

2019 KNIK 100/200 RACE RULES

HISTORY

The Knik 200 Joe Redington Sr. Memorial Sled Dog Race was founded by Sally Welch of Eagle River, Alaska. In addition to being a competitive 200 mile race, the Knik 200 continues to be a valuable training opportunity for mushers and their dog teams as well as an Iditarod and Yukon Quest qualifying race.

The Knik 100 Bruce Braden Sled Dog Race is a 100-mile limited class sled dog race for any dog musher wishing to race who meets the qualifications as set forth by the Knik 100/200 Race committee. The first annual Knik 100 race debuted in 2014. Established by Robert Sexton, the race honors the late Race Manager Bruce Braden who devoted many years of service to the Knik 200 before losing his life in a tragic house fire one week before the 2009 race.

CHANGES TO RACE RULES

In the event that changes must be made to the race rules due to changed trail conditions or other considerations, the changes will be announced on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/knik200/> and on our website blog at <http://knik200sleddograce.com/blog/>. The rules which are posted on our website at <http://knik200sleddograce.com/race-rules/> will be changed accordingly. It is the musher's responsibility to note when changes are made as it may not be possible to contact each musher individually due to time constraints of race volunteers.

RACE COURSE

The Knik 200 Sled Dog Race starts from Knik Lake and follows part of the old Iditarod Trail system to various trails skirting Big Lake into the Willow area to Eagle Quest Lodge (approximately 60 miles from the start). Teams will drop dogs at the lodge if necessary, then continue to Yentna Station (approximately 35 miles further), complete their six hour mandatory layover, return the same way to Eagle Quest and on to the finish line at Knik Lake for an approximate total distance of 200 miles.

The Knik 100 Bruce Braden Sled Dog Race leaves from Knik Lake and follows various trails while skirting the Big Lake area and Nancy Lake State Recreation Area to Eagle Quest Lodge. A mandatory six-hour layover is required at Eagle Quest Lodge. Teams return by the same route to the finish line at Knik Lake.

All teams must use the officially marked race course.

No Man's Land will be at the lake's edge of Knik Lake as marked on the return trail. The official finish will be considered the first dog's nose across the Finish Line.

ENTRY APPLICATION AND ENTRY FEE REFUNDS

Race applications MUST be submitted online by a team to be considered an official entry.

The Knik racing committee strongly urges applicants to provide an alternate contact name with phone number and email address in the event that the musher cannot be reached.

It is permissible for the alternate contact to submit an application on a team's behalf. It is also permissible for the alternate contact to pay a team's entry fee, however, the musher must be identified or the entry fee may not be credited to that team and they will risk losing their spot. Alternately, an email may be sent immediately to info@knik200sleddograce.com with the PayPal transaction number, amount of payment, which Knik race the payment is for, and the musher whose fee is being paid.

Payment of the entry fee must be submitted through the website's Donate button on the lower left-hand corner of the website via PayPal. If a team does not have a PayPal account, or a PayPal account with sufficient funds for the entry fee, a credit card can be used to pay via PayPal. (Make sure the musher is identified in the PayPal notes field.)

After the entry fee is paid, if a team withdraws within 30 days, they will be refunded 50% of their entry fee, UNTIL noon on December 10, 2018 after which time they will not receive any refund. If a Knik race representative has made every reasonable attempt to contact a musher (or their alternate contact) to refund their entry fee but cannot reach them within 10 days, the full entry fee will be forfeited and deemed non-refundable.

For the Knik 200 there is a limit of 40 teams.

For the Knik 100 there is a limit of 10 teams.

Once the maximum number of teams is reached, additional teams may sign up for the waiting list. Teams on the waiting list will be contacted in their sign-up order if and when openings become available to confirm the team's availability for the race. The Knik race reserves the right to move to the next team on the waiting list if a team cannot be immediately reached. It is permissible for a team to specify an alternate contact to confirm the team's availability to race, but this must be indicated on the team's application and the alternate's name and phone number must be included.

Payment of the entry fee is not required to be on the waiting list. However, entry fees must be paid within 24 hours after verification from the Knik race organization that your team has been moved off the waiting list into the field. (Entry fees are \$325 for the K200 and \$200 for the K100.)

Only one entry per team will be accepted. Kennels with multiple teams can submit multiple entries but only one driver per team. You will have the opportunity to switch drivers later, if you deem it necessary.

MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT

Mushers must be at least 18 years of age on January 5, 2019. All entrants will also be required to sign race entrant participation release forms provided by the Knik race committee before the race.

CENSURES

The Knik race committee honors censures from all other sled dog racing organizations, and additionally will not accept entry from any person convicted of animal cruelty.

PURSE

The purse and pay out positions for the 2019 Knik 100/200 races will be announced at the mandatory Pre-Race Musher Meeting on Friday, January 4, 2019.

RACE PERSONNEL

The Race Marshal is charged with enforcing all rules and policies as set down by the Race Manager and Race Committee from the start of the mandatory Pre-Race Musher Meeting to the close of the awards banquet or the last team crossing the finish line, whichever is last, in a manner that allows a level playing field on which to compete. The Race Marshal has absolute authority over the interpretation of all rules.

The Chief Veterinarian oversees the health and safety of all dogs entered in the race, is in charge of all dog health and safety issues upon their arrival at Knik Lake on Saturday morning until the conclusion of the race (or in the case of drug testing or necropsy issues, until those issues are resolved) and shall have absolute authority over the disposition of any dog(s) for medical reason(s). Race veterinarians have the right to examine any dog at any checkpoint for any reason during the race.

Race Judges work under the direction of the Race Marshal on all aspects of race rule enforcement and race safety and will be the recognized authority within their assigned area.

Other race volunteers such as checkers, road crossing guards, communications, and other personnel are not race officials. They will follow the Knik race rules and procedures and not hinder, detain, or interfere with any team's race effort or provide advantageous help.

The Trail Boss will establish, maintain, and mark the race trail as best as weather and condition allows at least 24 hours before the race begins and will be consulted by race officials in all decisions regarding race trail matters.

The Knik races and all-volunteer race staff will make every effort to provide the best possible support for teams of both races.

Maintaining the positive spirit of competition and fairness are top priorities.

AS A QUALIFYING RACE

The Knik 200 is an Iditarod and Yukon Quest qualifying race and mushers must follow all rules set forth by the 2019 Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC) and the Knik 200 race committee.

Unless noted on the website or declared by the Race Marshal at the mandatory Pre-Race Musher Meeting, the Knik 200 is governed in accordance to the 2019 ITC rules and further establishes the following rules:

MANDATORY PRE-RACE MUSER MEETING

The combined Knik 100 and Knik 200 Pre-Race Musher Meeting starts at 7PM on Friday, January 4 at Janssen's Mat-Su Funeral home in Palmer, Alaska at 6901 E. Blue Lupine Drive. Only the team driver and one handler will be allowed entrance due to limited space.

Missing first roll call is a mandatory \$50 fine. Missing the second roll call is a mandatory withdrawal from the 2019 race.

Please note: dropping dogs in the parking lot of Janssen's Funeral Home is prohibited.

DRAWING FOR STARTING POSITION

The starting positions drawing will be held Friday, January 4 at the Pre-Race Musher Meeting. Mushers will draw for their starting order (bib number) in the order of sign up.

FOOD DROP, FOOD BAGS

Up to two bags per team is permissible, with a maximum weight of 40 pounds per bag. Mushers must deliver their drop bags to the Lead Dog Espresso coffee stand located at Mile 71.5 on the Parks Highway in Willow on Friday, January 4th between 10am and 3pm. There will be a designated truck/trailer into which you can load your drop bags.

1. Food drop bags must be secured so that no sharp ends or tie wires will cut or tear the interior of the race volunteer's vehicle.
2. Any form of combustible fuel in the food drop bags is absolutely prohibited.
3. Each bag must be a gunny type bag and clearly marked with the musher's name in English.
4. Each bag must be clearly marked either "Knik 200" or "Knik 100".

FUEL/HEET

The Knik races do not provide any fuel/HEET. Fuel/HEET must be carried by the musher and may not be sent out in the drop bags. No fuel of any kind will be transported by the Knik race support aircraft or ground support crew. This includes, but is not limited to, all forms of combustible fuels such as hydrocarbon fuels: gas, HEET, kerosene, propane, Isobutene, highly combustible material, firewood, charcoal, etc.

STRAW

The Knik races will supply one bale of straw per team and it will be available at the Yentna Station checkpoint for Knik 200 racers and at Deshka Landing/Eagle Quest checkpoint for Knik 100 racers.

RETURN OF DROPPED PERSONAL GEAR AND/OR SUPPLIES

The Knik races will not be responsible for returning a musher's dropped gear, dropped bags, etc. If a musher scratches and a request to the Race Manager is made before 12:00PM Sunday, January 6th, then only personal gear (no dog food, batteries etc.) will be returned to Deshka Landing/Eagle Quest checkpoint or the Lead Dog Espresso stand if, and only if, transportation is available for that dropped personal gear and/or supplies. A musher may also recover their bag/s at Yentna Station Roadhouse checkpoint by other means and at their own expense only if the Race Manager has been notified before 12:00 PM Sunday, January 6th.

LITTER

Litter must be properly disposed of and may not be left on the trail. The only approved litter drop-off site will be located at the Yentna Station Roadhouse checkpoint and Deshka Landing/Eagle Quest checkpoint. No disposable sled runners or non-burnable trash may be dropped in the litter pile at Yentna Station Roadhouse checkpoint.

HUMANE TREATMENT OF DOGS

The Knik Race Committee demands that every dog participating in the race be treated humanely at all times. Race officials reserve the final say in determining what is considered inhumane treatment and will make their determination on a case-by-case basis if necessary.

TEAM SIZE

Knik 100: Ten dogs maximum, eight minimum to start. Only two dogs may be dropped from a team for any reason, three or more dropped dogs will require the approval of the Knik Chief Veterinarian. A minimum of five dogs pulling in harness is required at the finish.

Knik 200: Twelve dogs maximum, eight minimum to start. Only two dogs may be dropped from a team for any reason, three or more dropped dogs will require the approval of the Knik Chief Veterinarian. A minimum of five dogs pulling in harness is required at the finish.

Only one musher will be allowed per team and no substitution of mushers or dogs will be allowed during the race. Once a musher has drawn their starting number at the pre-race meeting on Friday, January 4, no substitution of team drivers will be allowed. Once a team's race dogs have been checked in and cleared to race by the race veterinarian at Knik Lake on Saturday morning January 5th, no dogs can then be substituted for that team.

RACE START TIME AND LOCATION

The race starts at Knik Lake at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 5, 2019. All teams are to be on location by 9 am. The Knik 200 teams will leave first. After the last Knik 200 team has left the starting chute, the Knik 100 teams will leave.

PRE-RACE VET CHECK

There will be a pre-race vet check of all teams starting at 9 am on Saturday, January 5, 2019 on Knik Lake. Mushers will be required to present proof of current distemper, parvo and rabies vaccinations. Rabies vaccinations must have been administered by a veterinarian.

During the race, a veterinarian will roam between the Deshka Landing/Eagle Quest and Yentna Station Roadhouse checkpoints.

MANDATORY GEAR

There will be a pre-race equipment check of all teams entered starting at 9AM on Saturday, January 5, 2019 on Knik Lake. Teams must have each and every piece of mandatory gear throughout the race. Possession of those items will be verified immediately before a team begins the race, at every checkpoint, and when the team crosses the finish line. A team missing a dog or a mandatory item cannot officially check into a checkpoint until the missing dog is recovered or the missing gear has been recovered or replaced. In addition, all required mandatory gear must be in functional, working condition. Required gear:

- One winter-grade sleeping bag.
- One axe 22" in length with a 2³/₄ pound minimum head.
- One pair of 252 square inch (minimum) snowshoes (collapsible/foldable snow shoes are not permitted).
- Eight dog booties per dog (four may be in use).
- Dog food cooker stove as per Iditarod rules.
- Functional headlamp (at start of race).
- SPOT satellite team tracker (to be provided by the Knik race committee). Additional note: the SPOT tracker must be on and functioning at all times unless it is determined by race officials to be dysfunctional through no fault of the musher.
- Team race card, provided by the Knik race.

SLED

Only one sled may be used and it must be ITC-approved. At the Race Marshal's discretion, a second sled may be flown in or substituted if the starting race sled is damaged beyond reasonably safe condition. Any fees incurred to transport a new sled will be at the musher's expense though no official race penalty will be imposed. The time lost required to switch sleds will not be credited to the musher.

CABOOSE TOW SLEDS

The use of a "Caboose" style sled is prohibited in the Knik races; no form of sled device will be towed behind a racer's sled. All team dogs that are carried will be under cover and in the front sled basket; no dog(s) will be allowed to be carried behind or under the driver. The Knik races

define a caboose or towed sled device as any object that is attached by any means to the sled's main runners.

TEAM GANGLINE

Must be in good working condition and capable of safely holding the number of dogs intended to be attached to it. If a gang line is poly/plastic there must be a cabled center with no sharp metal exposed. If chain or a cable is used, the musher must carry a functional cable cutter.

SNOW HOOK

A minimum of one snow hook is required. Two snow hooks are recommended.

DOG HARNESSSES

The harnesses must be functional, correctly sized, and padded around the neck with no worn out, rough, or possible chaffing areas, and have a total combined 12" of reflective tape or material.

RACE BIB

A musher's race bib must be worn over the musher's parka and be easily viewable at the start of the race and while the musher is crossing the finish line. At other times during the race the bib may be fastened to the top or side of the race sled as long as the bib number is clearly visible. Sled race bibs with numbers will be pinned to both sides of the racers sled bag and will be visible from start to finish of the race.

RACE START

Teams will depart the starting line at two-minute intervals; the time differential between teams will be adjusted during the mandatory six-hour layover.

Teams that do not enter the starting chute or fail to launch at their official start time will be pulled and placed in order behind the last team's scheduled starting position. In these instances, as their penalty, these late teams' original starting time will stand.

Any team unable to launch within 30 minutes of the final team leaving will be automatically withdrawn from the race and their race fee will be non-refundable.

Until 9:00AM on race day, a team may request (for any reason) to leave behind the last team (without penalty). Their new start time will then be adjusted to their actual start time.

All teams must use the officially marked race course.

No Man's Land will be at the edge of Deshka Landing/Eagle Quest checkpoint as marked on the return trail. The official finish will be considered the first dog's nose across the Finish Line.

Layover Time Adjustment

Knik 200 race teams are allowed to break up their mandatory six-hour layover. The driver may take at least one hour of their mandatory rest time at inbound or outbound Eagle Quest or inbound or outbound Yentna Station Roadhouse checkpoints at their discretion. However, each team must have a total combined minimum layover time of six hours plus their time adjustment.

In addition, all teams must complete a mandatory minimum layover of two hours plus their time adjustment at Yentna Station Roadhouse checkpoint.

A team's driver must declare their intent to start their layover with the checkpoint's head checker/time keeper on arrival and must notify the head checker/time keeper and sign out of that checkpoint to stop the layover clock.

Mushers must sign in and sign out at Yentna Station and sign off as having passed through the Dëshka Landing/Eagle Quest checkpoint on both the inbound and outbound legs of the race.

SHORTCUTS

Any team that takes a shortcut and does not follow the race course is subject to disqualification. If a team gets lost, they must make a best effort to return to where they left the trail and then resume the race from that point.

PLANNED LONG STOPS

If your race strategy includes taking more than a three-hour layover or multiple layovers between checkpoints, contact a race official prior to the start of the race; this is to alert race officials that you are not overdue or in distress and will prevent search teams being sent out to search for you unnecessarily.

PASSING

When one team approaches to within 50 feet of another team, the trailing team shall have the immediate right-of-trail upon demand. The leading musher must stop his/her dogs and hold them to the best of their ability for a maximum of one minute or until the other team has passed, whichever occurs first. The passed team must trail the team that passed them for at least fifteen minutes before demanding the right-of-trail to pass.

TRAIL MARKERS/STAKES

Intentionally removing race trail markings or trail marking stakes for any reason is prohibited.

OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

No outside assistance other than for a declared emergency will be permitted. A musher may receive outside assistance in cases of an uncontrolled or lost team; this includes the use of motorized vehicles.

Though the use of a racer's personal support team is permitted, the racer's dog truck will not be allowed into the team staging area. Support can include watering/feeding, foot care, the changing of race harnesses, and booting.

Outside team support will be allowed only at Dëshka Landing/Eagle Quest check point for Knik 100 teams and for Iditarod/Yukon Quest veteran 200 teams. (Any team that is using the Knik 200 race to qualify for Iditarod/Yukon Quest cannot receive outside team support.)

No dog can leave the stage rest area without the consent of the race veterinarian. Any dog that is taken out of the stage rest area other than for approved veterinarian care will not be allowed to rejoin the racer's team.

PACING

Pacing in any form via outside assistance is prohibited.

USE OF ELECTRONIC OR COMMUNICATION DEVICES

The use of two-way communication devices is now allowed.

A musher may carry a personal emergency satellite emergency locator beacon or SPOT emergency satellite device but if it is turned on or accidentally activated, it will result in a mandatory self-withdrawal from the race. (This rule does not include the mandatory carrying and required use of the Knik 100/200 race's supplied SPOT tracking device.)

DRUG USE

No injectable, oral, or topical drug or herbal supplement which may suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. A musher may not inject any substance into their dogs; all injectable drugs and basting are banned during the Knik races unless administered by a race veterinarian. No other drugs or other artificial means may be used to drive a dog or cause a dog to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability. (See Iditarod official rules for a complete version and list of banned drugs of this rule.)

PENALTIES AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

Rule infractions may result in an issuance of a warning, individual monetary penalties of up to \$500 each, a time penalty incurred for each infraction, censure, or race disqualification. Warnings may be issued by any Knik 100/200 Race Judge. Monetary and time penalties require the agreement of the Race Marshal.

Disqualifications require the unanimous decision of all Knik 100/200 Race Judges, the Race Marshal, and the Race Manager. The Chief Veterinarian will be included in all decisions made based upon issues regarding the care, treatment and welfare of any dog participating in the race.

COMPETITIVENESS

The Race Marshal has the authority to withdraw a team that is no longer choosing to make, or capable of making, a valid effort to compete. The Race Marshal also has the authority to withdraw a musher whose conduct, in the Race Marshal's judgment, constitutes a risk to either him/herself, his/her dogs, the dogs of other mushers or other persons.

SELF WITHDRAWAL/SCRATCH

If a team wishes to withdraw after starting the race and drive their race team home or to a location other than to a checkpoint, to maintain their withdrawn status and not be disqualified, the driver must call Race Manager Robert Sexton at 907-491-0893 from the first phone available. Failure to do so is a mandatory disqualification and a one-year ban from the Knik 100/200.

SCRATCHED, WITHDRAWN, OR DISQUALIFIED DRIVERS/TEAMS

A musher who has scratched, withdrawn, or been disqualified from the race is responsible for arranging for the transportation (and the associated cost) of removing their dogs, gear, and self from the race course in a safe manner.

PROTESTS

Any musher may checkpoint a verbal protest but only at the current or next checkpoint or Finish Line if that is the first checkpoint following the occurrence of the act or situation to be reported. Protests will be accepted or denied by the Race Marshal no later than two hours before the awards banquet.

PERSONAL CONDUCT

Commencing on the date of their individual signup through their completion of the Knik 100/200 race and continuing up to 45 days after the last musher completes the Knik 100/200 race, mushers shall not make public statements or engage in any public conduct injurious to or in

reckless disregards of the best interest of the Knik 100 or 200 sled dog race. Any injurious public posted wording of any kind about either race is not allowed. This includes but is not limited to Facebook, Twitter, personal blogs/websites, public websites of any kind, digital media, as well as in interviews with news/media reporters. If a musher makes any injurious comments regarding the Knik races or race staff, upon the recommendation of the Race Marshal and/or Chief Veterinarian, the Race Manager reserves the right to censure that musher. A censorship may include a public or private warning, involuntary withdrawal from the race, and a ban of the musher from future Knik 100/200 races or a retroactive disqualification of the musher.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship will be observed at all times. Mushers are responsible for the conduct of their dogs, handlers, and representatives from the time they step onto Knik Lake on Saturday morning until the conclusion of the musher awards banquet.

PLEASE NOTE: if you have any questions or concerns about any of the above rules, or you would like clarification, we encourage you to contact Robert Sexton, Race Manager at 907-491-0893 or running12dogs@yahoo.com.