

BEARGREASE 40 - 2020 OFFICIAL RULES



The mission of the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon is to conduct the best long- distance sled dog race in North America in a culturally sensitive manner and to promote the sport of dog mushing. The Beargrease 40 race's mission is to provide opportunities for recreational mushers to gain experience and skills in sled dog racing.

It is the intention of the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, Inc. (otherwise referred to in these rules as the Corporation) to conduct a race that follows the spirit of frontier adventurism established at the turn of the century by John Beargrease, along with a host of other North Shore mail carriers. Beargrease and his fellow carriers were a colorful, boisterous breed whose ingenuity and determination helped to ensure the tradition of continued mail delivery, even under adverse conditions.

In an effort to bring the legend of John Beargrease to life, the Corporation presents the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon to the people of the North Shore. The Corporation has made special effort in giving high visibility to the Marathon and associated races. However, ensuring the safety and care of the animal athletes and maintaining a positive spirit of competition are the priorities.

John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, Inc. PO Box 16477 Duluth, MN 55816

www.beargrease.com

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I. ENTRY

A. ENTRY FEE

1. The entry fee for the 2020 Beargrease 40 is \$80.00
2. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, January 22, 2020. Entries received after December 15 2019 may not be listed in the race program.

B. QUALIFICATIONS

1. All entrants in the Beargrease will be paid members in good standing. Musher Membership dues are \$30.00 per year and are included in the entry fee.
2. The Corporation reserves the right to reject any entry in any Beargrease event.

C. DRIVER

1. A driver must be named at least three weeks prior to Race Day.
2. The driver starting the race shall drive the team throughout the race.
3. Driver Qualifications:
 - a. The driver must be twelve years of age or older.
 - b. In all races, any driver who is a minor must supply the Corporation with a written release signed by a parent or legal guardian before they will be allowed to race.
4. Substitution of drivers maybe allowed by the Race Marshal up to the start of the Driver's Meeting and only in the case of an emergency (providing the substitute driver meets criteria 2 and 3 above).
5. Driver's Meeting – All entering drivers must attend the mandatory Driver's Meeting. Failure of a driver to meet first roll call may result in a fine of up to \$50.00. Failure of a driver to attend the meeting may result in a fine, time penalty or disqualification.
6. All drivers must attend Opening Ceremonies to pick up their bib. Failure to attend will result in a fine of \$50.00.

D. DOGS

1. Each team must start the race with a minimum of five dogs and a maximum of six (6), and have a minimum of four dogs standing in harness at all times.
2. All dogs must undergo a pre-race veterinary check as scheduled by the musher with the Corporation. All dogs must meet the criteria for signing of the Official Health Certificate, and any other specific criteria published by the Corporation.
3. There will be no early Vet Checks
4. Any dogs not meeting the criteria for an Official Health Certificate will not be allowed to run the race.
5. All racing dogs must have current Distemper, Adenovirus-2, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza and Rabies vaccinations.
6. Proof of Distemper, Adenovirus-2, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza vaccinations must come from a

Veterinarian OR, if administered by the driver, records must include type of vaccine, proof of purchase (i.e. receipt), and date of vaccination in writing. The vaccines must have been given at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Pre- Race Vet Check or be current through the end of the race. DAPP vaccines will only be recognized as three year vaccines if given by a veterinarian. All others will be considered as one year vaccines.

7. For teams from the lower 48 states and Canada, proof of Rabies vaccinations must come from a licensed Veterinarian only. Rabies vaccines must be given at least 21 days prior to the Pre-Race Vet Check or must be current through the end of the race.

8. Dogs coming from Alaska having valid certificates signed by Lay Vaccinators will be accepted. The manufacturer and vaccine serial number of the Rabies vaccine administered to such dogs must be available to the Corporation.

9. All dogs will be marked prior to the start of the race. If there are two separate teams in the same vehicle, each team will be marked separately.

10. Any dog dropped before or during the race, must be marked out and cannot be substituted or re-entered.

11. Only northern breed dogs will be permitted to enter the race. Northern breeds will be determined by the Rules Interpretation Committee (RIC).

E. DRUGS

1. No injectable, oral or topical drugs that may suppress signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. A driver may not inject any substance into his/her dogs. No 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.

2. THE FOLLOWING DRUGS AND TREATMENTS ARE PROHIBITED:

a. Anabolic Steroids

b. Analgesics (prescription and non-prescription)

c. Anesthetics

d. Antihistamines

e. Anti-inflammatory drugs including, but not limited to:

i. Corticosteroids (only those provided by the Beargrease Veterinarians for use on the feet are permitted)

ii. Antiprostaglandins

iii. Non-steroids (NSAIDS)

iv. Salicylates

v. DMSO (Dimethyl sulfoxide)

f. Bronchodilators

g. Central Nervous System Stimulants

h. Cough Suppressants

i. Diuretics

j. Injectable Anticholinergics

k. Muscle Relaxants

l. Tranquilizers & Opiates

m. Anticonvulsants

n. Acupuncture

o. Chiropractic Manipulations

p. The use of blood doping – i.e. injection of whole blood, packed blood cells or blood substitutes.

q. No Forced Hydration (Turkey Basting)

3. The only medication approved for use under sweats is Furacin Ointment (Nitrofurazone), Algyval, Emu Oil, Zaylox or Accede.

a. Additional medication can be approved a minimum of seven (7) days prior to scheduled pre-race Vet check by providing a list of ingredients in writing to the Chief Veterinarian.

4. It is the intent of these rules that no drugs or other artificial means be used to drive a dog beyond its natural ability. A driver must have his/her team free from any prohibited drugs at the time of the Pre-Race Vet Check and during the race. If, in the opinion of a Race Veterinarian, it is necessary to use one of these drugs for the dog's well-being, administration of any such drug will be done only after the dog has been dropped.

5. Use of any prohibited substance will result in disqualification or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the Rules Interpretation Committee.

6. Beargrease Race Veterinarians and/or their representatives shall have the authority to collect blood and/or urine samples at random at any point commencing with the pre-race vet check and ending six (6) hours after the finish of the race. It will be the driver's responsibility to assist the Race Veterinarian and/or their representative in the collection of these samples. All samples will be sealed and signed for before the collection is considered complete.

F. EQUIPMENT

1. All harnesses shall be padded around the neck and chest areas.

2. All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file.

3. Some type of sled shall be drawn.

4. Sled shall be equipped with an adequate working brake (not only a track), brush bow, snow hook and reflective tape on the rear stanchions of the sled.

5. Sled shall include a sled bag capable of restraining and completely enclosing a struggling dog and, if necessary, covering a severely injured dog. Sprint bags are not acceptable.

6. Gang line requirements: No bare cable allowed.

7. Use of BGB or similar hooks is strictly prohibited on any section of the tug/central line and necklines. (Note: BGB is a description of the Swedish Snap and is similar to the Covert snap.)

8. Reflective tape a minimum of twelve inches by one inch wide must be on all dog harnesses.

9. A working headlamp shall be worn and must be turned on at all times from dusk to dawn.

10. At least one lead dog must be equipped with a working light, which must be turned on from dusk to dawn and is visible from the front when approaching the team.

G. MUSHER'S MANDATORY GEAR

1. Two complete working headlamps capable of reaching the lead dog.
2. Knife.
3. Sleeping bag.
4. Promotional materials (not to exceed ten pounds).
5. A cutter (tool) you know will cut your gang line.
6. Vet book must be carried with the musher and available at each checkpoint.
7. First Aid Kit (including an Ace bandage, pressure dressing and tape).
8. Matches, lighter or other fire starter.

H. REQUIRED UPON LEAVING EACH CHECKPOINT

1. One (1) day's food ration for the driver and each dog in team (approximately ½ pound of food per dog).
 - a. Disposal of required items other than for their intended purpose is strictly prohibited. A maximum fine of \$200 will be imposed for littering including checkpoints. Any team snacking on the trail may not leave food behind.
2. Set of booties for each dog.

SECTION II – OFFICIATING

A. RACE OFFICIALS

1. The Rules Interpretation Committee (RIC) is a three person committee. Once called together by the Race Marshal on a specific question, its decision becomes the final word on that issue. The RIC consists of the Race Marshal and two Assistant Judges.
2. The Race Marshal has the final word over all safety considerations for both the dogs and drivers. S/He has the authority to interpret rules at the Driver's Meeting, alter any participant's official running time, disqualify dogs, teams or drivers, and refers rule questions to the RIC. S/He can order drug testing and determine winners and subsequent placements. The Race Coordinator will supply any information required by the Race Marshal for the purpose of providing the best possible decision. Prior to the closing or changing of a checkpoint, the Race Marshal will advise the Race Coordinator of any problem at hand and give him/her time to correct it.
3. The Race Veterinarians are consulting specialists to the race on matters pertaining to dog care, treatment, and welfare (welfare defined as health issues that are life threatening or potentially life threatening, as determined by the attending race veterinarian).
 - a. Dogs are under the care of the Head Veterinarian and the Race Veterinarians from the time of the Pre- race Vet Check until after the Awards Banquet.
 - b. All dogs must undergo a Post-Race Vet Check after they cross the finish line.

c. The Race Veterinarians will be available throughout the race for consultation, first-aid, and major medical situations.

d. Two Race Veterinarians have the authority to delay or prevent a dog or a team from leaving any checkpoint or starting line for dog care, medical, or welfare concerns. If the driver is not in agreement, or the veterinarians cannot agree, a consultation with the Head Veterinarian and Judge will result in a final decision.

e. Dogs with significant injuries or with potentially life threatening issues (dogs receiving treatment and care by the Race Veterinarians away from the dog truck – on the race route or at a local veterinary clinic/hospital) are required to be available for follow up and subsequent discharge. This pertains to dogs in teams still racing and teams that have scratched.

4. Timers, Checkpoint checkers and Race Veterinarians will act as consultants to the Judges.

B. CONDUCT AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

1. Drivers are responsible for the conduct of themselves, their dogs and their designated handlers whether they are in the race area, on the trail or dealing with race personnel, officials, volunteers or the general public.

2. If the Race Marshal determines that a driver, handler, or team - whether in the race or on the trail - is acting in a way that is detrimental to the sport, that team will be penalized or disqualified. All official decisions are final; further arguing or complaining may result in a fine or disqualification from future Beargrease events. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail.

3. Failure to adhere to the published rules will result in disqualification or penalty. Determination of this will be the responsibility of the RIC. A disqualified driver will forfeit all entry fees, placements or monetary awards.

4. The RIC may assess penalties other than disqualification. These will take the form of time penalties or fines and can affect final placement of a team.

C. PROTESTS AND HEARINGS

1. Any driver wishing to register a written protest must do so at the next checkpoint after the alleged infraction occurs. Any protest must be accompanied by a \$25.00 deposit.

2. Any occurrence between the final checkpoint and the finish line must be reported within one hour after arrival at the Finish Line.

3. Protests must be submitted directly to the Judge and shall not be discussed with spectators, media representatives or the general public prior to a decision being handed down. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in disqualification.

4. An official decision will be made by the RIC following a hearing attended by all parties involved.

5. Protest fees will be refunded to successful protests.

III. THE RACE

A. START/FINISH

1. Bib numbers:

- a. The starting positions for the race shall be determined by a draw.
- b. Bibs will be drawn prior to the Opening Ceremonies by race officials.
- c. Drivers must be present at the Opening Ceremonies to receive their bib.

2. Start:

a. Pre-start – All drivers, handlers and team trucks must be in the official musher parking area and available to the public on Race Day by the time announced at the Driver's Meeting (typically this is three (3) hours prior to the Marathon start). Each driver's sled and mandatory equipment must be ready and available for inspection at any time upon a judge's request. A \$2.00 per minute late fee will be charged for those arriving after the time given at the Driver's Meeting.

b. Common Start-time/Differential Allotment:

- i. For elapsed time purposes, the race will be a common start event. Each driver's elapsed time will be calculated. Any driver who cannot leave the starting line within ten minutes of the last team's departure will be disqualified unless extenuating circumstances prevail.
- ii. The actual difference in departure times from the starting line will be made up at the first mandatory checkpoint. Late starting teams (teams unable to depart in the order of their bib numbers) will have their differential times calculated from their official start times.

c. Single Starts:

- i. There will be single starts. Any changes due to safety concerns will be announced at the Driver's Meeting.
- ii. There will be a device (tire, post, cable) at the Start Line for the driver to fasten his/her team to. At the signal, each driver will release his/her team and begin the race.

d. Assistance/Start Handlers:

- i. The Race Marshal may allow or require that a qualified handler and/or second sled accompany each team at the Start. Handlers may be required or allowed at other sections of the race, as specified by the Race Marshal.

e. Finish:

- i. The nose of the lead dog crossing the Finish Line signals the team's official finish. In the event that the driver is not with the team when it finishes, the finish time will be officially recorded when the driver crosses the finish line after the team.
- ii. No entrant has officially finished until time cards have been verified by an official for mandatory accumulated time and differential and the vet book has been collected by a race official.

f. No Man's Land:

- i. There will be no calling of the trail in "No Man's Land". This section of trail will be announced at the Driver's Meeting.

B. CHECKPOINT LIST

ONLY CHECKPOINTS WILL BE DOG DROPS

1. Duluth (Billy's Bar) - Start
2. Two Harbors (Hwy 2/Gravel Pit) - Finish

C. OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

1. Drivers and teams may not receive outside assistance.
 - a. Drivers must not use planned outside assistance between checkpoints.
 - b. Drivers may assist each other in appropriate ways in an emergency.
 - c. Dog handlers are not allowed at road crossings. This may result in a one hour time penalty or disqualification of team.
2. In a case where a dog's or musher's life or limb are in threatening danger, any outside assistance is acceptable.
3. Other Assistance:
 - a. Replacement of broken or lost equipment between checkpoints must be arranged through, and directed by, a Race Judge. In the event of a broken sled, the driver must send word to a Race Judge, who will then direct a handler to transport a replacement to the stranded driver.
 - b. Drivers may accept rides on motorized vehicles in an emergency. Such incidents must be reported to a judge at the next checkpoint.
 - c. Drivers may not arrange for any person or persons to instruct them between checkpoints. Requests for directions along the way are acceptable.
 - d. Pacing is prohibited.
 - e. GPS units are permitted.
 - f. Ski poles are permitted except within 50 feet of another team and "No Man's Land".
 - g. No person except for the driver of that sled shall be allowed on any sled that is checked into the race.

D. MANAGEMENT/HANDLING OF DOGS

1. The cruel and/or inhumane treatment (including refusing treatments deemed necessary by race Veterinarians for the dog's health and welfare) of any dog by a driver is strictly prohibited and will be penalized by disqualification and possible barring from future Beargrease events. Welfare is defined as health issues that are life threatening or potentially life threatening as determined by a Race Veterinarian. When checking in at the Pre-Race Vet Checks, the musher will be asked to sign a document stating that they have read and understand this rule.
2. Whips are not allowed.

3. Loose leaders are not allowed.

4. Boxing of dogs:

a. Dropped dogs must be presented to and marked out by a member of the veterinary team or Judge before the driver leaves the checkpoint and before the dog is boxed. A handler may drop a dog, however, the driver will be held responsible if there is a mistake in dog identity. All dropped dogs must be checked by a qualified member of the Veterinary team prior to boxing. b. Any dog that remains in race shall not be boxed once the race has begun.

5. Expired Dogs:

a. Any dog that expires on the trail, for any reason, must be taken to the nearest checkpoint. Expired dogs must be covered completely when being carried in the sled. The driver must stay at the checkpoint until the Chief Veterinarian comes to investigate the situation. At that time, there will be an interview between the driver and Race Officials. The driver may be allowed to continue/finish the race contingent on the Gross Necropsy and/or only after approval of the Chief Veterinarian and Race Marshal.

b. Any dog that expires during the race will have a Necropsy performed by a licensed Veterinarian according to ISDVMA Necropsy Guidelines.

c. Prizes will not be handed out until the final results of the Histopathology portion of the necropsy are returned (may take 4 – 6 months). If it is determined that the cause of death was other than natural causes, the team will be disqualified. The place money will then revert to the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon General Fund.

d. If the Necropsy determines the cause of death to be abuse, the team will be disqualified and barred from participation in any future Beargrease events.

6. Hauling Dogs:

a. A driver may not allow any of his/her dogs to be hauled by another team.

b. A dog hauled in a driver's sled must be handled in a humane fashion.

E. CHECKPOINT PROCEDURES

1. Checking in:

a. Each driver must sign both in and out of all checkpoints. If no time is to be spent at the checkpoint, both can be done upon arrival.

b. All drivers must personally sign in and out at each checkpoint. All dogs must be accounted for. It is the driver's responsibility to make sure this is done.

c. A driver may return to a checkpoint with his/her team and may use his/her truck to return a dog but may not have handler assistance.

d. Each driver will be responsible for reporting any dogs in the bag to the Judges or Vets.

e. There will be no pre-reserving of sites. Sites will be selected when you check-in to that checkpoint.

F. ACCOMMODATIONS

1. Accommodations (space for bedding down dogs, restrooms, parking, etc.) are on a first-come, first-served basis. Available accommodations will go to the drivers. Checkpoint officials may designate additional areas for teams if necessary. Parking is limited at checkpoints, only one vehicle per musher (if you have oversized rigs you may be required to park in an alternative location when parking is limited, as decided by the checkpoint official).
2. All handlers must check in to the checkpoint with the checkpoint personnel.
 - a. Handlers or drivers are responsible for cleanup and removal of straw or hay in a timely manner. Officials will inspect and approve each team's area. Penalties (time or fines) will be imposed for non-compliance.
3. Boisterous behavior or other infractions on the part of drivers or handlers in the checkpoint is strictly prohibited.

G. FOOD AND WATER

1. Each driver and his/her handlers are responsible for having necessary food and water at checkpoints (for both mushers and dogs). The Corporation will make no arrangements for food and water distribution. All checkpoints are accessible by truck.

H. UNATTENDED TEAMS

1. NO TEAM SHALL BE LEFT UNATTENDED. Any driver wishing to leave his/her team within a checkpoint shall leave his/her team under the supervision of a handler.
2. Handlers may feed and water teams at all checkpoints.

I. RUNNING THE COURSE

1. The Trail:
 - a. Participants of the Beargrease Marathon and related events are guests of the City of Duluth, North Shore State Trail, Duluth Snowmobile Trail System, C.J. Ramstad State Trail, the Lutsen-Tofte Ski Trail, Superior National Forest and the Gunflint Trail Association. In consideration of this fact, drivers will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, and at no time demand "rights" to the trail.
 - b. Teams inadvertently leaving the trail must regain the course at the point at which they left and then continue on.
 - c. Two or more teams may not be tied together except in an emergency. Any team so involved must notify a judge at the next checkpoint.
 - d. Any team snacking on the trail may not leave food behind.
2. Passing:
 - a. When being passed, an overtaken team must let the team that is overtaking them fully overtake them before proceeding. The passed team must use common sense and common courtesy in determining when to continue on. When overtaking another team, the driver shall call "trail", and the overtaken team must relinquish the trail and assist the passing team when necessary.

b. When neither of the teams is able to pull away from the other, the drivers shall mutually agree on the appropriate team to lead out. In no way is the passing rule designed to assist a team in “manipulating” its way into trail position.

3. Lost Teams:

a. In the event of a lost team, the team will not be disqualified if the driver regains control of the team, provided the driver and team complete the entire race trail and comply with the rules, including checkpoint requirements. All teams must follow the trail as marked.

b. A driver may receive assistance from another contestant in recovering his/her team.

c. The driver may not check in at a checkpoint with a dog missing and may not continue the race until the dog is found.

d. A driver who has lost his/her team may accept any assistance he/she can find.

4. Safety:

a. It is the driver’s responsibility to check for traffic at road crossings. Every attempt will be made to secure these crossings. Toward the end of the race, however, when teams are spread out over a several hour stretch, it is likely that some crossings could be unattended. Occasionally other situations could result in unattended crossings at other times during the race.

b. Always use your head lamp to signal snow machines while traveling at night. During daylight hours, travel can be more challenging as snow machines will not be able to see the light of your headlamp. Be cautious.

5. Cutoff Times: Teams must remain competitive with the rest of the field. The RIC can deem teams non-competitive within these guidelines if circumstances call for it.

J. WEATHER AND TRAIL CONDITIONS

1. The race will continue under all but the most severe trail and weather conditions. Drivers must be prepared to run in cold, wind storms, rain and over bare ground if necessary.

2. In the event of questionable trail conditions, the Board of Directors will make a decision to postpone, modify the course or cancel, no less than seven (7) days before the race.

3. A panel consisting of the RIC and the Race Coordinator assume responsibility for any further postponement, alteration of starting location or cancelation. The primary consideration will be the safety and well-being of the dogs, not the comfort of the drivers.

SECTION IV- AWARDS PRESENTATION

Awards will be presented at the Finish, after the last team has come in.

SECTION V – REFUNDS

Refunding of entry fees will be granted upon written request by the musher as follows: 80% of entry fee will be refunded until December 31, 2019, 50% of entry fee will be refunded until

January 15, 2020. No refunds will be granted after January 15, 2020. In the event of race postponement or cancellation a refund will be offered.

SECTION VI – BIBS

Drivers are required to wear their race bibs on the outside of their outer clothing at all times, from the beginning of the race through the finish. Please be cognizant of the fact that sponsors of the Beargrease paid for these bibs. The more exposure we can provide for the businesses that support the Beargrease the better the opportunities to attract additional sponsors and consequently increase the race purse in future years. Your consideration is appreciated.

SECTION VII – CLAIMS

Each driver agrees to hold John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, Inc., race sponsors and other contributors (sponsors and contributors of the Corporation as distinguished from sponsors of any individual driver) harmless from any claim or demand based on any alleged action or inaction by the driver, his dogs, agents or others acting on his/her behalf. The driver also agrees to release John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, Inc., race sponsors and agents and employees from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the driver, his/her dogs, or his/her property. Further, John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, Inc. has the unqualified and unrestricted authority to authorize race sponsors to photograph and otherwise collect information about the race and all participants therein and to use such photographs and information for advertising, public relations or other publicity purposes.

Each driver shall sign any and all documents as may be requested by the Corporation to evidence the foregoing. These documents will be executed at registration. Any driver who does not sign the documents requested by the Corporation will not be allowed to participate in the race.

OFFICIAL POLICY STATEMENT Upon request by a musher or handler, a member of the Veterinary Team can be available for continued care and treatment of dogs after the finish of the race and until the dogs or team leaves Duluth.

OFFICIAL POLICY STATEMENT: The John Beargrease 40 Musher's Meeting gives mushers the opportunity to discuss any problems or concerns that may have arisen during the race. In an effort to continually improve the Beargrease, it is critical to receive feedback from all race participants. The Musher's Meeting time and location will be announced at the Musher's Pre-Race Meeting (typically one (1) hour prior to the Awards Banquet). The Musher's meeting shall consist of past BG 40 finishers, and current year BG 40 Musers. Voting will take place for a Musher Representative at that time. BG 40 Musher Representatives are ex-officio members of the Beargrease Board of Directors, and serve in an advisory capacity only.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!