



**2018 Iron Dog®
Trail Class
Official Rules**

PLEASE READ THESE RULES IN THEIR ENTIRETY

NOTICE:
2018 Rule modifications or additions:
Highlighted 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®, Inc. is dedicated to providing a reliable, consistent, safe and honorable cross-country snowmobile Trail ride in Alaska. This is a team event, consisting of two (2) persons and two (2) snowmobiles (track driven and ski steered). Trail Class teams may include two (2) or more 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 it is a true test of human and equipment endurance. All participants will treat Race Officials with respect and recognize their decisions as final at all times. Each participant is required to read both the Iron Dog® Event Rules and general rules of the ISR (International Snowmobile Racing, Inc.).

Each applicant acknowledges receipt of the current Iron Dog® event rules upon entry and is applicable to all Trail class riders. Participants accept and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of all 2018 Iron Dog® rules and regulations.

Each participant acknowledges that: Iron Dog® has limited resources; is dependent on donors for a significant portion of its funding; functions with limited employed staff and hundreds of volunteers under only limited control of Iron Dog®; and must organize the event in some of the most remote and uninhabited locations in Alaska in the most severe weather conditions. Under these circumstances, Iron Dog® cannot and does not commit to perform obligations or responsibilities of any kind.

Iron Dog® disclaims all obligations and responsibilities of every kind and nature. While Iron Dog® 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®, its agents, servants, employees, directors, officers, contractors or volunteers, regardless of whether any such claim is in the 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, except only if, and to the extent that, the claimant demonstrates, by clear and convincing evidence, that any such claim arises solely, directly and proximately from the intentional and willful wrongdoing by the Iron Dog® Board of Directors or by employed Iron Dog® staff.

Each participant agrees, by participating in any Iron Dog®, Inc. Event, to release, indemnify, defend and hold harmless Iron Dog®, Inc. its agents, servants, employees, directors, officers, contractors and volunteers, from and against any and all claims,

specifically including claims by third parties, except only if, and to the extent that, the claimant demonstrates, by clear and convincing evidence, that any such claim arises solely, directly and proximately from the intentional and willful wrongdoing by the Iron Dog® Board of Directors or staff members employed by Iron Dog, Inc.

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®, 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®, Inc. events, and shall survive conclusion of the race and termination of the relationship between Iron Dog®, 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® Inc. event and each participant is encouraged to obtain and maintain appropriate insurance covering all such risks.

1. REGISTRATION AND ENTRY

- 1.1. Waiver Forms are mandatory for all personnel in non-spectators areas (Paddock, staging and track).
- 1.2. All required forms must be complete and submitted on or before entry deadlines in order to be entered including; Medical Release, Media Release, Liability Waiver & Indemnity Agreement, Photo Identification (current U.S. issued driver license or Passport), digital photo, and Participant Biography. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THIS REQUIREMENT.**
- 1.3. Additional forms of identification may be required in order to participate from year to year as required by State, Federal and local authorities. The Iron Dog® staff will make all reasonable and commercial efforts to alert participants as early as possible to any changes to required rider identification or documentation.
- 1.4. In order to participate riders must pass a physical exam by a certified medical physician and or submit shall be turned into Iron Dog®, Inc. with all entry forms. Certified copies of C.D.L. and or pilot's medical examination certificates that are current throughout the Trail event are acceptable.
- 1.5. Headshot Digital Color Photos must be submitted with entry and are required in order to participate.
- 1.6. No refunds of entry or other fees will be made after registration is closed, unless an event is cancelled or rescheduled by a ruling from the board of directors. Refunds **during** the registration period will be processed with a 20% processing fee.
- 1.7. All participants must be current members of Iron Dog®.
- 1.8. Participants must declare their class upon entry: Pro or Recreation/Trail Class. Pro Class participants may opt to participate in the Trail Class prior close of registration or during the event they may change their class status or accompany an existing Trail Class team. Entry fees will not be refunded for class status change after close of registration. Pro Class participants compete for prize money and trophies. Trail Class teams ride for the adventure and a completion award.

1.9 Substitutions and replacements of participating entrants are only allowed prior to the start of the event and only after proper paperwork and fees have been received and approved by the Iron Dog® prior to the Driver's Meeting.

1.10 If one (1) team member is replaced, the team retains their entry draw position. If an entire team is replaced, the team is moved to the second draw if the drawing has not yet occurred. If the drawing has occurred, the team will be moved to last position of the starting order.

1.11 During the event each participant must stay with original teammate(s), with the exception of a Pro Class participant opting to join an existing Trail Class team, if their original teammate is no longer participating.

1.12 No participant under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to compete in the Pro Class.

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

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

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

In the spirit of good sportsmanship and the Iron Dog®, all participants must adhere to the following:

2.1. All participants agree that the Trail Class is non-competitive and that racing and driving in a dangerous manner will not be accepted.

2.2. All participants must obey all local, state, and federal laws.

2.3. Participants and race officials will conduct themselves in a prudent and respectful manner at all times.

2.4. Participants working on snowmobiles during the event must allow a path for other event participants and their snowmobiles.

2.5. Participants will not block the access into or out of the checkpoint and/or impound areas.

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

2.7. Littering and or polluting on the trail will not be tolerated.

2.8. Actions resulting in negative publicity from any participant will not be tolerated.

2.9. Trail Class teams shall be aware of all race teams approaching from the rear and overtaking. Actions will be taken as to not impede a race team.

2.10. Trail Class teams will defer to any Pro Class teams at all checkpoints.

2.11. All Trail Class teams must maintain sufficient pace to arrive at the "milestone" checkpoints by the dates noted. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in a team's disqualification. Disqualified teams will not be authorized to continue as Iron Dog® participants.

3. INTOXICATING BEVERAGES & DRUGS

3.1. Any participant or persons associated with a participating race team is strictly forbidden to drink intoxicating beverages during the race. Anyone suspected of any chemically induced impairment or intoxication must leave the premises immediately (specifically pit, paddock, staging areas, warm up areas, Nome garage, tear down and race track) or be subject to severe disciplinary action. This shall be in effect starting with the Safety Inspection, during the Start events and through the final inspection of snowmobiles at the Finish. These rules and risk of penalties shall also apply to the behavior and actions by your family, support crew and friends.

3.2. Possession or use of illegal drugs or drug substances, as defined below, is prohibited in any form, by any participant, on the event facility, or in any area considered to be used in the operation of the event facility, such as parking lots or leased properties.

3.3. Illegal drugs are any substances defined and prohibited by state/provincial and/or federal law.

3.4. Any person found to be in possession or under the influence of an illegal drug or drug substance on event facility property, as defined above, or any person who is arrested by duly constituted authorities and charged with possession and/or use of illegal drugs or drug substance or any person who is formally charged by a court of law with illegal drug violations, shall be subject to suspension from competition and eviction from the event facility, and denial of further entry to the event facility for a period determined by the disciplinary committee.

3.5. If a participant is using prescription drugs on advice of a physician, such use must be reported to the Race Director prior to the participant's entry into any Iron Dog® activities. Failure to notify will subject the participant to penalties as prescribed above.

3.6. A participant is any person taking part in any event sanctioned by or affiliated with the Iron Dog® in any form, including but not restricted to participants, snowmobile owners, mechanics, crew members, sponsors, track officials, pit area personnel, manufacturers and press representatives. All such persons shall be considered public figures that have by their own choice become involved in the snowmobile racing events, with the full understanding that he or she must abide by the rules and regulations established and published by the Iron Dog®. All participants are considered to be responsible for their personal conduct.

4. PARTICIPANT PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

4.1. It is the responsibility of the participant to select protective equipment that will conform to Iron Dog® and ISR guidelines and provide adequate protection. Even though race rules committees and ISR develop guidelines, Iron Dog® and ISR do not endorse or guarantee specific products or manufacturers of protective equipment. Participants must rely on their own judgment in the selection of helmets and other apparel for protection and durability.

4.2. Regardless of participant apparel passing prior inspections, compliance with the rules must be made at post-event inspections.

4.3. Helmets: Helmet padding and shell must remain in as-manufactured condition, without modification and meet the latest standard SNELL 2010, European Standard ECE

22.05. or the previous generation standard (eg. SNELL 2005) so long as the helmet is in new/undamaged condition. The helmet must be securely fastened at all times.

4.4. It is mandatory that the driver's helmet must be a minimum of (75%) blaze orange matching the color of the rider numbers.(RGB Color mix 255, 102, 0)

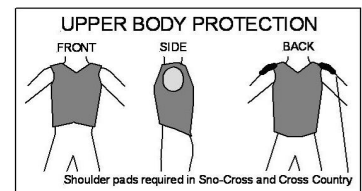
4.5. The Iron Dog® will provide blaze orange rider bibs. Bibs will *not* be reissued (do not lose your race bib).

4.6. Adequate Arctic Clothing including facemask, gloves, and pair of gauntlets.

4.7. Waterproof boots able to provide protection to -30 degrees below zero. Riders must carry boot spare liners if the chosen boot liners are not waterproof. Commonly used boot: Military Bunny Boots

4.8. 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.

4.9. The use of upper body protection equipment is mandatory. The upper body protection must cover all body areas shown in illustration below. 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.



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

4.11. Elbow pads and Neck bracing are highly recommended.

5. SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT

Survival Equipment as described herein will be inspected prior to the start of the event, in Nome, and at the Finish Line, and or at the discretion of the Race Director team at any time during the event.

5.1. Each team member must carry, on their person or their snowmobile, the following:

5.1.1. One (1) sleeping bag; certified capable of providing protection to -20 degrees Fahrenheit; must cover participant head to toe and insulating fill equally distributed throughout the bag. The sleeping bag cannot be altered. Must be able to fully zip with participant inside.

5.1.2. One (1) substantial (bivouac) rip-stop nylon bivy bag (no space blankets) or equivalent. Adequate arctic protective clothing and layers with spare layers that include: moisture wicking socks, upper and lower thermals.

5.1.3. Spare set of face and eye protection.

5.1.4. Fire starting materials (matches, lighters) in sufficient quantity and carried in waterproof containers.

5.1.5. Sufficient (emergency use only) reserve food with a minimum of 2,000 calories per person (provide certification on the unopened labels).

- 5.1.6. Three (3) aerial signal flares with current date (unexpired).
- 5.1.7. One (1) flashlight. (with spare batteries) .
- 5.1.8. One (1) drive belt and sufficient tools to make in-field repairs.
- 5.1.9. One (1) Global Positioning System (GPS) or Map & Compass.
- 5.2. Each team must carry the following:
 - 5.2.1. One (1) hatchet or saw.
 - 5.2.2. First Aid kits that meet or exceed the acceptable kits as listed. See website for current list. www.irondog.org/firstaidkits
 - 5.2.3. Arctic stove with sufficient fuel reserves. (Arctic Stove definition: A stove that will burn or operate at subzero temperatures and or windy conditions.)
 - 5.2.4. Pan or cup to make and boil water with a minimum 1-pint capacity.
 - 5.2.5. 25 feet of 1,200 lbs. test or stronger rope.

6. RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

(Participants are encouraged to test all equipment before use.)

- 6.1. Snow shovel.
- 6.2. Maps and **compasses for redundant** navigation aids.
- 6.3. Spare Batteries that work well in cold conditions for all equipment.

7. GPS TRACKING DEVICES

- 7.1. Iron Dog® reserves the right to require each Team to install a GPS Tracking Unit on one team snowmobile. Participants must install units for optimum performance **as directed**.
- 7.2. Iron Dog will not be responsible to aid teams that use the “Help” signal on personal tracking devices. Participants that are in danger and require help should use their emergency “911” signal on their tracker.
- 7.3. GPS monies deposited at the time of entry will be returned to participants when the GPS unit and accessories have been returned.
- 7.4. Participants may be liable for replacement costs on lost or intentionally damaged GPS units.
- 7.5. The following Race Flags can be expected during the event: Green Flag, Start; Yellow Flag, Slow down and hold position; Red Flag, Stop Racing; and, Checker Flag, Finish.
- 7.6. The Mandatory Driver’s Meeting(s) must be attended by ALL participants.
- 7.7. Iron Dog® reserves the right to refuse entry to or withdraw any team for any reason. (Solo entries will not be accepted; you must have at least one partner at the time of entry.)
- 7.8. Iron Dog® reserves the right to alter or cancel the event at any time.
- 7.9. In no way whatsoever shall any participant, volunteer, or race official present negative publicity in any form to the media or the public. The Executive Director of Iron Dog® shall coordinate all media relations.

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

8. STARTING PROCEDURES

8.1. The Trail Class mandatory meeting will begin at 9:00am with the departure to follow on Friday at Big Lake, Alaska. Teams will be released one team at a time.

9. TRAIL RIDE OFFICIALS

9.1. The officials charged with the conduct of the Trail Class ride will consist of the Race Director team and possibly designated trail sweeps. These officials will supervise the ride.

9.2. The officials have the authority to judge the long distance trail ride abilities of participants and take appropriate action to insure the safety of the Trail ride.

9.3. The officials shall have the authority to determine structural integrity of snowmobiles utilized in the Trail Class.

10. CHECKPOINT AND LAYOVER OPERATIONS

10.1. All participants will reduce their pace to a safe speed as they approach and proceed through all checkpoints.

February 16	Big Lake to Puntilla	(151 miles)
February 17	Puntilla to McGrath	(201 miles)
February 18	McGrath to Ruby	(234 miles)
February 19	Ruby to Unalakleet	(245 miles)
February 20	Unalakleet to Nome	(267 miles)
February 21	(Nome Banquet)	

10.2. Trail Class teams should plan to reach the following Checkpoints or beyond by the date noted:

Checkpoints	Available	s	Recommended layover by date
Big Lake to Skwentna	CGL	79	
Skwentna to Puntilla	Milestone, CGL	72	Feb 19
Puntilla to Rohn	CG	75	
Rohn to Nikolai	CG	74	
Nikolai to McGrath	Milestone, CGL	52	Feb 20
McGrath to Ophir	CG	63	
Ophir to Poorman	CG	99	

Poorman to Ruby	Milestone, CGL	72	Feb 21
Ruby to Galena	CGL	52	
Galena to Kaltag	CGL	98	
Kaltag to Unalakleet	Milestone, CGL	95	Feb 22
Unalakleet to Shaktoolik	CG	41	
Shaktoolik to Koyuk*	CGL	57	
Koyuk to White Mountain	CGL	94	
White Mountain to Nome	Milestone, L	75	Feb 23
Total Mileage		1,098	

(**Bold**)=C=Checkpoint, G=Gas, L=Layover All Mileage is Approximate; route between checkpoints may vary year to year. *Shaktoolik to Koyuk is 50 miles and runs across the Koyuk Bay. The distance around the bay is approximately 70 miles.

10.3. Trail Class teams are required to reach Nome by 4:00pm (February 21, 2018) for the Finish Banquet.

10.4. Trail Class teams must depart checkpoints by 9:00am to assure maximum daylight travel. Trail Class teams will not depart Checkpoints where a layover may be taken after 8pm or before 6am.

10.5. All teams must sign in and out of all checkpoints. In the event that there are no checkpoint officials present, the teams must contact Race Headquarters after arriving and before leaving a checkpoint.

10.6. Layover schedule.

The Trail Class is not a race. For safety reasons, Trail Class riders are requested to maintain a Trail (non-competitive) pace and make reasonable layover schedules. It is recommended that Trail Teams follow a very similar schedule as outlined above in 10.2.

Note: Race Marshals reserve the right to disqualify a Trail Team for safety concerns.

10.7 Trail Class time and positions are not tracked by Iron Dog. No finishing positions or winners will be recognized in this event.

10.8 **Nome is the final destination.** No riders are permitted to depart from Nome via snowmobile with an Iron Dog number or bib without express written consent. All liability, fueling, support and participation with the Iron Dog ends when a team or rider finishes in Nome or scratches prior to arriving in Nome.

11. TRAIL CLASS COURSE

11.1. The course shall consist of any route between official checkpoints. Any deviation from this route will not be recognized or supported by Iron Dog.

- 11.2. All participants are reminded that unless otherwise marked the trail course is a public use trail and is not protected. Other trail users and or animals can be expected running against and with the trail direction. All other trail users, including sled dog teams have the right-of-way at all times. Participants are responsible to conduct themselves in a positive manner to assure continued use of the Historic Iditarod Trail.
- 11.3. Participants must follow the marked trail designated by the Race Director from Big Lake to the Susitna River then to the Yentna River to Skwentna.
- 11.4. Between Skwentna and Rainy Pass - the Skwentna River is off limits.
- 11.5. Between Puntilla and Rohn River, participants must go through Ptarmigan Pass - Rainy Pass is off limits.
- 11.6. Between Nikolai and Rohn River, participants must travel across the Farewell Burn.
- 11.7. The South Fork of the Kuskokwim River is off limits beginning 2 miles past the Rohn checkpoint.
- 11.8 The overland route on the coast. Travel between Unalakleet and Shaktoolik and between Elim and Walla Walla is via the overland trail only.
- 11.9. Participants should be aware that private property exists in many areas along the route. Deliberate crossing and infringement on private property will not be tolerated.
- 11.10. Due to the ongoing negotiations with the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies, trail routes and rules may be changed as necessary. Drivers will be notified at the Driver's Meeting should this occur.
- 11.11. Participants will not travel on public roads unless otherwise marked and approved.

12. GAS STOPS AND FUELING

Only checkpoints are designated gas stops.

- 12.1. Fuel, 2-cycle oil and isopropyl (when available) will be supplied at each checkpoint.
- 12.2. All lids must be put back on all containers and left upright.
- 12.3. **FUELING PROCEDURES:** Riders are entirely responsible for maintaining the flow of fuel into their tanks by holding the dispensing nozzle.
- 12.3.1. Fueling and ONLY fueling is permitted in the designated fueling area.
- 12.3.2. Snowmobile hood and side panels must stay closed and engines will remain running during the refueling operation.
- 12.3.3. All other maintenance operations, including refilling the oil injection tank must be conducted at least 20 feet (approximately two snowmobile lengths) away from the designated fueling area in a location that does not impede the movement of other riders.
- 12.4. Deliberate dumping or spilling of fuel, oil, antifreeze, isopropyl or any environmentally harmful substance will be considered polluting and will not be tolerated.
- 12.5. Checkpoints, gas stops and layovers with approximate mileage are as follows:

13. **SNOWMOBILE DESCRIPTION**

13.1. Snowmobile engines, exhaust systems, and intake systems are to be stock (except as noted below).

13.2. Brakes, headlights, tail and brake lights (a minimum of 2" x 4"), snow flaps, and clutch guards must be in a safe and operational condition when leaving each checkpoint. A working helmet light with a tail/break light feature such as the Lead Dog Helmet Light will suffice for lights until the main system is repaired.

13.3. Broken windshields must be made safe or replaced.

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

13.5. Each snowmobile must have a current snowmobile registration sticker from any state visible on their snowmobile.