

# 2024 Iron Dog Expedition Class Rules

PLEASE READ THESE RULES IN THEIR ENTIRETY

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CHANGES IN YELLOW

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**NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY OF SAFETY SHALL RESULT FROM PUBLICATION OF OR COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES AND REGULATIONS IN THIS PUBLICATION. THEY ARE INTENDED AS A GUIDE FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE SPORT AND ARE IN NO WAY A GUARANTEE AGAINST INJURY OR DEATH TO SPECTATORS OR PARTICIPANTS.**

Iron Dog Race, Inc. is dedicated to providing a reliable, consistent, safe and honorable cross-country snowmobile race and recreational ride in Alaska. Pro Class is a team race, consisting of two (2) persons and two (2) snowmobiles (track driven and ski steered). Expedition Class teams will consist of a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) persons, but each person must have their own snowmobile. These participants will brave subzero cold, bad visibility and deep snow to push their snowmobiles and bodies to the limits to reach the finish line. It is the "World's Longest Toughest Snowmobile Race" and is a true test of human and equipment endurance. **All participants will treat Race Officials with respect. Each participant is required to read in its entirety: these Iron Dog Event Rules and all registration documents, release forms and waiver of liability.**

Upon entry each applicant acknowledges receipt of the current Iron Dog event rules. **Participants accept and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of these Iron Dog rules and regulations.**

Each participant acknowledges that Iron Dog Race, Inc.:

- Has limited resources and dependent on donors for a significant portion of its funding
- Functions with limited employed staff and hundreds of volunteers
- Must organize this event in some of the most remote and uninhabited locations in Alaska in often very severe weather conditions.

Under these circumstances, Iron Dog Race Inc. cannot and does not commit to perform obligations or responsibilities of any kind.

Iron Dog Race, Inc. disclaims all obligations and responsibilities of every kind and nature. While Iron Dog Race, Inc. will attempt to perform all tasks, it undertakes with reasonable care and effort, as determined in its sole and absolute discretion, it shall owe no duty of any kind or nature to participants and it shall perform only such acts it deems necessary at its sole and absolute discretion.

Participants shall have no claims, demands, suits or actions ("claims") of any kind or nature against Iron Dog Race, Inc., its agents, servants, employees, directors, officers, contractors or volunteers, regardless of whether any such claim is in the nature of contract, tort or other type of claim, and regardless of whether any such claim is for injury or damage to person or property.

Each participant agrees, by participating in any Iron Dog Race, Inc. event, to release, indemnify, defend and hold harmless Iron Dog Race, Inc. its agents, servants, employees, directors, officers, contractors and volunteers, from and against any and all claims, specifically including claims by third parties.

The disclaimers, the limit on claims, and the agreement to release, indemnify, defend and hold harmless set forth herein shall apply to every act and omission of Iron Dog Race, Inc. its agents, servants, employees, directors, officers, contractors and volunteers, including, by way of example only, acts and omissions in planning, organizing, facilitating, staging, conducting, and judging the race and other Iron Dog Race, Inc. events, and shall survive conclusion of the race and termination of the relationship between Iron Dog Race, Inc. and participant.

Each participant accepts and assumes all risks in any way arising from, related to, or connected with participation in any Iron Dog Race, Inc. event and each participant is encouraged to obtain and maintain appropriate insurance covering all such risks.

## I) ENTRY AND REGISTRATION

- **Participants must read and agree to the terms of these rules and sign a waiver of liability form.**
- **Entry fees are set by the Iron Dog Race, Inc. Board of Directors.**

All required forms must be complete and submitted on or before the entry deadlines including: **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THIS REQUIREMENT.**

- Medical Release
- Liability Waiver and Indemnity Agreement
- Photo Identification (current state issued driver license or Passport)
- In order to participate, racers must pass a physical exam by a certified medical physician.
  - Commercial Driver's License Medical Card will be accepted.
  - Pilot's Medical Examination Certificate will be accepted.
- Headshot digital Color Photos must be submitted with entry, if headshot does not meet the below specifications it will not appear in the race program. It will show as "not available".
  - Solid background
  - Headshot from the shoulders up
  - No sunglasses
- Media Rights and Release: All racers are required to sign a media release form as a part of their registration.
- **All participants are required to be ISR (International Snowmobile Racing, Inc. members. ([www.isrracing.org](http://www.isrracing.org)) - Your ISR Member Number will be required at registration.**

Unless approved by a ruling from the Iron Dog Race, Inc. Board of Directors, no refunds of entry fees will be made after registration is closed.

Refunds made during the registration period will be processed with a 20% processing fee.

Maximum number of entries is limited to a total of 120 participants, including Pro Class and Expedition Class.

- Registrations will be limited to the number of participants who submit fully completed registration packets including payment prior to the close of business (5:00pm Alaska standard Time) of the scheduled registration period.

Participants must declare their class upon entry: Pro Class teams compete for prize money and trophies; Expedition Class participants ride for the adventure and recognition of completion.

Pro Class participants may opt to participate in Expedition Class at any time leading up to and during the race. Entry fees will not be refunded for class status changes after the close of registration.

Substitutions and replacements of participating entrants are only allowed prior to the start of the race and only after proper paperwork and fees have been received and approved by Iron Dog Race, Inc. prior to the drivers meeting.

- During the event, each Pro Class racer must stay with their original teammate.

- A Pro Class racer may opt to join an existing Expedition Class team if their teammate is no longer participating.

No participant under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to compete in the Pro Class without obtaining special approval from the Board of Directors.

Iron Dog Race, Inc. retains the right to refuse registration to any participant for any reason.

**Required Attendance:** All Participants MUST attend certain events to maintain registration eligibility. Failure to comply may result in penalties, fees, or disqualification.

- ALL PARTICIPANTS are required to attend the pre-race Safety Inspection and related public event with their race snowmobile. Participants are required to stay for the duration of the event or until excused by a member of the Race Marshal Team.
- ROOKIE PARTICIPANTS: All Rookie participants are required to attend the Rookie Workshop or similar training event as approved by the Race Marshal Team.

## **II) GENERAL RACE RULES**

All participants are responsible for the removal of all their own parts, snowmobile(s), gear and/or supplies from the trail. All excess supplies, broken parts and other materials belonging to a participant must be properly discarded.

### **IDENTIFICATION**

The Iron Dog will issue bibs. These bibs must be displayed in a highly visible area on the back of the participant's jackets and worn during active racing. Bibs will remain unaltered unless approved by the Race Marshal Team.

Team number decals shall be placed in the center of the snowmobile windshield as low as possible, and as centered as possible, not to obstruct participants vision.

All sponsored items and logos furnished by Iron Dog must be displayed as required on the exterior of participating snowmobiles.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Iron Dog Race, Inc. reserves the right to withdraw any participant for any reason.

In no way whatsoever shall any participant, racer, volunteer, or race official represent negative publicity in any form to the media or the public. Pro Class Racers that do not comply, may result in sanctions, fines, or penalties.

Iron Dog officials, or its designee, may record by photographing or videotaping any participant and their snowmobile and gear during the event at any time.

Voluntary scratches must be declared by a participant at the nearest checkpoint within 2 hours of the decision. Failure to notify a Race Marshal, Checkpoint Official, or Race Headquarters may result in sanctions, fines, or penalties.

In order for an individual from a scratched team to leave the checkpoint and continue on to another location, he/she must do the following:

1. Inform the Race Marshal Team of their decision to leave, an estimated time of departure, final destination and estimated time of arrival.
2. Acknowledge in writing that no Iron Dog fuel, oil, or other checkpoint supplies will be used.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

**In the spirit of good sportsmanship all participants must adhere to the following:**

Participants will always conduct themselves in a prudent and respectful manner.

Participants must obey all local, state and federal laws.

No fighting, vulgarity, derogatory or offensive language will be tolerated.

Negative publicity from any participant will not be tolerated.

Participants shall be aware of their surroundings; actions should be taken as to not impede a faster team approaching from the rear.

Expedition Class teams will defer to any Pro Class teams at all checkpoints.

All participants are REQUIRED to stop and render aid to ANY persons encountered during the race who are in a life-threatening situation. Race Marshals may adjust trail times accordingly on a case by case basis.

All participants aware of an injury and or a damaged snowmobile shall relay the appropriate information to the Race Officials at the next checkpoint.

It is the responsibility of each participant to inform their friends, family and support crew of the race rules and procedures to ensure no violations occur. Any race team, friends, family or support crew who commits an act with malicious intent to sabotage the efforts of other racers may be immediately disqualified and subject to future fine, penalties and sanctions.

## **GENERAL SAFETY**

The following Race Flags can be expected during the race:

- Green Flag = Start
- Yellow Flag = Slow Down and hold position
- Red Flag = Stop Racing
- Checker Flag = Finish
  
- **STARTING PROCEDURES**
- Expedition Class participant's mandatory meeting will begin at a determined time and place, with the departure to follow. Participants will be released one team at a time.
- **TRAIL RIDE OFFICIALS**
- The officials charged with the conduct of the Expedition Class ride will consist of one or more designated Expedition Class riders and possible trail sweeps. These officials will be chosen by Iron Dog ahead of time and announced at the mandatory drivers meeting prior to the start. These officials will supervise the ride.
- These officials have the authority to judge the long-distance trail ride abilities of participants and take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the ride.
- These officials have the authority to determine the structural integrity of snowmobiles utilized in Expedition Class.
- If in consultation with a Medical Professional Iron Dog determines that a participant has a medical and or physical problem which poses a hazard to him or herself or others, Iron Dog may remove them from participation at any time.

### III) DRIVER REQUIREMENTS

#### DRIVER LIABILITY

**General:** The participant and any crew, in signing the entry, elects to use the course of the event at their own risk, and thereby releases Iron Dog Race, Inc. together with their heirs, assigns, officers, representatives, agents, employees, members, sponsoring organization and owners of properties on which sanctioned events are to be held from all liability from injury to person, property and/or reputation that may be received by said entrant and from all claims of said injuries to the parties listed above growing out of, or caused by any construction or condition of the course over which the event is held.

Participants are strongly encouraged to obtain personal liability and accident insurance.

#### REQUIRED PARTICIPANT PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

**General:** It is the responsibility of the participant to select protective equipment that will conform to Iron Dog guidelines and ISR Rules <http://www.isrracing.org/tempPDF/Cross%20Country.pdf>. Even though race rules committees have developed specific guidelines, Iron Dog Race, Inc. does not endorse or guarantee specific products or manufactures' of protective equipment. Racers must rely on their own judgment in the selection of helmets and other apparel for protection and durability.

Regardless of participant's apparel passing prior inspections, compliance with the rules must be made at post-race inspections. Helmets that pass tech inspection will be stickered prior to leaving the start, required at the start, verified at the finish, and can be inspected at any time during the race.

Helmet padding and shell must remain in as manufactured condition and meet the latest standards (SNELL 2020 or European Standard ECE 22.05/22.06). Helmets must be securely fastened at all times.

Adequate Arctic clothing including facemask, gloves, boots and handlebar gauntlets.

Eye protection in the form of goggles and or face shields is mandatory. If corrective lenses are required to drive a motor vehicle it will be required for event participation.

- The use of upper body protection equipment is mandatory. The upper body protection must cover all body areas. It will protect the driver in mid-body and back areas and be capable of resisting penetration and dissipating force of impacts while absorbing the shock of most blows. Typical motocross vests do not meet this rule.
- Below is a list of ISR approved vests.
  - Tek Vest Tek 4D - <https://rebrand.ly/95f1c5/Tek>
  - EVS SV1 - <https://rebrand.ly/j4z1kk8/EVS>
  - Saf-Jac - <https://rebrand.ly/egih585/LEATT>
  - LEATT Fusion - <https://rebrand.ly/egih585/LEATT>
  - HMK W/D30 - <https://rebrand.ly/esbzzqi/HMK>

Shin and knee guards are mandatory on both legs. The shin guard must extend from the instep to above the kneecap and be constructed of an impenetrable material.

- Motocross style knee braces with patella protection will be allowed.

## **SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT**

**General: Survival Equipment as described herein will be inspected prior to the start, in Nome and at the finish line, and/or at the discretion of the Race Marshal Team at any time during the event. All clothing must be in sealable waterproof containers.**

All Participants must carry, on their person or their snowmobile, the following:

- One (1) sleeping bag certified capable of providing protection to -20 degrees Fahrenheit.
  - Must cover the participant from head to toe.
  - Insulating fill must be equally distributed throughout the bag.
  - The sleeping bag cannot be altered and must be able to fully zip with the participant inside.
- One (1) substantial bivy-bag (no space blankets) or equivalent. For acceptable examples visit the website [www.irondog.org](http://www.irondog.org).
- Adequate arctic protective clothing with spare layers that include moisture wicking socks, upper and lower body thermals.
- Spare set of face and eye protection.
- Fire starting materials (at least 20 matches or 2 lighters) carried in waterproof containers.
- Three (3) aerial signal flares (with current date) and/or an approved emergency signal laser and/or an approved emergency strobe light with spare batteries.
- One (1) flashlight with spare batteries.
- One (1) drive belt with sufficient tools to replace.
- One (1) Global Positioning System (GPS) or Map & Compass for navigation.
- Current First Aid and CPR Certification Cards.

All Teams (Expedition Class per/two riders) must carry the following:

- One (1) hatchet or saw)
- First Aid kits that meet or exceed the acceptable kits listed on the Iron Dog website [www.irondog.org](http://www.irondog.org)
- Arctic stove with sufficient fuel reserves. (Arctic Stove definition: A stove that will operate at subzero temperatures and or windy conditions.)
- Pan or cup to melt snow and boil water with a minimum of 1-pint capacity.
- Twenty-five (25) feet of 1,200 lbs. test or stronger rope.
- Tools for infield repairs (approximately 5 lbs.)

### Recommended Equipment (Not Required)

- Snow shovel.
- Maps and compasses for redundant navigation aids.
- Spare batteries that work well in cold conditions for all equipment.
- Auxiliary fuel tanks
- Iron Dog Race, Inc. strongly encourages all participants to wear helmets that display High Vis Colors over 75% of the surface area.
- Sufficient emergency use food

## **IV) SNOWMOBILE REQUIREMENTS**

All snowmobiles must meet the industry standard noise limit of 88 decibels. The SAE standard J2567 test may be used to determine compliance if aftermarket parts are not certified.

An adequate and functional return spring on the throttle is required.

Headlight, windshield, tail and brake lights, snow flaps and clutch guards must be in a safe condition when leaving each checkpoint.

- A working helmet light with a tail/brake light feature (such as Lead Dog Helmet Light) will suffice for lights until the main system is repaired.

All snowmobiles must have carbide runners and studded tracks (a minimum of 2-studs per track bar).

- Track screws for long tracks will suffice

All snowmobiles must have a current Alaska state snowmobile registration decal.

The condition of the snowmobile is the responsibility of the racer.

### **GPS TRACKING SYSTEMS**

Iron Dog Race, Inc. requires each participant to install an Iron Dog supplied GPS tracking unit on their snowmobile. Participants are required to install units for optimum performance as directed by Iron Dog officials.

Participants may be liable for replacement costs on lost or intentionally damaged GPS units.

**Participants must return Iron Dog provided GPS units within 30 days of the finish or will lose their deposit.**

## V) EXPEDITION CLASS COURSE

All participants are reminded that unless otherwise marked the racecourse is a public use trail and is not protected. Other trail users and or animals can be expected running with or against the race direction. All other trail users, including sled dog teams always have the right-of-way. It is the rider's responsibility to conduct themselves in a positive manner to assure continued use of the Historic Iditarod Trail.

Racers must follow the marked trail designated by the Race Marshal from the start to the Susitna River.

Between Skwentna Roadhouse and the **mouth of the Happy River** – **the Skwentna River is off limits as determined by the Ordinary High Water Mark** (33 CFR 328.3(e)) define the "ordinary high water mark" as "that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

Between Whiskey Bravo and Tatina participants must travel through Ptarmigan Pass – **Rainy Pass is off limits.**

Between Tatina and Nikolai, the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River is off limits downstream from the Post River.

Between Tatina and Nikolai, participants must travel across the Farewell Burn.

Racers must follow the marked trail designated by the Race Marshal from the Susitna River to the finish line.

Participants should be aware that private property exists in many areas along the route. Deliberate crossing and infringement on posted private property will not be tolerated.

Due to the ongoing negotiations with the Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska, race routes and rules may be changed as necessary. Drivers will be notified at the Driver's Meeting should this occur.

Participants will not travel on public roads unless otherwise marked/cleared to do so.

### **GAS STOPS AND FUELING**

All participants are required to use the fuel provided by Iron Dog Race, Inc. at Official Checkpoints. Fuel will be dispensed directly into the snowmobile.

Fuel, 2-cycle oil and isopropyl (when available) will be supplied at each Official Checkpoint.

Fuel will be available at the Express Checkpoints with the exception of Shell Lake and Elim.

Deliberate or careless dumping or spilling of fuel, oil, antifreeze, isopropyl or any environmentally harmful substance will be considered polluting and will not be tolerated.

### **FUELING PROCEDURES:**

Racers are entirely responsible for their snowmobile during the fueling process.

There will be a marked designated fueling area approximately 30 feet on either side of the fuel pump. This area is designated for fueling operations ONLY. Snowmobile hoods and side panels MUST REMAIN CLOSED/IN PLACE and engines will remain running during refueling operations. Oil must be added outside the designated fueling area within clear sight of the fuel pump.

### **EXPRESS CHECKPOINTS:**

Racers are not required to stop for fuel or sign/check in at Express Checkpoints

Racers are required to slow down enough to allow the Checkpoint Officials the ability to acknowledge their passing.

## **VI) LAYOVERS**

All team participants must check in with Checkpoint Officials at all checkpoints.

All participants will reduce their pace to a safe speed as they approach and depart all checkpoints. Speed limit while proceeding through checkpoints and villages will be **20 mph** unless otherwise marked. These areas will be marked with a yellow flag entering, and green flags exiting those areas. NOTE: Failure to follow this rule will be viewed as a Public Safety Hazard and will be dealt with accordingly.

### **REQUIRED LAYOVERS:**

The Iron Dog Race Marshals maintain the right and authority to alter or modify this schedule for any reason(s) deemed justifiable such as impending weather conditions, safety, or other reasons that may arise.

# MILEAGE TABLE

CHECKPOINT	FUEL	LAYOVER	MILEAGE
BIG LAKE	Y		0
SKWENTNA	Y	Y	80
SHELL LAKE *EXPRESS*	Y		17
WHISKEY BRAVO	Y	Y	46
TATINA	Y	Y	70
NIKOLAI	Y	Y	74
MCGRATH	Y	Y	52
OPHIR	Y		42
POORMAN	Y		93
RUBY	Y	Y	61
GALENA	Y	Y	52
KALTAG	Y	Y	86
UNALAKEET	Y	Y	85
SHAKTOOLIK *EXPRESS*	Y		41
KOYUK	Y	Y	62 *
WHITE MOUNTAIN	Y	Y	90
NOME			70
TOTAL			1021

\* The distance between Shaktoolik and Koyuk across the bay can be as short as 50 miles, the distance around the bay is approximately 71 miles.

\*\* Mileage varies year to year, depending on conditions.