

TUSTUMENA 200 2010 RACE RULES

Anticipated route (all distances are approximate) **Actual checkpoint locations/ distances are subject to change contingent upon accessibility.**

- 1) **Mile 112** Race Start & Finish, Sterling Highway
- 2) **Oil Well Pad** (28 miles) Sign in & go. Dog Drop.
- 3) **Caribou Lake** (50 miles) Checkpoint is a cabin at the edge of the lake, with water available through a hole in the ice. Sign in & go.
- 4) **Oil Well Pad** (70 miles) Dog Drop. Sign in & go.
- 5) **Clam Shell Lodge** (100 mile) T200 Halfway. Mandatory **8-hour** layover. Food/ dog drop. Water available. Mushers must provide their own straw. Designated handler to accept dropped dogs required.

The Official Start will begin at 11 am Jan. 23 at Mile 112 on the Sterling Highway in Kasilof. Official times will begin at that time. T200 mushers depart first. T100 teams will follow 15 minutes after the final T200 team.

Layovers T200 mushers will take a mandatory 8-hour layover at the Clam Shell Lodge. All starting times will be adjusted at layovers.

Purse: Guaranteed minimum: \$25,000

1 st	\$7,500	30%
2 nd	\$5,000	20%
3 rd	\$3,750	15%
4 th	\$2,500	10%
5 th	\$2,000	8%
6 th	\$1,500	6%
7 th	\$1,250	5%
8 th	\$750	3%
9 th	\$500	2%
10 th	\$250	1%

Pre-race

- 1) **Kennels entering must indicate the musher's name with their entry. Once registered, mushers cannot change their status from T200 to T100 without forfeiting the difference in entry fees.** The T200 is limited to the first 40 entrants. Additional mushers will be placed on a waiting list. Non-refundable entry fees paid in U.S. funds received or postmarked by midnight Dec. 31., 2009: T200 \$250 ,
- 2) After early deadline, entry fees will increase to: T200 \$350

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED OR POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT JANUARY 15, 2010. Entry is only official when completed application is received, all required information is submitted and entry fee is paid in full.

- 3) A mandatory vet check must be made prior to the race. All exams must be done no earlier than January 16th. The exams may be done by the musher's personal vet, or can be done from noon to 4:30pm on Jan. 22 at the Soldotna Sports Center. **No vet checks will be performed after 5pm.** If the musher chooses his/ her personal vet to perform the exam, the paperwork must be

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Tustumena 200 Sled Dog Race PO Box 220, Kasilof, AK 99610

presented to the Tustumena Race Vet at the Soldotna Sports Center prior to 5pm on January 22. For the purposes of these veterinary checks: a maximum of sixteen dogs will be examined.

- 4) All dogs must have current rabies and parvo vaccinations. Proof to be presented at the Tustumena vet check.
- 5) Attendance at the pre-race musher's meeting is mandatory. It will begin at 5:15pm Friday, January 22 at the Soldotna Sports Center. A \$100 monetary fine will be applied to mushers not present at roll call.
- 6) The awards presentation will be held at the Soldotna Sports Center January 25. Failing to attend will result in a forfeiture of any awards or money. A musher who is disqualified for any reason is not eligible for any race awards.
- 7) T200 musher's food, fuel and straw must be packed separately in reinforced bags provided by the musher. Delivery of food drops must be made to the designated location at Mile 112 on Saturday, January 23 by 10:30 am. Food and fuel must be tied securely and labeled permanently with the musher's name. T200 mushers may include straw with their food drops to Rocky's / Clam Shell. The race will NOT be providing straw for T200 mushers.

General Rules

- 1) Each musher must have at all times: an operational cooker with 3 gallon capacity, cooking gear, cold weather sleeping bag, hand ax with overall length of 22 inches, a pair of snowshoes with bindings to cover at least 250 sq. inches of surface area, 8 booties for each dog and the assigned Tustumena sled banner and arm band.
- 2) Mushers must carry adequate food between checkpoints for both dogs and themselves.
- 3) One musher per team must be at least 18 years old.
- 4) No musher may tamper with another musher's dogs, food or gear.
- 5) There will be no loose leaders on the trail or loose dogs in checkpoints.
- 6) One sled will be used throughout the race. Any repairs will be done only by the musher.
- 7) No musher may receive outside assistance between checkpoints unless an emergency exists. The musher must not accept assistance in feeding dogs or sled repairs. Handlers may not haul water or prepare food. In the event a musher has to go to his/ her vehicle, a race official must accompany them.
- 8) A lost team will not be disqualified if the musher regains control; provided that the musher and team complete the course and comply with the rules. Motorized assistance will be allowed to recover a lost team. If motorized assistance occurs, it must be reported to the race marshal, who will determine if the team must return to the point where it was lost in order to continue.
- 9) Outside assistance will be allowed only if a team is unmanageable except that handlers may help in and out of checkpoints. The race marshal's decisions concerning this will be final.
- 10) A musher wishing to withdraw may do so at a checkpoint only, or disqualification will result. A musher who scratches or is disqualified is responsible for the transportation of his/ her dogs and gear off the trail.
- 11) A musher shall conduct themselves in a courteous and honorable manner at all times. Officials, media and volunteers are all considered equal participants in this event.

Running The Race

- 1) Teams will leave the starting line at two-minute intervals. T200 teams will start first. Any team that doesn't leave the starting line in the order drawn will be stated after the departure of the final team in their respective class. Any team that cannot leave the starting line within 60 minutes of the last team out in their respective class may be disqualified.
- 2) Every musher must personally check in and out of each checkpoint with the designated checker. A musher is not officially checked in until he/ she has all the required gear. He/ she must leave within 60 minutes of sign out time, and must not interfere with another team's scheduled departure.
- 3) The race marshal, in conjunction with race vets, may assess time and/ or monetary penalties to be applied at the mandatory layovers or at the end of the race.
- 4) All teams must follow the course as marked.
- 5) Mushers who are stopped must keep the trail clear of their gear, food and dogs.
- 6) Passing: When one team approaches within fifty feet of another team, the team behind shall have the immediate right of way upon demand. The musher ahead must stop the dogs and hold them to the best of his/ her 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 five minutes before demanding the trail; with the exception of "no man's land" which begins at the lake one mile from the finish line.
- 7) Do no litter. Mushers must bag their own straw.
- 8) Mushers in the T200 must start the race with no fewer than 10 dogs and no more than 14 dogs and must finish the race with no less than five dogs in harness.
- 9) Mushers may not hook off their team to their vehicle at the Clam Shell Lodge. Dogs may not be loaded into dog boxes. Mushers must sleep in the designated musher rooms at the Clam Shell Lodge.
- 10) Musher's starting number must be attached to the sled handle at all times. A sled banner will be provided and must be visibly attached to sled. Failure to attach the sled banner and number plate may result in a monetary penalty.
- 11) Grievances: A driver has up to one hour after his/ her finishing of the race to file a written grievance. Grievances will be addressed no later than one hour prior to the start of the awards banquet. The race marshal's determination will be final.

Dog Care

- 1) Mistreatment of dogs will cause immediate disqualification from any Tustumena Race. Such action will be reported to all major race organizations. The race marshal and judges will have authority over this matter. If further arbitration is required, it will be handled by a quorum of the board of directors in a timely manner.
- 2) No force may be used to control dogs in the race, at the starting line, or in the holding area. Beating or abuse of a dog must be distinguished from cuffing or appropriate discipline of a dog. No whips or jinglers will be allowed. The following kinds of force will be cause for immediate disqualification:
 - A) Kicking a dog
 - B) Striking a dog with any rigid object
 - C) Beating of a dog in any form, including picking up and throwing a dog to the ground.

- 3) A musher will be responsible for his/ her team in the event any dog in his/ her team becomes aggressive and causes damage to another team. The musher with the team with the aggressive dog will be on official ruling, responsible for financial compensation of all medical and transportation expenses to repair damages caused by his/ her animal. If the musher does not comply with this ruling, he/ she will be banned from ALL Tustumena races in the future. The musher with the damaged dog or dogs will inform the Tustumena when this ruling has been complied with. Additionally, the race marshal has the discretion to remove an overly aggressive dog or dogs from any team if the animal is considered a threat or hazard to other dogs or mushers in the race.
- 4) Dogs may be dropped at Oil Well Pad (both up/ back) and the Clam Shell Lodge checkpoint. Mushers are required to have a designated individual to accept drop dogs at the Clam Shell as well as the official drop dog retrieval location. (details to be announced at the Driver's meeting)
- 5) No injectable, oral, or topical drugs intended to suppress signs of illness or injury, or to cause a dog to perform beyond its natural ability, may be used on a dog. (The Tustumena 200 Association adopts the Iditarod's list of prohibited and accepted drugs.)
- 6) Any dog that expires during the race, for any reason, will be taken by the musher to the next, or previous, checkpoint and submitted to the race marshal, a judge or a race veterinarian. Mushers will be responsible for any veterinary fees incurred by an injured, sick or expired dog. The race marshal, appointed judges /race official will determine whether the musher should continue or be disqualified.
- 7) Expired dogs become the property of the Tustumena 200 Association for the purpose of performing a necropsy. Any prize monies will be held until a necropsy is done. If necropsy shows musher abuse, musher forfeits all earnings and is permanently banned from any future Tustumena 200 Association races.
- 8) The race marshal in conjunction with the vets may make on-the-spot decisions regarding dog health or care.

If lack of snow or other act of nature arises, the safety of the dogs shall be held in highest priority. The decision to cancel or modify the event will be the sole responsibility of the Tustumena 200 board of directors. In any year where trail conditions are in question, there shall be a special trail meeting called no less than five days prior to the published starting date. At this meeting, trail conditions will be discussed with the trail committee and a representative of the mushers. A decision will be made as to the status of the race: either cancellation or postponement. Within 24 hours of the meeting, this decision will be publicized and relayed to the musher who have registered and to all major sponsors. In the event that trail conditions preclude the ceremonial start, the Tustumena 200 may be run under the provision of a reduced purse. Entrants then have the option of a full return of their entry fee, should they elect not to compete. The decision of the Tustumena 200 board of directors will be final.

Have a great race!