

**WELCOME
BIENVENUE
TO THE 89th**

**LACONIA WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP**



SLED DOG DERBY

February 16, 17, 18, 2018

Spectator Tips

Pick a team to cheer for and let the driver know you appreciate his or her team's efforts. As in all sports, it's nice to know you have someone cheering you on.

Feel free to visit the staging area and take all the pictures you want. Be careful where you walk, for there are many things to trip over, such as, chains, sleds, harnesses, etc. You can also ask the driver questions if they are not busy. Most dog people love to talk about their dogs. However, getting a team ready to go takes a lot of work and at times they may not be able to talk.



NEVER bring a dog or a cat to a sled dog race! If you do, leave it in your car. A driver handling several dogs cannot be responsible for your pets. There have been races lost and pets injured because a team swerved off the trail after a strange dog.

These dogs are trained racing dogs. You should never feed or offer them anything without the permission of the driver. As a rule sled dogs are very friendly. However, do not pet them without first checking with the driver.

Please stand back when you are near the starting line or out on the trail. If you are too close, you might distract the dogs and even cause them to leave the trail. Also please refrain from any abrupt or sudden movements as the team passes by so you don't "spook" the dogs.

We hope you enjoy the races and tell others about the sport. Sled dog racing is becoming the fastest growing sport in the country. Thank you for coming, and **HAVE A GOOD DAY AT THE GREATEST SHOW ON SNOW!**

Jim Lyman
Lakes Region Sled Dog Club, President

Answers to Some of Your Questions

Q. How many dogs are allowed on a team in the World Championship race?

A. On the first day of the race each team must have at least seven dogs. On the second and third days no team may start with less than four dogs. There is no limitation on the maximum number of dogs allowed however, the chief judge may reduce the size of a team if he feels it is larger than the driver can handle properly.

Q. How are the starting positions determined for each team?

A. Starting orders are drawn by lot for the first day of racing. Starting times for succeeding days are determined by a team's total elapsed time in the previous heat(s), with the slowest team starting first. This is called a "reverse order start". This tends to make the race more exciting for the spectators since you are likely to see more teams passing others on the trail. (Six-Dog teams start succeeding days with the fastest team going first.)

Q. May a driver add or switch dogs at any time?

A. No. Drivers must use the same dogs throughout the three days of racing. However, they may drop dogs from their team before the start of the second and third day of racing. Once a dog is dropped from a team it may not be re-entered. Drivers may switch a dog's location within the team though at anytime. Ex: Moving a lead dog to a swing position.

Q. Can dogs be dropped during a heat?

A. No. A team will be disqualified if it does not finish with the same dogs it started with at the beginning of each heat. A dog unable to complete a race must be carried in the sled to the finish line.

Q. Some drivers carry whips. Are they allowed to use them on their dogs?

A. Absolutely not. Whips are limited to a three foot length and may only be snapped as a signal to the dog team.

Q. What happens when one team wants to pass another?

A. A driver may ask for the right of way by calling "Trail" when his team comes within twenty feet of the preceding team. Under these conditions, the leading team must make way or come to a complete stop if so requested, except when re-passing occurs or within one half mile of the finish. However, race rules are reviewed each year by the membership of the Lakes Region Sled Dog Club and its board of directors. Increased experience may show that certain rules should be changed or added to protect the best interests of the sport. The best way to learn more about the World Championship Sled Dog Derby is to go to our website www.lrsdc.org