

2026 Iron Dog Expedition Class Rules

PLEASE READ THESE RULES IN THEIR ENTIRETY

REGISTRATION BEGINS: March 18, 2025

REGISTRATION ENDS: October 31, 2025

Iron Dog Race Inc.

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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 safe reliable, consistent, and honorable cross-country snowmobile race and recreational ride in Alaska. Pro Class is a team race, consisting of two (2) individuals 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 Race 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 participant's, 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 within 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/or 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.

1. ENTRY AND REGISTRATION

- 1.1. Participants must read and agree to the terms of these rules and sign a waiver of liability form.
- 1.2. Entry fees are set by the Iron Dog Race, Inc. Board of Directors.
- 1.3. All required forms must be complete and submitted before the entry deadlines including: NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THIS REQUIREMENT.
 - 1.3.1. Medical Release
 - 1.3.2. Liability Waiver and Indemnity Agreement
 - 1.3.3. Photo Identification (current state issued driver license or Passport)
- 1.4. In order to compete, racers must pass a physical exam with a certified medical physician.
 - 1.4.1. Commercial Driver's License Medical Card will be accepted.
 - 1.4.2. Pilot's Medical Examination Certificate will be accepted.
- 1.5. 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".
 - 1.5.1. Solid background
 - 1.5.2. Headshot from the shoulders up
 - 1.5.3. No sunglasses
- 1.1. Media Rights and Release: All racers are required to sign a media release form as a part of their registration.
- 1.2. All participants are required to be ISR (International Snowmobile Racing, Inc. members. (www.isrracing.org) - Your ISR Member Number will be required at registration.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. Refunds made during the registration period will be processed with a 20% processing fee.
- 1.5. The maximum number of entries is limited to 120 participants total, including Pro Class and Expedition Class.
- 1.6. Registrations will be limited to the number of participants who submit fully completed registration packets including payment prior to the close of business (6:00pm Alaska standard Time) of the scheduled registration period.
- 1.7. 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.
- 1.8. 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.
- 1.9. 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.
- 1.10. During the event, each Pro Class racer must stay with their original teammate.

- 1.11. A Pro Class racer may opt to join an existing Expedition Class team if their teammate is no longer participating.
- 1.12. No participant under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to participate without obtaining special approval from the Board of Directors.
- 1.13. Iron Dog Race, Inc. retains the right to refuse registration to any participant for any reason.
- 1.14. Iron Dog Race, Inc. must approve the use of its property to include trademarked logos.
- 1.15. Required Attendance: All Participants MUST attend certain events to maintain registration eligibility. Failure to comply may result in penalties, fees, or disqualification.
- 1.16. ALL PARTICIPANTS are required to attend the pre-race Safety Inspection and related public events 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.
- 1.17. ROOKIE PARTICIPANTS: All Rookie participants are required to attend the Rookie Workshop or similar training event as approved by the Race Marshal Team.

2. GENERAL RULES

- 2.1. 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

- 2.2. Iron Dog Race Inc. 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.
- 2.3. Team number decals will 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.

Team number reservations:

- 2.3.1. Any team or prospective team may request a team number by calling the Iron Dog Race office or by indicating their top two choices on their Registration Form.
- 2.3.2. First choice preference will be given to participants who held the same number in the previous year. All other reservations will be placed on a waiting list for first come, first serve basis.

2.3.3. Expedition Class number options are 50-99

- 2.4.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 2.5. Iron Dog Race, Inc. reserves the right to withdraw any participant for any reason.
- 2.6. In no way whatsoever shall any participant, racer, volunteer, or race official represent negative publicity in any form to the media or the public.
- 2.7. 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.
- 2.8. 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.
- 2.9. 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:

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

GENERAL SAFETY - The following Race Flags can be expected during the event:

- 2.10. Green Flag = Start
- 2.11. Yellow Flag = Slow Down and hold position
- 2.12. Red Flag = Stop Racing
- 2.13. Checker Flag = Finish

STARTING PROCEDURES

- 2.14. Expedition Class participants mandatory drivers meeting will take place prior to Expedition Class departure. Participants will be released by one team at a time.

TRAIL RIDE OFFICIALS

- 2.15. 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 the Iron Dog Board of Directors and announced at the mandatory drivers meeting prior to the start. These officials will supervise the ride.
- 2.16. 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.
- 2.17. These officials have the authority to determine the structural integrity of snowmobiles utilized in Expedition Class and take appropriate action to ensure the safety of the ride.
- 2.18. 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.

3. DRIVER REQUIREMENTS

DRIVER LIABILITY

- 3.1. General: The participant and any crew, in signing the entry, elects to use the course 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.
- 3.2. Participants are strongly encouraged to obtain personal liability and accident insurance.
- 3.3. Participants are strongly encouraged to ride a 200 + mile day prior to the start in order to get an idea of what to expect for the event.

REQUIRED PARTICIPANT PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 3.4. 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.

- 3.5. 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.
- 3.6. Helmet padding and shell must remain in manufactured condition and meet the latest standards (SNELL 2020 or European Standard ECE 22.06). Helmets must be securely fastened at all times.
- 3.7. Helmets with ECE 22.05 certification are no longer allowed.
- 3.8. Adequate Arctic clothing, including facemask, gloves, boots and handlebar gauntlets.
- 3.9. 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.
- 3.10. 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. Competing with upper body protection that is not the same as a presented at safety inspection will result in disqualification
- 3.11. Below is a list of ISR approved vests.
 - 3.11.1. Tek Vest Tek 4D - <https://rebrand.ly/95f1c5/Tek>
 - 3.11.2. EVS SV1 - <https://rebrand.ly/i4z1kk8/EVS>
 - 3.11.3. Saf-Jac - <https://rebrand.ly/egih585/LEATT>
 - 3.11.4. LEATT Fusion - <https://rebrand.ly/egih585/LEATT>
 - 3.11.5. HMK W/D30 - <https://rebrand.ly/esbzzqi/HMK>
 - 3.11.6. 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. Competing with shin and knee guards that is not the same as a presented at safety inspection will result in disqualification
- 3.12. Motocross style knee braces with patella protection will be allowed.

SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT

- 3.13. **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.**
- 3.14. **All Participants must carry, on their person or their snowmobile, the following:**
 - 3.14.1. One (1) sleeping bag certified capable of providing protection to -20 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - 3.14.2. Must cover the participant from head to toe.
 - 3.14.3. Insulating fill must be equally distributed throughout the bag.
 - 3.14.4. The sleeping bag cannot be altered and must be able to fully zip with the participant inside.
 - 3.14.5. One (1) substantial bivy-bag (no space blankets) or equivalent. For acceptable examples visit the website www.irondog.org.
 - 3.14.6. Adequate arctic protective clothing with spare layers that include moisture wicking socks, upper and lower body thermals.
 - 3.14.7. Spare set of face and eye protection.

- 3.14.8. Fire starting materials (at least 20 matches or 2 lighters) carried in waterproof containers.
- 3.14.9. One (1) flashlight with spare batteries.
- 3.14.10. One (1) drive belt with sufficient tools to replace.
- 3.14.11. One (1) Global Positioning System (GPS) or Map & Compass for navigation.
- 3.14.12. Current First Aid and CPR Certification Cards.
- 3.14.13. Satellite communication device (InReach, SPOT, Satellite Phone, etc.).

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

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

3.16. Recommended Equipment (Not Required)

- 3.16.1. Snow shovel.
- 3.16.2. Maps and compasses for redundant navigation aids.
- 3.16.3. Spare batteries that work well in cold conditions for all equipment.
- 3.16.4. Auxiliary fuel tanks
- 3.16.5. Iron Dog Race, Inc. strongly encourages all participants to wear helmets that display High Vis Colors over 75% of the surface area.
- 3.16.6. Aerial signal flares or emergency signal laser or emergency strobe light.
- 3.16.7. Sufficient emergency use food

CODE OF CONDUCT

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

- 3.17. Participants will always conduct themselves in a prudent and respectful manner.
- 3.18. Participants must obey all local, state and federal laws.
- 3.19. No fighting, vulgarity, derogatory or offensive language will be tolerated.
- 3.20. Negative publicity from any participant will not be tolerated.
- 3.21. Participants shall be aware of their surroundings; actions should be taken as to not impede a faster team approaching from the rear.
- 3.22. Expedition Class teams will defer to any Pro Class teams at all checkpoints.
- 3.23. All participants are REQUIRED to stop and render aid to ANY person encountered during the race who is in a life-threatening situation. Race Marshals may adjust trail times accordingly on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.24. *All participants aware of an injury and or a damaged snowmobile shall relay the appropriate information to the Checkpoint Official/Race Marshal at the very next checkpoint or by Satellite communication device.*
- 3.25. 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 fines, penalties and sanctions.

SNOWMOBILE REQUIREMENTS

- 3.26. 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.
- 3.27. Headlight, windshield, tail and brake lights, snow flaps and clutch guards must be in a safe condition when leaving each checkpoint.
- 3.28. 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.
- 3.29. All snowmobiles must have a current Alaska state snowmobile registration decal.
- 3.30. A minimum of 2 studs per track bar and must be a min. 1/8" above the track paddle.
- 3.31. Carbide tip factory paddle studs will suffice.
- 3.32. Track screws for long tracks (greater than 144") will suffice

GPS TRACKING SYSTEMS

- 3.32.1. 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.
- 3.32.2. Participants may be liable for replacement costs on lost or intentionally damaged GPS units.
- 3.32.3. Participants must return Iron Dog provided GPS units & mounts within 30 days (March 23, 2026) of the finish or will the \$250 GPS deposit will be forfeited to Iron Dog Race Inc.

4. EXPEDITION CLASS COURSE

- 4.1. 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 ensure continued use of the Historic Iditarod Trail.
- 4.2. Racers must follow the marked trail designated by the Race Marshal from the start to the Susitna River.
- 4.3. 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.
- 4.4. Between Whiskey Bravo and Tatina participants must travel through Ptarmigan Pass – Rainy Pass is off limits.
- 4.5. Between Tatina and Nikolai, the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River is off limits downstream from the Post River. Unless approved by a vote from the Board of Directors
- 4.6. Between Tatina and Nikolai, participants must travel across the Farewell Burn. Unless the Board of Directors approved the use of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River.
- 4.7. Between Nikolai and McGrath, participants must take the "river trail" and not use the "dump road" in any capacity.

- 4.8. 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.
- 4.9. 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.
- 4.10. Participants will not travel on public roads unless otherwise marked/cleared to do so.

GAS STOPS AND FUELING

- 4.11. 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.
- 4.12. Fuel and 2-cycle oil will be supplied at each Official Checkpoint.
- 4.13. 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:

- 4.14. Racers are entirely responsible for their snowmobile during the fueling process.
- 4.15. 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. No work or adjustment of any kind can take place in this area.

CHECKPOINTS:

- 4.16. All team participants must check in with checkpoint Officials at all checkpoints.
- 4.17. All participants will reduce their pace to a safe speed as they approach and depart all checkpoints. The 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 dealt with accordingly.

EXPRESS CHECKPOINTS:

- 4.18. Participants are not required to stop at Express Checkpoints
- 4.19. No Fuel in Shaktoolik

5. LAYOVERS

- 5.1. **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 NOME

CHECKPOINT	FUEL	LAYOVER	MILEAGE
BIG LAKE			0
SKWENTNA	Y	Y	80
WHISKEY BRAVO	Y	Y	63
PUNTILLA		Y	10
TATINA	Y	Y	60
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
UNALAKLEET	Y	Y	85
SHAKTOOLIK *EXPRESS*			41
KOYUK	Y	Y	62*
WHITE MOUNTAIN	Y	Y	90
NOME		Y	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.

MILEAGE TABLE KOTZEBUE

BIG LAKE			0
SKWENTNA	Y	Y	80
WHISKEY BRAVO	Y	Y	63
PUNTILLA		Y	10
TATINA	Y		60
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
UNALAKLEET	Y	Y	85
SHAKTOOLIK *EXPRESS*			41
KOYUK	Y	Y	62*
BUCKLAND	Y	Y	87
SELAWIK	Y	Y	68
KIANA (EXPRESS)	Y	Y	38
NOORVIK (EXPRESS)	Y	Y	21
KOTZEBUE		Y	65
TOTAL			1140

* 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.