

RULES FOR MID-DISTANCE / DISTANCE RACE

MACQ Sanctioned events



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In order to lighten the text, the terms “mushers” and “participants” designating the leader of the dog team will be used.



THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EVENT

The mission of the organization is to organize and ensure the running of mid-distance events (180 miles and more) for sled dogs in the Gaspésie region of Quebec. The organization is mandated to offer an event of international caliber while maintaining a priority of excellent care for the dogs, a principle of fair competition as well as the maintenance of sportsmanship. The race organization will do everything possible to provide the best volunteer support to the competitors and the race marshal will use his best judgment to correct as much as possible human errors that may have occurred during the event. The race organization will also do its best to provide the distance of the race route as accurately as possible.

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

The committee of people responsible for organizing and managing the event. These individuals have complete and final authority over all aspects of the event, except for rule enforcement and protest handling.

The event official “race marshal”: officer responsible for the execution of the various rules listed in this document and the management of protests if necessary. The marshal directs all aspects of the race so that all participants have a fair chance of success.

The veterinary team: manages the health and safety of the dogs that will participate in the race, at the start of the race, during a stopping point and at the end of the race. Veterinarians will have the authority to remove dog(s) for health reasons throughout the event.

Trail manager: sees to the maintenance of the Trail and the official times of the participants. The course designer will have full priority over all final decisions concerning the course.

REGISTRATIONS

The registration fee for each team will be 150 (\$CDN) for the 45 miles and 300 (\$CDN) for the 150 miles if registration is received by March 1 2024. If registration is received after that date, the fee will be 200 (\$CAD) for the 45 miles and 350 (\$CAD) for the 150 miles. The registration deadline will be on March 13. If the event must be canceled, a full refund will be made to the participants. If a participant decides to withdraw after registering, 80 (\$CDN) for the 45 mile and \$175 for the 150 miles will be refunded if this withdrawal is made before February 1 2024. If the withdrawal is made after this date, no refund will be made.

A participant must be an annual member of MACQ to register and participate in an event.

The organization of the race reserves the right to refuse registration for a reason deemed significant. The participant limit will be 15 participants. After this number, a waiting list will be established.

A short biography of the musher should be provided during the registration process along with a list of medical conditions (if applicable) that should be reported to the organizers for safety.

MUSHERS

1) Each musher entering a 150-160 km (100 mile) race must have completed, within the last five years, a race of at least 50 km (30 miles). Each musher entering a race longer than 160 km (100 miles) must have completed at least one race of a distance at the discretion of the organizers. Each musher who registers for La Chic-Chocs 200 (200 miles) must have completed, within the last five years, a race of at least 150-160 km (100 mile).

2) Each musher must be at least 18 years old unless they submit a waiver request to MACQ (info@macq.quebec) signed by a parent or legal guardian.

3) Only one musher per team is authorized to drive the team and no substitution will be accepted during the race.

4) The substitution of mushers will only be accepted if the change is notified to the organizers and the official of the event before the meeting of the mushers.

5) Each participant is obliged to attend the mushers' meeting which will take place at the **Pin Rouge Ski station in New Richmond at 6pm on Friday, March 15, 2024**. Attendance will be taken and a penalty may be imposed for any delay or absence. If, for a valid reason and approved by the official of the event, a participant is absent at the meeting of the mushers, the participant is responsible for inquiring about any information necessary to start the event.

DOGS AND THE MANDATORY VET CHECK

1) Each team must start the 45 miles race with a minimum of 6 dogs and a maximum of 8 dogs. Each team must start the 150 miles race with a minimum of 10 dogs and a maximum of 12 dogs.

2) Dogs participating in the race must be at least 18 months old on the day of departure.

3) A minimum of 6 dogs is required to start from the last checkpoint (La Cache 2). Dropped dogs may be left at the checkpoint and at no time will a team dog be taken outside the checkpoint. No other dog than those designated at the start of the race may be added to the team at the checkpoint or at any other time during the race.

4) Each dog that will participate in the race must be up to date for its vaccines against distemper (distemper), canine infectious hepatitis, parvovirus, parainfluenza (DHPP) and rabies. DHPP and rabies vaccines approved for three years by a veterinarian will be accepted. Although not yet mandatory, annual vaccination against leptospirosis and Bordetella is strongly recommended.

5) Vaccinations must have been administered at least two weeks before the date of the event, with the exception of the rabies vaccine, which must be administered at least one month before the event, i.e. by **February 16, 2024**.

6) Proof of vaccination will need to be sent electronically to lachicchocs@gmail.com before March 1, 2024. Owners who vaccinate their own dogs shall submit purchase invoices as proof of vaccination within the prescribed time period. Drivers who have not submitted acceptable vaccination records before March 1, 2024 shall offer vaccination proofs at the pre-race veterinary examination, and pay the 20 (\$CDN) late processing fee.

7) Each dog that will participate in the event will also have to undergo an examination by one of our race veterinarians. **This exam will be held between noon and 5pm on Friday, March 15 at Pin Rouge Station in New Richmond.** Only dogs whose health will be deemed suitable to participate in the race by veterinarians will be allowed to start. It should be noted that the decision of the veterinarians on this subject is final. Any inappropriate or abusive communication from the musher to the veterinary team may result in a penalty or even the revocation of the right to participate in the race depending on the severity of the infraction. It goes without saying that any discussion must be conducted with the utmost respect.

8) Each dog that leaves the start of the race will be marked with a colored pencil by the veterinary team. No “unmarked” or “unidentified” dog may take part in the start.

VETERINARY GUIDE

In general, no drug or physical means can be used to stimulate the performance of a dog. The organization of the event, with the team of veterinarians, reserves the right to take blood and/or urine samples for submission to anti-doping tests, throughout the duration of the race.

1) Prohibited substances and objects: syringe needles for injecting substances, anabolic steroids, analgesics, anti-inflammatory medication (corticosteroids, anti-prostaglandins, salicylates, DMSO etc.), anesthetics, central nervous system stimulants, anti-histamines, bronchodilators, cough suppressants, diuretics, muscle relaxants, opiates or any other substance that enhances a dog's performance or that may camouflage its state of health.

2) Permitted substances: vitamins; minerals, electrolytes, probiotics or any other dietary supplement designed for this purpose and in its original packaging, antacids such as famotidine (Pepcid AC) and omeprazole (Prilosec) to prevent gastric ulcers.

3) Death of a dog: the musher is responsible for the health of his dogs and should familiarize himself with canine first aid guides and should be able to recognize the symptoms indicative of a health problem. In the event that a dog dies during the race, it must be completely covered in the sled bag and the organization of the event and/or the veterinary team must be informed immediately in order to ensure an appropriate follow-up. Failure to comply with this, the musher may be disqualified or even banned for future races sanctioned by MACQ.

4) Conditions for evaluating the state of health of a dog by the veterinary team:

Here is a list of the different criteria allowing the veterinary team to judge whether a dog is in good condition to start the race and also to start from the point control: body cachectic state (too lean and low muscle mass), hydration state (8% or more), irregular heartbeat, elevated rectal temperature, hypothermia, abnormal lung sounds, reddish or brown urine (sign of myopathy) , chronic diarrhea with presence of blood (or even vomiting blood), frostbite, any orthopedic injury causing inflammation and/or pain, psychological state of the dog (particularly at the stopping point where, for example, a dog would have no desire to start again).

SLED AND MANDATORY EQUIPMENT

1) All harnesses must be padded around the dog's neck and chest and must have reflective strips.

2) The drag line must be organized in a line of two dogs and must be made of rope or steel cable provided that the latter is covered with a sheath or a hollow rope. Any chain or uncovered steel cable will not be accepted.

3) The sled must be equipped with an adequate brake as well as a bumper and a snow anchor. The sled must be of sufficient size with an appropriate bag to accommodate the mandatory sled equipment as well as space to carry a dog if necessary. Finally, the sled must be equipped with a tether of at least 2.5 m (8 ft) attached to the main line.

4) Here is a list of the mandatory equipment that must be in the sled at all times for mid-distance races with no checkpoints, such as La Chic-Chocs 45:

- one headlamps with the necessary batteries;
- winter sleeping bag;
- 4 boots for each dog (4 of which may be on the dog), the boots can be worn by the dog or in the sled
- 450 g (1 lb) of emergency food for each dog on the team (feed or meat);
- an appropriate knife which must be carried by the musher and accessible at all times;
- snowshoes of standard size for the weight of the musher;
- a first aid kit (for dogs and humans) with enough bandages;

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- an ax of at least 55 cm (22 inches);
- a steel cable cutter (for draft lanyards with steel cable);
- materials for lighting a fire and waterproof matches;
- a “cooker” stove capable of boiling at least 2 liters (2 gallons) of water as well as fuel accordingly
- a bowl for each dog in the team;
- a red flashing light on each lead dog shall be worn from dawn to dusk
- a Vet Book which will be handed out at the meeting of the mushers.

5) Here is a list of the mandatory equipment that must be in the sled at all times for races of 150 km (100 miles) and more, such as La Chic-Chocs 150:

- two headlamps with the necessary batteries (optional for events of less than 150 km);
- winter sleeping bag;
- 8 boots for each dog (4 of which may be on the dog) per section of trail, the sections being separated by stopping points (optional for events of less than 150 km);
- 450 g (1 lb) of food for each dog on the team (feed or meat);
- an appropriate knife which must be carried by the musher and accessible at all times;
- snowshoes of standard size for the weight of the musher;
- a first aid kit (for dogs and humans) with enough bandages;
- an ax of at least 55 cm (22 inches);
- a steel cable cutter (for draft lanyards with steel cable);
- materials for lighting a fire and waterproof matches;



- a “cooker” stove capable of boiling at least 8 liters (2 gallons) of water as well as fuel accordingly
- a bowl for each dog in the team;
- a red flashing light on each lead dog shall be worn from dawn to dusk
- a number of "drop lines" corresponding to the number of dogs that can be dropped, made of steel cable with a protective sheath between 56-66 cm (22-26 inches) long (optional for events under 150 km);
- a Vet Book which will be handed out at the meeting of the mushers.

THE RACE

- 1) Before the start of the race, each musher and his team, including the "handler", must be available for a check of the mandatory equipment to be carried, before the start as well as at the finish of the race. 'test. The place and location will be revealed when meeting the mushers.
- 2) The wearing of the bib is compulsory from the beginning of the event until the end when on the track. These rules do not apply at the checkpoint of the event.
- 3) Each dog participating in the event must be identified on the collar (dog's name and owner's initials) either by direct inscription on the strap of the collar or by a "dog tag" type medal.
- 4) Each musher must participate in the banquet and the prize-giving on Monday, March 18, unless there is a valid reason authorized by the organizing committee.
- 5) Each start will be 2 minutes apart.
- 6) The organization must specify how to determine the starting orders for the participants.
- 7) It is strictly forbidden to leave food on the track.
- 8) In order to promote an image and an evolution of harnessed sports and according to the Anti Smoking Act of the Government of Quebec, chapter L-6.2, article 2, paragraph 5, it is forbidden to smoke where sports activities take place or leisure. You will be asked to smoke nine meters from the start, finish and checkpoints under risk of penalties according to Law L-6.2 article 2.2.

- 9) The furthest part of the sled is the marker for the starting line and for determining the official time of a team when it crosses the finish line after having completed the journey.
- 10) Any infraction attributed to a race team will result in a time penalty added to the total duration of the race time of the offending team. The severity of the infraction will determine the time added as a penalty and will be left to the discretion of the race official. A protest form is available on the MACQ website if necessary.

CHECKPOINT PROCEDURE

- 1) There will be 2 checkpoints with a minimum rest of 8 hours in total (see Appendix 1).
- 2) Each CP will be without assistance for the musher and the handler will have to ensure the transport of the supply bags to the two CP.
- 3) A bale of straw and water will be provided to each team, but there is no guarantee of getting hot water.
- 4) The minimum and maximum start time for the start of the stop point will be displayed on a board inside each CP.
- 5) Dogs that cannot leave the check point must be left under the care of the handler or designated volunteers. No dog may be left anywhere other than this location.
- 6) The cut-off times for arrival and departure at each stop are as follows:

Pin Rouge start time: between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 16, 2024 1st CP (La Cache 1): Departure no later than Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 2:05 a.m. 2nd CP (La Cache 2): departure no later than Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 6:25 p.m. Arrival (Pin Rouge): arrival no later than Monday, March 18, 2024 at 3:25 a.m.



OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

- 1) No external assistance other than the handler at the start and finish will be allowed under risk of penalty. Exceptions could be accepted and will need to be approved by the event official, e.g. lost dog team, etc.
- 2) It is however allowed to help another musher

HANDLING OF DOGS

- 1) Improper handling or treatment of dogs by the musher or handler is strictly forbidden and will be penalized severely. It is also strictly forbidden to hit the sled or other objects to advance a team.
- 2) If a musher loses his team he will not be disqualified as long as he can regain control of the team and remain on the course of the race. The musher must accept any valid help to regain control of his team. There could be a time penalty depending on the means used to join the lost team.
- 3) Each dog must be attached to the line of the sled by its harness and each dog that cannot remain attached to this line must be transported in the sled.

THE RACE TRAIL

- 1) The trail will be completely marked and there will be volunteer assistance at crossroads to ensure the safety of the teams. The trail manager will ensure his maintenance and will respond directly to the race official in order to access the mushers directly on the track if necessary, and this, by the shortest route.
- 2) Each musher must at all times remain on the path of the trail.
- 3) When a team wants to pass, it must notify the team to be passed by calling "TRAIL". At this point, the overtaken team should do its best to facilitate the overtaking. During overtaking, poles or ski poles must not be used over a distance of at least 30 meters (100 feet). The overtaken team must also wait a minimum of 5 minutes before attempting to overtake the other team again if this situation arises. If a passing team is found to be having difficulty during or immediately after the passing (e.g. tangled lead dogs, etc.), the passed team should stop and wait for the situation to resolve before restarting.



4) For the last 1.6 km (1 mile) of the race, the overtaking regulations listed in point 3 do not apply: “no-man’s-land”.

5) It is strictly forbidden to leave waste or food on the race track under penalty of penalty

COMPLAINTS

1) Each musher and handler will agree not to hold the race organizers, as well as the veterinary team legally responsible for any act or damage incurred during the event including the various inherent risks associated with the event.

2) A risk acceptance form inherent to the event as well as a medical questionnaire must be completed shortly before the event.

3) The race organization reserves the right to photograph the mushers, handlers and dog teams and publish these photos on social media as well as on the race web page.

BANQUET AND AWARDS

1) There will be a banquet beginning at 8am Monday March 18 at Station touristique Pin Rouge. After the brunch, there will be a prize giving. The closing of the event will follow.

2) The total amount of purses will be published later on the website.



APPENDIX 1 - Race map of La Chic-Chocs 2024

