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## **2026 Nome-Golovin 200 Sled Dog Race Rules**

### **PART 1: DRIVER QUALIFICATION**

- 1.1 No musher under 18 years of age will be allowed to compete.
- 1.2 The deadline for submitting an entry form and paying the non-refundable entry fee and NKC membership fee, is noon March 23, 2026.
- 1.3 Entry fee is \$300 plus the Nome Kennel Club fee of \$25 for a single membership. Returned dog fee is \$100.00/dog whether they are dropped in White Mountain or Golovin.
- 1.4 There must be at least three paid entrants by noon, March 23, 2026, or the race will be cancelled.
- 1.5 If the ambient temperature is colder than -30°F ambient or -35°F with wind-chill, or if there are sustained wind speeds greater than 50 mph in sections of the trail the race may be postponed until conditions moderate. Final decision is up to the race marshal.
- 1.6 Personal Conduct: The Nome Kennel Club (NKC) may refuse the entry of any musher at the drawing or prior to the race.
  - a) NKC mushers must maintain a high standard of personal and professional conduct at all times, not only during race related events. Any conduct that may be damaging to the Nome Kennel Club, other NKC racers, NKC sponsors, our local communities or anyone associated with the race, is prohibited.
  - b) The Race Committee and/or NKC Board of Directors will review possible violations and determine appropriate sanctions or eligibility to participate in NKC events.

c) As there is no governing body for the sport of dog mushing, for the sake of consistency, the NKC race committee reserves the right to consult with other race organizations when reviewing possible violations of the personal conduct rule and determining sanctions for those violations.

## **PART 2: CONDITIONS FOR RACING**

2.1 Each musher must attend a mandatory pre-race meeting on Wednesday, March 25 at 6 p.m. Location to be determined.

2.2 To be verified during pre-race vet checks by a race official or race veterinarian, each musher must present proof that each dog has current vaccinations: rabies vaccine within the past three (3) years if a 3-year is stated on the vaccination certificate, and a 5-way (Parvo) combination vaccine within the past year. All vaccinations must have been administered no less than two weeks prior to the race start. No pregnant dogs, nursing dogs or dogs who have given birth to pups within eight weeks of the race start will be allowed to run. The race marshal and veterinarians have the right to withdraw any dog they consider unfit to run.

2.3 Each team must have a sled or toboggan with a brush bow, operating foot brake, and snow/ice hook.

2.4 The following items are required on the person or in the sled at all times during the race and will be checked by race officials at the starting line, in checkpoints, and at the finish line.

1. All-weather parka (recommended range of - 40 F to + 40F)
2. Tarp or sled bag
3. Axe
4. Headlight
5. 10 lbs. dog food
6. Sleeping bag
7. Four (4) booties per dog
8. Musher's Log Book
9. Cooker and adequate fuel for trail
10. At least three (3) cable or chain drop lines for dropped dogs
11. Insulated dog coats for all the dogs in the team
12. Snowshoes or a shovel (to build a snow cave or shelter in inclement weather)
13. Promotional materials as required by race.

2.5 The maximum number of dogs to start with is twelve (12) dogs; the minimum is eight (8); and the musher must complete the race with no fewer than seven (7) dogs running on the line.

### **PART 3: RACE RULES**

3.1 Race start is scheduled for **Thursday March 26, 2026, at 6 p.m.** at the City of Nome snow-dump facility at Greg Kruscheck Avenue in a mass start. The start date and time may be changed, depending on weather and trail conditions. Final decision is up to the race marshal.

3.2 The designated checkpoints are White Mountain and Golovin, the halfway turnaround location. Mushers must follow the marked trail at all times.

3.3 If a team fails to reach Topkok outbound within eight (8) hours after the race start the race marshal or a designated race official/judge may deem them noncompetitive and can have them withdrawn from the race. The team must provide their own transport back to Nome or run their dogs back. The team may stay at Topkok as long as needed to rest before the run back to Nome. It is mandatory that the withdrawn team keeps their race tracker on until they reach Nome for the safety of the team and the musher.

3.4 Mandatory rest of 12 total hours is required. There will be a mandatory 6-hour layover time in Golovin. Time will be recorded as exact time-in and time-out on the mandatory layover. The remaining 6 hours of floating time must be tracked in a logbook provided by the NKC that each musher is required to carry on their person throughout the race. The logbook rest times will be verified by the GPS tracker. If the floating rest time is not completed by the finish the musher will be penalized up to 6 hours for rest time not completed. **Floating rest time may be taken between Topkok outbound to Topkok inbound at the musher's discretion.**

3.5 Mushers may only drop 3 dogs. Returned dogs may be dropped in White Mountain or Golovin. Returned dogs need to have cable necklines left with them in the checkpoint. If three dogs have been returned and something happens to an additional dog such that the vet determines that the dog cannot be safely carried in the sled, the dog may be dropped with a 1-hour time penalty. NKC will facilitate getting the dogs back to Nome, but the musher will be responsible for a fee of \$100.00/dog.

3.6 No force may be used to control dogs in the race, at the starting line, or in the holding area. Beating, kicking or abuse of a dog will not be tolerated. No whips are allowed. The following kinds of force will be cause for immediate disqualification:

1. Kicking a dog
2. Striking a dog with any object
3. Beating a dog in any form.

3.7 Expired dogs will become the property of NKC for the purpose of performing a necropsy. The musher will cover the cost of necropsy, and any prize monies due the musher will be held by

NKC until a necropsy is done. If the necropsy shows musher neglect or abuse, the musher forfeits all earnings and is banned from all NKC races for 5 years.

3.8 A musher will be responsible for their team in the event any dog in their team becomes aggressive and causes damage to another team. The musher determined by official ruling to have the aggressive dog will be responsible for financial compensation of all medical and transportation expenses to repair all damages caused by their animal. If the musher does not comply with this ruling, they will be banned from all NKC races in the future.

3.9 When one team overtakes another, the team behind shall have the right of way upon demand by calling “trail.” The musher ahead must stop their dogs such that the team behind may easily pass. If the passed team hangs on for six minutes, they shall have the right to demand the trail again but cannot pass for any reason prior to that. The passed team must stay behind the forward team by at least 50 feet.

3.10 If a team catches another team but cannot pass or chooses not to pass, the team in the rear must stay behind the front team by at least 50 feet.

3.11 The passing rule is suspended in ‘No Man’s Land,’ from Farley’s Camp to the finish line at the snow dump, which is the last 5 miles. An X with trail stakes on each side of the trail will designate where ‘No Man’s Land’ begins.

3.12 The first part of the lead dog that crosses the finish line will mark the racer’s finish time.

3.13 Every person entering or driving a team in the race will be required to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike, fair and honorable manner, under penalty of forfeiture of prize, and racing privileges in NKC races for up to five (5) years.

3.14 In the event a team is unable to finish the race, NKC will help facilitate getting the musher and team back to Nome, but the musher will be responsible for any associated costs.

3.15 The NKC will have straw and 6 bottles of HEET available for each musher in Golovin, but mushers should carry an adequate amount of HEET should they encounter delays along the trail and need to cook for their dogs. Musher will be required to provide their own straw for any other camping locations they plan to use during the race.

3.16 The NKC will transport two 50-pound drop bags with dog food and supplies per musher to Golovin. No HEET or batteries may placed in the drop bags and all bags must be frozen solid and not leaking to be accepted. Drop bags are to be ready for shipment by noon on March 24, 2026 at a location to be determined. Arrangements can be made to deliver bags earlier.

#### **PART 4: RACE OFFICIALS, PENALTIES AND APPEALS**

4.1 There will be a race marshal, race judges, veterinarian(s) and timekeepers. All officials of the race will be identified at the start. The race marshal or designee will be present at the start and finish line for all official starters and finishers of the race.

4.2 All officials of the race are under the jurisdiction of the race marshal.

4.3 Any protests of the race results or other race-related issues by a musher must be made by said musher within 24 hours of finishing the race. The race marshal's decision on the protest shall be final unless appealed. Only mushers may lodge a protest.

4.4 The race marshal's decision on a protest may be appealed to the NKC Board of Directors. Such appeal must be made in writing to a race official within one hour of the race marshal's decision, and an appeal fee of \$200.00 must be paid at that same time by the complainant. The Board of Director's decision will be final. The fee is refundable if the appeal is in the complainant's favor.

4.5 Awards: Prize money will be given out at the banquet. Prize winners must be present to accept their prizes. Failure to do so may result in the prize being forfeited. Race purse and prize payout will be advertised March 1, 2026.

4.6 Any changes to these rules will be posted and made available to anyone who submitted an entry form or inquired about the race.