

September 6, 2007

Mid-Distance Race Musers

Re: Team Corralling for 2008 Beargrease Mid-Distance Race

Dear Mid-Distance Musher:

This year there will be 30 marathon teams and 50 mid-distance teams. As the number of mushers in the Beargrease increases, it becomes more and more difficult to accommodate all of the dog trucks and dog trailers in the limited parking lot space at the Highway 2 and Finland checkpoints. Therefore, this year we are going to try something new with the mid-distance teams at the Highway 2 and Finland checkpoints. The mid-distance teams will no longer be able to park their team next to their truck. Instead the teams will be corralled at the checkpoint. The parking area for the mid-distance trucks will be some distance away from the mid-distance corral area.

Please be prepared to bring your gear from your truck into the corral area. I would recommend a plastic sled. You also need to be able to stake your team out. This is something you would probably want to practice before the race. I would anticipate that most teams will use two snow hooks: one for the back and one for the front of the team. When the team is parked, you would unhook the tug lines and reposition the dogs along the gangline. The plan is to have a layer of packed snow in the corral area so you can stake out the team with your snow hooks. As always, you are welcome to bring cooking equipment, coolers, lawn chairs, sleeping materials, etc. into the corral area.

I realize this change may be of concern to some of you. It is my hope that this new arrangement will be safer for the mushers and dogs, reduce the checkpoint congestion, result in a quieter and more restful checkpoint for the dogs and make the race more competitive. To this end, the race judges will be narrowly interpreting Checkpoint Procedure Rule 3(b) (requiring all drivers to remain in checkpoints), so mushers can rest in their trucks as long as Checkpoint Procedure Rule 5 (no team left unattended) is observed.

If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please feel free to contact me. My e-mail address is [gunnarbjohnson@hotmail.com](mailto:gunnarbjohnson@hotmail.com). I can also be reached on my cell phone at (218) 349-3320.

Sincerely,

Gunnar B. Johnson  
Beargrease Race Marshall

cc. Race Judges  
Beargrease Board