

2024 Wildfire Defense

Yellowstone Special Race Rules

Pro Class Race

16 dog pool/12 dog max per day

18 miles per day.

Mushers must qualify to enter.

Entry Qualifications

Entry Fee is \$150. Mushers wishing to enter the Yellowstone Special must be a member of Mush with Pride in good standing and must submit an Entry Form with payment no later than January 31st, 2024. Entry is official upon approval by the race committee.

Musher Sign-In

Musher sign-in will be from 2pm to 4pm on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024, at Slippery Otter.

Musher Meeting

Mandatory Musher Meeting at 4:15pm immediately following sign-in at the Slippery Otter.

Musher

There will be one musher per team. The musher starting the race will be the musher throughout the race.

Race Start/Finish

Races will start at 8am on the north end of Dunraven Street in West Yellowstone. Races will finish at the Power Substation, just off of highway 20 approximately 1 miles west of town. Mushers will need handlers to move their trucks to the finish line.

Start Order

Friday's starting order will be determined by the musher's order of entry, first team entered is first team out in each class.

Saturday's starting order will be reversed with the slowest team in each class leaving first.

Teams will start at 2 minute intervals. Any team missing its starting time shall start after all other teams in that class and will be assessed a 2 minute penalty.

A driver may be required to start at the end of the field of entrants on any day of racing if, in the majority opinion of the Race Marshal and officials, the driver may, for any reason, constitute a hazard and/or delaying factor to himself or to other entrants in the race.

Prior to the drawing, any driver may request to start at the end of the field, and may be granted permission for such a start at the discretion of the Race Officials.

Any musher not finishing within 1.5 times the winning time for each day may be withdrawn, at the discretion of the Race Officials, for delaying the race.

Dogs

All teams may have a pool of up to 16 dogs. A maximum of 12 dogs may be used in team each day. Teams must start each day with a minimum of 8 dogs in team

Mushers in either class may rotate dogs used in the team each day among any dog declared as part of their pool. Only dogs declared as part of a musher's pool may be used, no substitutions from outside the original pool will be allowed.

Mushers must declare their pool at the musher sign in on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024.

All dogs entered in the race must be vaccinated against Parvo, Distemper, and Rabies. Vaccinations must be current as of January 23th, 2024. Proof of vaccinations must be shown at the musher sign-in at 2pm-4pm at the Slippery Otter on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024.

All dogs shall be in the team, on the sled, or appropriately restrained. In the event of a lost dog, the musher must regain control of the dog before completing the race. Mushers crossing the finish line with a loose dog will be disqualified.

Cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs by any musher or handler will result in disqualification.

Equipment

All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.

All harnesses shall be padded around the neck and chest.

Some type of sled shall be drawn. Sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brush bow, and snowhook. Sled shall include a sled bag capable of carrying a dog and able to be completely enclosed in the case of a severely injured or dead dog.

Dog Bedding

The Forest Service requires that any straw or hay used on National Forest Land be certified.

Running the Race

All teams shall complete the course as marked.

When overtaking another team, the musher shall call "trail" or otherwise indicate his intention to pass. The overtaken musher must allow the overtaking team to pass, slowing or stopping his dogs if necessary and holding them to the best of the musher's ability for a maximum of one minute or until the other team has passed, whichever occurs first.

In case of a tangle in the passing musher's team, the musher may require the overtaken team to stop for no more than 1 minute.

When neither team is able to pull away from the other, the mushers shall mutually agree on who is to lead. Please use common courtesy and good sportsmanship.

In the case of head on passing, the homeward bound team shall have right of way.

There will be no calling of "trail" in no man's land. No man's land will be the last mile of the course approaching the finish line.

In the case of a lost team, the musher will not be disqualified provided the musher regains control of the team and completes the course. Mushers may use any means necessary to regain control of a lost team.

A team has officially finished when the nose of the lead dog crosses the finish line.

Conduct and Disqualification

Mushers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs and handlers at all times during the race. If the Race Marshall determines that the musher or handler's conduct is detrimental to the race, that musher will be disqualified.

Willful failure to follow race rules may result in disqualification.

Officials

The race marshal has the final say on any and all matters that may arise.

Purse and Prizes

Day money will be awarded to the first 10 finishers each day. Overall money will be awarded to the first 15 finishers in the final overall standings.