

2020 Akiak Dash Race Rules

The Akiak Dash is a sled dog race from Bethel, Alaska to Akiak, Alaska and back with **one designated checkpoint stop in Akiak.**

1. The Akiak Dash begins in Bethel, Alaska at **2 PM on Saturday, January 18, 2020.**
2. Membership is required to participate in K300 purse races. Participants in the Annual K300 Mile Program are members. There is no other entry fee for the 2020 Akiak Dash. Teams may enter in the name of the owner, sponsor, musher, or any other name the entrant chooses. The musher must be designated at the time of entry. A substitute musher may replace the designated musher any time before the musher's meeting. Substitution after that time is subject to Race Marshal approval.
3. Mushers must sign in with the official checker **in Akiak** and declare how many dogs will be dropped. **Dogs must rest near the checkpoint and not in established dog yards in Akiak.**
4. Mushers must follow the marked and/or broken race trail. Leaving the marked and/or broken trail is not allowed.
6. A team finishes the race when the nose of any dog in the team crosses the finish line in Bethel.
7. Each musher, or a handler representing the musher, must be present at the **mushers' meeting and drawing** at Race Headquarters on **Friday, January 17th at 9 PM. Mushers must also attend the mushers' meeting after the race at 4 PM on Monday January 20th at YPCC (Cultural Center) and the banquet on Monday January 20th at 5:30 PM at YPCC (Cultural Center) , unless there is an extreme hardship.**
8. Mushers must provide as many handlers as are required to keep their teams under control at the starting point. Each team may be required to carry a handler from the starting line to a point determined by race officials. Mushers must wear any bib or banner provided by the Committee on their back at the starting line. If conditions allow, there will be a mass start, otherwise mushers will start two at a time with a two-minute interval.
9. Mushers must begin the race with no more than 7 dogs and no fewer than 5 dogs and complete the race with no fewer than 5 dogs.
10. All dogs are subject to a veterinary check at any time prior to, during, or after the race. Dogs not fit to begin or continue the race may be removed from the race at the discretion of the Race Veterinarian. The Race Veterinarian may also require a musher to delay his team at a checkpoint, if the Veterinarian believes dogs in the team require additional rest. No injectable substances may be used on any dog at any point during the

race.

11. Unsafe or inhumane treatment of dogs is not permitted. Whips may not be carried or used during the race.

12. **Mushers may drop dogs from their teams during the race, but dogs may be left only in Akiak at the checkpoint.** The Race Committee will not provide transportation for any dropped dogs. Mushers must make their own arrangements for transportation and care of dropped dogs. Mushers may not sign in at any checkpoint unless all dogs on their team which left the previous checkpoint are present. Dropped dogs may not be put back in the team.

13. **Food may only be shipped to Akiak, the only checkpoint.** The Committee is not responsible for transportation of dog food or gear. The musher must make arrangements for such transportation. Mushers may not utilize food from any other location along the trail except in an emergency situation. Use of such food in an emergency must be reported to a race official before leaving the next checkpoint. Any food fed to the dogs outside of a checkpoint must be hauled during the race by the dog team using the food.

14. Mushers may not accept help in the care or feeding of their dogs, or the establishment of their camps at any point along the trail, except checkpoints. At checkpoints, mushers may have one or more handlers assisting in the care and feeding of the dogs and establishment of their camp.

15. Prize Money: The 2020 Total Purse is \$30,000 dispersed over 15 places. An exact breakdown of the payment can be found on the K300 website, www.k300.org. **If there are less than 15 entrees, the prize money for remaining places gets divided equally (like the other races).**

16. The highest finishing rookie musher will receive recognition. A rookie is defined as any musher who has not competed in a 65 mile race or longer prior to the 2020 Akiak Dash. Mushers wishing to compete for the rookie award must identify themselves as rookies at the pre-race meeting.

17. Each musher must carry as required equipment, at all times, a sleeping bag and an ax. In addition, each musher must start the race with four dog booties for each dog.

18. Each musher must execute a Release of Liability before entering the race. Each musher must show proof that dogs in his team have been vaccinated for rabies. It is recommended that all dogs also have distemper and parvo vaccinations before traveling to Bethel.

19. No musher under the age of 14 may enter the race, unless they have previously applied for and received approval based on their qualifications and experience from the

Race Committee. Application for such approval must be made prior to January 1 2020.

20. Mushers must take a 1-hour layover at Akiak. **The mandatory rest begins when the musher arrives in Akiak. He or she must sign in and out, but timing is based on arrival.**

21. The only checkpoint for the 2020 Akiak Dash is Akiak.

22. All litter must be properly disposed of at checkpoints and may not be left on the trail.

23. Any musher who becomes separated from his team may use whatever means possible to recover his team. In order for a lost team to continue the race if it has left the trail, it must return to the trail at the point of departure and complete the entire race route. Should the team advance up the trail and later be recovered on the trail, the musher may continue the race without returning to the point where he became separated from his team.

24. When any team approaches within 50 feet of another team, the team behind has the immediate right of way upon demand. The musher ahead must stop his dogs and hold them to the best of his ability for a maximum of one minute, or until the other team has passed, whichever occurs first. The passed team must remain behind at least 15 minutes before demanding the trail. The passing rule does not apply in No Man's Land, which will be identified to mushers at the race meeting.

25. Mushers must conduct themselves in a sportsman-like manner. Discussions about these rules or other aspects of the race must be conducted with race officials at an appropriate time and place. At all race functions, conduct detrimental to the Kuskokwim 300 Race Committee, its sponsors, or its volunteers, is subject to penalty.

26. Any observed violations of the Race Rules must be reported to a race official within 12 hours of the time that the musher registering to protest crosses the finish line. The decision of the race officials shall be final.

27. Mushers who have any outstanding accounts with the K-300 will have their prize money adjusted accordingly.

28. Rule violations subject to the violator to the following range of penalties:

1. Warning (oral or written);
2. Censure (public or private);
3. Monetary;
4. Time delay;
5. Disqualification;
6. Ineligibility for future races.

Penalties 1 through 5 may be administered by race officials. Penalty 6 may be administered by the Race Committee.

The Kuskokwim 300 Race Committee urges each entrant in this year's race to fully prepare himself and his team for possible hazardous trail conditions. Southwest Alaska is subject to high winds, low temperatures, and severe snowstorms during the month of January. Mushers might also expect temperatures as high as 35 degrees with rain. Arctic style cold weather gear is recommended, including a heavy-duty sleeping bag with an outer bag or tarp to break the wind. A set of raingear is also recommended. Daylight can be expected from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Part of the trail will be in lightly traveled areas and mushers who lose the trail must be prepared for survival in such an emergency situation. The trail will be extensively marked and the progress of mushers will be closely monitored, however, weather may prevent a musher from being helped in the event he is lost. Please plan accordingly.

The race will adhere to its schedule unless weather or trail conditions force a delay. If that should occur before the race start, the start could be delayed on a day-to-day basis. This has happened in the past, and racers will be given reasonable notice of such changes through race headquarters. Once the race has begun, such delays will be communicated through checkers and race officials on the trail. Any such delay would involve teams not being able to advance along the trail once notified of the delay. This procedure would be employed only at checkpoints. In addition to a delay, the race route may be altered either before or during the race if conditions require such a change. This could result in a longer or shorter race trail than advertised. One of the potential results would be a race that is stopped at a point short of the expected finish line, after teams have reached that location, if trail conditions do not allow the race to continue. In all of the above situations, the committee recognizes that changes would possibly affect the outcome of the race. Thus, such changes would not be made except in extraordinary circumstances. If such changes are required, the committee will make every effort to assure that dog care is not adversely affected by the change. The Kuskokwim 300 endeavors at all times to conduct a safe event that is fair for all competitors.

If you have questions about these Rules or other aspects of the race, contact the Race Committee at 543-2972 or 545-3300 in Bethel or at Box 3001, Bethel, Alaska 99559.