

Official Rules Iron Paws X

January 1 - February 25, 2021

8 weeks, 1 bye week permitted

Classes: 5 teams make a pointed class

Any class that has less than 5 teams registered may be combined with the class of closest size and type. The number of dogs listed in each class is the maximum number you may run. You can always run fewer dogs than this number. Please note that 6 Dog Sled and Unlimited Sled classes can be run on a sled or on a cart or in combination as we have never fielded enough teams for separate dryland and sled classes (see mileage points for details).

1 Dog Skijor

2 Dog Skijor

3 Dog Skijor

1 Dog Sled

2 Dog Sled

3-4 Dog Sled

5-6 Dog Sled

Unlimited Sled (any team running more than 6 dogs)

1-2 Dog Fatbikejor

Canicross (experienced) Hiking or running, generally runs more than 3 miles per outing

Off the Couch (beginner canicross) Just getting started, generally runs 3 miles or less, mostly walks

1 Dog Bikejor

2 Dog Bikejor

1 Dog Scooter

2 Dog Scooter

3-4 Dog Dryland

Awards:

- All finishers will receive a medal. You must complete 7 stages to be a finisher.
- The top 3 finishers in each class will be recognized.
- *Best Sportsmanship* and *Rookie of the Year* will be recognized.
- The top finisher in the small teams (1-4 dogs) and big teams (5 or more dogs) will be recognized, as well as the overall top team. Winners will be judged from participation in all 8 weeks.
- Dogs completing their third Iron Paws will receive an electronic Silver Bootie certificate.
- Dogs completing their fifth Iron Paws will receive an electronic Golden Harness certificate.
- The lowest scoring finisher will be recognized as the Red Lantern Winner.
- Junior Mushers (under 18) and Master Mushers (60+) will be recognized
- Dogs ages 8-9 competing in the Stage Race will be recognized as Trail Masters
- Dogs 10 and over competing in the Stage Race will be recognized as Trail Legends
- Finishers Medals will be mailed directly to U.S. competitors, and Canadian medals will be shipped to a single Canadian address and then redistributed to competitors via Canadian Post. As always, we are depending on the Canadian capacity for kindness and patience to help keep costs down. Titles and certificates will be emailed in digital format.

Race Rule Overview:

Because of the pandemic, this year there will no points granted for group activities and in-person gatherings of any type. You are expected to follow all local trail and covid rules for your area.

- Each team consists of one individual musher plus dogs. Musers are not interchangeable on a team.
- Iron Paws is a mushing competition. As such, all dogs will run on a gangline attached to a properly fitted pulling harness. (this is not a leash on collar sport)
- Iron Paw Factory manages points only
- Run your teams at your own risk. Mush responsibly with the best interest of your dogs in mind. Consult your veterinarian before harnessing any dog under 18 months of age. Helmets are recommended for all wheeled classes. Play fairly and respectfully.
- Iron Paw Factory relies on the honor system. Play fair. Be honest
- Teams can mix and match dogs. You can run any combination of dogs you like up to the maximum number allowable for your class. **You may drop dogs mid run, but you may not add fresh dogs once you have started recording mileage.**
- Only one run per team, per day, can be counted for points.
- Individual dogs may participate on more than one team, but each dog can only score one run per day for any team for a max of 4 runs per week.
- Each team's lowest score will be dropped. If a bye has been taken, that is the lowest score.
- Teams are allowed one bye week with a zero score.
- Teams must run and report a minimum of one run of at least one mile each week for the stage to be considered completed.
- Each stage will run Friday - Thursday.
- Scores must be submitted by 11:59 PST Friday evenings. If you have technical difficulties submitting your score, notify the Race Marshal before that time. **Late scores will not be accepted.**
- Any and all complaints about fellow competitors must be reported to the Race Marshal in a timely manner for consideration. When planning your winning strategy, and before submitting a complaint, please consider that the biggest tangible prize we offer is a finisher's medal.

Social Media Guidelines:

Iron Paws has grown quite large and we expect this year to be even bigger. We have competitors of all ages, wildly variable experience levels, and from all walks of life. Please keep the following in mind when interacting on our Facebook forum:

- **Do not offer advice if none was requested.** Nothing dampens the enthusiasm of someone growing in the sport more. Instead, celebrate and encourage success.
- Please **do not assume facts not in evidence** when viewing posts from other competitors. We want Iron Paws to be a fun and safe space for all. That photo of a puppy running in harness that maybe is too young was probably a fun photo op, not a 6 mile uphill run, or maybe the puppy is only learning gee haw commands, or... Point is, you don't know all the facts so don't assume you do. This is just one example.
- We trust our competitors to do what is safe and right for their team without judgement. Recreational mushing is not a one-size-fits-all sport. **DO NOT CRITICIZE** or pass judgement in the comments of someone's post. If you think you have all the facts and someone is truly doing something unsafe, please contact the race marshal.

- Please use family friendly language. Don't use any language that you wouldn't use when talking to a child or in front of grandma. We do have junior mushers, but the fact is that many adults do not enjoy that type of language either, so please don't use it here. If a moderator contacts you to edit a post, don't take it personally and make the change asap. If your post is removed, you will be contacted as to why. If you need to be warned repeatedly you will be removed from the Facebook group and unable to collect media points or get the latest information.
- Do not argue with other competitors on our forum. If you disagree, move on or hide them so you do not view their posts.
- If someone asks for advice and you have specific experience in that area, please reply thoughtfully. If you do not have specific experience, someone else here will and their advice will be more meaningful. Don't bother to speculate.
- Disrespectful behavior towards moderators or other competitors will not be tolerated and anyone doing so will be removed from the race and will forfeit entry fees.

Earning Points

Mileage

Mileage is only considered for class awards, not for overall awards. Mileage points are a great way for you to grow your score, but please do not over work your team. You can only score points from 4 runs per week, and one run per day.

- **Skijor Classes:** 1 point per mile for skijor, 1/2 point per mile for sled, snowshoe, canicross, bikejor, fatbikejor, cart, or scooter.
 - **1 and 2 Dog Sled Classes:** 1 point per mile for sled, 1/2 point per mile for skijor, snowshoe, fatbikejor, cart, canicross, bikejor, or scooter.
 - **4 Dog Sled Class:** 1 point per mile for sled, 1/2 point for skijor, snowshoe, fatbikejor, cart, canicross, bikejor, or scooter.
 - **6 and Unlimited Sled Classes:** 1 point per mile for sled or cart, 1/2 point per mile for skijor, snowshoe, fatbikejor, canicross, bikejor, or scooter.
 - **Canicross Classes** 1 point per mile for canicross or snowshoe, 1/2 point per mile for skijor. Wheeled miles do not count in this class.
 - **1 and 2 Dog Bikejor Classes:** 1 point per mile for bikejor or canicross*, 1/2 points per mile for scooter, cart, skijor, fatbikejor, snowshoe, or sled.
 - **1 and 2 Dog Scooter Classes:** 1 point per mile for scooter , cart, or canicross*, 1/2 points per mile for bike, skijor, fatbikejor, snowshoe, or sled.
 - **4 Dog Dryland Class:** 1 point per mile for cart, scooter, bikejor, or canicross*, 1/2 point per mile for skijor, fatbikejor, snowshoe, or sled
 - **1-2 Dog Fatbikejor** 1 point per mile for fatbike dryland, 1.5 points for fatbike snow, ice, or sand, 1/2 point per mile for snowshoe, canicross, skijor, or sled. Traditional bike, scooter, and cart miles will not be counted in this class
- * Why does canicross get full points here? Because there is no advantage vs wheels, and allows fuller participation if the weather in one region is uncooperative.

The most misunderstood rule in Iron Paws is regarding mileage. There is no fair way to compare mileage across the classes so we don't try. Your mileage only affects your ranking within your class. Overall scores do not include mileage.

Photo/Video Points

Who doesn't love photos of their dogs? We love photos of YOUR dogs. Sharing is half the fun. Post your favorite shareworthy photo from the current stage for points. Photos and videos must be posted to the 2021 Iron Paws Stage Race Facebook page during the active stage. **This means if you procrastinate and submit your points on Friday and realize you forgot your photo post, it is already too late to share them for the stage you are scoring.**

- You earn 5 points for sharing a photo or video to our Facebook page each stage. (must be a different photo than used in your Howladay post)

Iron Paws Howladays

Post Howladays to the IP Facebook page, one post per team for 5 points each stage. You can interpret the howladay as creatively as you like, and as suits your team as long as you stick to the theme, except where specific rules are mentioned. You must share a photo or video of your Howladay entry. Bonus points may be offered each week at the discretion of your race organizers. The organizers reserve the right to change any stage's Howladays on a whim if we are inspired by a fun idea.

- **1/1 - 1/7 Stage 1:** Home court advantage. Run your favorite local trail and share a representative photo or video so everyone else can see what trails in your part of the world look like. Be sure to tell us your location.
- **1/8 - 1/14 Stage 2:** January 14th is National Dress Up Your Pet Day. We don't even have to make this stuff up, check it out for yourself.
- **1/15 - 1/21 Stage 3:** January 19th is National Popcorn Day. For some reason, the popcorn challenge continues to be a favorite of our 4-legged participants. Who can catch more, you or your dog?
- **1/22 - 1/28 Stage 4:** Beer can appreciation day, January 24, celebrates that great day in 1935 when beer was first sold in cans. Does your pup have a beer named for them? Should they? If beer is not your thing, today is also Paul Revere's birthday, the anniversary of the Simpsons debut on T.V., and the day back in 1799 that the smallpox vaccine was introduced. Yay for vaccines to prevent deadly viruses!
- **1/29 - 2/4 Stage 5:** Time to take a selfie. We all love sharing photos of our dogs, but not so much of ourselves. Snap a photo of yourself, or you with you BFF (Best Four-legged Friend)
- **2/5 - 2/11 Stage 6:** Trick Challenge. Teach your pup a new trick and share a video to show off your efforts. If you are too serious for tricks, teach your dog a new trail skill.
- **2/12- 2/18 Stage 7:** Love is in the air. We all love our dogs and Valentine's day is the perfect opportunity to show them just how much.
- **2/18 - 2/25 Stage 8:** Bingo Was His Name-O. Mushing bingo - rules and game card will be released at the end of Stage 7. Bonus points if you are a farmer with a dog named Bingo.

Non-social Socials and Non-race Racing

To make up for the lack of in-person regional events and races, we will be introducing virtual social events. These will be mini-events designed to test your mushing skills or connect you virtually to other competitors. They will be announced throughout the race and hosted by participants and organizers alike. Our first Non-race Racing will be a virtual mail run where you

work together with other participants to deliver your mail from west to east. More information will be available soon for these activities.

- Non-social Social and Non-race Race Events will be worth 5-10 points

ODR - Old Dogs Rule (and Handi-Cappy) Class

ODR is for any and all old dogs, dogs coming off an injury, or Handi-Cappy Dogs (Cappy was our one-eyed, three-legged mascot who left us last year, but not before stamping a big paw print on the hearts of all our Iron Paw competitors). Basically, any dog that can't run with the team and would otherwise be left out of the fun is eligible. If your old dog is still running with your team, great, but this class is not for him. ODR teams must run at least one mile and post one photo per week as well as complete 7 out of 8 weeks to be a finisher. Any musher participating in a regular class may also participate in this special class for no additional charge. This class is tracked separately and no finishers medals are awarded. In this class ONLY, dogs may participate with a leash attached at the collar. Get your old dog out on the trail and involved in the fun!

A Final Note on Sportsmanship

sports·man·ship /spôrtsmən,SHip/

noun: sportsmanship

: fair and generous behavior or treatment of others, especially in a sports contest.

: conduct becoming to one participating in a sport such as fairness, respect for one's opponent, and graciousness in winning or losing

- Iron Paws relies on the honor system. Play fair. Be honest.
- The biggest tangible award we offer is the finisher's medal. Compete accordingly.

The organizers can and will eject any participant not conducting themselves in a manner meeting the above definition of sportsmanship.

The organizers are responsible for managing points only. Due to the remote nature of the participants, we are unable to control clashes in personalities or other interpersonal issues that ruin the fun for everyone involved. Please choose to play the game in a manner that is fun for you and your dog and allows others to do the same.