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## **PM to participants of Amundsen -Mid Scandinavian Sled Dog Race 2015**

To all mushers and handlers,

Welcome to the Amundsen – Mid Scandinavian Sled Dog Race. We are very proud that you have given us your support by entering the race and we promise we will do our very best to make this race as best as possible for all participants.

We ask you to read this PM thoroughly and to fill in the forms needed. What remains is to wish all, both mushers and handlers, good luck!

Welcome!

*The Organization of the Amundsen – Mid Scandinavian Sled Dog Race*

Content:

- Program
- Rules of Amundsen – Mid Scandinavian Sled Dog Race
- Veterinary information
- Information for handlers
- Trail description
- Form of liability (to confirm that the race is run for own risk).
- Form of team registration, (attached document).

### **Important information**

When you arrive at Folkets Hus in Strömsund you go to the registration office where you have to register yourself. There we will go through the following:

- Control of racing license
- Hand in liability form, filled in and signed (follows with this document)
- Vaccination control of the dogs will be noted on the “registrations list” (follows with this document, to be filled out before registration)
- Hand out of veterinary hand book (NB: to be filled out before the vet.check)
- Hand out and sale of tickets for the banquet (**200 SEK**)
- Hand out of BIB number to driver and handler (Handler’s bib must be returned or we will charge a fee of **300 SEK**)
- Weighing of mandatory dog food
- All mushers will have to write down his/her handlers name and mobile number on a list

**OBS!** ALL dogs must be checked by a veterinarian before start. Mushers must register themselves at the registration office before the veterinary control. Veterinary control is on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February between 10.00-12.00 and 13.00-17.00 at the parking place opposite to Folkets Hus, Strömsund.

There will be officials present to lead the traffic.

Race officials check the ID of the dogs against the “registritions list” before the veterinary check.

Try to have your dogs controlled as early as possible. It is the musher’s own responsibility to have the dogs checked before start.

## **PROGRAM 2015**

### **Friday 20<sup>st</sup> February**

*10.00- 12.00 & 13.00 - 17.00:*

The **secretary** is open for checking in, weighing of mandatory food, control of vaccination booklets, chip marking and sale of tickets for the banquet (is included in the entry fee for mushers, for all others: 200 SEK).

Location: Folkets Hus, Strömsund

*10.00-12.00 & 13.00-17.00:*

**Veterinary check.** ALL dogs must to be controlled before start.

Location: Parking place opposite to Folkets Hus, Strömsund.

*17.00– 19.00:*

**Friday buffet** at Hotell Nordica, (same building as Folkets Hus) for mushers, handlers and officials (is not included in the entry fee).

*19.00– 20.00:*

**Mushers meeting**, mandatory for all mushers and handlers (control). Presentation of prizes and sponsors.

Location: Folkets hus, Strömsund

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

*08.00 – 09.00:*

**Driving to the starting area in Storåbränna**

**The race marshal will check for mandatory equipment in the sleds before start.**

*11.00:*

The Amundsen – Mid Scandinavian Sled Dog Race 2015 starts!

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

*Approximately 15.00:*

The winning teams are expected to the finish in **Storåbränna**, depending on weather and wind.

### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

*13.00:*

Last finish.

*16.00–17.00:*

Evaluation meeting at Folkets Hus, Strömsund.

*Kl 17.00–20.00:*

**Banquet and prize ceremony at Folkets Hus Strömsund.** Hotell Nordica serves food at the banquet.

## **RULES AMUNDSEN - MID SCANDINAVIAN SLED DOG RACE 2015**

The race is judged according to the IFSS rules.

In order to start in the Amundsen – Mid Scandinavian Sled Dog Race one needs to have a valid race license and the dogs should be vaccinated and ID marked (chipped). Mushers with a Swedish racing license also need to have the 'Green Card'.

The sled should be equipped with sufficient brakes, scooter mat, brush bow, TWO snow hooks as well as sled bag. The scooter mat should be of sufficient size to control the team. The scooter mat should be attached to the sled by a stable "tip-up-system".

### **§ 1 Team size/class**

The race offers two classes:

8-12 dog team. The team should not have more than 12 dogs and not less than 8 at start. At the finish line the team has to have a minimum of 6 dogs.

6- 8 dog team. The team can have max. 8 dogs at start and not less than 6 dogs. At the finish line the team has to have a minimum of 5 dogs.

### **§ 2 Dog drop**

Dogs can be dropped only at checkpoints. The musher has to make sure that dogs are taken care of by his/her handler and that a veterinarian or race marshal is informed. The name of a dropped dog will be stricken off the veterinary handbook.

### **§ 3 Micro chipping**

All dogs participating in the competition have to be micro-chipped.

### **§ 4 Snow-ploughed roads**

It is prohibited to follow snow-ploughed roads other than the stretches of road decided on by the organizer (marked trail). Information in regard to this is given at the mushers' meeting.

### **§ 5 Start**

Start interval is 1 minute, unless otherwise determined by the organizer.

There are two starting groups, 12-dog team and 8-dog team with time for equalization within each starting group. Drivers are obliged to follow the organizer's instructions to get from the starting area and up to the start. Drivers can receive help from handlers/race officials to get the team up to the start.

### **§ 6 Outside assistance**

The musher is not allowed to get help of any kind during the race.

### **§ 7 Assistance at checkpoints**

At checkpoints, the musher is allowed to receive help to steer, brake and hold the team when coming or leaving the marked areas. One (1) handler can stand behind the sled to overview the team while resting.

Participants are not permitted to receive any kind of assistance or help from others than the organizer or those permitted by the organizer during the race. Participants are allowed to help each other.

### **§ 8 Mandatory lay over**

Amundsen Race has a total mandatory layover of ten (10) hours + equalization time. The musher is free to split the mandatory layover as he wishes between Checkpoint Storåbränna 1 and Checkpoint Storåbränna 2. It is the musher's responsibility to make sure that the whole mandatory layover is taken.

The musher shall personally check out of all checkpoints.

## § 9 Checkpoints

The checkpoints are to be considered as control posts in the race.

The musher has to carry its bib number when arriving and leaving the checkpoint. Both mushers and handlers have to carry their bib number while they are in the stake out area.

**Checkpoint Storåbränna 1 and 2:** Provided with a depot. Free access to water and straw. A heated tent is available for mushers to sleep in. The musher should bring his own sleeping mat and sleeping bag.

The handler must rake the straw after its musher after the team has left the checkpoint. Equipment and trash bags are provided by the organizer.

## § 10 Depot

There are depots at every checkpoint. Depot bags should be marked with the musher's name and bib number and put in the marked area.

Replacement sleds may not be taken out from the depot and in to the staging area other than when for the purpose of changing the sled in front of the team. Empty sled may be replaced with empty sled once (1 time).

It is not allowed for handlers to provide mushers with warm water or mixed dog food.

The musher must bring everything taken out from the depot to the staging area. The same goes for equipment and potential waste going from the staging area back to the depot.

Depot bags are not being transported by the organizer. It is up to each musher to get the depot bag transported to the depot place at each checkpoint.

## § 11 Mandatory gear

Mentioned here is the mandatory equipment which should be carried in the sled during the whole race. It is required that all equipment is functional in order to be approved. The equipment will be checked before start, at checkpoints and at the finish.

- Two (2) snow hooks.
- Maps (1:1.0000) Lantmäteriet's maps Z3 (mountain map) and terrain map 703. (It is possible to buy maps at the Tourist Office, located in Folket Hus, Strömsund)
- Veterinarian handbook (distributed upon inchecking)
- Water cooker and pot, capable of heating a minimum of ½ litre per dog. To be carried in the sled for the entire race.
- Magnetic compass
- Snow shovel
- Axe or long knife (min. 20 cm. blade)

- Extreme winter sleeping bag, functional for temperatures of -35° C and below.
- Extreme survival bag (lined). Alternatively: tent for winter use + cooker with fuel for 24 hours. (The tent should be shaped in such a way that one can safely have the cooker inside the tent. Cookers from the Norwegian military are not approved).
- Extra set of clothing (under and outer clothes, socks and footwear).
- First aid equipment for both driver and dogs. .
- Two light sticks with minimum 6 hours light, **to be carried in pocket on person, not in the sled!**
- 8 booties/dog from each checkpoint, including those in use.
- Reserve dog food, 500 grams kibble or 1 kg meat per dog in the team at start. This food is to be packed, sealed and carried to the finish unopened, regardless the number of dogs dropped in the race.
- The musher has to have food for min. 24 hours to him/herself, carried in the sled and should be brought over the finish line

Clarification regarding the size of the sled: sled and sled bag must be of such a size that there is enough room for a tired / injured dog. The dog must be transported in a safe and secure manner during its stay in sled bag.

Mandatory gear that is lost or damaged can be taken/replaced from the depot bag. Any replacement of mandatory gear must be shown for the race marshal, race director or checkpoint official and notified. Sleds can only be replaced once during the race. (Used dog booties, headlamp/batteries and fuel for the water cooker/primus are exempt from this rule and can if so desired be replaced from depot).

## **§ 12 Caring and feeding of dogs**

All feeding and care of dogs shall happen outdoors and only be carried out by the musher. Only cold water may be fetched for preparing dog food.

A dog that lies in the sled when the musher arrives at a checkpoint is to be shown for the veterinarian. The dog can continue the race if the veterinarian allows it.

## **§ 13 Dead dog**

If a dog dies during the race on the trail between checkpoints, it is to be taken to the next checkpoint or back to the previous checkpoint. The dog is to be transported in the sled and to be covered upon arriving to the checkpoint. The musher shall without delay after checking in notify the race organizer as represented by the race marshal, race director and/or race veterinarian. The musher can only continue the race after obtaining permission to do so by the race marshal, race director and/or race veterinarian. The musher can be disqualified from further participation should it be evident from investigations that the musher is guilty of abuse of the dog or if having in any other way caused the death of the dog. The musher can also be disqualified if he/she at an earlier checkpoint has been told in writing to drop the dog, unless its death was caused by entirely different reasons. If an autopsy of the dog is required, the musher will not be charged.

## **§ 14 Tow lines**

There shall be cable in the central tow line.

## **§ 15 No Man's Land**

No Man's Land starts at least 1 km before the finishing line and shall be clearly marked. The trail in this stretch shall be broad enough for dog teams to pass each other.

## **§ 16 Breaking the rules**

Breaking the rules regarding outside assistance can lead to disqualification of the musher.

## **§ 17 Reindeer**

The trail goes partly through reindeer grazing areas. The dogs must therefore be kept under strict control. The musher is liable for damages caused by his/her team to reindeers. On stretches where reindeers are present, drivers need to be attached to their team/sled with a rope or similar. Participants that are observed with loose dog(s) will be disqualified immediately.

There is a tighter supervision at the checkpoints in Strömsund and Storåbränna, which means no mushers or handlers are allowed to walk dogs that are picked out of the race/extra dogs in cars without dog leash.

## **§ 18 Littering of the trail, parking area and checkpoints**

Littering along the trail may lead to disqualification.

### **Other rules:**

The race organizer may require that mushers wear promotional materials on clothes or sleds.

A participant choosing to scratch from the race shall as soon as possible notify the race management and is him/herself responsible for transportation of him/herself, their dogs, equipment and depots from the checkpoints. Rescue searches will normally be initiated 24 hours after the last point of contact. Unnecessary stops between checkpoints should therefore be avoided.

The musher may sit on the sled.

Protests shall be submitted to the race marshal/jury in writing no later than one (1) hour after reaching the finish line. The protest submission fee is 50 SEK.

## **Veterinary information and anti-doping rules**

Participants are obliged to understand and adhere to the vet information the organizer has distributed. As musher YOU have by entering Amundsen – Mid Scandinavian Sled Dog Race, committed yourself to follow the present anti-doping regulations concerning both driver (RF's doping regulations [www.rf.se](http://www.rf.se)) as well as dogs (National doping regulations for dogs, [www.skk.se](http://www.skk.se), concerning waiting period, dispensation possibilities for forbidden substances and methods).

Good luck!

## **Handler's role in Amundsen – Mid Scandinavian Sled Dog Race**

Handlers are together with their musher a team and have a very important role to play in a long distance race like Amundsen – Mid Scandinavian Sled Dog Race.

Each handler gets a number patch with the same bib number as his/her musher and he/she should wear it visible on the body when he/she is present in the checkpoint area.

The role of the handler is among others to clean up after the musher has left the checkpoint, which means even to pick up the straw.

It is important that handlers know the rules of Amundsen – Mid Scandinavian Sled Dog Race, and it is the musher's responsibility to provide its handler with the right information.

In long distance driving reins a very positive atmosphere, though there sure enough is a great sport moment as well. Still, a helping and good fellowship spirit is what it is all about. Amundsen – Mid Scandinavian Sled Dog Race wishes that all those participating; mushers, handlers and officials contribute to keep the positive, good-fellowship atmosphere.

*Good luck, as a handler you are a fundamental part of the team!*

## **Road description for handlers**

### **CAMPING STRÖMSUND - START STORÅBRÄNNA, app 40 km**

From the camping/Dollarstore, take the road E 45 south towards Östersund, turn to the west (left) after about 900 meters into road 339 towards Föllinge. After approximately 30 km, pass the bridge over Storån and turn north (right) directly after it towards Lakavattnet and Storåbränna and drive for 5 km until getting to Storåbränna. By "Hembygdsgården" (= village hall) in Storåbränna, turn to the right, over a bridge, through the village of Storåbränna and up to the starting area, following the signs.

### **START – CHECKPOINT + FINISH STORÅBRÄNNA, a few hundred meters**

From the starting area, drive up to the checkpoint at Big River Camp, following the signs.

## **Preliminary Trail Description**

### **Stage 1: Start - Checkpoint Storåbränna 1, app 85 km**

Mixed marked snowmobile trail and smaller forest roads. Partly hilly.

The trail follows marked snowmobile trail from Storåbränna till Öjarn Thereafter the trail goes west towards Lakavattnet up in low mountain terrain and the beautiful Hotagens nature reserve. The trail goes over the mountain lakes of Bävervattnet and Trollsvattnet before the trail swings east and passes Almdalens fjällgård (mountain farm) on the way back to Storåbränna. In Storåbränna, the trail passes Bygdegården (= village hall), crosses the river and goes through the village up to Big River Camp and checkpoint Storåbränna 1.

### **Stage 2: Checkpoint Storåbränna 1 - Checkpoint Storåbränna 2, app 100 km**

Mixed marked snowmobile trail and smaller forest roads. Partly hilly.

Trail starts out and follows marked snowmobile trail to Öjarssjön (lake). There comes a stretch with unplowed forest roads, marsh and more unplowed forest roads until you reach Siverflykojan (hut). Here, the trail goes in through nature reserve. On Lillfulvurn, you get back on a marked snowmobile trail and follow it to Storåbränna.

### **Stage 3: Checkpoint Storåbränna 2 - Finish Storåbränna, app 100 km**

Same trail as stage 2.

Most of the trail goes through forests, over swamps and low mountains. The lengths of the stages are approximate and might be changed.

### **Veterinary Information.**

**Note! The contest follows the Swedish Anti-doping regulations.**

By entering the race, the musher acknowledges the applied doping regulations regarding both musher (Swedish Sports Federation regulations: [www.rf.se](http://www.rf.se)) as well as dogs (National doping regulations for dogs: [www.skk.se](http://www.skk.se)) regarding waiting time and dispensation possibility for forbidden substances and methods.

#### **Vaccinations:**

All dogs coming from other countries than Sweden and Norway must have a valid Rabies vaccination. All dogs, regardless their land of origin, must be vaccinated against puppy disease, Parvo and infectious liver disease. Dogs vaccinated for first time should not have a vaccination which is older than 1 year (365 days). Revaccinated dogs (with other documented vaccinations on their vaccination booklet) should not have vaccinations which are older than 3 years on the day of racing. Vaccination should be done at least 14 days before the start of the race. It is also recommended that participating dogs are vaccinated against para influenza (kennel cough).

#### **Echinococos:**

Deworming regulations have been changed from previous years as echinococos have been found on several locations in Sweden. Therefore Sweden cannot be considered free of the Worm anymore. Still, it is recommended to deworm dogs which are likely to have been into contact with rodents, such as mice before entering Sweden.

From 1 May 2013 new rules apply for dogs traveling from Sweden (and any other country) to Norway. Dogs need to have been dewormed against echinococos. Deworming has to be given 1-5 days before entrance to Norway, administered and documented by a veterinarian in the dog's EU Passport. Demand for deworming against echinococos for dogs from Sweden does even apply to enter countries like Finland, UK, Ireland and Malta. Deworming should have been administered 24-120 hours before entering the country. It is no longer possible to deworm directly after passing the border.

Veterinarians of Amundsen Race have offered to help administrating the deworming and signing the dogs' passports free of charge, on the condition that the musher provides the deworming tablets. (We recommend buying the deworming tablets beforehand as we cannot guarantee that the pharmacy in Strömsund has enough in stock).

#### **Doping/medication**

As a basic rule all medications for dogs as well as doping of dogs and driver prohibited. When a participant is caught with medication in the sled, the participant runs the risk of being disqualified. Many medications have also quarantine rules (waiting time), which means that those cannot be administered a given number of days before a race. In case of allowed necessary medication, please contact the race marshal before the race to avoid misunderstanding.



## **Pet passport**

Pet passport for every individual dog is required to enter Sweden from EU countries.

**From 29 december 2014 new rules in EU:** For more information look at the Jordbruksverkets website [here](#).

To Norway:

**From 1 May 2013.** Entry to Norway with 5 or more dogs requires a health certificate which is provided by veterinarians approved by the Norwegian Food Department (Mattilsynet). The certificate is valid for 4 months. Before departure to Norway the dogs are to be checked by a veterinarian within 24 hours and the veterinarian has to document the execution of the Control in the dog's Passport.

The veterinarians on Amundsen Race offer this service for free, directly after the race. Please inform race officials at the registration if you need a health certificate after the race.