

Open Championship of the Sled Dog Sport Federation of Kostroma Region



International North Hope Stage Sled Dog Race 2010

6 dog Mid-Distance Class 230 km

Goals and objectives of this championship are as follows: popularization and development of sled dog sport in Russia; strengthening of the world relations in sled dog sport; development of the sport canine organizations' cooperation on the territory of Russian Federation; bringing up a new generation of mushers and merely young people whose life principles are based on love, care and fairness.

Location: North Hope Sled Dog Centre, Dement'yev village, Neya province, Kostroma region, Russia

Dates: February 22-March 1st, 2010.

Race Program:

February 19-21	arrival of teams and participants;
February 19-21	official trainings;
February 21	meeting of Race Officials; mandatory musher's meeting;
February 22	the opening ceremony;
Feb.22	the 1 st qualification stage, 35 km;
Feb.23	the 2 nd stage, 50 km; the 3 rd stage 30km;
Feb.24	seminars and conferences;
Feb.25	the 4 th stage 50km; the 5 th stage 30km;
Feb.26	the 6 th stage, 35km;

Note: International teams run the stages in the following order: Russian mushers run the 1st, 3rd and 4th stages; foreign mushers run the 2nd, 5th, and 6th stages.

Feb.27	awarding and closing ceremony
Feb.28	departure of participants.

INFORMATION FOR THE RACE PARTICIPANTS.

1. Arrival.

1.1. On arrival the race participants must provide the vet documents and proofs of vaccinations, pass the vet check and attend the mandatory musher's meeting. The participants are welcome to attend the seminars and conferences due to the program of the race. Meeting time and location will be announced.

1.2. On arrival, the accommodation of mushers, handlers and dog-teams is arranged by the Race Committee.

1.3. On arrival all the teams' dogs (meaning the whole pool of dogs of every team dogs and dogs present at the event but not running the race) must undergo mandatory veterinary examination by the results of which the dogs are either allowed or not allowed to be present at the race site. The musher must provide the veterinary F1 certificate. The requirement applies to the dogs of handlers and supporters and everyone bringing an animal to the event.

1.4. Musher, handlers and guests will be provided with two substantial meals a day (at the expense of the participants/guests) in the places of their temporary residence.

Cost of food and lodging:

Lodging and food -500 rub/day

1.5. The participants feed their dogs at their expense with the food brought with them. The bowls for feeding dogs are not provided.

1.6. The entry fee

Individual group – 4000 rubles

International team group (foreign musher without a dog-team) – 4800 rubles

Vet check – 50 rubles (per dog).

1.6. With a preliminary application made until February 15, 2010 the Race Committee guarantees meeting the teams of participants at Neya railway station with further transportation to the place of the event. The applications may be presented by e-mail gordostkoroley@mail.ru, anna.m.odintsova@gmail.com or by phone +7 910 951 4667; +7 910 952 1360, +7 905 150 4875 (English speaking), +7 903 881 6443 (English speaking)

2. Entry requirements.

2.1. A musher must be 18 years of age or older. (An experienced musher of 16 or 17 years of age may apply to enter the race in writing to waive the minimum age rule. Application must include number of years of experience, references from at least two veteran mid-distance mushers and written consent from parent or guardian.)

2.2. To run the International North Hope Stage Sled Dog Race 2010 a musher must present an entry by e-mail, telephone or in person. The entry form can be downloaded here: <http://nordhope.com/races/2010-2>

Entries will be accepted until February 15, 2010 by e-mail: gordostkoroley@mail.ru, anna.m.odintsova@gmail.com

3. Veterinary issues and dog care.

Before the competition starts all dogs must undergo a Veterinary Examination or will not be allowed to enter the Race. The dogs of all breeds are eligible.

3.1. All dogs entered in the Race shall have veterinary documents proving the annual booster (Parvo, Corona, Leptospirosis, Hepatitis, Distemper, Bordetella, Rabies) within the last 12 months and not less than a month before the Race. Deworming shall be performed not earlier than 3 months before the Race start and not later than 3 weeks before the Race start. The minimum allowable age for dogs is 18 months and older. The dog's aggressive behavior towards people or other dogs may result in the disqualification of a musher.

3.2. The Pre-Race Veterinary Examination is performed by the Veterinary Team upon arrival and before accommodation of participants. The Vet Check is performed throughout the Race. The Head Vet has an authority to withdraw a dog having abnormality which may predispose to a significant risk of injury or death. The Race Marshal may also withdraw a dog for cause. Pregnant bitches and the dogs suffering from epilepsy are not allowed to enter the Race.

3.3. To decrease the risk of the foot-pads injuries, the dogs have their toenails and hair between the pads trimmed.

3.4. Mushers shall fulfill all requirements of veterinarians considering dog care and maintenance, and give assistance in examining and curing the dogs.

3.5. In case of death of a dog on the trail, a musher shall haul the dog in the sled to the nearest check-point, inform the Race Marshal about it and complete a report on the dog's death. All dogs' deaths will be treated as a priority, with every effort being made to determine the cause of death in a thorough and reliable manner. If necessary, the veterinarian may perform a necropsy. The musher will be interviewed by both – Race Marshal and Head Vet.

Musher has the option to be present during necropsy. Musher must stay at the check-point until the cause of death is diagnosed (if he is then allowed to continue the Race, this period is not to be used as a penalty).

3.6. Dog deaths resulting in disqualification are: signs of cruel, inhumane and abusive treatment (even if it is not the cause of a dog's death); cause of death is heat stress or hypothermia; dehydration is the reason of a dog's death; a musher will be disqualified if he/she had been advised by an official Race Vet appointed by the Race Head Vet or an official Race Judge appointed by the Race Marshal to drop a dog at a previous check-point, but opted not to do so, unless the cause of death is clearly unrelated to this recommendation.

3.7. Regardless of the cause of a dog's death a musher will be disqualified if he conceals the fact of his dog's death.

3.8. Over a period of the Race (from the first musher's meeting to the finish of the last stage) no oral, topical or injectable drug which can suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. No other drugs or artificial means may be used to drive a dog or cause a dog to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability. The Vet Team may subject the dogs to urine and blood drug-test at any point of the Race from the Pre-Race Examination until 2 hours after the team's finish each day. Mushers must assist veterinarians whenever requested. If blood or urine testing of a dog reveals any of the prohibited drugs in the dog, the team and musher are disqualified.

The following drugs are prohibited:

Analgesics (prescriptive or non-prescriptive).

Anti-inflammatory drugs including but not limited to:

Cortico-steroids, Antiprostaglandins, Non-steroids, Salicylates, DMSO)

Central nervous system stimulants

Cough suppressants

Anesthetics

Diuretics

Anabolic steroids

Muscle relaxants

Injectable anticholinergics

Antihistamines

Race veterinarians may utilize any of the listed drugs or other prohibited drugs necessary to maintain a dog's health. However, such dogs will be withdrawn from the Race.

3.9. During the primary Pre-Race Examination all the dogs will be identified and marked and/or tagged. The technique of marking will be announced at the mandatory mushers meeting.

4.Pre-competition procedures.

4.1. Substitute drivers will be allowed in case a representative of the team informs the Race Committee not less than 2 hours before the opening ceremony of the race (a substitute driver must attend musher's meeting before the Race). The substitution of drivers during the Race is prohibited.

4.2. Substitute dogs will be allowed in case a representative of the team informs the Race Committee not less than 2 hours before the opening of the Race (substitute dogs must undergo the Pre-Race Veterinary Examination and Marking procedures)

4.3. Mushers will be given their number bibs at the musher meeting. A musher is required to carry his/her bib over the whole period of the Race (at starting line, on the trail, at finish line and probably at the awarding ceremony). Failure to adhere to this rule will result in time penalties. A musher without a bib is not allowed to start the Race. The musher must wear the bib in a visible fashion.

4.4. Partners within the International teams will be determined by a drawing held by Race Officials after the end of accepting the entries. Final confirmation of the international pairs will be performed at the Race Officials Meeting on February 22, 2011.

4.5. The starting order of the first stage will be determined by a drawing.

4.6. The first stage will be timed and counted, it will become part of the musher's official race time. The arrival order of the first stage will be reversed and shall become the starting order of the second stage.

4.7. The mandatory musher's meeting is held before each stage. The elapsed time and starting order of each team is announced, the peculiarities of the trail are reported.

5. Start, starting order, finish, results.

5.1. Each participant's sled and mandatory gear must be ready and available for inspection 1 hour before the starting time. The inspection will be over not less than 6 minutes before the start. The slowest team each day will start in the first position the

next day. This procedure will be followed throughout each stage of the Race.

5.2. Common start time/differential allotment. Teams will leave the start with 2-minute intervals at all stages of the Race. A team unable to leave at its specified time will depart after the last team leaves and will observe the specified interval between teams. Any musher who cannot leave the starting line within 10 minutes of the last team's departure will be disqualified unless extenuating circumstances prevail. The Race will be a common start event.

Race Officials may change the interval due to bad weather or/and trail conditions, qualification and number of participants.

5.3. A judge at the start announces the starting intervals for each participant – “30 seconds to start; - “10 seconds to start”; 5 seconds before the start the judge begins to count down “5-4-3-2-1”, which is immediately followed by a starting signal. A false start (during the countdown) will result in a 10-second penalty.

The sled's brushbow may not cross the starting line before the official starting signal.

5.4. The nose of the first dog crossing the finish line signals a team's official finish. In the event that the musher is not with the team when it finishes, the finish time will be recorded when the musher crosses the line after the team.

5.5. The elapsed time of the stage is comprised of the time spent from start to crossing the finishing line, including time penalties (if any).

6. Qualification stage.

6.1 The first stage of the race (distance - 35 km, date – Feb.22, 2010) is a qualification.

6.2 A qualification stage is mandatory for everyone. A success at the qualification stage is a permit to participate in the following stages of the race. The stage is a part of the overall race route and race distance.

6.3 Qualifying standard.

If a team's total elapsed time doesn't exceed 1.5 times the average time of the five fastest teams in the same heat of the same class it is considered to have successfully passed the qualification and is allowed to compete in subsequent heats of the race.

If a team's total elapsed time exceeds 1.5 times the average time of the five fastest teams in the same heat of the same class it is considered to have failed the qualification and shall be disqualified from competing in subsequent heats of the race. Such teams shall be given honorable mention awards and certificates from the federation with the distance in kilometers and the time result specified in it.

6.4 In case a team fails the qualification heat, the entry fee shall not be paid back.

7. Running the course.

Passing of the trail by the participants is regulated by the following articles of the Rules:

7.1. A musher passes the race trail, specified by the Race Committee (the overall race trail is a sum of the trails of all the race stages).

7.2. A musher that doesn't finish the race stage can be allowed to continue the race out of competition if approved by the Race Marshal.

7.3. No one apart from the musher of the team is allowed to help speeding up the team.

7.4. A musher can stay on the skis of the sled, pedal or run.

- 7.5. All dogs of the team must be harnessed throughout each stage. The dogs out of harnesses must be hauled in a bag in the sled.
- 7.6. Teams inadvertently leaving the course must regain the course at the point at which it was left.
- 7.7. A musher may not be accompanied by or accept assistance from any motorized vehicle that gives help to the musher (except when recovering a loose dog or driverless team).
- 7.8. A musher that lost his team/dog must regain control of it as soon as possible. He can accept any outside help to catch and return the team/dog. A refusal to accept help can account for a musher of a lost team/dog being withdrawn from the race.
- 7.9. In the case of a lost team, the team will not be disqualified if the musher regains control of the team, provided that the team and musher complete the entire race trail and comply with in the rules, including check point requirements.
- 7.10. Passenger transportation is prohibited during the race except for the cases of emergency.
- 7.11. All mushers can receive assistance from the Race Officials at the specified points on the trail, defined by the Race Marshal (additional information will be announced at the musher meeting).
- 7.12. During the Race no outside assistance is allowed except for that offered by the North Hope Race Committee (additional information will be announced at the musher meeting). Mushers may not receive outside assistance between a stage start and finish. Dog care and feeding the dogs between a stage start and finish is the musher's responsibility only.
- 7.13. Everyone is encouraged to stop and secure a driverless team or loose dog that includes tying down a loose team/dog by anyone. Outside help is limited to holding a sled except when a loose/driverless team/dog creates danger for itself, other teams or people.
- 7.14. The teams must keep the distance of not less than 15 m between each other except when passing or crossing the finishing line. This rule may be modified or waived by the Race Marshal at the mushers meeting.
- 7.15. If a team leaves the marked trail, a musher must return it to the place where it happened. If it is unrealizable but doesn't cause missing the mandatory check points, shortening or easing the passing of the race trail, he reaches the next check point and informs a judge on the trail about an incident. In this case, a musher gets a time penalty – 3% from the overall time result at the stage).
- 7.16. If there are any grounds for disqualification of a musher, a judge informs him about that. The musher may continue the progress of the Race, investigation of the violation will be performed after the stage finish.
- 7.17. A withdrawn musher must inform a judge on the trail at the nearest checkpoint about his disqualification and make way for all the teams during the rest of the stage trail.
- 7.18. A case when a musher can not reach the nearest checkpoint without outside assistance is considered a case of emergency.
- 7.19. If stopping on the trail, the teams must be completely off the trail if at all possible.

7.20. Littering the trail is prohibited.

8. Passing.

8.1. When overtaking another team, the musher shall call "trail". The overtaken team must relinquish the trail and assist the passing team when necessary.

8.2. The team which was passed may continue racing yet must remain behind for at least two (2) minutes or 800 m before the musher must request the right-of-way. When neither of two teams is able to pull away from the other, the mushers shall mutually decide on the appropriate team to lead out.

8.3. No Man's Land: no calling of "trail" in No Mans Land. No Man's Land will be announced at the drivers meeting.

9. Equipment.

9.1. The equipment is not supplied by the Race Committee. The equipment must be approved by the Race Marshal.

9.2. No whips of any kind will be allowed.

9.3. Dogs and equipment must be available for inspection after each stage.

9.4. The dogs are harnessed consecutively or in pairs.

9.5. The dogs are attached to the gangline with the tuglines, going from the dogs to the dogs necks and harnesses. Leading dogs can run without necklines.

9.6. A sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, brushbow, snowhook, and snubline.

9.7. A sled bag capable of safely restraining or severely injured dog is required. Sled and sled bag should be large enough to contain all required equipment in addition to hauling an injured dog and be supplied with air holes with total square of the holes not less than 600 square centimeters.

9.8. All the harnesses shall be padded around the neck and chest areas.

9.9. Each musher may choose his own sled providing that it meets necessary North Hope Race requirements and are approved by the Race marshal.

9.10. The sled may be changed for another.

9.11. Mandatory gear in the sled:

– First-Aid Kit (to consist of cardiacs, anesthetics, anti-fever, anti-inflammatory agents, antihistamines, bandage, pressure dressing and iodine);

– one days ration for each dog in a team: 300 g of dry dog-food or 0.5 kg of raw meat; this should be considered only a bare minimum (bad weather and common sense will dictate when additional food should be packed). Dumping food to lighten the load after leaving the check-point is prohibited.

– one days ration for a musher;

– protective clothing (heat-insulated coat, snowshoes, mittens, socks, etc.)

– proper cold-weather sleeping-bag

– waterproof matches or lighter

– knife

– A working headlamp (with spare batteries)

– Mobile phone

- A snub line
- Dog-shoes (minimum a set for each dog in a team)

The Race Marshal may eliminate these requirements for some stages.

9.12. The total weight of the load in the sled shall not exceed 10 kg per dog.

10. Safety points.

№	Starting place	Distance (km)	Dropped dogs	Dog food	Starting time and date
1.	North Hope Sled Dog Center	35km	+	*	11.00/ Feb.22
2.	North Hope Sled Dog Center	50km	+	*	11.00/ Feb.23.
3.	North Hope Sled Dog Center	30km	+	*	10.00/ Feb.24.
4.	North Hope Sled Dog Center	50km	+	*	8.00/ Feb.26
5.	North Hope Sled Dog Center	30km			19.00/Feb. 26
6.	North Hope Sled Dog Center	35km			11.00/ Feb.27

For safety purposes there will be safety points organized on the trail.

10.1. The places of the safety points and checkpoints on the trail and their amount will be announced at the mandatory musher's meeting.

10.2. The mandatory layover at the checkpoint will be announced at mandatory musher's meeting and will be deducted from the total elapsed time of the teams. If necessary mushers can spend more than the fixed time either on his own free will or determined by the Race Marshal, Doctor or Chief Vet for rest and recovering. In this case the time over the time of mandatory layover is not deducted from the total elapsed time of the teams.

10.3. There will be the veterinary team working at the checkpoints.

10.4. Whenever required by the Race marshal and veterinarian the dog-teams undergo mandatory inspection at the check-points.

10.5. Any tired or expired on the trail must be taken by the musher to a check-point in charge of the Vet Team or haul in a sled bag to the finish.

10.6. Dropped dogs shall be provided with tags denoting:

- the cause of dropping the dog;
- name and number of the musher;
- place a dog needs to be shipped to.

10.7. A dropped dog must be left with a collar, reliable chain and be cared of until being handed to a trustee.

10.8. Dropped dogs can continue the Race after the examination by the Race Vet. All the instructions given to a musher by the Race Vet considering dog care must be followed strictly.

10.9. The Race Marshal or Chief Vet may keep the team off the progress for recovering and rest.

10.10. The Race marshal or Chief Vet may withdraw the team from the race if they consider it unable to continue the race.

10.11. Whenever required by the Race Marshal or Inspection judge or any other authorized person a team's equipment must undergo mandatory inspection.

10.12. The Race Marshal or Inspection judge or any other authorized person may keep the team off running the course for repairing the equipments the condition of which may compromise security of the musher and/or the team.

10.13. If a musher enters the check point with fewer dogs than he or she started with in the team or in sled, the Race Marshal will disqualify the musher.

11. Stops. Dogs feeding, substitution, hauling and accommodation.

11.1. Stopping on the trail.

When stopped on the trail, adequate room must be allowed for teams past and assistance given if necessary. Every effort should be made to get completely off the trail while stopped. Pack out all garbage. Littering the trail, places of stops and check-points is prohibited.

11.2. Feeding the dogs.

If snacking, watering or feeding on the trail, the team must be completely off the trail, if at all possible. An honest effort should be made to keep the trail clean of food or debris.

11.3. Dogs substitution.

After the stage start, the line-up of the team may not be changed. A musher must finish the stage with the same team line-up as he started with.

11.4. Hauling dogs.

A tired or injured dog shall be hauled in a sled bag, however the musher may not allow any of his/her dogs be hauled by another team. Dogs must be hauled in a humane fashion. Hauling a dog in the sled of another team is not allowed except for the cases of emergency. No loose dogs are allowed on the trail.

11.5. The dogs that are dropped from the race must be left at a designated check-point with a completed and signed dropped dog form. Any dropped dog must be left with substantial amount of dog food for the days left till the end of the race (300 g of dry food or 1 kg of natural food for a dog) and a reliable chain or cable (16" or 18" in length) with a swivel snap and a collar.

11.6. Dog care and maintenance. Each participant must assist the race veterinarian to examine the dog after finish, accommodate them at the place, specified by the Race Committee. A musher is not allowed to leave his team alone without the race veterinarian's permission.

12. Finish.

12.1 The winner of the Race (in each nomination) is a musher and a musher's team that covers the race trail distance in the shortest time. The total elapsed time is comprised of the elapsed time of all stages and time penalties (if any). In case of equal total time the teams share a prize, the next prize is not awarded at that.

There will be the open and pure-breed event within each group – individual and international team.

13. Awarding

13.1. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize winners are awarded with medals, certificates, and prizes from the organizers and sponsors.

13.2. Absence at the awarding ceremony may result in disqualification or forfeiture of winnings. In exceptional cases any other representative of the team may substitute for the musher at the awarding ceremony but he is not allowed to take place on the pedestal.

14. Warnings, disqualification.

14.1. Musher must follow the instructions of the Race Officials.

14.2. Warnings may be issued by any official for first time and minor violation not giving a musher an unfair advantage over other mushers.

14.3. Disqualifications or penalties may be issued in case:

- of deliberate rule infractions that give a musher an unfair advantage over other mushers.
- of a recurring warning for a similar violation.
- of recurring warnings displaying the musher's inability or unwillingness to fulfill the Rules requirements.

14.4. The Race Officials must disqualify the musher:

14.4.1 In case of any physical abuse of a dog.

14.4.2. In case he is late at the re-start.

14.4.3. In case he deliberately provokes conflicts.

14.4.4. In case he doesn't cover the whole distance of the race.

15. Protests, appeals.

15.1. The protests can be presented in written and oral form.

15.2. The protests must be proved and substantiated with alius evidence.

15.3. A protest submitted behind the time shall not be considered.

15.4. Only the members of the appeal board shall be involved in the consideration of an appeal. The Race marshal shall quarterback the process of appeal consideration.

15.5. Terms of appeal:

- appeals pertaining to entry refusals – before the drawing;
- protests against trail condition – within 15 minutes after the official viewing of the trail;
- protests against actions of a competitor or a race official during the course of the heat – within 30 minutes after the finish of the heat;
- protests against race officials decisions, results of timing – within 15 minutes after announcing the preliminary results of the race.