

## 2022 Rules

### General Rules

- 1 Iron Paws is a mushing sport. All dogs must participate in a properly fitting pulling harness. Dogs must be attached to the musher or rig with a proper gangline. Dogs should be in front of the musher and pulling.
- 2 Each team consists of one individual musher plus dogs. Mushers are not interchangeable on a team, and family members must enter individually and be assigned unique bib numbers
- 3 Each musher may enter up to 2 classes plus unlimited ODR/Handicapp. Each musher receives one bib number even if two teams are entered.
- 3 All classes must submit at least *two* miles per stage to earn points for that stage and score the stage as completed, with the exception of ODR, which is one mile.
- 4 2022 is a 6 stage race. You must complete 5 stages to cross the finish line and receive this year's snazzy finisher's medal. Each team will have one bye week, or zero score. Your bye week will be your lowest scoring week (dropped to zero), a week you choose to skip (submit a zero score on the webform), or a week you forgot to enter your score. If you take a bye week and don't submit your zero score, your *Skip Penalty Box* credit will be used (see below).
- 5 Each stage runs Monday - Sunday
- 6 Scores are to be submitted through our website entry form no later than Wednesday noon PST after the stage is completed.
- 7 **\*NEW\*** Each team receives one *Skip Penalty Box* credit. If you forget to submit points by the Wednesday deadline or underreport points, you have one opportunity to request a correction. If you overreport there is no limit to corrections and your honesty is greatly appreciated. After your card has been used, your stage score will stand as reported, zeroed out if not reported, and will not be adjusted. No exceptions.
- 8 Iron Paw Factory manages points only
- 9 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.
- 10 Helmets are recommended for all wheeled classes.
- 11 Play fairly and respectfully.
- 12 Iron Paw Factory relies on the honor system. Play fair. Be honest
- 13 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.
- 14 Only one run per team, per day, can be counted for points, and up to 4 runs per stage.
- 15 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.
- 16 Please follow all local rules for any trail your team uses.
- 17 Please follow all local rules regarding Covid-19 mask usage and social distancing for your activity.
- 18 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. You will have more fun if you focus on your own performance and trust others to do the same.

## Classes

All classes have been revised, so please carefully read the particulars of each. \*see notes

### **\* NEW \* Recreation Class**

This class is for non-competitive mushers who just want to have fun with their pup and share the experience with the rest of the IP community, or for those who want simplified score entry. You can use any mode of travel you desire. There will be no placements or scoring, but finishers still receive a finisher's medal. Weekly point submission will be a simple completed or did not complete submission.

- Complete at least 2 miles per stage
- Complete each stage Howladay (see Howladays)

### **\*NEW\* Pentathlon Class (Summer Olympics)**

For those of you that can't decide how to travel your dryland miles. You have 5 "events" in which to earn points.

- 1 ¼ of your total miles must be on foot (canicross or snowshoe)
- 2 ¼ of your total miles must be on bike
- 3 ¼ of your total miles must be on scooter or cart  
The remaining miles are musher's choice. All mileage is scored at the rate of one point per mile.
- 4 Howladays Challenges - 5 points for completing each stage, plus bonus points, if any (see Howladays)
- 5 Points scored in bonus challenges or special games (excluding Howladays)

### **\*NEW\* Pentathlon Class (Winter Olympics)**

For those of you that can't decide how to travel your snow miles. You have 5 "events" in which to earn points.

- 1 ¼ of your total miles must be on foot (snowshoe or canicross)
- 2 ¼ of your total miles must be on skis
- 3 ¼ of your total miles must be on sled  
The remaining miles are musher's choice. All mileage is scored at the rate of one point per mile.
- 4 Howladays Challenges - 5 points for completing each stage, plus bonus points, if any (see Howladays)
- 5 Points scored in bonus challenges or games (excluding Howladays)

\*\*\* Fatbikejor may be substituted for either skijor or sled as one of your 3 vehicles.

### **Canicross (for runners)**

This year's Canicross class is for runners, and those who race in traditional canicross races. All miles are to be completed running with your dog out front. The dog(s) are pulling out in front of the musher.

### **Canihike (for walkers and hikers)**

This year's Canihike class is for walkers and hikers. Dogs are properly harnessed and attached to the musher's belt with a proper gangline. The dog(s) are pulling out in front of the musher.

### **Bikejor (1-3 dogs)**

### **Scooter or Cart (1-4 dogs)**

### **Fatbikejor (1-2 dogs)**

### **Small Team Skijor (1-3 dogs)**

### **Small Team Sled (1-4 dogs)**

### **Midsized Team Sled (5-6 dogs)**

### **Big Team Sled (7 or more dogs)**

### **ODR/Handicapp (1 dog)**

This class is for dogs who can't run on the team because they are too old, injured or handicapped - no dog left behind! Musher's must have a team in a regular class in order to participate. Dogs entered in ODR can not participate in any other class. There is no cost to participate - finishers earn a special e-certificate instead of a medal. Dogs must complete at least one mile per week, and may participate in any holiday or other special event that they find enjoyable. Late score submissions can be corrected at any time with no penalty because Old Dogs Rule! There are no points or placements, just happy dogs.

### **Awards**

- All finishers will receive a medal. You must complete 5 stages to be a finisher
- The top 3 finishers in each class will be recognized, except as noted in class descriptions
- Best Sportsmanship and Rookie of the Year will be recognized
- 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 Musher's (under 18) and Master Musher's (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.

### **Points Explanations**

#### **Mileage points (excludes Recreation and ODR classes)**

##### **Pentathlon (summer and winter)**

1 point per mile all modes of travel

##### **Canicross (for runners)**

1 point per mile traditional canicross.

##### **Canihike (for walkers and hikers)**

1 point per mile walking, hiking, or snowshoe

##### **Bikejor (1-3 dogs)**

1 point per mile bikejor, ½ point per mile for any other mode of travel.

##### **Scooter or Cart (1-4 dogs)**

1 point per mile scooter or cart, ½ point per mile for any other mode of travel.

##### **Fatbikejor (1-2 dogs)**

1½ points per mile true fatbikejor (on snow, sand, or mud - any condition that requires lower psi), 1 point per mile regular condition trail, or ½ point per mile for any other mode of travel.

##### **Small Team Skijor (1-3 dogs)**

1 point per mile for ski, ½ point per mile for any other mode of travel.

##### **Small Team Sled (1-4 dogs)**

1 point per mile for sled, ½ point per mile for any other mode of travel.

##### **Midsized Sled (5-6 dogs)**

1 point per mile for sled or rig, ½ point per mile for any other mode of travel.

##### **Big Team Sled (7 or more dogs)**

1 point per mile for sled or rig, ½ point per mile for any other mode of travel.

**Howladays - 5 points** 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.

Stage 1 - January 10-16 Luge - a sled on ice, what could go wrong?

Stage 2 - January 17-23 Iron Paws Biathlon, race and *shoot* fun!

Stage 3 - January 24-30 Freestyle, show us your favorite trick but do it with style!

Stage 4 - January 31- February 6 Hockey - don't sit this one out in the penalty box

Stage 5 - February 7-13 Figure Skating, what are your best moves?

Stage 6 February 14-20 Awards podium - you made it to the end, now show us what it looks like to be a champion!

### **Fun and Games - points as awarded**

Part of the fun of Iron Paws is the unexpected. We love bonus challenges and games. Pay attention to announcements to the Facebook 2022 race page for opportunities to earn more points.

### **Social Media Guidelines**

Iron Paws has grown quite large and hosts a diverse roster. 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 may 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.

### **\* Notes**

- Classes have been simplified to allow for new class offerings. Past results show that number of dogs has not affected overall scores except in the larger team sled classes
- Big team dryland will be combined into the sled classes if less than 5 teams enter. Please indicate number of dogs where requested on entry form for this purpose. **\*\*EDIT\*\*** Classes have been combined
- No photo points will be awarded this year. Share your best photos or videos, or don't. Find your own balance of fun.

### **A Final Note on Sportsmanship**

sports·man·ship / 'spôrts-mən-,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.