



# IFSS RACE PROCEDURES

## A. GENERAL

### A.I. General Provisions

1. This Rule shall apply in all races governed by IFSS Race Regulations, in order to foster the use of uniform rules and race procedures and facilitate races of superior conditions and uniform quality. Only options and amendments approved of by the IFSS shall be allowed.
2. The definitions and descriptions in this Rule shall also apply for other IFSS Regulations, when appropriate.
3. In this Rule and other IFSS Regulations, where appropriate, the word "Competitor," "Contestant," "Driver," etc. shall include "the competitor and/or his dog(s)," the masculine shall include the feminine and the singular shall include the plural.
4. In case of discrepancy between general and special rules, the special rules shall prevail.

### A.II. Definitions

5. Age: The age of a competitor is regarded to be the same during the whole season and is the age the competitor reaches on the 31 December following the end of the racing season. The age of a dog is the age it reaches the day before the beginning of the competition it is entering.
6. Event: A meeting of contestants for the purpose of competing in an event which may involve several classes. It includes technical meetings scheduled for the contestants to attend (i.e., Competitors meetings, team leaders meetings, award ceremonies, other meetings called for by the Race Marshal).
7. Handler: A person appointed by the organizer or the contestant himself, assisting teams at start, after finish and at checkpoints.
8. Heat: A completion of the trail once.
9. Finish Zone: A specified stretch of the trail toward the finish line, minimum 800 meters, where special rules for passing apply (see §89 for Nordic Style and Canicross).
10. May: Shall be construed as being permissive.
11. Official: A person appointed by the organizer or the Rules Enforcing Officers, authorized to perform, within prescribed limits, to act on their behalf.
12. Organization/Organizer: The race-giving organization in charge of running the event.
13. Race: A competition in a specified class which may be comprised of one or more heats.
14. Race Area: All designated parking areas, spectator areas, team holding areas, start/finish chutes, officiating areas and the trail areas.
15. Season: The racing season, the period within which all competitions shall be commenced and concluded, in principle from July until June of the following year in the northern hemisphere and from November until October of the following year in the southern hemisphere. However, organizers and technical organizers shall realize, that local conditions (e.g., temperature, humidity etc.) may shorten this period in favour of the well being of the dogs.
16. Shall: Shall be construed as being imperative.
17. Should: Shall be construed as being principally imperative, but special circumstances may speak for departing from it.
18. Sled: The vehicle driven by the contestant and pulled by his dog team during the competition, also includes a pulka, when appropriate.

19. Sled dog: A sled dog is a dog, irrespective of the breed or type, capable of being harnessed and of competing in one of the classes listed in the IFSS Regulations without a potential, beforehand to be calculated risk, of harming the dog's well-being.
20. Stake Out Area: A specially defined area where dogs of participating teams shall be kept when not competing.
21. Starting Chute: A specified stretch of the trail from the starting line, minimum 30 meters, where help is allowed.
22. Technical Organizer: A body which, upon an agreement with the organizer, has assumed responsibility
23. Vehicle Holding Area: A specially defined area where the participants' vehicles shall be parked in case this cannot be combined with the stake out area.

### **A. III. Administration**

24. The appointment of a technical organizer does not give the organization the right to disclaim responsibility for any parts of the event<sup>b</sup>.
25. The organizer shall be responsible for an adequate number of officials in order to run the event properly.
26. Officials shall be appointed and exercise their assignments according to the IFSS Officials Regulations.
27. Organizations shall see to it that their appointed officials are made familiar with their assignments and the regulations pertaining to the event.
28. The organizer shall supply a liability insurance for the event.

### **B. RULES ENFORCEMENT**

#### **B.I. Rules Enforcing Officers**

29. Race Judges are the Rules Enforcing Officers at an event. Rules Enforcing Officers shall be appointed and exercise their assignments according to the IFSS Officials Regulations.
30. A Race Judge should have an IFSS Race Judge License but shall have at least a Race Judge License from an IFSS recognized body.
31. Two of the Race Judges shall be appointed Race Marshal and Chief Judge, respectively. The Race Marshal shall have the ultimate authority, and the ultimate responsibility, at the event. He is the only official who can decide upon a disqualification.
32. All Race Judges shall have the full authority to enforce all Race Regulations, within the prescribed limits.
33. References to the Race Marshal in IFSS Regulations also apply for Race Judges, when appropriate.
34. A Race Judge may delegate parts of his authority to designated officials, except the authority to impose penal measures.
35. No Rules Enforcing Officer may be a participant of the event.

#### **B.II. Race Jury and Appeal Jury (see also Race Rules 26 through 31)**

36. The Race Judges shall constitute the Race Jury of the event. The Race Marshal shall be the Race Jury's chairman.
37. The Race Jury shall be summoned by its chairman
  - 37.1. when requested by one of its members,
  - 37.2. for a hearing,
  - 37.3. for reviewing a rules violation which might lead to a disqualification.
38. The Race Jury decides whether its deliberations shall be held in a closed session or not.
39. The Race Jury shall decide on the eventual choice of penal measures in all cases laid before it. The Race Jury's chairman shall have a casting vote in case of a tie. In the question of a disqualification,

<sup>b</sup> ] See, however, the special provisions for the World Championships.

the chairman may vote differently with his casting vote.

- 39.1 In World Championships, the Appeal Jury may be appealed to by a team leader when a decision of the Race Marshal is affecting the participation of a contestant in the event.
- 39.2 The Appeals Jury shall consist of three or five members depending on the number of officials assigned to take part (either one or two appointed by the IFSS President) on the Appeal Jury. The other members of the Appeals Jury will be national team leaders elected to serve on the Appeals Jury by the other team leaders.

### **B.III. Penal Measures**

40. The penal measure for any violation of the IFSS Race Rules shall either be a reprimand, a warning, disqualification or a time penalty whenever specifically provided for in the IFSS Race Rules.
41. When a Rules Enforcing Officer finds that a rules violation has occurred, he shall either impose a penal reaction or report the incident and request a hearing.
42. Warnings and disqualifications shall be issued in the result list. All disciplinary actions shall be mentioned in the Race Marshal's report, with reference to the violated provision.
43. If the violated race regulation does not mandate any unconditional reaction, the choice of penal measures shall be made according to the following:
  - 43.1 *Reprimand*: for a minor rules infraction with no consequences for any participant, and being the contestant's first offence in the event.
  - 43.2 *Warning*: for a minor or negligent infraction of the race regulations, which does not give the contestant any significant advantage and entails no significant disadvantage to his fellow contestants, and is not deemed detrimental to the sport.
  - 43.3 *Disqualification* :
    - 43.3.1 when the contestant intentionally, or by gross negligence, violates the race regulations, and this has given him an advantage, or any of his fellow contestants a disadvantage,
    - 43.3.2 in case of a recurrence, when the contestant has already been given a warning or reprimand for the same or similar offence,
    - 43.3.3 in case of repeated offenses, showing that the contestant is not capable of, or willing to, pay heed to the race regulations.
    - 43.3.4 in case of dog abuse with or without implement.
    - 43.3.5 *Time disqualification*: An eventual time disqualification shall be noted on the entry form, or in the invitation, indicating the factor and for which classes it shall apply. If a time disqualification rule applies, and the prescribed limit is exceeded, that team shall not be allowed to compete in subsequent heats.
44. Other Penal Procedures
  - 44.1 The violator shall be given a short written notice. A reprimand may be verbal.
  - 44.2 Contestants subject to a penal reaction from any Rules Enforcing Officer may appeal, i.e. request a hearing before the Race Jury.
  - 44.3 Contestants subject to a disqualification from the Race Jury may appeal, i.e. request a hearing before the Appeal Jury.

## **C. ELIGIBILITY**

### **C.I. Entries**

46. The race shall be open to entries from members of all IFSS recognized member federations, except those refused by the organizer for just cause. Organizers are entitled to open their races to drivers from non IFSS member organisations if they feel it to be benefiting the sports and/or IFSS. Participants to the IFSS World Championships shall be nominated by their respective national IFSS member federations.
47. An entry for a race shall be submitted prior to the start of the race, subject to entry deadlines as

determined by the organizer.

48. Age of Competitors
  - 48.1 In Nome style **Sprint classes**, (including sprint stage events), and in **Dryland classes**, the minimum and maximum ages shall be:
    - 48.1.1 Senior classes: 16 years and above
    - 48.1.2 Junior classes: 14 to and including 16 years (A 16 year-old competitor may choose to run in the senior class. That decision will apply to all the Nome style classes).
    - 48.1.3 Veteran class (Canicross only): 40 years and above. Canicross veteran competitors may request to compete in the corresponding canicross senior class.
  - 48.2 In **Nordic style** sprint events, the minimum and maximum ages shall be:
    - 48.2.1 Senior classes: 19 years and above
    - 48.2.2 Junior classes: 17 to and including 20 years (A 19 or 20 year-old competitor may choose to run in the senior class. That decision will apply to all the Nordic style classes).
  - 48.3 In **distance classes** (including distance stage events) the minimum age for all competitors shall be eighteen (18) years.
  - 48.4 Special rules for the different styles may define further age requirements or limitations or modify the age limits to meet the local practice.

## **C.II. Dogs**

49. Dogs may be required to undergo a physical examination prior to the start of the race by a Race Veterinarian, in order to be allowed to start.
50. The Race Marshal may disallow entry of any driver, team or dog for just cause.
51. Eligibility of dogs shall not be restricted to certain breeds.
52. Minimum age of the dogs:
  - 52.1 Dryland : 18 months in the Bikejoring classes, 12 months in the other classes
  - 52.2 Sprint : 18 months in the Unlimited class, 12 months in the other classes.
  - 52.3 Nordic Style: 18 months.
  - 52.4 Distance classes: 18 months.
53. Any dog having raced in one class of an event shall not be eligible to race in another class on the same day, unless the second class is canicross or canicross relay.

## **C.III. Disease**

54. Race veterinarians are present throughout the race to monitor the health and welfare of all dogs, advise drivers in caring for their dogs' medical needs, and provide veterinary treatment for dropped dogs, if necessary.
55. The race veterinarian in conjunction with the Race Marshal or race judge may rule a dog(s) unfit to start or continue in the race and to remove the dog(s) from the race for medical or other reasons. If the Race Veterinarian diagnoses any dog present in the race area to have a contagious disease, that dog shall be disqualified and the competitor shall immediately leave the race site with all his/her dogs.
56. All dogs participating in a race shall be vaccinated according to the IFSS Animal Welfare Committee's recommendations. The IFSS Chief veterinarian has, by his recommendation as of April 16, 2007, suggested that the mandatory vaccinations shall be: Rabies virus, Canine Parvovirus, Distemper and Canine Kennel Cough complex (bordetella parainfluenza virus, canine adenovirus 2). All dogs should be vaccinated within 12 months in all cases and more than 21 days before the race in the case of prime vaccination. Vaccinations need to be done in accordance with regulations of the host country in which the race is taking place.

## **C.IV. Temperatures at Dryland races – Guidelines**

57. At dryland races there shall be a thermometer and a hygrometer in the starting area. They shall be readily visible, placed in the shade, at one (1) meter above ground level.
58. The minimum and maximum temperatures and humidity shall be noted during the entire race.

59. Given the minima and maxima, trail conditions and local circumstances ( eg. humidity) the following guidelines are available for decisions to be taken by the race-giving organisation and the race marshal for the well-being of the dogs:
  - 59.1 Temperatures below 18°C for Canicross and 16°C for all other classes and with a humidity below 85 % : normal competition.
  - 59.2 Temperatures above 16°C, but below 18°C: the distances shall not exceed the minimums given in § 93 below. This maximum temperature is set at 22°C for Bikejoring classes and at 25°C for Canicross classes.
  - 59.3 Temperatures above 18°C, but below 22°C: the distance shall not exceed 1,5 kilometres for demonstration purpose only except for Bikejoring and Canicross (see §58.2 above).
  - 59.4 Temperatures above 22°C: no team shall be harnessed except for Canicross (see §58.2 above)
  - 59.5 If the temperature reaches 18°C, the race marshal shall call a meeting with the race veterinarian(s) in order to decide upon whether the race shall be delayed or cancelled. The veterinarian's opinion shall be preponderant in case of different opinions. Animal welfare shall always be the major deciding factor.

## **D. START AND FINISH RULES**

### **D.I. Identification**

60. In a race of more than one heat, each dog shall be marked for identification prior to the start of the first heat of the race. In case of microchip identification, the list of chip numbers shall be provided to the Race Marshal or his/her delegate as instructed by the Race Marshal or the race organizer.
61. Dogs dropped from teams after the first heat of a race involving more than two (2) heats, shall be marked a second time to indicate their disqualification to run in subsequent heats either via direct dog marking or via a note on the team chip list.
62. The contestants themselves are responsible for seeing to it that their team dogs are marked as prescribed prior to the start of the race.

### **D.II. Starting Intervals**

63. The starting intervals should be
  - 63.1 one half (½) or one (1) minute in Pulka classes, canicross, bikejoring.
  - 63.2 one (1) or two (2) minutes in limited classes involving eight dogs or less, Scooter 1 and 2 dogs.
  - 63.3 two (2) or three (3) minutes in classes involving ten dogs or more.
64. Interval Options
  - 64.1 The organizer may decide to use the longer starting interval in the first heat, and the shorter interval in the ensuing heat(s).
  - 64.2 At the option of the race-giving organization, the drivers may all start at the same time (mass start).
65. Trail time for all teams shall begin at the originally scheduled time of departure, except for a late starting team for which trail time begins at the same time of actual departure, however the team will be penalized with a time penalty of three (3) times the starting interval in its class.

### **D.III. Starting Order**

66. The starting positions for the first heat of a race shall be determined by a drawing held prior to the race at a time and place designated by the organizer.
67. The order of the drawing shall not be changed, either by addition or substitution. Late entries, if accepted by the organizer, shall be added in order of receipt.
68. The drawing may, at the option of the organizer, be modified by seeding in accordance with a formula established by the organizer, subject to the approval of the IFSS.
69. In Single Start Races, the first day's starting positions shall be determined by the draw with Number 1 starting first, Number 2 starting second, etc.

70. After the first heat, the starting positions shall be determined by the total elapsed time of the previous heat(s), with the fastest team starting first, the second fastest team starting second, etc.
  - 70.1 At the option of the organizer, and when notified in the invitation or on the entry form, the elapsed time of the previous single heat shall determine the starting positions.
  - 70.2 At the option of the organizer, the starting intervals of the last day of a race may be identical to the differences in the total elapsed times of the participants, so that the order in which the participants are crossing the finish line also will reflect their finishing positions.
  - 70.3 At the option of the organizer, the competitors may all start at the same time (mass start). If the race includes seeded competitors they will start in the front line(s), the non-seeded competitors being on line(s) behind the seeded competitors.
  - 70.4 At the option of the organizer, the starting position of the second and succeeding heats may be reversed with respect to the result of the previous heat (reverse start).
71. In Dual Start Races, the first day's starting positions shall be determined by the draw with Numbers 1 and 2 starting together first, Numbers 3 and 4 starting together second, etc.
72. If the total elapsed times of two teams are identical, the order of start for those teams shall be the reverse order in which they started in the preceding heat.
73. When a team starts too early according to its scheduled time of departure, and neither the driver himself nor any of his designated handlers has initiated this, neither by intention nor negligence, that team's starting time shall be adjusted accordingly.

#### **D.IV. Relays**

74. A relay is a competition between relay teams comprised of at least three dog teams running the same trail in sequence. No driver or dog shall complete more than one heat.
75. The relay start shall be a mass start. The first heat drivers of the relay teams shall start side-by-side on the starting line.
76. In relay events, Number 1 shall start in the center position of the Starting Line, Number 2 shall have the position to the right of Number 1, Number 3 shall have the position to the left of Number 1, etc.
77. The Starting Chute should preferably be so wide as to allow for all first heat drivers to start side by side. If this is not possible, subsequent starting teams shall start on a secondary Starting Line 5 (five) meters behind the starting line according to the same system as under Section 74. If seeding is performed, no seeded group shall be larger than the maximum number of teams there is room for side-by-side.
78. The Relay Starting Chute should be as wide as the starting area for a distance of minimum one hundred (100) meters (30 m for Canicross relay), and narrowing to the normal lane width over a distance of a minimum additional one hundred (100) meters (30 m for Canicross relay).
79. The Exchange Chute shall cover a distance from the Finish Line on the outgoing trail of minimum thirty (30) meters, and shall, as a minimum, be ten (10) meters wide. In Pulka Style events, the Exchange Chute should have an angle of 45 to 90 degrees on the the Finish Line.

#### **D.V. Rating**

80. A class is rated separately only if there are at least five (5) teams starting in the first heat of that class.

#### **D.VI. Final Positions**

81. The team with the fastest total time of its class shall be declared the winner of that class.
82. Teams with equal times for the entire race shall be awarded the higher finishing position.

## **E. THE TRAIL**

### **E.I. Trail requirements**

83. The trail shall be safe for dogs and drivers. When laying out the trail, special attention shall be shown on turns and downhill stretches. The entire trail shall be constructed with consideration to the fastest and biggest teams expected to participate.
84. The trail should not be crossing itself. Neither should it be constructed so that the teams will have to follow the same trail, wholly or even partly, regardless of direction, and, if unavoidable, shall be limited to one time and one time only in any given heat. The turning point shall be outside of the Start-Finish area.
85. Trails shall, to the optional extent possible, be broadly constructed to facilitate passing.
86. There should be sufficient space between the lanes so that teams are unable to distract each other.
87. Trails should be shielded from parking-lots and parked cars.
88. Trails should not cross a traffic-laden road on the same level. However, if this can not be avoided, there shall be a prior permission to block off the road during the competition. Dependable control shall be on hand and the trail should cross the road in a 90 degree angle;
89. In Nome Style Sprint Races, the trail shall be designed so that speed is prioritized in every way.
90. The Starting Chute shall be at least 30 meters long and be so organized that a team can be entirely removed from the trail.
91. The Finishing Zone shall be at least 800 meters long (150 m for Nordic style classes and Canicross), wide enough for passing and with no sharp turns.
92. The starting and finish lines shall be clearly defined.
93. Trails for Nordic Style shall, whenever possible, be different from that of Nome Style.
94. Nordic Style trails should be laid out in hilly terrain with special attention to that the trail also shall be a test of the contestant's skiing skills. It should be wide enough for two skiers to skate side by side in the finishing Zone and for a skating skier to overtake a competitor on parallel skis on the rest of the trail.
95. In Dryland races, watering points shall be provided at least every 3 km along the trails, so that the dogs may be watered and cooled.

### **E.II. Trail distances**

#### **96. Sprint and Nordic style Races.**

- 96.1 Heat distances need not be identical each day of an event, but the shortest trails shall be run first. Subsequent days' heat distances shall not exceed one hundred and fifty (150) % of the first day's trail length. The shortest and longest possible distances for each heat will be indicated on the invitation.
- 96.2 **Minimum Trail Distances:**
  - Unlimited Class:** 20 km (12.5 miles). Recommendation: 20 km (12.5 miles) up to the last full weekend in January, and 24 km (15 miles) thereafter.
  - Eight/Ten-Dog Class:** 14 km (9 miles). Recommendation: 14 km (9 miles) up to the last full weekend in January and 16 km (10 miles) thereafter.
  - Six-Dog Class:** 9 km (6 miles). Recommendation: 9 km (6 miles) up to the last full weekend in January and 12 km (7.5 miles) thereafter.
  - Four-Dog Class:** 6 km (4 miles). Recommendation: 6 km (4 miles) up to the last full weekend in January and 8 km (5 miles) thereafter.
  - Nordic Style:** 5 to 25 km (3.1 to 15.6 miles) for the women and 10 to 25 km (6.2 to 15.6 miles) for the men.
  - Relays:** Each heat a minimum of five (5) km (3.1 miles).
- 96.3 If special circumstances dictate that the length of the trail be decreased, the decrease shall never be more than 25 % in any class.

97. **Distance Races**

**For all classes:**

**Mid-Distance:** Between 80 and 250 km (50 and 156 miles) with, in principle, an average of at least 40 km (25 miles)/stage for multi-stage races.

**Long-Distance:** More than 250 km (156 miles) with, in principle, an average of at least 80 km (50 miles)/stage for multi-stage races.

98. **Dryland races.**

Canicross seniors and veterans: 3 to 8 km (2 to 5 miles) per heat

Canicross juniors: 1 to 4 km (0.6 to 2.5 miles) per heat

Bikejoring: 5 to 8 km (3 to 5 miles) per heat

Relay: 1.5 to 2 km (1 to 1.5 miles) per heat

Scooter 1 and 2-dog: 4 to 8 km (2.5 to 5 miles) per heat

4-dog rig: 4 to 8 km (2.5 to 5 miles) per heat

6-dog rig: 5 to 10 km (3 to 6.2 miles) per heat

8-dog rig: 5 to 12 km (3 to 7.5 miles) per heat

**F. TRAIL MARKING**

**F.I. General**

99. The trail shall be marked with a sufficient number of clearly visible markers, so placed that there will be no doubt for the driver where to go.
100. All Trail Markers shall be at least 25 cm in diameter or length per side.
101. Only one side of the sign shall be coloured to indicate the proper direction of travel.
102. Trail markers shall be placed about one (1) meter beyond the edge of the trail, and from 60 to 120 cm above the surface of the trail.
103. All markers shall be visible as far ahead as possible and at least 50 m.
104. Markers applicable for a certain class, or certain classes, only, shall be marked with the class(es)' identification by white letters in the center of the marker. Information on elapsed distance shall be indicated by a black number on a white sign directly above a blue marker on the same stake.
105. Information on remaining distance shall be indicated by a black negative number on a white sign directly below a blue marker on the same stake.
106. Markers shall not be so placed, or made of such a material, that they might constitute a danger for dogs or drivers.

**F.II. Red Markers** (Turn markers, preferably of round shape).

107. Red Markers shall be used at all intersections and crossings involving turns. The markers shall be placed about 20 meters ahead of the point in question at the same side of the trail as to which the teams shall turn.
108. The same procedure shall also be applied for all blind turns on the trail.

**F.III. Blue Markers** (Straight ahead or Confirmation markers, preferably of square shape).

109. Blue markers may be placed on either side of the trail.
110. Blue markers used to indicate the correct trail after a crossing or turn shall be placed about 20 m beyond, and should be visible when approaching, the point in question.
111. Blue markers **shall** be used:
  - 111.1 at intersections or crossings when the trail is going straight through. The sign shall be placed about 20 meters ahead of the intersection.
  - 111.2 beyond turns, which apply only to a certain class, or certain classes. Such blue markers shall have the same class identification as the red turn marker.
112. Blue markers **should** be used:
  - 112.1 beyond all intersections, turns or blind corners, which are marked with a red marker.
  - 112.2 every full kilometer along the entire trail. At least every five (5) kilometers they should be marked with the elapsed or remaining distance.

**F.IV. Yellow Markers** (Caution markers, preferably of triangle shape).

- 113. Yellow markers may be placed on either side of the trail. Yellow markers indicate portions of the trail, where slow, cautious passage is recommended, e.g. steep downhill, really sharp turns, icy spots. Yellow markers shall be placed about 20 meters ahead of the caution area.
- 114. If the caution area covers a length of the trail, two yellow markers shall be placed on the same stake at the beginning of the caution area. The end of the caution area shall be indicated with one yellow marker with a diagonal red or black cross.
- 115. All yellow markers shall be presented and explained at the Team Captain and/or drivers Meeting and they shall be indicated on the trail map.

**F.V. Checkpoint Markers.**

- 116. Checkpoints shall be indicated with rectangular white signs with black letters.

**F.VI. Other Markers.**

- 117. The end of the Starting Chute shall be indicated by markers on both sides of the trail.
- 118. A white marker shall be placed at the start of the Finishing Chute with the distance remaining (usually 150 m for Nordic style classes and Canicross and 800 m for all other classes before the finish line) to indicate the beginning of the “No-right-of-way” zone.
- 119. Portions of the trail, where the correct trail is not clearly visible, may be marked with additional markings. Such additional marking shall never be considered a replacement for ordinary marking according to this Rule.
- 120. Marking for night heats. In addition to the trail marking described above, each marker should be equipped with light-reflecting material (minimum 25 cm<sup>2</sup>).

**F.VII. Trail Blocking.**

- 121. At trail crossings considered so difficult that even good teams may have problems, blockings shall be used in addition to marking.
- 122. A blocking shall appear as a physical hindrance for the dogs, but shall not constitute any danger for dogs, drivers or equipment.
- 123. At trail crossings where different classes shall follow different trails, there shall be a Trail Steward, performing the necessary changes of the blockings after each class and, as necessary, directing/assisting teams to the correct trail.
- 124. The presence of a blocking or a Trail Steward does not allow for ordinary marking to be omitted.