

TUSTUMENA 200 2015 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 Kasilof Alaska.
- 2) Freddie's Roadhouse Caribou Hills (50 miles) Dog Drop available, food for mushers provided
- 3) McNeil Canyon School Homer (100 miles) Dog Drop available, 1/2 bale straw & food for mushers provided (Warm water available at both checkpoints, no water at the start/finish line)

Purse: 50,000, prize money to be awarded as follows;

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|-------------|-------------|---|
| 1. \$10,000 | 11. \$1,300 | Humanitarian \$250 (selected by vets) |
| 2. \$8,000 | 12. \$1,200 | Sportsmanship \$250 (selected by mushers) |
| 3. \$6,100 | 13. \$1,100 | Handlers Award (selected by checkers, Vet & Race marshal) |
| 4. \$4,100 | 14. \$1,000 | 10 x \$100 Tesoro Gas Cards awarded to 21 -30. |
| 5. 3,100 | 15. \$900 | |
| 6. 2,600 | 16. \$800 | |
| 7. 2,200 | 17. \$700 | |
| 8. 2,000 | 18. \$600 | |
| 9. 1,800 | 19. \$500 | |
| 10. 1,600 | 20. \$400 | |

Pre-race

- 1) Entries will not be accepted until **8AM October 15, 2014. Entry fee is \$250 early entry, \$350 after January 15, 2015.** Fee is to be paid in US funds and is non-refundable except in the case of race cancellation. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED by January 30, 2015. Entry is only official when completed application is received, all required information is submitted and entry fee is paid in full. The **T200 is limited to 50 mushers a wait list will be created.**

- 2) The start order will be assigned based on the order of official sign-ups. Entry order priority is given in the following order: Email and United States Postal Service. Bib #1 will be for the first official entry received, #2 for the second and so on. Entry time shall be based on official Alaska Time found at www.time.gov.

- 3) Cancellations will be handled as follows: During the month of November 50% of fee will be refunded; Month of December 25% of fee refunded; after December 31st no refund will be issued. Declaration of Cancellation must be made via email Tami@tustumena200.com to establish cancellation date, refund amount, and removal from entrant list.

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Pre-race Continued

4) A mandatory vet check must be made prior to the race. All exams must be done no earlier than January 30, 2015. The exams may be done by the musher's personal vet, or can be done at the **T200 Vet Checks from noon to 5:00PM on February 6, 2015 at the Soldotna Regional Sports Complex.** No vet checks will be performed after 5pm. If the musher chooses his/ her personal vet to perform the exam, the paperwork must be presented to the Tustumena Race Vet prior to 5pm on February 6, 2015. For the purposes of these veterinary checks: a maximum of sixteen dogs will be examined.

5) All dogs must have current rabies and parvo vaccinations. Proof to be presented at the Tustumena 200 vet checks.

6) Attendance at the pre-race musher's meeting is mandatory. It will begin at **5:15pm Friday, February 6, 2015 at the Soldotna Regional Sports Complex.** A \$100 monetary fine will be applied to mushers not present at roll call. Fine is to be paid prior to race start.

7) T200 musher's food, fuel and straw must be tied securely, labeled permanently with musher's name and packed separately in reinforced bags provided by the musher. Delivery of food & straw drops must be made to the designated location at the Soldotna Regional Sports Complex prior to the mandatory mushers meeting.

8) T200 mushers may include 1 bale of straw with their food drops to be delivered to Freddie's Roadhouse and McNeil Canyon School Checkpoints. (1/2 bale of straw will be provided at the McNeil Canyon Checkpoint)

General Rules

- 1)** Each musher must have at all times: an operational cooker with 3 gallon capacity, 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, the assigned Tustumena sled banner and GPS Tracker.
- 2)** Mushers must carry adequate food between checkpoints for both dogs and themselves.
- 3)** Musher 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.

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General Rules Continued

- 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 except by another registered T200 musher 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 himself/herself in a courteous and honorable manner at all times. Officials, media and volunteers are all considered equal participants in this event.
- 12) The awards presentation will be held at the Soldotna Regional Sports Complex on **February 9, 2015**. 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.

Running the Race

- 1) Teams will leave the starting line at two-minute intervals. Any team that doesn't leave the starting line in the established order will be started 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.

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Running the Race Continued

- 2) Mushers must take a total of 10 hours mandatory rest with 4 of those hours plus start time adjustments taken at Freddie's Roadhouse on the return trail. A total of 10 hours rest plus start time adjustments must be completed before leaving Freddie's Roadhouse on the return. Each layover begins when the musher declares his/her intention to the checker and signs in. The layover ends when the musher signs out. A minimum penalty of 30:00 will be added to musher's time if the 10 hour mandatory rest plus start time adjustments aren't completed by the finish.
- 3) Every musher must personally check in and out of each checkpoint with the designated checker. Sled checks will be performed at the Starting Line, McNeil Canyon School, and the Finish Line. Sled checks will be performed off the clock.
- 4) 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.
- 5) All teams must follow the course as marked.
- 6) Mushers who are stopped on the trail must keep the trail clear of their gear, food and dogs.
- 7) 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.
- 8) Do not litter.
- 9) 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 5 dogs in harness.
- 10) A sled banner will be provided and must be visibly attached to sled at all times.
- 11) A GPS Tracker will be provided and must be carried on the sled throughout the race. Batteries will be changed by T200 volunteers either at Freddie's or McNeil Canyon when needed.

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12) Grievances: A musher 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.

13) Mandatory finish time for mushers is within 18 hours of the leader.

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 Freddie's Roadhouse and McNeil Canyon School (both up/ back). Mushers are required to have a designated individual to accept drop dogs at the official drop dog retrieval location. (Details to be announced at the Musher's meeting)

Tustumena 200 Sled Dog Race Association

www.tustumena200.com

PO Box 220 Kasilof, AK 99669

907-394-1318

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Dog Care Continued

- 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 Sled Dog Race 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.
- 8) Expired dogs become the property of the Tustumena 200 Sled Dog Race 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 Sled Dog Race Association races.
- 9) 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 all major sponsors and mushers who have registered. 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.

Any question or concerns contact;
Tami Murray T200 Race Director
Tami@tustumena200.com
907-394-1318.