PEDIGREE

STAGE STOP RACE

2027 Rules and Regulations

www.wyomingstagestop.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I - RACE RULES

1 Pre-Competition Procedures and Entry Information
2 Entry Requirements
3 Veterinary Pre-Race Examination
4 Claims
5 Mushers' Meeting & Pre-Race Functions
6 Race Start
7 Dog Identification

PART II - MAIN RACE PROCEDURES

8 Stages and Checkpoints
9 Twenty-Four Hour Stops
10 Race Timing and Starting Procedures
11 Sled
12 Skiing Behind Sled
13 Mandatory Items
14 Cruel and Inhumane Treatment
15 Maximum Number of Dogs
16 Jurisdiction and Care
17 Dropped/Pulled Dog
18 Dog Care
19 Dog Handling
20 Ski Poles
21 Harnesses
22 Drug Use
23 Unmanageable Team
24 Following Marked Trail
25 Driverless Team
26 Teams Tied Together
27 Motorized Vehicles
28 Passing
29 No Man's Land
30 Parking of Team Along the Trail
31 Litter
32 Outside Assistance
33 Abandoned Teams/Loose Dogs
34 One Musher Per Team
35 Race Progress
36 Finish
37 Prize Awards

PART III - MUSHER CONDUCT

38 Good Samaritan Rule
39 Interference
40 Sportsmanship
41 Use of Drugs and Alcohol

PART IV - RACE OFFICIALS AND PENALTIES

42 Race Officials
43 Penalties
44 Sponsorship Ethics

PART V - FINAL NOTE

PART I - RACE RULES

The Pedigree Stage Stop Sled Dog Race (also referred to as the “Stage Stop” or “Race”) is a limited-class sled dog competition open to mushers who meet the entry requirements established by the Stage Stop organization. Subject to the established capacity of the Race, the Stage Stop seeks to provide qualified mushers the opportunity to compete and successfully complete the event.

The overall competitive objective of the Race is to determine the musher and team that complete the prescribed race distance in the shortest elapsed time while complying with these rules.

Section 1 - PRE-COMPETITION PROCEDURES AND ENTRY INFORMATION

Participation applications and entry fees must be completed online and submitted electronically through the race website at www.wyomingstagestop.org.

Only online payments will be accepted.

A maximum of twenty (20) teams may enter the competition. Once the field reaches twenty teams, additional qualified applicants may be placed on a waitlist.

All entries are subject to approval by the Race Committee.

Entries open September 15, 2026, at 12:00 noon Mountain Time.

Entries are open to any qualified musher.

Entry order will be based on the timestamp of the completed online application and payment, on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Race Organization reserves the right to reject an entry for just cause. Sanctions imposed on an entrant by other races may be upheld by the Stage Stop.

The entry fee must accompany the online application for the entry to be considered complete.

Each musher must be accompanied by one official handler as part of the race team. The musher is responsible for the conduct of the handler. Handler registration is free of charge; host families will not be provided.

Section 2 - ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All entrants must complete all required sections of the online race application and submit the entry fee through the secure online payment form included with the application.

All applicants must be determined to be substantially qualified by the Race Marshal and may be required to demonstrate their ability to manage and care for a dog team through prior race history and/or other relevant experience and knowledge.

Section 3 - VETERINARY PRE-RACE EXAMINATION

All dogs must undergo and pass a complete physical examination performed by a Stage Stop veterinarian before they are allowed to compete. The examination will include a body condition score assessment and an orthopedic evaluation.

Pre-race veterinary examinations will be held Friday, January 29, 2027, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot at the corner of East Deloney Avenue and North Willow Street in Jackson, Wyoming.

All teams must arrive for examination by 9:00 a.m. unless prior arrangements have been made with the Race Organization.

All dogs participating in the competition must have vaccination records uploaded to the online race portal showing compliance with the vaccination windows listed below. Mushers are encouraged to bring hard copies to the pre-race veterinary examination as backup documentation.

A. Rabies virus: vaccination must have been administered between March 1, 2024, and January 15, 2027. The vaccination must be administered by a licensed veterinarian, and a signed rabies certificate must be provided as proof of vaccination.

B. Canine core vaccinations: Distemper virus (CDV), adenovirus (hepatitis virus), canine parvovirus (CPV), and parainfluenza virus. These vaccinations are commonly administered as a combination vaccine (for example, DAPP, DHPP, or "4-way") and must have been administered between March 1, 2024, and January 15, 2027.

C. Bordetella bronchiseptica ("kennel cough"): vaccination must have been administered between March 1, 2026, and January 15, 2027.

D. Leptospirosis (for example, Nobivac Lepto): vaccination must have been administered between March 1, 2026, and January 15, 2027.

All dogs must have received initial puppy vaccination protocols and revaccination within one year of the initial vaccination in accordance with AAHA guidelines.

It is advised that race and kennel dogs be dewormed three times per year using appropriate products. Using different products may help reduce resistance. The following guidance is included in the existing Stage Stop veterinary rules:

Roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms: Fenbendazole 50 mg/kg PO every 24 hours for 3-5 days; Pyrantel pamoate 10 mg/kg PO; Milbemycin 0.5 mg/kg PO; or Ivermectin 0.006-0.012 mg/kg.

Giardia: Fenbendazole 50 mg/kg PO every 24 hours for 3-5 days.

Tapeworms, including Echinococcus: Praziquantel 5-10 mg/kg PO.

All dogs not participating in the competition but transported in the musher's or handler's truck or trailer must meet the same vaccination requirements as participating dogs.

Section 4 - CLAIMS

The musher agrees to hold harmless the Stage Stop title sponsor, co-sponsors, and other contributors to the Stage Stop (as distinguished from the individual musher's sponsors) from any claim or demand based on any alleged action or non-action by the musher, the musher's dogs, agents, or others acting on the musher's behalf.

The musher also agrees to release the Stage Stop, competition sponsors, and their agents and employees from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the musher, the musher's dogs, or property, including but not limited to lost or dropped dogs and misplaced food and supplies.

The Stage Stop has unrestricted authority regarding photography and the gathering of information about the competition and its participants, and may use such photographs and information for advertising, public relations, or other publicity related to the competition. The musher shall sign any

documents requested by the Stage Stop as evidence of the foregoing. Required documents must be executed at the Mushers' Meeting.

Section 5 - MUSHERS' MEETING & PRE-RACE FUNCTIONS

Mushers must attend the pre-race Mushers' Meeting and any mandatory official musher banquet or function held on or after Thursday, January 28, 2027, and before the start of the ceremonial start and competition.

The pre-race welcome dinner, presented by title sponsor Pedigree, will be held at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyoming, on Thursday, January 28, 2027, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Attendance is mandatory.

The Race Marshal may waive an attendance requirement if a musher is delayed by unforeseen circumstances. In all cases, the musher must meet with race officials before the official race start.

A fine and/or time penalty may be assessed if any of the above requirements are not met.

After each stage, there may be a mandatory Mushers' Meeting and/or mandatory official community function. Times and locations will be announced by the Stage Stop before each event.

Section 6 - RACE START

A. The Race Organization may change the starting time or location, delay a stage, or cancel a stage due to unsuitable weather and/or trail conditions that do not allow for safe and fair competition. If a local wind-chill warning is in effect or the temperature is below -20 F, the stage will be delayed until no later than 11:00 a.m. or cancelled.

B. The ceremonial start in Jackson, Wyoming, will not be timed or included in a musher's official race time. It is, however, an official race requirement and must be completed in order to continue in the Race. The fastest team on Stage One, the first timed stage, may be required to wear the designated leader bib during Stage Two.

C. The starting order for the ceremonial start will be determined by the Race Organization. Bib numbers will be assigned based on order of entry.

D. Mushers may be required to carry a junior musher participant or dignitary during the ceremonial start. The Race Organization may adjust the starting order to accommodate these riders or passengers.

E. The starting order for each timed stage after Stage One will normally be based on the previous stage's finishing order, in reverse order, with the fastest team starting last. The Race Organization reserves the right to randomize a start order when necessary. The first timed stage starting order will be based on entry order and corresponding bib number.

F. The overall leader and/or the previous stage winner may be required to wear the designated leader bib.

Section 7 - DOG IDENTIFICATION

All dogs will be identified by microchip. Any dog that does not have a readable microchip at the initial veterinary examination will be provided a microchip by the veterinary team at a cost of not less than $10 per microchip. The Race may also identify or mark dogs by another method deemed suitable by the Race Organization.

Mushers must provide each dog's name, identification number or letter, and the identification method used on the form provided by the Race.

PART II - MAIN RACE PROCEDURES

Section 8 - STAGES AND CHECKPOINTS

A. The distance between each start and finish is considered a stage. Start and finish locations are considered checkpoints. Mushers may be required to personally sign in upon arrival at a checkpoint and may have mandatory gear checked at any time at the request of a Race Official.

B. In addition to the start and finish checkpoints, there may be checkpoints along a stage. Mushers may be required to sign an official control document at these locations.

Section 9 - TWENTY-FOUR HOUR STOPS

Twenty-four-hour stops may be scheduled during transfers and necessary rest or travel days.

Section 10 - RACE TIMING AND STARTING PROCEDURES

A. Teams will leave the starting line at defined intervals, typically three (3) minutes. A team that does not clear the starting chute, defined as a minimum distance of 100 feet (30.5 meters), must make way for the next starting team and must not interfere with its progress. A musher unable to start in the scheduled order will start one (1) minute after the last musher scheduled for that stage. Trail time will begin at the team's original scheduled start time, except that teams required to start after the last scheduled musher will begin timing at their actual start. The Race Marshal may assess a time penalty of up to thirty (30) minutes for a missed start time. If a team fails on a second start attempt, the Race Marshal may assess an additional penalty or withdraw the team. Late-starting teams will leave at one-minute intervals. Additional time may be allowed at the discretion of the Race Marshal.

B. The Race Marshal may impose a mandatory stop during any stage, including a delay in start time due to weather or other circumstances. The stage will remain one stage with one total accumulated time.

C. For results to be valid, each stage and related times must be certified by the Race Marshal. The Race Marshal may refuse to certify a stage if the Race Marshal and Judges find evidence of officiating irregularities, including problems with trail breaking, marking, or timing. The Race Marshal may cancel the stage or require that it be run again.

Section 11 - SLED

A. Each musher may choose a sled provided it meets Stage Stop requirements. Sleds must use a tandem hitch with one towline and may not use a fan-type hitch. Braking devices must be

positioned between the runners and may not extend beyond the length of the runners. All sleds must have a brush bow, snow hook, and snub line. All sled parts and components must be in good working order at the start of each stage.

B. The sled must contain a sled bag capable of securely and safely carrying and containing any dog unable to continue running in the team.

Section 12 - SKIING BEHIND SLED

Skiing behind the sled is strictly prohibited.

Section 13 - MANDATORY ITEMS

Each musher must have the following items available at each stage start and may be required by Race Officials to carry some or all of them on any stage:

1. A basic first-aid kit containing bandages, gauze dressings, and at least one non-adhesive wrap.

2. Any promotional materials provided by the Race Organization.

3. A veterinary book provided by the Race veterinary team.

Section 14 - CRUEL AND INHUMANE TREATMENT

CRUEL OR INHUMANE TREATMENT OF DOGS, INCLUDING ANY ACTION OR FAILURE TO ACT THAT CAUSES PAIN OR SUFFERING TO A DOG, WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. VIOLATION OF THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.

Section 15 - MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DOGS

A musher may start with no more than twelve (12) dogs on the towline at any time. No dog may start in the sled basket. Dogs must be selected from a maximum pool of sixteen (16) dogs. No dog may be added to a team once a stage has started. The maximum number of dogs permitted in the team may be reduced to accommodate trail conditions at the discretion of the Race Marshal.

Section 16 - JURISDICTION AND CARE

Dogs fall under the jurisdiction and care of the Lead Veterinarian and veterinary staff from the time the total dog pool is declared at the pre-race veterinary examination until one (1) hour after the team finishes the final stage or withdraws from the Race.

Section 17 - DROPPED/PULLED DOG

A. A musher may drop dogs at designated start and finish checkpoints. A dog may be dropped until the team leaves the starting line. A team already underway may return to the starting area to drop a dog, provided it does not hinder the progress of other teams. The team may be temporarily detained before being allowed to resume racing.

B. The Lead Veterinarian or Race Marshal may pull a dog from a team at any time. A dog pulled by a veterinarian will be identified and may not re-enter the Race until recertified by the Lead Veterinarian. A request for recertification must be made at least two (2) hours before the musher's scheduled start time.

C. All dogs from the declared pool that are not running a stage, including the thirteenth (13th) through sixteenth (16th) dogs, will be declared disqualified for that stage.

D. Care and transportation of all dogs are the responsibility of the musher. Dogs must have appropriate bedding in the truck.

Section 18 - DOG CARE

By joint agreement of the Lead Veterinarian, Race Marshal, and Race Director, the Race may penalize a musher who does not provide proper care for the dogs, including dropped dogs, from the start through the end of the Race. Race veterinarians may examine team dogs at any time during the Race. The musher or handler must assist the veterinarian during any examination or treatment of the musher's dog(s). All food and water must be ingested voluntarily by the dog, without physical or medical intervention.

Section 19 - DOG HANDLING

A dog may not be carried by another team except during an emergency. Dogs being carried must be transported in a humane and contained manner. Dogs may not be tied behind the sled or allowed to run loose. Dogs may not be free-dropped at any race staging area or at the pre-race veterinary examination parking area.

Section 20 - SKI POLES

Ski poles are not permitted.

Section 21 - HARNESSES

The neck and breast panels of all harnesses must be padded, fit appropriately, and remain in good condition.

Section 22 - DRUG USE

No injectable, oral, or topical drug that may suppress signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. No drug 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. A musher may not inject any substance into a dog during the Race.

Evidence of prohibited drug use will result in disqualification from the Race and repayment of any awarded prize money.

The following drugs are prohibited:

A. Analgesics, prescription or non-prescription.

B. Anti-inflammatory drugs, including but not limited to corticosteroids, antiprostaglandins, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, salicylates, and DMSO.

C. Any other drug that may improve performance, including but not limited to central nervous system stimulants, cough suppressants, anesthetics, diuretics, anabolic steroids, muscle relaxants, injectable anticholinergics, antihistamines, and appetite stimulants including capromorelin.

Dogs are subject to collection of urine or blood samples, at the discretion of the testing veterinarian, at any time from the pre-race examination until two (2) hours after the team finishes the final stage. The musher or a handler must remain with the dogs. All sample documentation will be sealed and signed by the musher before the collection process is considered complete.

A musher must assist the veterinarian in collecting samples whenever requested.

If blood or urine testing reveals a prohibited drug, this rule will be considered violated regardless of when the drug was administered and may result in disqualification, forfeiture of winnings, or other censure.

Current drug-testing techniques may detect substances administered up to three weeks before testing. Mushers with questions about medications used before the Race should consult the Lead Veterinarian at the pre-race veterinary examination or Mushers' Meeting.

Some non-prescription anti-diarrheal products, such as Kaopectate and Pepto-Bismol, and some herbal preparations may cause a positive drug test and are therefore prohibited. Questions about these products should be addressed with the Lead Veterinarian before the Race.

External use of topical corticosteroids is generally limited to the feet. In certain cases, topical eye ointments containing steroids may be allowed by the veterinary team.

Megestrol acetate (Ovaban) may be used as an estrus suppressant in intact females. This medication must be declared at the pre-race veterinary examination and recorded by the examining veterinarian. Mibolerone (Cheque Drops) is not permitted on racing dogs.

Blood doping, including injection of whole blood, packed blood cells, or blood substitutes, is prohibited.

Race veterinarians may use any listed or otherwise prohibited drug when necessary to maintain a dog's health; however, a dog treated with such a drug will be withdrawn from the Race. General or local anesthetics may not be used unless the dog is withdrawn from the Race.

Personal prescriptions written for and carried by mushers may not be administered to dogs.

Section 23 - UNMANAGEABLE TEAM

A musher may receive assistance to control an unmanageable team and may continue in the Race provided the assistance does not interfere with another team's progress. Monetary and/or time penalties may be assessed if an unmanageable team impedes another team on the trail.

Section 24 - FOLLOWING MARKED TRAIL

All teams and mushers must complete the entire Race on the marked route and must check in whenever requested.

Section 25 - DRIVERLESS TEAM

Anyone may stop and secure a driverless team or loose dog. The musher may recover the team or dog on foot or with another musher's help and then continue the Race. Any assistance must be reported to a Race Official at the next checkpoint.

Section 26 - TEAMS TIED TOGETHER

Two or more teams may not be tied together except during an emergency. In that case, the teams involved must notify Race Officials at the next checkpoint.

Section 27 - MOTORIZED VEHICLES

Mushers may not receive motorized assistance except in an emergency. Pacing is prohibited. Any motorized assistance must be reported to the Race Marshal immediately upon entering the next checkpoint.

Section 28 - PASSING

When a team comes within fifty (50) feet of another team, the trailing team has the immediate right-of-way upon request by calling “Trail.” The musher ahead must stop and hold the team to the best of the musher’s ability for a maximum of one (1) minute or until the passing team has cleared, whichever occurs first.

The team that has been passed may continue racing but must remain behind for at least four (4) minutes or one (1) mile before requesting the right-of-way to pass.

If the passing team becomes entangled as a result of the pass, the driver of the passing team may require the overtaken team to stop for no longer than one (1) minute.

The faster team has the right-of-way. If a team is stopped along the trail for any reason, the stopped team’s driver must make reasonable efforts to maintain an unobstructed path for approaching teams.

Section 29 - NO MAN'S LAND

The Race may establish a “no man’s land” on some or all stages beginning approximately one (1) mile from the finish line. This condition will be announced at the stage drivers’ meeting and identified by a sign when in effect. Once teams enter the no man’s land, the passing requirements in Section 28 no longer apply. A team stopped in the no man’s land must make reasonable efforts not to block the trail.

Section 30 - PARKING OF TEAM ALONG THE TRAIL

During the Race, mushers must select stopping or parking locations that avoid interference with the progress of other teams. Teams stopping momentarily must not obstruct the trail. At checkpoints, teams must be parked in locations that do not interfere with the movement of other teams and mushers.

Section 31 - LITTER

Littering is prohibited on the trail, in camps, and in parking areas. Mushers are responsible for cleanup of team and personal waste, including booties and food. Dog bedding left at trailhead parking areas is considered litter and must be hauled out and properly disposed of.

Section 32 - OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

Mushers may not receive outside assistance between a stage start and finish. This includes assistance in physically guiding a team at an intersection or turnaround. If a team is about to impede another team’s progress, assistance may be given to the impeding team to allow other teams to continue on the race trail; a time penalty may be assessed. Dog care and feeding between the stage start and finish are the responsibility of the musher only.

In an emergency, unlimited assistance may be provided. If the driver is not present, the team may be stopped and held until the driver or a Race Official claims the team. Any assistance must be reported to the Race Marshal immediately after the stage.

Section 33 - ABANDONED TEAMS/LOOSE DOGS

A. A musher who loses or abandons the team during a stage, for any reason and for a period of time or at a location that prevents the musher from exercising direct care and control over the team, may be required to withdraw from the Race.

B. All dogs starting a stage must return to the finish line either on the towline or in the sled. If the musher cannot complete the stage with all dogs in the team or sled, the team will be considered DNF for that stage and will be withdrawn from the Race.

Section 34 - ONE MUSHER PER TEAM

There will be one musher per team. Substitutions are not permitted, and that musher must complete the entire competition.

Section 35 - RACE PROGRESS

To avoid unreasonable delay in race progress, the Race Marshal may withdraw a team that fails to complete two (2) consecutive stages within 150% of the average time of the first three teams on each of those stages.

Section 36 - FINISH

An official finish is determined when the nose of the first dog crosses the finish line. If a team crosses the finish line without its musher, the team's finish will be recorded when the musher crosses the finish line. After finishing, teams must continue through the closed finish chute and beyond the designated exit point without stopping or obstructing other arriving teams.

Section 37 - PRIZE AWARDS

A. The final prize award ceremony will be held no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the first team's arrival.

B. All mushers who finish at least two (2) hours before the awards ceremony must attend. The first-, second-, and third-place mushers may be required to attend the awards ceremony with a team dog.

C. Mushers must complete all stages to be eligible for monetary prizes.

PART III - MUSHER CONDUCT

Section 38 - GOOD SAMARITAN RULE

A musher may be penalized for failing to assist another musher during an emergency. Penalties may include time or monetary penalties. Incidents must be reported to a Race Official at the next checkpoint.

Section 39 - INTERFERENCE

No musher may tamper with another musher's dog food or gear or otherwise interfere with the progress of another team.

Section 40 - SPORTSMANSHIP

Mushers must conduct themselves in a civil and sportsmanlike manner throughout the competition. Abusive behavior toward any person will not be tolerated. Mushers are also responsible for the conduct of their handlers.

Section 41 - USE OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

The Stage Stop seeks to provide a competition free from drugs and medications that could unfairly enhance a musher's performance or endanger the health of the musher or dogs. The following substances are prohibited from the start of competition until the conclusion of the prize awards ceremony:

1. Stimulants, including amphetamines, ephedrine, and related compounds; anabolic steroids.
2. Diuretics.
3. Blood doping, street drugs, and narcotic pain medications, including codeine, cocaine, heroin, and hallucinogens.
4. Alcohol at or above the legal limit established by state traffic regulations.

Some medical conditions, including high blood pressure and asthma, may be treated with substances listed above. Mushers using such medications should consult their personal physician regarding alternatives consistent with these rules.

Under direct supervision of medical or drug-testing staff, a musher may be required to provide a urine sample fifteen (15) minutes after each day's stage. A positive test or refusal to provide a requested sample may subject the musher to disciplinary action.

PART IV - RACE OFFICIALS AND PENALTIES

Section 42 - RACE OFFICIALS

The Race Marshal and Judge(s) are responsible for enforcing the Race Rules. Decisions of the Race Marshal are final.

A. The veterinary staff also assists with enforcement of dog-care and treatment rules. The Lead Veterinarian assists the Race Marshal in decisions involving dog care and treatment.

Section 43 - PENALTIES

A rule infraction may result in a warning, fine, time penalty, censure, or disqualification.

Any Race Official may issue a warning, which must be reported to the Race Marshal. Time and/or monetary penalties are issued by the Race Marshal.

Disqualification by the Race Marshal may be based on recommendations from other Race Officials. The Lead Veterinarian and Race Director will be included in all cases involving cruel or inhumane treatment. The Race Marshal's decision is final.

Warnings may be issued for first-time or minor violations. Fines may be assessed up to US $5,000 per violation and may be deducted from prize money. A musher will not be allowed to participate in future Stage Stop events until assessed fines are paid.

Time penalties of up to five (5) hours per infraction may be assessed when an unintentional rule violation gives a musher a time advantage.

The Board of Directors may censure a musher even after the Race has concluded. A censure may include a warning and may lead to exclusion from future Stage Stop competition.

Any assessed penalty will be presented to the musher in writing.

Section 44 - SPONSORSHIP ETHICS

The Stage Stop is intended to maintain its own ethics, identity, and spirit, which together contribute to the value and character of the Race. The Race Organization will work to ensure that advertising, sponsorship, and related activities do not compromise that character.

Mushers and other persons who participate in, accompany, or represent a musher in connection with the Race are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the interests of the Race. Mushers may not display clothing or equipment in a manner that damages the Race Organization or conflicts with the rights of official sponsors.

Race bibs must be worn or attached so that the bib number and the name(s) of official sponsors remain clearly visible at starts, finishes, and prize presentations. The Race Organization reserves the right to use a communication or sponsor panel measuring up to 36 x 24 on one side of each sled.

For the protection of participants and the public image of the Stage Stop, every musher and handler participating in the Race authorizes the Race Organization to capture, use, reproduce, publish, and distribute photographs and video footage of the musher, handler, and dogs taken before, during, and after the event for promotional, publicity, advertising, and related purposes, and to authorize such use by third parties in connection with the Race.

PART V - FINAL NOTE

The intent of these regulations is to ensure fair competition. Stage Stop-appointed Race Officials are responsible for interpreting and applying these rules in a manner consistent with that intent.