Mile race will start 10 minutes after the final 200 Mile racer has left. (This is subject to change should start location be moved from Chatanika Lodge)

Mandatory Rest Layovers and Start Time Differentials:

Teams in the 100 Mile race will have a 4-hour mandatory layover at the 1st Checkpoint, the approximate half-way point of that race. Start time differentials will be added to rest times for the 100 Mile racers at the 1st Checkpoint at the time of check-in.

Teams in the 200 Mile race are required to take at least a total of 12 hours of mandatory rest. Mushers may take 8 hours of their mandatory rest at any of the checkpoints, four (4) hours are required to be served in the final checkpoint in addition to the start time differential. Rest time will be accrued in 30-minute increments until it adds up to a total of at least 12 hours before leaving the last checkpoint. Less than 30-minute increments of rest time will be rounded down (ex: one hour and 40 minutes rest will be counted as one hour and 30 minutes rest). All 200 Mile racers will be provided with a timecard on which their total rest times at checkpoints should be tabulated.

Handlers are responsible for assisting their musher in this rest time tabulation and handlers should keep the timecard in their possession and make it available to race officials. The start time differential for the 200 Mile racers will be added to rest times at the final checkpoint. Mushers and handlers are responsible for completing all mandatory rest including the time-differential. All rest must be completed before departing the final checkpoint.

Competitiveness Rule: The Race Marshal may at any time withdraw or disqualify a Musher they feel is not making a true attempt at running a competitive race or can no longer keep pace with the race thus endangering themselves, their dogs and/or causing undue burden upon the race organization. The Race Marshal may 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 to meet trail conditions which would expose the team or musher to personal risk in the judgment of the Race Marshal, may also be withdrawn or disqualified.

Food Drop Bags and Straw: Drop bags must be clearly marked with the musher's name. Straw will be provided at checkpoints. Handlers are responsible for delivering drop bags prior to their musher's arrival at the checkpoint. Checkpoint volunteers will provide directions on where to put drop bags. Water will be provided at PVCC. Mushers will use their cooker to prepare water at the other checkpoints.



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Checkpoint Procedure: Mandatory gear will be checked upon arrival and official arrival time will be recorded by a race official. Handlers may assist teams in and out of the checkpoints. Dogs may be dropped at the checkpoint, after a dropped dog form is submitted; a handler is responsible for the care of the dog once it is dropped. A Race Veterinarian will be available at the checkpoint for support and council if needed. Vet checks are done at vet discretion at the checkpoints. Each team's parking spot at checkpoints must be cleaned of all straw and debris after final use, disposal is the responsibility of the handler. Unsatisfactory cleanup may result in a time penalty assessed to the musher.

Mandatory Gear: Mandatory gear checks will occur at the race start and on arrival at each checkpoint. All mandatory gear must be in possession at sign-in at the checkpoint. Lost mandatory gear must be replaced prior to signing in to a checkpoint, official time will not be recorded until all mandatory gear is in possession. If gear is not replaced within 1 hour of arriving at a checkpoint the team may be disqualified. This will be at the discretion of the race official at the checkpoint. Race officials may assign other penalties. Mushers must have all mandatory gear when leaving a checkpoint.

- Sled equipped with a standard brake up to Iditarod Trail Committee standards
- Cooker with 3-gallon capacity
- Cooking gear, including fuel sufficient for at least one feeding
- Food sufficient for at least one feeding of musher and team
- Cold weather sleeping bag
- Booties, 8 per dog, on the dogs or in the sled
- Hand ax with an overall length of at least 22 inches
- A pair of snowshoes with bindings and at least 252 square inches surface area
- Headlamp
- Cable mainline, cable inside poly rope mainline, or an iron rope mainline
- Snow hook (2 suggested)
- Assigned starting bib, which must be visible at all times
- Vet book, provided by race officials (200 Milers)

Sleds: Only one sled may be used during the race. Sleds must have a brush bow and working brake. Any repairs must be done exclusively by the musher. No significant alterations as to weight and size will be allowed during the race. Sled and equipment must be in good repair. Equipment will be inspected at the start of the race. Sled must also be equipped with a sled bag large enough to safely transport a dog.

Bibs: All race bibs must be turned in to race officials at the end of the race. Inability to do so will result in a possible time penalty and fee as well as restricted participation in future TRDMA events.

Number of Dogs: Mushers in the 100 Mile race must start the race with no fewer than six dogs and not more than 12 dogs. Mushers in the 100 Mile race must finish with no fewer than five dogs. Mushers in the 200 Mile race must start with no fewer than eight dogs and not more than 12 dogs. Mushers in the 200 Mile race must finish with no fewer than seven dogs. No dogs can be added to a team after the start.

Proof of Vaccinations: All dogs must be current on Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvovirus, +/- Parainfluenza, and Bordetella as per the vaccine protocols recommended by the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) unless directed otherwise by your veterinarian and the AAHA (American Animal Hospital).



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Association). All vaccines must have been administered before January 1, 2026. All dogs must be vaccinated against Rabies as per CDC guidelines unless directed otherwise by your veterinarian. Proof of current vaccines above must be presented at bib draw check in on Thursday January 23rd. Copies of Rabies certificates and purchase receipts for Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvovirus, +/- Parainfluenza, and Bordetella are acceptable as proof. If your veterinarian has directed against certain vaccines, a letter from your veterinarian must be presented at the time of check-in.

Veterinary Checks: Dogs will be checked for health and fitness by the Race Veterinarian prior to the start on race day. Dogs or teams considered unfit by the race vet and/or race official will not be permitted to start the race. A Race Veterinarian will be available at each checkpoint, at any point if a Race Veterinarian considers a dog or team unfit to continue the dog or team will be given the option to withdraw or be disqualified from the race. Mushers in the 200 Mile race will be provided a small Vet Check booklet in order to maintain a record of dog care as the race proceeds.

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 Official 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 even if it means a team must withdraw/scratch due to the number of dogs in harness.

The health and condition of all dogs may be assessed at any checkpoint, 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 a Race Official, may perform a veterinary exam or detain teams at any checkpoint. No dog team will leave a checkpoint until the dogs in that team are fit to continue in the race.

Dropped dogs: Loose leaders are not allowed. A musher must make every effort to secure a dog that becomes loose. All dogs must leave checkpoints in harness and attached to the towline. Injured, sick or fatigued dogs must be dropped at a designated Checkpoint. Mushers and handlers are responsible for their own dropped dogs. Mushers must have the means to safely carry dogs in the sled bag, failure to do so may result in penalty or disqualification. Dogs cannot be led behind a sled or loose.

Drugs: Injectable, oral or topical drugs in the racing dogs are prohibited. Drugs that may suppress the signs of illness or injury may not be used, put in drop bags, or carried in the sled. Race Officials may require collection of dog urine or blood samples for drug testing. Mushers will be required to cooperate with Race Officials or Veterinarians to accomplish the gathering of samples.

Expired Dogs: Any dog that expires during the race for any reason must be taken to the next checkpoint or returned to the checkpoint last passed and reported immediately to Race Officials. The death of any dog may result in the withdrawal or disqualification of the musher, and/or possible prohibition from entering future TRDMA races. The Race Official and Race Veterinarian may require a necropsy be conducted on the expired dog, any fees that occur are at the expense of the owner/musher.

Following the Trail: All teams must follow the trail as marked. Deviations/shorter routes will be assessed a time penalty. Every effort will be made to keep trail markers in place, but TRDMA cannot be responsible for acts of nature or malicious acts. Two stakes on the side of the trail indicates an upcoming turn on that side of



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the trail; a left turn will have two markers side-by-side on the left-hand side of the trail; a right-hand turn will have two markers on the right. Intersections that are to be traveled straight through will have a single marker on the right and left side of the trail. A trail description will be provided at the mushers' meeting.

Calling Trail: Respect your fellow racers. If you are being overtaken by another team within 50 feet of your team and the musher is calling trail you must slow your team and allow the approaching team to pass in a safe manner. It is your responsibility to ensure your team isn't interfering with the other team while passing and to have your sled pulled over as far as you can out of the way. The passed team must remain behind at least 5 minutes before asking for the trail right-of-way to re-pass.

Trail Etiquette: Mushers resting their team must keep the trail clear of dogs, food, and gear at all times so as to not obstruct the trail for other mushers. A minimum 30-minute time penalty will be assessed for littering on the trail. Be respectful to our trails and dogs. Dog booties and excessive amounts of dog food, straw or any trash left on the trail are considered littering. Excessive dog food left on the trail is also considered tampering with another team's race.

Tampering: Tampering with another musher's dogs, food truck, trailer, dog box, or gear will result in disqualification from the race and possibly exclusion from future races. The above are examples, and tampering is not limited to those alone. Mushers are responsible for the actions of their handlers, friends and associates.

Outside Assistance:

- No planned help is allowed in the race.
- Handlers may assist in guiding the team to the start and finish area and parking the team at the checkpoints.
- No musher may receive outside assistance between the start and finish unless an emergency exists.
- The musher must not accept any assistance in the feeding, care of the team, or for sled repairs.
- No musher may accept assistance from a motorized vehicle, including pacing. Pacing or help from a team outside the race is prohibited.
- A lost team may not be disqualified if the musher regains control in a manner that the team and musher complete the course in conjunction with the rules, including checkpoint requirements.
- A musher may receive assistance from another musher in recovering a lost team. The Race Marshall's decision concerning this will be final.

Protests: A musher may protest any action of a competitor that he/she feels is contrary to the intent of these rules. To be recognized as a legitimate protest, the infraction(s) observed by a musher must be presented to a Race Official in writing at the musher's earliest convenience (at the next checkpoint preferably), and in no case more than 24-hours after a musher finishes the race.

Appeals: Mushers may appeal Race officials' decisions or penalties assessed by submitting, in writing, an account of the circumstances surrounding the decision or penalty being appealed. The appeal must be submitted to a race official no more than 24 hours after the incident or musher's race finish. An Appeals Board will be convened within 24 hours after the appeal is received. The Appeals Board will consist of two to three TRDMA Board Members, a Race Official and, if veterinary issues are involved, a Race Veterinarian. An informal hearing will be held at that time. Decisions of the Appeals Board will be final.

Time Penalties: All time penalties accrued will be applied at the last checkpoint or at the finish.



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Withdrawal from the Race: A musher who would like to withdraw may do so at any time, at any official location in person.

Good Sportsmanship: Mushers shall always conduct themselves in a courteous and honorable manner. Officials, media, volunteers, and fans are all equal participants in the race and it is the musher's responsibility to always maintain a good rapport with them.