

# TUSTUMENA 200 2019 RACE RULES

**The Official Start** will begin at **12:00 PM January 26, 2019** Freddie's Roadhouse Mile 16 Oil Well Road in Ninilchik.

## Checkpoints

1) Freddie's Roadhouse Mile 16 Oil Well Road in Ninilchik, Start, 100 miles and Finish. Dog Drop available, warm water and food for mushers provided.

2) McNeil Canyon School Homer (50 miles) Dog Drop available, warm water and food for mushers provided

3) Centennial Lake (150 Miles) Dog Drop available, water, 1/2 bale of straw and food for mushers provided. (no warm water provided).

(Warm water available at Freddie's Roadhouse, McNeil Canyon School in Homer and the start/finish line)

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

## Pre-race

- 1) Entries will not be accepted until **8 AM November 1, 2018**. **Entry fee is \$300 and will be collected with registration.** The 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 14, 2019. Entry is only official when completed application is received, all required information is submitted and the entry fee is paid in full. **The T200 is limited to 40 mushers a wait list will be created.**
- 2) The start order will be assigned based on a random drawing on **November 3, 2018**, at the Vagabond Inn on KBeach in Kenai. Once 40 teams have been drawn, a waiting list will be created for the remaining registered teams. Registration online is preferred. Call Tami Murray for other options. 907-394-1318
- 3) Cancellations will be handled as follows: During the months of November, December and until January 14th, 50% of fee will be refunded. After January 14, 2019, 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. A cancellation form must be signed and returned for the issuance of a refund.
- 4) A mandatory vet check must be made prior to the race. All exams must be done no earlier than January 18, 2019. The exams may be done by the musher's personal vet or can be done at the **T200 Vet Checks from noon to 5:00 PM on January 25, 2019, at the Soldotna Sports Center in Soldotna.** No vet checks will be performed after 5 pm. If the musher chooses his/ her personal vet to perform the exam, the paperwork must be presented to the Tustumena Race Vet prior to 5 pm on January 25, 2019. For the purposes of these veterinary checks: a maximum of sixteen dogs will be examined.

Tustumena 200 Sled Dog Race Association

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### Pre-race continued

- 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 **5:15 pm Friday, January 25, 2019 at the Soldotna Sports Center**. A \$100 monetary fine will be applied to mushers not present at roll call. Fine is to be paid prior to race start. Please bring your **photo ID to the mushers meeting**.
- 7) T200 musher food, fuel, and straw must be tied securely, labeled permanently with musher's name and packed separately in reinforced bags provided by the musher. Homer/McNeil and Centennial dropped bags and straw drops must be delivered to the designated locations prior to the mandatory mushers meeting at the Soldotna Sports Center. **(Dropped bags for Freddie's Roadhouse should be brought to the start at Freddie's Roadhouse)** T200 mushers may include 1 bale of straw with their dropped bags to be delivered to McNeil Canyon School checkpoint in Homer. Straw will not be provided in Homer. ½ bale will be provided at Centennial.

### General Rules

- 1) Each musher must have at all times: an operational cooker with 3-gallon capacity and fuel, 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) Mushers 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) Any sled that has been damaged beyond repair may be replaced with the approval of a T200 Race Judge. All sled repairs must be performed by the musher. No significant alterations as to weight or size will be allowed.
- 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

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### General Rules continued

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; handlers may help in and out of checkpoints.
- 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 lunch will be held at the Kenai Catering on **January 28, 2019**. 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) **The Official Start** will begin at 12:00 PM January 26, 2019, Freddie's Roadhouse Mile 16 Oil Well Road in Ninilchik. Teams will leave the starting line at two-minute intervals. Any team that does not 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.
- 2) Mushers must take a total of 10 hours' mandatory rest with 4 of those hours plus start time adjustments taken at Centennial Lake on the return trail. A total of 10 hours rest plus start time adjustments must be completed before leaving Centennial Lake 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 isn't completed by the finish.

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- 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, Freddie's Roadhouse, and the Finish Line. Sled checks will be performed off the clock.

### **Running the Race continued**

- 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 **8 dogs and no more than 12 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.
- 12) Grievances: A musher has up to one hour after his/ her finishing 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.

## TUSTUMENA 200 2019 RACE RULES

### 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 an 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) The 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 the 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, volunteers or mushers in the race.
  
- 4) Dogs may be dropped at Freddie's Roadhouse, McNeil Canyon School and Centennial Lake. **If transported by the T200 a fee of \$25 per dropped dog will be charged**, mushers are required to have a designated individual to accept dropped dogs at the official drop dog retrieval location. (Details to be announced at the Musher'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 Sled Dog Race Association adopts the Iditarod's sanctions and list of prohibited and accepted drugs.)

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- 6) Any dog death that occurs during the race results in immediate scratch or withdrawal, except only unless the death was caused solely by unforeseeable or external forces. Any dog that expires on the trail must be taken by the musher to a checkpoint. The musher may transport the dog to either the checkpoint just passed, or the upcoming checkpoint. An expired dog report must be completed by the musher and presented to a race official along with the dog. At this time the musher shall scratch or be withdrawn from the race, except in the case of death due to unforeseeable, external forces. All dog deaths will be treated as a priority, with every effort being made to determine the cause of death in a thorough and reliable manner.
- 7) Dog deaths resulting in disqualification are:
- Due to musher neglect, cruel, inhumane and/or abusive treatment.
  - Cause of death is heat stress, hyperthermia or hypothermia.
  - A musher will be disqualified if he/she had been advised in writing by a race veterinarian or judge to drop the dog at a previous checkpoint, but opted not to do so, unless the cause of death is clearly unrelated to this written recommendation.

Expired dogs become the property of the Tustumena 200 Sled Dog Race Association. If necropsy shows musher abuse, musher forfeits all earnings and is permanently banned from any future Tustumena 200 Sled Dog Race Association races.

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 the 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](mailto:Tami@tustumena200.com)  
907-394-1318.