**KOBUK 440 RACING ASSOCIATION**

**TAAQPAK 120**

**2022 RACE RULES**

1. **DRIVER QUALIFICATIONS**
   1. The Taaqpak 120 is open to adult and qualified junior mushers. Drivers under the age of 18 will be allowed to compete only through a written petition approved by the board.
   2. The Race Marshall may refuse the entry of any driver at the drawing or before the race, if, in the opinion of the Judges the condition of the musher and/or his/her equipment constitutes a hazard and/or delaying factor to himself/herself or other entrants in the race.
   3. Entry fee is $120.00. Entry fee must be paid by Feb 11, 2022 at midnight. Drawing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, February 11th, 2022 at the Borough Assembly Chambers.
   4. Each musher is limited to two dropped dogs at the expense of Kobuk 440 racing association, any dogs dropped thereafter will be at the musher's expense, which is $50.00 per dog. Any charges to the musher left unresolved after the race can be cause for banning that musher from subsequent races.
   5. There must be at least four entrants at the race drawing in order to hold a race.
   6. Race start will be postponed if the ambient temperature is colder than –25 F or –34 F wind-chill
2. **CONDITIONS FOR RACING**
   1. Each team must have a sled or toboggan equipped with a brush bow, operating foot brake and a hook.
   2. The following items are required on person or in the sled at the starting line:

\*1. All-weather parka

\*2. Tarp or sled bag

\*3. Axe

4. Chain or cable for dropping dogs (5) min. required

\*5. Headlight or flashlight

6. 20 lbs. Dog food

\*7. dog food cooker

\*8. Sleeping bag

9. Four (4) booties per dog

\*10. Spot tracker and Trace

A check of the items will be conducted by the Race Marshall at the start of the race. Asterisked (“\*”) items may be checked by the Race Marshall at his discretion during the race and SHALL be check at the finish line.

* 1. Each musher must enter with no less than five (5) dogs, and no more than twelve (12) dogs. Musher must finish with no less than five dogs.
  2. Each musher will be allowed one drop bag to be transported by trail crew to checkpoint at Noatak. Drop bags will be accepted for transport at the Kotzebue start/ finish line prior to race start.
  3. Each musher of each team starting the race shall be the only musher thereof during the race.
  4. Loose leaders may not be used. Loose dogs are cause for disqualification.
  5. A driver will be responsible for his/her team in the event any dog in his/her team becomes aggressive and causes damage to another dog in another team. The musher with the team *with* the aggressive dog will be on official ruling responsible for financial compensation of all medical and transportation expenses to repair all damages caused by his/her animal. If the Driver does not comply with this ruling, he/she will be banned from ALL Kobuk 440 racing association races in the future. The musher with the damaged dog or dogs will inform the Kobuk 440 racing association when this ruling has been complied with.
  6. All mushers must abide by policies outlined in the 2022 COVID-19 policies and any information updated policies provided at the Driver’s meeting.

1. **RACE RULES**
   1. The Taaqpak 120 Race will start on Saturday February 12, 2022 at 12:00 P.M.
   2. Theonly checkpoint will be at Noatak. It is the musher's responsibility to make sure they are checked in and out at the checkpoint.
   3. There will be a mass start at Kotzebue with 6 hours layover taken in Noatak. Any musher failing to complete the minimum required rest time will be assessed a penalty, up to the forfeiture of finishing positions, at the discretion of the Race Marshall.
   4. Any musher not at the starting line 1/2 hour before the start of the race for equipment check will be considered "late" and will be assessed a 5-minute penalty.
   5. No musher will be permitted to have outside assistance during race.
      1. Mushers must provide as many handlers as are required to keep their teams under control at the starting point.
      2. Only the musher *is* allowed to handle, feed, and care for his/her dogs. Hot water will be available at Noatak for each musher's use. It is the musher's responsibility to warn bystanders that their assistance may be cause for disqualification.
      3. Only race officials may assist teams at any point in the race. In the case of a loose team, the loose team may be stopped and secured by any means.
      4. If a musher loses a team, he/she must regain the team without outside assistance before it crosses the finish line. Race officials (and others at the direction of the race officials) and other entrants only may provide assistance in transporting a musher to regain a loose team.
      5. No pacing or trailing in any form is allowed. Snow Machines following the race must leave 1/2 hour prior to the first team or 1/2 hour after the last team leaves.
      6. At no time are outside snow machines allowed to carry dog food for the musher. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Race Marshall, if a late entrant has good reason.
      7. Loose leaders may not be used. Loose dogs are cause for disqualification.
      8. No whips will be allowed.
   6. Any musher quitting the race must clear the trail completely until all racing teams have passed.
   7. Every musher must follow the official course of the race under penalty of time or disqualification, depending upon the severity of the violation. The official race trail will be discussed at the musher drawing.
   8. Dog care is of utmost importance during the race. Beating or abuse of a dog must be distinguished from cuffing or appropriate discipline of a dog. Dogs must be handled and cared for in a humane manner throughout the race. Any musher failing to do so may be subject to disqualification.
   9. Expired dogs will become the property of K440 Racing Association. Any prize monies will be held until an autopsy or determination regarding the incident is complete. Refer to rule 3.16 for penalties.
   10. Dogs may only be dropped in Noatak. Refer to rule 2.7 for details.

* 1. No musher will be permitted to use any noise-making devices (jinglers) within one team-length in front of or behind another team.
  2. When one team overtakes another, the team behind shall have the right-of-way upon demand; the driver ahead must stop his/her dogs, for one minute, such that the team behind may easily pass. In the event that the team passed hangs on for three minutes or one mile, he/she shall have the right to demand the trail again; but he/she must not pass for any reason for three minutes or one mile.
  3. The passing rule, (above), is suspended in "no man's land" established for each checkpoint/village putting up a purse, (to be announced at the Musher's meeting after the drawing for positions). "No man's land" for the Kotzebue finish line shall begin at the intersection of the stake trails at Lockhart Point~~.~~
  4. The first part of the lead dog which crosses the finish line will mark the racer's finish time, subject to penalties.
  5. The entrants must finish within 8 hours from the finish of the leader or they will not be an official finisher.
  6. Every person entering or driving a team in the nice will be required to conduct himself/herself in a sportsmanship like, fair and honorable manner, under penalty of forfeiture of prize, and racing privileges for up to five (5) years.

1. **RACE OFFICIALS, PENALTIES AND APPEALS**
   1. There shall be two judges, a timekeeper, and a Race Marshall present during the race. At the Race Marshall's discretion, they may choose as many assistants as necessary. They will register the assistants with the Race Marshall. All officials of the race will be identified at the drawing. The Race Marshall or designee will be present at the finish line for all official finishers of the race.
   2. All officials of the race are under the jurisdiction of the Race Marshall.
   3. Any protests of the race results by a musher must be made by said musher within one hour of said musher's finish. The Race Marshall's decision on the protest shall be final unless appealed. Only racers may lodge a protest.
   4. The Race Marshall's decision on a protest may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

Such appeal must be made to a board member within one hour of the Race Marshall's decision, upon receipt of a $200.00 fee for the appeal by the complainant. The Board of Director's will suspend the race results pending their decision on the appeal. The Board's decision will be final. The fee is refundable if the appeal is in the complainant’s favor.

Good luck to all mushers and have a great race!

Guaranteed $10,000.00. Break down will be provided.