

2026 Wildfire Defense

Fun Run Race Rules

Classes

Pro Class: 16 dog pool/12 dog max per day, 17 miles per day.

Rec Class: 10 dog pool/8 dog max per day, 17 miles per day.

Entry & Withdrawal

Pro Class – Entry Fee is \$85. Musers wishing to enter the Pro Class must submit a Pro Class Entry Form with payment no later than January 15th, 2026.

Rec Class – Entry fee is \$50. Musers wishing to enter the Rec Class must submit a Rec Class Entry Form with payment no later than January 15th, 2026.

Any musher may withdraw from the race with a full refund by notifying the race organization no later than January 10th, 2026.

Musher Sign-In

Musher sign-in will be from 2pm to 5pm on Friday, January 17th, 2026, at the Povah Community Center. The community center is located at 10 Geyser Street in West Yellowstone. Musers who need microchips for dogs should arrive before 3pm to allow adequate time before the musher meeting.

Musher Meeting

Mandatory Musher Meeting at 5pm at the Povah Community Center,

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 at the north end of Dunraven Street in West Yellowstone. Pro Class teams leave first followed immediately by Rec Class teams. Races will finish at the Power Substation, just off of highway 20 approximately 1 mile west of town. Musers will need handlers to move their trucks to the finish line.

The Race Organization may change the trail, start time, or location due to dangerous weather or trail conditions. If the temperature is below -20 degrees Fahrenheit at the scheduled start time, the race will be delayed until temperatures reach -20 degrees Fahrenheit or above.

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 slowest team out 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.

Dogs

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

Rec Class teams may have a pool of up to 10 dogs. A maximum of 8 dogs may be used in the team each day. Rec Class teams must start each day with a minimum of 6 dogs in the 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 no later than 9pm on Friday, January 17th, 2026.

All dogs in a mushers truck that are not part of the declared pool for the race will be marked using any marking technique deemed suitable by the Race Organization. This does not apply to teams with microchips in all dogs in the declared pool.

All dogs entered in the race must be vaccinated against Parvo, Distemper, and Rabies. Vaccinations must be current as of January 3, 2026. Proof of vaccinations must be shown at the musher sign-in from 2pm-5pm at the Povah Community Center on Friday, January 16th, 2026.

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.

Drug Use

No drugs that may suppress signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog participating in the race regardless of the method of administration. Any evidence of prohibited drug use will result in disqualification of the musher from the race.

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 weed free.

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

Motorized assistance of any team is only allowed in case of an emergency. Pacing by any method is not allowed.

A team is officially finished when the entire team, including the musher, crosses the finish line. The finish time will be recorded using a timing chip, at the time read by the antenna when the chip crosses the finish line. The musher and the timing chip must both cross the finish line to qualify as an official finish. If a loose team crosses the finish line, the team will not be officially finished until the musher also crosses the finish line.

Race bibs must be worn at all times while racing, including the start of the race, while on the trail, and until the team has officially finished the trail.

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

Prize money will be awarded to the first 10 finishers in each class.