



# LA GRANDE ODYSSEE VVF OFFICIAL RULES 2025

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## **Changelists 2025**

***List of added, modified or displaced items:*** All the elements written in green in these rules are additions or modifications dating from 2025, compared to the 2024 version of the rules.

# LA GRANDE ODYSSEE VVF

## Official rules 2025

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# LA GRANDE ODYSSEE VVF

## Official rules 2025

The **payment** by the musher of his entry fee as defined in **Annex 1 implies his/her acceptance** of all the **articles of these regulations** and their annexes.

In addition, it is the responsibility of the musher to get the informed about the description of each stage (start schedules, itineraries, lengths, profiles) from the information provided by the **Organization**.

A receipt of acceptance of the conditions of the rules will be signed by the musher, before the start of the race.

## 1. General rules

### 1.1 Preamble

Definitions of used terms:

**Musher:** sled dog driver

**Handler:** musher's helper during **The Race**

**Team:** composed of one musher, his handlers, his dogs and his means (vehicles, trailers, gears.)

Every races of **La Grande Odyssée VVF** are called « **The Race** »

**The Race** is composed by stages called « **The Stages** ».

**KCIOP**, 11 Avenue Jean Jaurès, 94340 Joinville-le-Pont – France, is the company which manages the **Race**. It's called the « **Organization** ».

The **Organization** manages the **Race** with a **Race Direction**, composed of **Race Officials**.

In this **Race Direction**, there's also a team of veterinarians called "**Team Veto**". It's directed by the "**Veterinarian Chief**".

**Definitive drop** : the dog is out of the race

**Temporary drop** : the dog is temporarily out of the race.

**Penalties** : see annex 5 for penalties list

**DNF** : Did Not Finish, status given to a musher not starting a stage or not running it in its entirety

### 1.2 General conditions of the race

"La Grande Odyssée VVF " is an international sled dog race run in an alpine environment (see **Chapter 4** for details) and limited to a maximum of :

- 30 teams on La Grande Odyssée VVF – called "LGO"
- 12 teams on the Trophee 1
- 12 teams on the Trophee 2
- 12 teams on the Trophee 3

All the rules can be amended by the **Organization** that will have the responsibility to communicate these new rules to the mushers prior to the start.

The race length can be increased or decreased depending on snow conditions. The stages list can be modified regarding the snow and weather conditions.

A stage is defined by a start point and a finish point and can include one or several mandatory stops, vet-checks and mandatory bivouacs.

The trail will be prepared by the Organization.

The trail will be marked as per the rules in annex 4.

Depending on weather and security conditions, the Organization may change the trail at any time. The Organization may also postpone departure or cancel a section of the trail.

### 1.3 Official languages

French and English are the two official languages of La Grande Odyssée VVF .

The main documents will be written in the two official languages and the mushers briefings will be conducted in the two official languages. In case of discrepancy in the interpretation of the rules, the French version shall prevail.

NB : it is mandatory for each team to have at least one member who speaks fluently either french or english.

#### **1 . 4 Race officials**

The race officials are:

- General director
- Director of operations
- Official race judge
- Sports manager
- Veterinarian Chief
- Musher relationship manager

Each official is responsible about the application on all the rules that regard him.

#### **1 . 5 Sports Race Direction**

The sports race direction is composed of

- General director
- Director of operations
- Official race judge
- Sports manager
- Veterinarian Chief

The race direction has the responsibility to manage all the sports aspects of the race.

#### **1 . 6 Partners and media**

The official list of partners will be announced before the start of the race to the Musher. A great amount of media is attending the race. The mushers and handlers commit to have a positive attitude towards all partners and medias regardless of the circumstances. The failure to do so would constitute a serious issue and may lead to sanctions.

#### **1 . 7 Rankings and podiums**

Two different criteria are used to establish the final ranking list:

- The number of stages effectively completed in all their length
- The total time.

The mushers who have completed all the stages of La Grande Odyssée VVF will be at the top of the ranking list followed by the mushers who have not completed, for whatever reason (scratch, accident...) all the stages.

Concerning a musher who has not completed a stage, please refer to § 4.9

The finisher status is given to a musher who has run and finished all the stages in all their length. Likewise, in the event of a change of program due to a potential lack of snow, the musher must participate in all possible replacement activities (parade, conference, activities, etc.).

### For the Grande Odyssée and for trophies :

- A general scratch classification and a stage scratch classification (all competitions and categories combined) will be published after each stage
- Only one stage podium will be made per stage, for each race (LGO, trophy) following the stage classification.
- The general classifications will determine the final podiums that will be made during the closing ceremony of each races
- The special prizes will be awarded following the stage podium of the last stage.

At the end of each stage of the Race, the Organization will propose a podium to reward the mushers' performances, in particular by awarding stage and general ranking bibs according to the categories. The podiums will take place at the time set by the Organization, even if mushers are still in the race and even if claims are being made. The official rankings, after claims have been processed, will be the only results officially published by the Organization.

The mushers must present themselves on the podiums and during the official ceremony if they are called, under penalty of sanction.

### 1.8 DNF and special statuses

The results may show several statuses for a musher:

- DNS: did not start
- DSQ: disqualified
- DNF: did not finish
- ABD: abandoned

A musher with one of these statuses on a stage will necessarily have the DNF status in the general ranking.

In this case the musher will not be able to claim the qualification of OFFICIAL FINISHER and therefore the prize money.

For La Grande Odyssée VVF : with more than three (3) DNF on the race, the Team will be disqualified and will have to leave the race, unless agreed by the Organization.

For a trophy: with more than one (1) DNF on the race, the Team will be disqualified and will have to leave the Race, unless agreed by the Organization.

A musher with a DNF status can no longer be classified with the other mushers in the race (stage or general classification), and will no longer be able to claim any podium or special prizes. It will continue to appear at the bottom of the ranking.

### 1.9 Purses and special awards

The finishers only can receive prize money.

In order to be entitled to receive prize money it is necessary that:

- The musher has attended all the official ceremonies planned in the program, opening ceremonies and demonstration event(s) in the program.
- The musher has participated in each show stage organized (in case of a stage cancellation.)
- The musher has fulfilled the commitments listed in the rules, in particular regarding the behavior with the medias and partners. (cf. Chapter 10)

The purse breakdown and special awards list are specified in **annex 3**.

Prize money could be re-allocated before the start of the Race by the Organization, depending on the division of the number of musher on the different categories.

The race prizes will be paid by bank transfer 1 month after the last day of the race at the latest, only if the necessary bank details have been sent to the Organization, and after deduction of any costs, penalties, taxes or other sums owed to the Organization.

Tax on prize money: in accordance with articles 182A, 182B, 1671 of the General Tax Code of the French Republic, 15% will be deducted from the prize money for accounts domiciled abroad. This tax will be paid directly to the French tax authorities by the Organization for Mushers who do not make tax declarations in France. Mushers with a bank account domiciled in France and who pay their taxes in France will have to declare these race premiums in their tax return.

### **1 . 10 Trophies Organization**

The Organization organizes trophies. Appendix 2 describes the program for each of these trophies. The name of the Trophies shall be given by the Organization.

The Trophy 2 is reserved only for Nordic dogs: Nordic purebred dogs, or alaskan husky long distance lineage.

### **1 . 11 Specials bibs**

Several special bibs are awarded every day on the podium. These bibs must be worn by the mushers during the next stage.

Three special bibs are mainly awarded: Leader, Dog Care, Leader Nordic.

If several bibs are awarded to the same musher, here is the priority of the chasuble to wear during the stages:

- Cumul Leader / Dog Care: the musher wears the leader bib and the dog care armband, and his handler wears the dog care bib
- Cumulative Dog care / Nordic leader: the musher wears the Nordic leader bib and the dog care armband, and his handler wears the dog care bib
- Cumul Leader / Leader Nordic: the musher wears the leader bib

Bibs Leader and Leader Nordic are issued on the general ranking, not the stage ranking.

### **1 . 12 Nordic category**

Only teams with a dog pool made up of 100% pure Nordic dogs can claim to be classified in the Nordic category (NB). The teams must declare themselves as such when registering, and the Organization will check the official documents during the race entry control in order to validate their entry into the Nordic category.

### **1 . 13 DUO category**

For La Grande Odyssée VVF only, a DUO category is possible upon registration. It allows you to have two mushers for a single team, which can alternate between each stage. A specific classification apart from individual mushers will be established for this category, which will not have a podium ceremony during the Race. This category does not entitle you to the status of finisher of La Grande Odyssée VVF, but gives the possibility of receiving prize money, following all the individual finishing mushers, for the DUO teams finishing all the stages.

## **2. Registration**

### **2.1 Entry policy**

Registrations open Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 12:00pm (midday) – time of Paris. They are carried out on an online form whose link will be available on the website of The Race from the date of registration opening. The first 30 LGO mushers and the first 12 mushers from each TROPHY will be officially registered. Mushers who register later will be placed on a waiting list.

For LGO, an elite list allows 10 mushers to register before the opening date for entries. The conditions for inclusion on this list are detailed in Appendix 1 of the regulations.

A musher cannot register for more than one race, except with the authorization of the Organization.

The Organization reserves the right to refuse a registration.

Tariff and administrative conditions are described in Annex 1 to this Regulation.

### **2.2 Minimum conditions for entry**

The musher must be at least 16 years old on the first day of the race.

In the case that the musher is under 18 years of age on the day of the race, a parental authorization is required.

Mushers must provide a medical certificate, not older than one year, of non-contraindication to practicing sleddog racing or the copy of a competition sport license delivered by a recognized dogsledding federation.

### **2.3 Substitution of mushers**

A musher may be replaced by another person only in case of force majeure, and with the authorization of the Organization. The replacement musher will have to fulfill the same conditions and provide the same documents as the replaced musher. **In the event of replacement, the team will not be able to claim to be ranked ahead of other mushers who have not been replaced, and will not be able to claim a podium or special prizes.**

### **2.4 Handlers**

- Each team must be composed of a minimum of one handler
- **Handlers must provide parental authorization if they are under 18 years old**
- The Organization will provide each team with two official handler bibs and two official handler badges.
- Each team has to name a handler in charge. The Organization must have his phone number. He has to be fluent in english or french to be able to speak with the Organization.
- 30 minutes before the start of each stage, only 2 handlers and the musher are authorised to be in the stake-out/parking area. They must wear the official chasubles from that moment until the end of the musher's stage (including ceremonies). All other assistance is strictly forbidden unless dispensation is granted by the Organization.
- 2 handlers wearing their official handler bibs will be authorized to wait for their musher in the arrival area, in places indicated by the Organization.
- When meals are provided by the Organization, only 2 handlers are allowed on presentation of the official Handler badge. Access to the dining room will not be authorised for any other person.

- When the Organization provides accommodation for the Team. Only 2 handlers and the mushers are authorised to stay there. The presence of any other person is strictly forbidden, unless agreed by the Organization.

The handlers shall follow strictly the provided instructions regarding the driving and the parking of their vehicles. If those instructions are not strictly followed, time and money penalties could be applied to the musher.

Handlers must ensure their vehicles and be able to justify at the request of the Organization of a valid insurance; the responsibility of the Organization can not be sought in case of damage to the vehicles parked in the car parks placed at their disposal.

The help of the handlers is allowed only at the departures and arrivals of the stages. It is therefore prohibited from any stops (including bivouac) provided inside the stages.

The handlers have to follow the same behaviour rules than those described in these rules for the musher.

## **2.5 Musher's responsibility**

### **2.5.1. Musher ID and passport**

It is the musher's responsibility to check which kind of ID and visas will be needed for him/her and his/her handler(s), depending on their nationality. It is recommended that each musher keeps his ID or passport with him/her at all time.

### **2.5.2. Animal regulations and vaccinations**

It is the musher's responsibility to ensure that the documents necessary for the entry of dogs into France is in order and available at the start race day.

Warning, this regulation is different if dogs are imported from countries in or out of European Union.

All the non-participant dogs to the Race, but transported in the vehicle's or in the trailer's musher or handler, may have same official documents and vaccinations as the dogs which make the Race.

#### **2.5.2.a Identification**

A unique model of certificate will be put at mushers' disposal but will not in any circumstances replace official documents required by the law. Dogs must be identified by a chip player in keeping with the international norm ISO 11785. In case of identification by a chip player in keeping with another norm, it is incumbent upon the musher to equip himself/herself with a player fitted to the norm which is used. If the microchip cannot be read by the microchip reader, a new microchip shall be put before the start of the race and at the musher's expense.

#### **2.5.2.b Health Certificate**

For dogs from countries outside the European Union the musher must be in possession of an international health certificate signed by the competent authority of the country (deadline for completion before the entry into France corresponding to the current legislation).

#### **2.5.2.c Vaccinations**

For any dog participating in the Race or dog accompanying the team even if it does not participate in competitions, the musher must be able to present proof of vaccinations against the following diseases:

- Canine parvovirus (tri-annual injection, a deficiency of one additional month maximum will be tolerated)
- Distemper (tri-annual injection, a deficiency of one additional month maximum will be tolerated)
- Leptospirosis (annual injection, a deficiency of one additional month maximum will be tolerated)

For these three valences, a minimum of 15 days before the pre-race check will be required.

- Kennel cough for Parainfluenza (abbreviation Pi) AND Bordetella bronchiseptica (abbreviation Bb): it is strongly recommended to use a vaccine made intranasally by Versican PiBB IN or Nobivac KC, or orally by Versican PiBB Oral (annual injection). Vaccination must have been carried out at least 3 weeks before the pre-race check for Nobivac KC and Versican PiBB Oral and 5 days for Versican PiBB IN. Following new European recommendations, and based on studies carried out on a significant pool of dogs, a one-year injection protocol by injection using Pneumodog can be carried out after an intranasal or oral vaccination the previous year. A protocol carried out entirely by injection with Pneumodog is tolerated if and only if it is carried out in accordance with the laboratory's Marketing Authorization: 2 injections 3 weeks apart during the primary vaccination, followed annually by a booster without delay period.

- Rabies: (tri-annual or annual injection depending on the laboratories, their Marketing Authorization being the law). In the case of a primary vaccination, a mandatory minimum period of 21 days before the pre-race veterinary check will be required. Identification by transponder must be prior to the rabies vaccine for the latter to be compliant.

Primary vaccination protocols will also be checked.

Vaccinations must be carried out in accordance with the vaccine manufacturer's recommendations.

Official certificates proving the status of vaccinations will be required. Only documents signed and stamped by a veterinarian will be recognized as official.

Any non-compliance in vaccinations or import documents will result in a ban on entry into the race for the animal concerned or the entire team.

In the context of additional examinations or vaccinations to be carried out before the race, requested by the administration, the musher must do so at his own expense.

In case of doubt, vaccination protocols can be sent to the race veterinarian up to 2 months before the first day of racing.

### 2.5.3. Liability in case of damage

The musher being the owner of his dog is responsible for it. If the dog escapes from his surveillance and injures a participant, a member of the Organization or any other person, the musher is personally liable for the damage caused and will have to compensate for all the consequences of the accident.

Mushers must ensure their vehicles and be able to justify at the request of the Organization of a valid insurance; the responsibility of the Organization can not be sought in case of damage to the vehicles parked in the car parks placed at their disposal.

## 2.6 Transportation and accommodation costs

### 2.6.1. Transportation

The mushers will have to pay all their transportation and travel expenses (passengers, dogs and gear).

The mushers shall make sure that their vehicles are properly equipped with snow tires and that they carry appropriate snow chains.

For security reasons and parking lot size, each tea shall have no more than one vehicle with one trailer maximum.

## 2.6.2. Lodging and food expenses

### 2.6.2.a For La Grande Odyssée VVF

The Organization offers accommodation as an optional extra at the time of registration.

The musher will be held responsible for any deterioration (s) found in these lodgings during the check out. He will have to compensate the Organization for the amount of the restoration of the premises.

Dogs are not allowed in the accommodation.

During the race, some meals are provided to mushers and handlers (max. 2 handlers per musher). The mushers will be informed in details by the LGO staff about meals provided by the Organization .

### 2.6.2.b For Trophees

The Organization will not propose lodging.

During the race, one or two meals can be provided to mushers and handlers (max. 2 handlers per musher). The mushers will be informed in details by the LGO staff about meals provided by the Organization .

## 2.7 Individual accident insurance of mushers

Personal accident insurance can be taken out with any organization of the Musher's choice, and in particular with the "Impact Multisports" insurance policy, which can be taken out directly via the website:

<http://www.assurance-multi-sports.com>

### 3. Gear

#### 3.1.Sled gear

The sled must be able to transport the driver properly and, in case of emergency, a passenger, and have a hard bottom basket with a minimum surface of 40 cm x 50 cm allowing the transport of all mandatory equipment and transport safely a dog.

The model of the sled must be validated by the race judge during the entry check. The musher can provide a backpack to carry his mandatory equipment.

The sled shall be equipped as follows:

- A safety line will be connected to the tow line and may be used to attach or retain the sled, if necessary
- A shock absorber will be placed on the line to limit starting constraints and improve the well-being of the dogs
- A neckline attached to the sledge inside the sled bag, allowing to attach by the collar a dog loaded in the sled
- The sled shall be capable of adequately carrying the musher. The sled shall be equipped with an adequate brake, an adequate rubber braking pad (drag), a brushbow and two (2) snow hooks
- Innovations: some other innovating equipment for security, protection, braking or driving may be authorized providing they have been previously shown on the pre-race control day and approved by the Organization.
- An outside closed pocket dedicated to hold the GPS tracking system provided by the Organization at the start of each stage. Minimum size : 25cm x 20 cm x 10 cm

Any equipment presenting a danger to the musher, his dogs or the other teams is prohibited, especially the sharp edges under the runners of the sledges. The musher is responsible for any damage caused by the sled and will bear the consequences in case of accident.

#### 3.2.Commercial brands on the sled

The sled sides are reserved by the Organization that will provide mandatory sides to attach on during the race.

It is the musher's responsibility to correctly fix the sides on his sled.

Penalties could be given at the starting lines if the sled sides are not well fixed.

#### 3.3.Mandatory gear to be carried on or in the sled

Each musher shall carry on or in the sled at all times the following items:

- **One snow shovel**
- **One snow probe**
- **Two survival blankets**
- at least two leashes with name of the team/musher on it
- Two working headlamps with batteries
- 4 booties per dog (in use or being carried in the bag).
- the security and telecommunication equipment provided by the Organization (GPS tracking...)
- Stake-out cable or Dyneema, or cabled or Dyneema tow-line
- An automatic chains system or a set of two chains to be attached under the runners to slow down the sled on icy trail.

- At the start of stages with a mandatory bivouac, a stove to heat up water for the dog food (the Organization will provide the fuel)
- Spare clothes (minimum a pair of socks, a pair of gloves, technic pants and jackets)
- Reflecting material on the stanchions of the sled
- Blinking or reflecting collars and/or harnesses on the lead dogs

For the stages with a bivouac, additional compulsory equipment is added:

- A stove to heat water for dog food (alcohol to be burned will be supplied by the Organization on the bivouac)
- A container to heat 0.5L per dog
- One bowl per dog that can contain at least 0.5L of water
- One coat per dog
- Proper sleeping bag for low temperature (-20°C).
- Camping mat

**It is the musher to provide a specific bag to put all of this material. This bag will have to be deposited with the Organization so that it can be transported by the Organization, on the place of the bivouac. Only 1 bag per musher is allowed, including mandatory and additional equipment. It must be closed, easily transportable and identified by the bib number and the name of the musher.**

The musher can carry additional equipment (tent, mattress, etc.) that he considers necessary for the stage. He can then put it in his bivouac bag, transported by the Organization, as long as the rule "1 bag per musher" is respected.

On bivouacs, the Organization strongly recommends to have 1 blanket per dog, in case of particularly low temperature.

The mandatory equipment list can be modified during the race by the race direction, who will tell the mushers about it during a musher meeting.

### 3.4.Musher mandatory gear

#### 3.4.1. Mandatory gear to be carried on the musher

At the beginning of each stage, the musher must have on him :

- his bib
- his Avalanche Victim Detector (DVA), in compliance with the international 457 KHz standard
- An adequate supply of energy food for him for the stage
- A knife
- A box of matches or a lighter
- A mobile phone, charged for the duration of the stage, with the registered Red Phone number

When the musher is racing, his DVA must be worn at all times, under his clothes.

Only mushers with a DVA in good working condition on the starting line will be allowed to start. The musher is committed to know how to use his DVA and to be able to perform a search if an exceptional event occurs.

#### 3.4.2. Other gear

The wearing of the helmet is left to the choice of the mushers. However, the Organization strongly advises the port.

The competitor will not wear shoes that can be dangerous to dogs. Footwear with spikes or hard spikes of up to one millimeter are permitted.

The use of the ski stick is permitted, provided that its use does not cause safety problems.

### 3.4.3. Bibs

The bibs will be handed over by the Organization prior to the start of the race to each of the mushers. The bib must be worn in the right way above all other clothes. The use of these bibs is mandatory throughout the race, as well as during the official ceremonies.

This bib (washable) must always be clean. If this is not the case, penalties may be applied on the starting lines (see Annex 5: table of penalties).

Two handlers bibs will be given to each team. These bibs must be worn over all other garments. The musher will be held responsible for the cleanliness of his Handler chasubles. Otherwise, a penalty will be applied (see Appendix 5: Penalty Table).

## 3.5. Control of safety equipment at each stage

At the start of each stage, a **mandatory check** will be carried out by the Organization to verify that each participant has the necessary safety equipment. A stopping point identified before the starting line will be set up, the musher will have to present:

- A system of Detection of Victims of Avalanche in operation - on him (and not in his sled)
- A snow shovel
- A snow probe
- Two survival blanket

**To simplify these controls**, each participant is asked to:

- Wear the DVA around the body
- To make an easily accessible pack including: Shovel, probe and 2 survival blankets; and place this pack on top of the sled

If a participant does not have the items requested during the check, or if one of the items is deemed to be defective, the participant must park his team on the side and recover his missing equipment. He can not start, until the judge authorizes it. Timing will start at his departure, and a penalty will be applied (see Annex 5). If the participant is not able to collect this safety pack before the last start of the races, he will not be allowed to start and will get a DNS.

## 3.6. Dogs equipment

All the dogs in the team shall carry a harness.

All harnesses shall be padded around the neck and chest area and be in perfect condition.

Commercial brand names of the musher's sponsor are allowed on the harness.

## **4. Race Organization**

### **4.1. Mushers parking**

Car parks specially reserved by the Organization are provided for all Teams at the start and finish of the stages. These car parks are managed by the Organization. Each Team must respect the instructions given to them in terms of location.

Access to the car parks is strictly forbidden before the stage and until it have been declared open by the Organization. **Mushers must nevertheless come at a maximum time which will be communicated by the musher relations team each day.** Access to the car park after the stage, once the Organization has left it, is the responsibility of each Team.

The mushers' car park gives access to the entire official Team and to the vehicle used to transport the dogs. There is no size limit, but the designation of an "official" vehicle per team is required when entering the race. Any other vehicle is strictly forbidden in the mushers' car park (handler vehicles, etc.), unless specifically authorised by the Organizations.

The Team's "official" vehicle must be identified by a sticker issued by the Organizations. Failure to comply with this rule will result in refusal of entry to the musher car park by the Organization.

It is strictly forbidden to drill holes in the floors of the mushers' car parks if these are on surfaces such as tarmac, concrete or any other non-natural construction; it is the team's responsibility to provide its own equipment to avoid damaging the site.

Mushers' car parks must be left in the same state of cleanliness as when the musher arrived. All faeces, straw and rubbish must be collected and placed in the specific containers provided for this purpose.

### **4.2. Musher meeting**

Mushers must attend the mushers' meeting at the start of the race, as well as the mushers' briefings that take place before each stage, generally 1 hour before the first start of the stage. The time and place of these meetings will be announced every day by the Organization.

The mushers' briefing before each leg will provide all the information needed to ensure that the race runs smoothly. This includes:

- Information on the day's stage: distance, conditions
- The start procedure

As a general rule, the information given during the mushers' briefing will be authoritative during the stage.

Mushers' and handlers' bib must be worn during all official meetings between the Teams and the Organization.

### **4.3 Start and finish**

#### **4.3.1 Start procedure**

Definition of the areas reserved for mushers and under the authority of the Organization during the presence of the Relations Mushers teams on the field:

- Mushers' car park
- harnessing area
- start and finish line

All the above-mentioned areas must be left clean and any faeces must be collected by the Teams responsible, as soon as possible, and at the latest immediately after the departure of the musher.

The Organization of starts sometimes presents logistical and Organizational constraints (long distances between the musher's car park and the other areas, narrow spaces, safety constraints, etc.), and is dependent on the field and snow conditions. A specific start procedure is adapted to each stage of the race.

The start procedure is given at the latest at the musher briefing, and specifies the Organization necessary for the smooth running of all the starts: where the sleds are to be dropped off, access times to the different zones, regulation principles. Mushers may be offered the opportunity to see the way to departure before and after the musher briefing in order to explain how things work on the field.

#### 4.3.1.a Transport between the mushers' car park and the harnessing area

To transport the dogs between the mushers' car park and the harnessing area, the mushers have two options, which must be clearly explained to the Mushers Manager before the musher briefing before each stage:

- Moving the dogs in *autonomy* with the team handlers: as a general rule, all the mushers must be able to move around "independently". Autonomy implies that the musher is able to get to the harnessing area following the instructions and timing indicated by the Mushers Relation Manager, with the only assistance of his Team.
- Movement of dogs with *assistance* from the Organization (in addition to the team handlers): if the musher requests assistance from the Organization, he must comply with the Organization's instructions so that he can leave on time.

The Organization may authorise outside assistance (handlers from other teams) up to the start line.

#### 4.3.1.b Driving area

This includes :

- A storage area for the sleds: the sleds can be brought in as soon as the area has been communicated, unless otherwise indicated on the coupling area. The number of sleds may be limited for logistical reasons, so priority is given according to the order of departure.
- A harness preparation area, where the lines are laid out and the dogs are harnessed: harnesses must be prepared in the order of departure and mushers preparing must not interfere with other mushers who are leaving before them.
- A storage area for the sleds before the start line (optional): it is possible that the sleds move forward in single trail and are stopped at points by members of the Organization, before reaching the start line.

The harnessing area is reserved exclusively for starting harnesses and can only be accessed with the authorisation of the Zone Controller (a single identified person), who will be positioned at the entrance to the harnessing area. A musher who enters the harnessing area without the authorisation of the Regulator will be liable to a penalty.

#### 4.3.1.c The start line

As a general rule, teams will leave the start line of each leg every two (2) minutes.

At the start, the musher will place the brushbow of his sled just before the start line marked on the ground.

Only the team's handlers may remain to hold the dogs on the start line, unless otherwise agreed by the Organizations.

The musher must normally be under the starting arch, sled placed and stopped, at least 1 minute before the official start. The musher will wait for the start signal given by the judge before setting off.

If the musher is late to the start line at the time of his start:

- If this is his fault, he will incur a penalty.
- If this is the fault of another musher and/or the Organization, a penalty may be imposed on another musher.

- In all cases, the musher will start when authorised to do so by the Organizations (Drivers or race officials). The Organization will decide whether the musher's time starts at the time of his scheduled start or at the time of his actual start, depending on whether he is late or not.

A team that does not leave the start area (approximately 30 m after the start line) must give way to teams leaving after it and not hinder them in any way.

#### 4.3.2 Starting order

- The starting order for the prologue and the first stage will be announced by the Organizations.
- The starting order of a stage will be in reverse order of the classification of the previous stage, by races (Trophy, LGO), with the exception of mass-starts and compulsory stops during a stage (bivouac in particular).

The Organizations reserve the right to change the starting order according to Organizational constraints. In this case, the change in starting order will be announced at the musher briefing.

A draw or an arbitrary start list decided by the Organization may be drawn during The Race to accommodate a change of site or a new group of stages. These changes will be indicated at the mushers' meetings.

#### 4.3.3 Finish

The official finish of a team is determined when the nose of the first dog of the team crosses the finish line. If a loose team crosses the finish line ahead of its driver, the time is stopped when the musher crosses the finish line.

The winner of a stage will be the musher who finishes the stage in the shortest total time (including time penalties). The rest of the stage ranking list will be established as indicated in § 1.7.

The crossing of the finish line by a team, puts a definitive end to its stage, whether or not it has covered the entire stage. This implies that he will not be able to resume the course of the stage, even if he has not completely covered it.

### **4.4.Trail marking procedure**

The trail is marked on a regular basis over its entire course so that a musher leaving the itinerary can quickly perceive it. It is the responsibility of the musher to follow this regular marking (described in appendix 4), and to ensure that he is on the right trail. A musher who has made a trail error will have to turn back to the place of his error, to take the correct trail.

A musher who crosses the finish line without having completed the entire course ends his stage and will receive the penalty provided for in 4.9.1. or in 4.9.2.

### **4.5.Mandatory stops (inside a stage)**

The Organization can settle, in the middle of a stage, mandatory checks, day or night bivouacs with mandatory stops.

During certain stages, points of required veterinary checks will be in place. These points will be announced to the mushers before the start of the stage.

On these checkpoints, stopping for a time defined by the Organization is required. This period may be extended upon request of veterinarians. The stop time is not removed from the total time. Only veterinarians have authority to decide of performing a clinical examination. The musher can not object to such a control. In case of prolonged stop requested by the veterinarian, it is the exclusive right of the veterinarian to authorize the departure of the team.

#### **4.6. Bivouacs**

A bivouac is a mandatory stop inside a stage. The restart time and starting order procedure following the stop will be communicated by the Organization during musher meetings

During a bivouac :

- it's not allowed to change dogs
- the musher cannot get any outside help
- the handlers cannot enter the stake-out during the stage
- the musher have to follow the Organization instructions on how and where to settle their stake-out

On the bivouac, the dogs should be attached to the stake-out at any time, excepting to walk dogs on a leash. No dogs should enter a building, a permanent shelter or the musher's tent provided by the Organization even for a moment and especially not to spend the night.

The mushers are allowed to use a non-permanent shelter for their dogs, only if dogs are accessible at any time by the vet team. Dogs must be left outside at stake until veterinarians examine them and give them authorization to go in the temporary shelter. If a musher doesn't follow these rules, he will get a penalty.

On the bivouac, it is the musher's responsibility to show his ability to give his dogs the appropriate care. If a musher does not show adequate dog-care, he could be disqualified from the stage and/or the race.

At the bivouac, all materials and equipment carried by the musher will not be left on his departure. Furthermore the location must be left clean (straw and bedding collected in bags supplied by the Organization).

For a bivouac:

- All the equipment (see 3.3) must be transported by the musher throughout the stage, and in all its parts. Nothing can be left on his departure at the bivouac, even if he must return to the same place at the end of the stage part. The musher will be allowed to leave the stake-out only if the Organization has given him permission to leave his place. A musher who leaves his stained place will receive a penalty. The schedule and start times from the bivouac will be given to the mushers by the Organization.
- Concerning the equipment of bivouac (see 3.3), it is the musher to provide a specific bag to put all of this material. This bag will have to be deposited with the Organization so that it can be transported by the Organization, on the place of the bivouac.

#### **4.7. Passings**

When one team approaches within fifteen (15) meters of another team, the team behind shall ask to pass on request by saying "TRAIL". The musher ahead must stop or slow down his dogs and hold them to the best of his/her ability for a maximum of one (1) minute or until the other team has passed. The passed team must remain at least fifteen (15) meters behind for at least three (3) minutes before the overtaken musher may request the right of way.

Dogs must not deviate from their path to interfere with the team who pass them or that they pass. The

musher is responsible of the behavior of his dogs. If they have aggressive behavior towards the other teams, the musher must stop his team and keep his dogs on the side of the trail, to guarantee a smooth and safe passage to the other mushers.

If it's prove that a dog has an aggressive behavior towards the other teams, he will be able to be definitively dropped by decision of the race direction. Non-respecting these rules will lead to a warning or a penalty (see Annex 5).

Any damage caused in the race by a team to another team, except in cases of force majeure beyond the responsibility of the musher, is the responsibility of the musher driving the team responsible.

#### **4.8.Unmanageable teams or without a musher and freely dogs**

Outside assistance is allowed by the Organization to help an unmanageable dogteam.

A musherless team or loose dog may be stopped and secured by anyone. The musher may recover his/her team or dog either by foot, or with assistance from another musher or mechanized vehicle. He will then continue the race.

In the event a dog leaves the team during a stage for any reason and cannot be retrieved, the musher may finish the stage with a time penalty, the musher must try to catch his dog. If he doesn't make it, he must contact the race direction as soon as possible. If the musher crosses the finish line without his dog, the dog will get a temporary suspension of 3 days.

Any damage caused by an uncontrollable team, or by a freely dog, except in case of force majeure escaping the responsibility of the musher, is the responsibility of the musher owner of the team or the dog causing the damage.

#### **4.9.Race events**

##### **4.9.1 Time for voluntary uncompleted stage**

On purpose, a musher may not complete a stage or may request to skip a stage. He/she will be assessed a time penalty equal to 150 % of the time of the slowest team on that stage and will get a DNF status from this stage.

##### **4.9.2. Time for uncompleted stage**

If a musher does not complete an entire stage for different reasons, 3 cases are possible:

- The crew that does not perform the entire stage, involuntarily, but who has covered at least 80% of the stage, and after study by the race direction, the musher incurs a penalty of 150% on the time achieved by the slowest hitches for the distance not covered by the team in question.
- The crew that makes less than 80% of the stage will be penalized according to article 4.9.1 of the regulation
- After a complaint to the Judge at the finish, and according to a Race Direction investigation, if the Organization is recognized as responsible for a marking error or an incorrect indication of direction by a mandated track marshal:
  - The musher who has traveled more than expected will be credited with the time he has taken to make the distance too much run
  - The musher having traveled less distance will be increased by the time of the slowest to cover the missing distance without penalty.

Time calculations will be determined by the Race Direction via the GPS tracking tools.

#### 4.9.3 Time barriers

For security and/or Organizational reasons, time limits may be imposed to the competitors on some sections of the race. These schedules will be indicated during the mushers' meeting prior to the stage.

According to the schedules at some check points, the race management may decide, without any possible appeal, to stop a musher if he considers that he/she will obviously not be able to meet the time limits.

The musher shall then be penalized as per § 4.9.1.

#### 4.9.4 Race incident

In case of a racing incident that may cause trouble to the normal and fair progress of the race, the race direction can at any time decide either : to modify the trail route; to neutralize temporarily the stage, to decide that the stage is non run and to cancel the stage results ; to cancel a part of the stage and to give a new start close to the place where the incident happened ; to validate the results of the stage or to give a new start keeping the gaps recorded when the incident happened.

The cancellation or invalidity of a stage will be communicated after the end of the stage. No communication from the race direction will be made during the stage unless the stage is neutralised.

#### 4.9.5 Communication

Except when a force majeure case has occurred, the mushers and their teams are not allowed to use their cell phones to communicate with the race direction during a stage.

### 4.10. Race

Participants **do not have private use of the road or priority of passage**. Participants are obliged to slow down when they see a sign indicating a road crossing, and to stop if asked to do so by a signaller identified by a yellow waistcoat.

The musher must be master of his team.

### 4.11. Rules for the Challenge/Prologue

In the case of a Challenge or Prologue (very short stage), the following rules apply to all races:

- Number of dogs authorised: between 4 and 6 dogs
- Accompanying dogs authorised if 18 months old
- Results not counting towards the overall ranking
- Results not counting towards the starting order of the next stage
- Compulsory and safety equipment to be kept as on a real stage

Timekeeping in these events does not count towards the general ranking, unless decided otherwise by the Organizations. Nevertheless, failure to comply with the general race regulations in these events may result in the Organization applying penalties to the musher's overall ranking.

A musher who does not take the start in one of these events will be considered as DNS.

Before each stage, the mushers must complete their dog list by selecting the dogs that will start the day's stage. Dog lists must be handed in no later than 30 minutes before the first start of the day's leg, at the place indicated by the Organizations.

Depending on the format of the stage, the rules described above can be adapted.

**4.12. Dog list**

Before each stage, the mushers must complete their dog list by selecting the dogs that will take the start of the day's stage. The dog lists must be submitted a maximum of 30 minutes before the first start of the day's stage, at the place indicated by the Organization.

## 5. Dogs

The dogs must be 18 months old on the first day of the race.

The dogs making up the pools must be physically and morphologically fit to run the entire Race upon their arrival on site for the first day of the Race.

During the race entry control, the Race Direction may take the decision to prohibit the participation of one or more dogs for different reasons:

- If the dog is not fit to run the race for apparent physical or morphological reasons, the musher must have the capacity to present other dogs as replacements to present a complete pool
- If injury or anomaly detected on site, the musher will not necessarily be excluded from the race (the decision will be taken by the race direction), unless he no longer has the capacity to have the number enough dog to start a stage

Preamble :

NO BAD TREATMENT OF DOGS THAT IMPLIES ANY ACTION OR NON-ACTION CAUSING PAIN OR SUFFERING TO A DOG WILL BE TOLERATED. FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.

The “dog's health doctrine” document in Annex 6 describes the role and missions of the Animal Health team of the race.

The acceptance of the rules implies the acceptance of all the elements described in the Annex 6 of the veterinarian doctrine.

### 5.1. Number of dogs

On **La Grande Odyssée VVF** :

- Each Musher will have a pool of 9 to 12 dogs
- At the start of the stage, each team consists of a minimum of 6 dogs and a maximum of 10 dogs with no dog in the basket at the start of each stage, and must finish each stage with no less than 4 dogs hooked on the line. If a team crosses the stage finish line with less than 4 dogs on the line, it will be considered as DNF on this stage.

On the **Trophies** ;

- Each Musher will have a pool of 8 or 9 dogs
- At the start of the stage, each team consists of a minimum of 5 dogs and a maximum of 6 dogs with no dog in the basket at the start of each stage, and must finish each stage with no less than 4 dogs hooked on the line. If a team crosses the stage finish line with less than 4 dogs on the line, it will be considered as DNF on this stage.
- For the last stage of the trophy, the musher will be authorized to take up to 8 dogs for his departure
- It is forbidden to replace a dog during a stage.
- The maximum number of dogs in the team may be reduced or increased by the Organization

### 5.2. Dog team

- All dogs shall be harnessed in single or double file (tandem hitch with one tow line).
- All dogs shall be fastened to the tug line by a neckline and a tug line.

- Lead dogs must be connected with a neck line

### 5.3. Hauling dogs

During the race, on the trail

A Musher may haul dogs in the sled at his/her discretion; however, the musher may not allow any of his dogs to be hauled by another team. A dog hauled in the sled shall be attached to it. Dogs must be hauled in a humane fashion. Dogs may not be run on a leash behind the sled or allowed to run loose.

Dog transport in truck and trailer

The musher shall have appropriate means to transport his/her dogs in good hygiene, comfort and safe conditions. A musher may be disqualified for not abiding to this rule.

### 5.4. Dogs identification

During every stage, the race direction, through his judge or through one of his members, will control, in a random way, the identity of dogs in race.

No applying this will lead to a penalty (see Annex 5).

### 5.5. Vital emergency

In case of a vital distress of one dog, the musher has to contact the Organization by any mean :

- red phone of the Organization
- any other communication mean

The Organization will try to send a veterinarian on the musher's position to rescue the dog.  
The concerned dog will get a definitive drop status.

### 5.6. Accompanying dogs

Each **Team** has the right to have with him a maximum of two (2) accompanying dogs. If a musher want to come with more than two accompanying dogs, he will have to ask authorization from the **Organization**. All these dogs will have to be vaccinated.

### 5.7. Freely dogs

Freely dogs around the musher parking are allowed under the following conditions:

- The musher / handler must always have control over all of his dogs
- The excrements must imperatively be picked up
- This should not disturb the other **Teams**, so a minimal distance must be respected for this

If a musher does not respect these conditions, or if a complaint is done by other mushers, the musher can receive a warning and will not be able to let his dogs freely near the musher parking.

This rule is also valid for bivouac areas.

Any damage caused in the race by a freely dog, except in cases of force majeure escaping the responsibility of the musher, is the responsibility of the musher owner of the dog.

**5.8 Responsibility regarding dogs**

The owners of the dogs remain at all times during the event, and in all circumstances, fully responsible for the actions of their dog, their behavior, biting, fleeing, even if the dog is held by another person other than the owner (member of the organization, other participant, public, etc.).

## **6. Dog's Health**

The veterinary team is responsible to :

- monitor compliance of administrative documents relating to animal health described in this Regulation
- provide veterinary assistance to the teams during the Race
- control the Teams to guarantee animal health at all times

### **6.1. Before the race**

Each musher must provide a list of his dogs with their identification number on the form provided by the Organization no later than 25 days before the departure date of the race. Accompanying dogs (present on site but does not participate in the race) should be on this list. The dogs list provided may include more dogs than authorized pool, but will be finalized at this maximum number in the hour after the musher general pre-race meeting.

### **6.2.The first day of the race**

Each team will have to comply with a double pre-race control.

#### **6.2.1. Administrative control**

On the first day of racing, each team will have to appear on the first convocation (provided by the Organization before the race).

On this checkpoint, the musher must present all the administrative files concerning the dogs required by the Organization.

In case of violation of law or improper documents, the Organization reserves the right to refuse entry to a race team.

#### **6.2.2. Sanitary control**

After the administrative check passed, a health check race entry for each dog will be conducted by the animal health team.

In the case of a contraindication to the practice of the race for a dog detected the Organization reserves the right to refuse entry to a race dog.

Any ongoing medical care will be reported to the animal health team.

### **6.3.In all Races**

Each Team, on request of the animal health team must present a dog for a medical examination, if the request is made to him.

The animal health team is present on the race for an emergency or on-demand examination from a musher or from the Organization.

### **6.4.During a stage**

#### 6.4.1. Vet-check with mandatory stop

During a mandatory veterinary control in a stage, the animal health team will make a brief check of each dog.

On request of the veterinarian team, a dog with a condition not allowing to finish the stage, but who do not require emergency medical care, will complete the stage in the sled. it will be rechecked on arrival.

In case the vet immediately decides to stop the race for a dog, drop rules will be applied (see § 8)

On the bivouac stage, the musher is in autonomy. The veterinary team will not realize systematic control. Veterinarians can however perform controls on dogs that seem necessary. The musher can not oppose this control.

#### 6.4.2. Vet-check with optionnal stop

The musher stops at controls with optional stop only if he wishes. If stopped, the rules of §6.4.1 apply.

### **6.5.At the arrival of each stage**

At the finish of each stage, a veterinary check may be conducted on all dogs who ran the stage.

Following this control, the controlled dogs may be dropped out of the race (definitive drop) or received a mandatory rest time required for recovery (temporary drop). (See chapter 7)

## 7. Dropping dogs

### 7.1. Definitions

"Dropping" is to temporarily or permanently exclude a dog from the race. A drop can be achieved during a stage, or between stages, at the request of the musher or veterinarian of the Animal Health team.

A dropped dog permanently (definitive drop) can not any more take part in the race.

A dog temporarily dropped can not race in :

- for dogs engaged on La Grande Odyssée VVF (long and mid-distance): the next 3 stages
- for dogs engaged on one of the Trophées: the next 2 stages

At the end of a temporary drop, no later than the morning of the planned stage, a veterinarian must give his agreement for the temporarily dropped dog to return to the race. If it deems necessary, temporary drop may be extended or converted into definitive drop.

### 7.2. Drop dogs during a stage

The drop of a dog during a stage outside a drop point defined by the Organization is prohibited.

Whatever the degree of urgency found by the vet once near the team, the dog in question will get a definitive drop status.

The musher can not leave this point without veterinary approval. A musher dropping a dog without permission get a penalty (see appendix 5).

### 7.3. Stopping time of a team at a veterinary check

The dog's stopping time will be determined by the veterinarian according to the dog's observed state of health. The stop time is not removed from the total time.

### 7.4. Table summarizing all situations about the kind of drops

Racing time	Between stages	During a stage on an official dog drop point	During a stage away from an official dog drop point
Drop asked by			
vétérinaire	Vet decision	Temporary drop minimum	
musher	Vet decision	Temporary drop minimum	Definitive drop

### 7.5. Identification of dropped dogs

A dropped dog will be identified by a red bracelet. Only a member of the veterinary team or a member of the race direction can put on and remove this bracelet. If the drop is temporary, the veterinary team will remove the bracelet from the affected dog after the drop period. If the drop is definitive, the musher must leave the bracelet until the end of the race.

If a dropped dog and identify comes to lose his red bracelet, it is up to the musher to come and tell the vets to ask to hand over a bracelet. If a dropped dog is controlled by a veterinarian and does not wear the red bracelet, the musher will get a penalty (see appendix 5).

## **8. Behaviour ethic**

### **8.1.Musher behaviour**

#### **8.1.1 Good Samaritan rule**

In case of danger, mushers must help each others on the trail.

A musher may be penalized for not helping another musher during an emergency.

NB: the time of the assistance given by a musher to another musher is not deductible from the time of its stage

#### **8.1.2 Interference**

A musher may not tamper with another musher's dogs, food or gear or interfere in any manner with the progress of another team unless the other musher agrees.

### **8.2.General team behaviour (musher and handlers)**

Each team shall have a courteous conduct and act in a sportsmanlike manner throughout the race.

The mushers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their handlers and themselves during the entire course of the race.

Any damage caused in the race by a dog belonging to a team, except in cases of force majeure escaping the responsibility of the musher, is the responsibility of the musher / handler owner of the dog causing the damage.

A musher may be penalized if he/she or his/her handlers do not follow the "daily life" instructions from the LGO staff, and more specifically, concerning the Organization of the parking's, the convoys, the meals or the lodging. (see annex 5)

### **8.3.Parking lot for mushers trucks at first/arrived**

Parking lots will be specially reserved to the mushers in start and finish areas. These parkings are under the authority of the musher relationship team. Each team must follow the instructions about how and where to park.

The access to the race parking lots is forbidden until it has not been declared open by the Organization.

### **8.4.Littering**

No litter of any kind shall be left on the parking lots, the trail, in camps or in checkpoints .

### **8.5.Alcohol and drug use**

Use of illegal drugs as defined by French sport law (WADA list of forbidden substances) or excessive use of alcohol as defined by French car driving laws by mushers during the race is prohibited. The Organization has the right to conduct random drug testing. Unscheduled doping controls may also be performed by the official French agency in charge of doping control (AFLD). All mushers are subject to collection of urine or blood samples at any time.

## **8.6.Antidoping control**

As part of the fight against doping, the teams (mushers and dogs) in the race may be subject to anti doping controls.

The rules relating to anti-doping controls, analysis of samples taken and possible disciplinary proceedings are those of the Sports Code.

For more information on control procedures and penalties incurred, you will find more information on the website of the AFLD: [www.afld.fr](http://www.afld.fr)

## **8.7.Health rules and social distancing**

Each musher and his handlers undertakes to respect:

- the sanitary rules which will be in force and implemented by the Organization.
- the social distancing rules in force and implemented by the Organization

## **9. Penalties**

### **9.1. Sanctions**

Rule infractions may result in written or oral warning.

Depending on the level, and after the musher has been heard, the Organization can decide to apply time penalty, blame or disqualification. These sanctions are given by the Organization.

#### **Blame**

The Organization may inflict a blame on a musher. This blame will be forwarded to the French delegated Federation for the practice of dog sledding, which will have to transmit it to the delegated federation of the nation of the incriminated musher, who will thus be able to take a sanction in the country of origin of the musher, against the musher.

#### **Penalties**

A table of penalties, not exhaustive, is presented in Appendix 5. Any offense not listed in this table will be considered by the Race Direction.

If a penalty or sanction is given after a stage (the next day, or later), it will be integrated into the current stage, the day the sanction is pronounced.

### **9.2. Protests**

A musher may lodge a protest concerning an action committed by a competitor that he/she considers to be contrary to the rules. To be recognised as a legitimate protest, it must be reported to the official race judge verbally and in writing:

- Verbally, just after the musher lodging the protest has crossed the finish line.
- In writing, in English or French, no later than 20 minutes after the musher lodging the protest has crossed the finish line.

If complaints are made outside this framework, it is up to the official race judge to decide whether or not the complaint is admissible.

### **9.3. Appeals**

Mushers may appeal race official decisions. Appeals must be presented in writing (in English or in French) to the Race judge within one (1) hour following the decision.

Appeals will be examined during an informal hearing in front of the sports race direction.

## **10. Picture rights, communication and publicity**

### **10.1. Pictures and media**

By taking part in La Grande Odyssée VVF , each musher expressly authorises the Organization to use or make use or reproduce or make reproduction of his name, his image, his voice and his sport performance during the races of La Grande Odyssée VVF , with a view to any direct exploitation or through derivative gear, apparel, etc from the race, and this, on any support, in the whole world, by any mean known or unknown, and for all the protection duration usually provided by the legislative or reglementary statements, the judiciary and/or arbitral decisions of every country, as by current or future international conventions, as well as for the extension that could occur to this duration.

This authorization stands also for his dogs and the members of his team (handlers) with the condition that those shots or records are directly linked to the race and do not impair to his private life and reputation.

Mushers are informed that the official LGO vehicles will be on the race, especially to make video and photo shots and might approach them.

Mushers are committed, by taking part in the race, to respect the work of journalists, cameramen and photographers accredited by the Organization wearing a visible chasuble press.

All participants (mushers and handlers) shall accept to be interviewed by media as long as these interviews are made by professionals, do not exceed reasonable time and do not interfere with the dogs' care and peacefulness. During the first day of the Race in particular, the mushers will have to make themselves widely available to the video production teams for interviews.

Any problems with the media shall be reported to the Organization. Only the Organization will be authorized to discuss these difficulties with representatives of the media.

### **10.2. Musher's sponsors**

The names and logos of the mushers' sponsors and partners can be shown freely on the following spaces. But these commercial names shall not be detrimental to the image and the reputation of La Grande Odyssée VVF .

In case the musher does not abide to this rule, the Organization will require that these commercial signs be removed.

Available spaces for the mushers' sponsors and partners:

- On the dogs: on the harness straps, on the covers, on the bowls
- Mushers' clothes: no limit
- Handlers' clothes: no limit
- Vehicles: no limit on private vehicles, not authorized on vehicles provided by the Organization. No limit on private vehicles, not authorized on vehicles provided by the Organization. It is forbidden to use supports such as banners, dolphin flag, kakemono around or on vehicles
- Sleds: only on the top of the bags.

Generally speaking, nor the type of sponsor, nor the associated publicity markings, shall misrepresent the image of . If that was the case, the Organization shall reserve the right to have the markings removed.

### **10.3. Positive attitude**

By entering La Grande Odyssée VVF , the mushers commit themselves to publicly communicate positively about the race whatever the circumstances may be. Remarks and disagreements shall be communicated to the Organization out of the presence of public, partners and media.

#### **10.4.Drone**

Mushers and their handlers certify that they are informed to be in the minimum zone of exclusion of third parties for aircraft (cat drones A <2kg) from the Organizer, and to take part in the drone shooting activity as part of the Event, carried out by the operator designated by the Organizer, on the dates and places of the Event, in the provisions indicated on the French Cerfa N ° R5-TAAG-6-F3 in relation to the decree of 17 / 12/2015 relating to the design of civil aircraft operating without any person on board, the conditions of their use and the capabilities required of the persons using them (Annex III - Article 3.7).

## 11. Annex 1: Registration process

	Tarifs	Inclus dans l'inscription
La Grande Odyssée VVF	<p><b>Registration</b> 450 €</p> <p><b>8-night option</b> 350 € extra</p> <p><b>12-night option</b> 850 € extra</p>	<p><i>Catering: lunch and dinner for the team, a total of 78 full meals</i>  <i>Access to the care of the veterinary team</i>  <i>Live GPS tracking</i>  <i>Official hat and other goodies</i>  <i>Photo compilation</i></p> <p><b>8-night option</b>  8 nights for 3 people split between Evian and Val Cenis from the evening of Sunday 12 January to the morning of Monday 20 January.</p> <p><b>12-night option</b>  12 nights for 3 people divided between Megève, the VVF Villages of Evian, Val Cenis and Les Sept Laux, from the evening of Saturday 11 January to the morning of Thursday 23 January.</p>
Trophies	130€	<p><i>Catering: a meal for the team, so a total of 3 full meals</i>  <i>Access to care from the veterinary team</i>  <i>Live GPS tracking</i>  <i>Official hat and other goodies</i>  <i>Photo compilation</i></p>

The 2025 registrations will open in two times: at the beginning of July for **the elite list**, and on Thursday 12 September at 12:00 (French time) for the **normal registrations**.

The first 30 mushers for La Grande Odyssée VVF, and the first 12 mushers in each TROPHY will be officially registered at the launch of official registrations in September. A waiting list will be set up to deal with potential withdrawals.

Online registration fees must be paid by credit card (225€ or 130€ depending on the race). It is the responsibility of each musher to ensure that they are able to pay by credit card, on an online merchant site, according to the amount of the planned expenditure, by contacting their bank prior to registration if necessary. Registration will only be validated once payment has been confirmed. If registrations are full before the musher has validated his payment, he will not be entitled to register for the race in question, and will have to register on the waiting list.

If places become available before the start of the race, the Organization will call on the mushers on the waiting list. If they accept the invitation to enter, they must confirm their entry by paying the entry fee within 2 days of acceptance. After 10 December, unless the Organization decides otherwise, mushers on the waiting list will no longer be able to be called.

### **For La Grande Odyssée VVF**

A deposit of 225€ will be requested on registration. This deposit is non-refundable if the musher withdraws. Payment of the balance of the registration fee for La Grande Odyssée VVF (225€) must be made on the Organization's bank details (below) by 30 November 2023 at the latest. After this date, the musher will no longer be considered as registered if payment has not been made, and will not be entitled to a refund of the 225€ deposit paid when registering online.

The balance of the registration fee for La Grande Odyssée VVF (225€) will be reimbursed under the following conditions:

- If withdrawal before 60 days before the start of the Race, the Organization will refund 50% of the balance.
- If withdrawal is made more than 60 days before the start of the race, no refund will be made.
- If the Race is totally cancelled for reasons of force majeure (in particular for reasons of weather and snow conditions), the balance will not be reimbursed and competitors will not be entitled to any compensation.
- If an event is cancelled in part, the balance will not be reimbursed and competitors will not be entitled to claim any compensation.

**Paid accommodation options** must be paid in addition to first registration deposit, **by bank transfer (RIB below) before 15 September 2024**. In the event of cancellation of the accommodation option by the musher, the Organisation cannot guarantee reimbursement of the accommodation, but will do so according to the cancellation conditions of each accommodation (generally 50% of the total sum non-refundable, only 25% refundable if withdrawal between 30 and 45 days before the holiday, no refund if withdrawal less than 30 days before the holiday).

### **For the trophies**

A 130€ registration fee must be paid at the time of registration. This fee is non-refundable if the musher withdraws. To give as many musher as possible the opportunity to take part in a trophy, a musher may only register for one trophy (unless no other musher wishes to take part in the 2nd race and places are available).

CIC		Crédit Industriel et Commercial	
RELEVÉ D'IDENTITÉ BANCAIRE			
Identifiant national de compte bancaire - RIB			
Banque	Guichet	N° compte	Clé
30066	10866	00020354201	96
Devise		Domiciliation	
EUR		CREDIT INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL	
Identifiant international de compte bancaire			
IBAN (International Bank Account Number)		BIC (Bank Identifier Code)	
FR76	3006 6108 6600 0203 5420 196	CMCIFRPP	
Domiciliation		Titulaire du compte (Account Owner)	
CREDIT INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL		KCIOP	
95 AVENUE DU BAC		11 AVENUE JEAN JAURES	
LA VARENNE ST HILAIRE		94340 JOINVILLE LE PONT	
94210 ST MAUR DES FOSSES			
☎ 01 49 08 51 07			
Remettez ce relevé à tout organisme ayant besoin de connaître vos références bancaires pour la domiciliation de vos virements ou de prélèvements à votre compte. Vous éviterez ainsi des erreurs ou des retards d'exécution.		PARTIE RESERVEE AU DESTINATAIRE DU RELEVÉ	

**List of administrative documents to be provided by each musher:**

Documents	Deadline for transmission
Complete the registration complements form	15 september
Photo of the musher in digital format if first participation	15 september
Valid ID (NIC or passport)	30 november
Medical certificate of no contraindication to the practice of sled dog in competition OR Federal license	30 november
RIB or IBAN (for mushers of La Grande Odysee VVF only, not for trophies)	30 november
Cyno-sanitary sheet	15 december
Dog list with dog chip number	15 december

All documents are to be returned by mail to [musher@grandeodysee.com](mailto:musher@grandeodysee.com)

**Registration on the elite list :**

For mushers of La Grande Odyssée, 10 elite bibs are open and distributed as follows:

- 7 bibs for open team
- 3 bibs for pure Nordic team

To apply for this elite list, the main evaluation criteria is the following: the musher is able to claim a podium in the category (Open or Pure Nordic) targeted, on proof of official races results achieved by the musher. Mushers can apply to this list by completing the elite list application form, no later than August 30, 2024 included.

The organization will come back to the candidate mushers on September 2, 2024. The mushers selected from the elite list will then have until September 6 included to validate their registration by paying the deposit of 225 €, by transfer to the RIB of the organizer.

To apply for the elite list, [fill out the form by clicking here](#)

## **12. Annex 2: Race program 2025**

### **12.1.Race program**

#### **La Grande Odyssée VVF :**

The official starting day is january the 11<sup>th</sup>

The official end of the race is january the 23

#### **The Trophy 1 :**

The official starting day is january the 11<sup>th</sup>

The official end of the race is january the 13<sup>th</sup>

#### **The Trophy 2 :**

The official starting day is january the 17<sup>th</sup>

The official end of the race is january the 21<sup>st</sup>

#### **The Trophy 3 :**

The official starting day is january the 23<sup>th</sup>

The official end of the race is january the 25<sup>th</sup>

### **12.2.Race Stages program**

The race program is described on the website of the race : [www.grandeodysee.com](http://www.grandeodysee.com)

### 13. Annex 3 : Prize money and special awards

Prize Money	
Ranking	Amount
1	6 000,00 €
2	4 000,00 €
3	2 000,00 €
4	1 500,00 €
5	1 000,00 €
6	700,00 €
7	450,00 €
8	450,00 €
9	450,00 €
10	450,00 €
11	450,00 €
12	450,00 €
13	450,00 €
14	450,00 €
15	450,00 €
16	400,00 €
17	400,00 €
18	400,00 €
19	400,00 €
20	400,00 €
21	300,00 €
22	300,00 €
23	300,00 €
24	300,00 €
25	300,00 €
1st nordic	1 000,00 €
2nd nordic	750,00 €
3rd nordic	500,00 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25 000,00 €</b>

#### Special awards for La Grande Odyssée VVF :

- **Best Dog Care Award** : The Best Dog Care Award is intended to reward the musher who is taking the best care of these dogs while looking for performance. This prize aims to show that you can be competitive without harming the health and well-being of dogs. The terms of allocation are defined in Annex 8
- **Dog Care Award** : The Dog Care Award is awarded daily by the veterinary team and the race direction to a musher to highlight a remarkable action of Animal Health
- **Golden Harness** : Prize awarded to the head dog of the first musher in the ranking
- **Nordic Challenge** : Mushers entering the Nordic category compete for the Nordic Challenge. The winner of the Nordic general classification will receive the Best Nordic prize in the Nordic challenge.. The Organization reserves the right to cancel the Nordic Challenge if the number of pure Nordic teams is less than 5. The exact denomination of the challenge can be modified by the Organization

- **Red Lantern:** Prize awarded to the last in the ranking, among those who have completed all the stages of the competition
- **Rookie of the Year:** Prize awarded to the best ranked musher for those who are the first to participate, or who have never been granted finisher status
- **Fair Play :** Prize awarded to the musher with the best spirit of fair play
- **Henry Kam's Trophy :** Prize awarded to the musher having set the fastest time on the stage Val Cenis Base Polaire, on scratch ranking of all races – trophy included
- **Prize Handler :** Prize given to the handler(s) of a single team. The team concerned is chosen by the veterinarians and the musher relations, by vote, on several criteria: dogcare and monitoring knowledge of the evolution of the health of the dogs from one day to the next, good mood, degree of help for that the musher rests, knowledge of the race, relationship with the Organization teams, respect of the timetables, control of the dogs on the departures/arrivals, maintenance of the cleanliness of the sites... (non-exhaustive list)

## 14. Annex 4 : Trail marking

### 14.1. Equipment used

Numbers different elements will be used independently from one another or together to perform the marking on the trails of La Grande Odyssée VVF .

**Stakes** painted orange at the top and with a reflective marker.



**Reflecting** arrows on black panels



Yellow triangles with reflecting center.



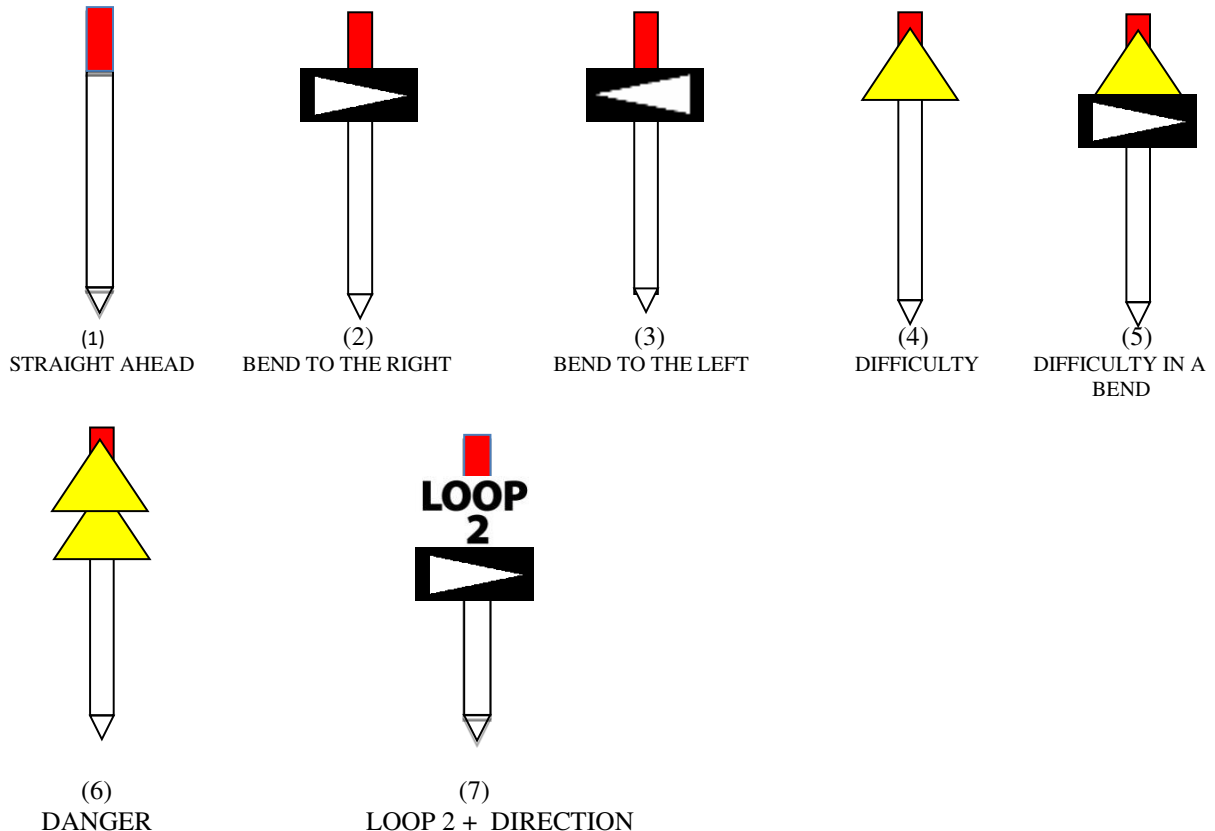
Indicative panels of loop



### 14.2. Marking rules

- The marking will only be installed **ON THE RIGHT SIDE** of the trail, the side with reflector always facing the coming musher. This will allow identifying without any doubt the correct direction of progression.

### 14.3. Trail marking summary



## 15. Annex 5 : Penalties table

Non-exhaustive table of penalties. In the case of an offense not listed in the table below, the dispute will be decided by the Race Direction.

Disciplinary sanctions may range from simple warnings, to time penalties, and exclusion of the Team.

<b>Motifs</b>	<b>Pénalités</b>
-Delay in submitting the dog list	2mn
Failure to comply with instructions on mushers' areas	2mn
Failure to comply with the starting procedure	Between 2 mn and 5 mn by reason
Start shifted: - Delay of presentation on the starting line - Departure delayed due to miss of safety equipment	5mn and obligation to regularize (if absence of material)
2.4 – Handlers No respect of the rules	5mn (for musher)
3.2 – Non-conforming trademarks	5mn
3.3 and 3.4.1. – Mandatory equipment non-conforming or absent in the sled and / or on the musher	5mn and obligation to regularize
3.5 – Safety equipment non-conforming or missing at the departure of a stage	5mn and obligation to regularize. If not regularize before last departure of the stage : DNS
4.6 – No respect of the passing procedure	5mn
3.4.3 – Bibs cleanliness	5mn
3.6 – Dog's equipments non conforming	10mn
4.5 – Smear of the bivouac after final departure	10mn
3.1 – Sled ou sled equipment non conforming	15mn et obligation to regularize
Dog identification offense	Exclusion of dog(s)
2.6 – Responsibilities for compliance of dogs	
Musher who don't take departure of a stage ou who don't fully complete the stage	DNS or DNF
Incivility and anti-sportiness behavior of mushers or their handlers	Exclusion du Team
Derogatory comments, criticisms, insults and threats against a staff member	
False documents	
Running with a dropped dog	
Opposition to the drop of a dog	
Vaccinations non confirming	
Running with a dog less than 18 months old	
Maltreatment towards dogs	
Opposition to anti-dopping control	
Opposition to autopsy of deceased dog	
Opposition to a control decided by the organizer or an authorized organism	
Musher who leaves a control without the authorization of the Organization	
Unsuitable to provide proper care to dogs during bivouac	

## **16. Annex 6: Dog's health Doctrine**

La Grande Odyssée VVF is one of the major international sled dog race.

Mushers and furthermore, Dogs are the athletes of this competition. That is why it is the Organization's responsibility to be sure that the dog's health is respected.

This responsibility is dedicated to the "Vet team" composed by veterinarians.

To achieve the heath's dog goals in the respect of the sports rules of all international competitions, this document, written in coordination with the Race Vet team, presents the general Organization's doctrine of La Grande Odyssée VVF concerning the Dog's Health.

This document is an annex of the official rules. It must be signed and accepted by each musher that participates to one of La Grande Odyssée VVF 's race.

Definition of used words:

**Musher:** sled driver

**Handler:** person helping the musher during the race

**Team:** a "team" consists of a musher, his handlers, his dogs and his means (vehicles, trailers, equipment)

LGO will be called "**The Race**"

The race consists of stages called "**The stages**"

**KCIOP**, 85 rue Etienne Marcel, 93100 Montreuil - France, organizer of the race is called "**the Organizer**" or "**the Organization**".

The organizer sets up a management team of the race called "**The Race Direction**" featuring Race Officials

Within the Race Direction is a veterinary team called "**Team Veto**"

Veto Team is headed by the "**Chief Veterinarian**"

Definitive Drop: the dog is out of the whole race

Temporary Drop: dog temporarily stopped (mandatory veterinary check before returning to racing)

### **16.1.General ethics concerning Dog's health**

Grande Odyssée Vet Team is in charge of the health of dogs and their running capacity in this international race, composed of mountain daily stages. All of this in a total respect of administrative and sporting rules.

Veterinarians ensure compliance of the good health and wellbeing of the participating and non-participating dogs. Collaborating with vets of administrative services, La Grande Odyssée VVF 's veterinarians ensure compliance with the regulations for the transport and import of groups of dogs. They ensure the safety of competing dogs and dogs joining the team but not competing.

All of La Grande Odyssée VVF 's Veterinarians agree to achieve rigorous clinical tests and provide attentive care for all racing dogs present on the race.

### **16.2.Vet Team: definitions of missions**

**Before the race:**

Vet team is managed by the "chief veterinarian". He participates in the creation of La Grande Odyssée VVF 's rules, signed by all the mushers applying to the race. This official rules mention

the administrative and dog's health obligations for the transportation and import of animals for the foreign teams. It reminds the necessary documents.

It details the necessary documents and details vaccinations in accordance with national and international regulations and rules that regulate the Organization of a public canine event.

The official rules describe mushers' behavior face to their dogs and their obligations to respect them in for health and animal welfare.

The official rules remind the law for doping and the obligation to precede any necessary controls, for dogs or humans.

The Vet Chief must ensure that each point of the official rules dedicated to the dog's health is clearly defined and understood by the mushers.

The Vet Chief agrees to answer to all of the musher's questions and to all attending veterinarians, for the proper achievement of its obligations.

### **During the race:**

Veterinarians make health control before the beginning of the race. They make a clinical health check on each dog participating to the race in order to evaluate their general health, to detect any clinically apparent risk of infectious disease and in order to detect any cardiac or orthopedic disorder

Veterinarians provide daily care that is necessary for the respect of the physical integrity and wellbeing of dogs. If necessary, they provide the continuity of care, by linking with local veterinarians and inform musher of the possibility of coverage of critical cases by specialized and competent structure .

If necessary, Veterinarians guarantee the link with health authorities in case of needs.

## **16.3.Vet Team General Organizations**

The Veterinarians Team is composed of certificated and qualified veterinarians for all tasks asked to be accomplished by the Chief Vet. They are assisted by vet students. Drugs and medical equipment are available for the Vet Team to treat every dogs engaged in the race. All prescription will be made in accordance with the current legislation. Veterinarians work in compliance with the ethics code and are bound by professional secrecy.

Veterinarians must comply with logistical constraints set by the Organization for the proper functioning of the race. The Organization guarantees to each veterinarian the total independence in each situation related to his own capacities and diplomas certification.

The Chief Vet's decision is the final decision in case of penalization against a musher who endangers dog's health or life.

## **16.4.Vet Team's operational missions during the race**

### Vet check before the race :

Before and during the race, the Chief Vet is at the disposal of the Departmental Direction of the Population's Protection Veterinarians. He guarantees the good process of every vet check realized with their authority.

Before the race, La Grande Odyssée VVF 's Vets proceed to a double step check:

- 1- Health check: A complete control of necessary vaccinations is realized. After this first step, follows a general check to detect any clinically apparent infectious and contagious disease.

Dogs go through the second control: sportive check after passing the first health examination.

- 2- Sportive check: A general and historical medical review of each dog pretending to participate is made. Any dog receiving product considered doping by the current legislation will be denied entry into race.

A clinical examination of body condition, cardiorespiratory functions and a thorough orthopedic clinical examination is performed. For suspected heart disease and orthopedic, a request for further examination by a specialist may be carried out by the Veterinary.

- 3- After this vet checks, each musher will receive his health team book. This book will mention name and identity each participant dog and necessary elements for their clinical observations.

#### During the race :

Concerning the dogs of the race

Access to a veterinarian for mushers or members of the Organization in relation to the mushers is guaranteed 24h / 24 throughout the duration of the race. A phone number allows access to this permanence.

**Along the route/itinerary:** During all stages, mandatory or optional check point can be established in agreement with the Organizer. Musher cannot avoid these clinical check decided by a veterinarian for one of his dog. Dogs dropping conditions by the musher, during a vet check, are described in the race's rule. Conditions of definitive or temporary dog drop are described in the race rules.

#### General Security of the public

In collaboration with the Organization, the Chief Veterinarian implements public information in order to limit dogs near various facilities of the race and its tracks. In order to limit health risks for competing dogs. Musher areas are delimited and its access is reserved to the Organization members and authorized persons (Medias, partners ...). Thanks to this establishment, the dog's rest is guaranteed after each stage, and minimizes the health risks of competing dogs.

#### What vet team will not execute :

The Vet Team is not allowed to disclosure of any information that violates the medical confidentiality. and commits to respect the code of veterinarians ethics.

All the decisions coming from the Departmental Direction of the protection of population and by the official French agency in charge of doping control (AFLD) must be followed by the Vet team.

Except vital emergency, The Vet Team does not realize care on undeclared dogs on the race or in the audience around the race.

Clinical and complementary exams are made free by vets from La Grande Odyssée VVF .

In case of prescription for a sickness declared during the event, a free drug delivery will be performed for a 24 hours treatment. The extent of available stocks, this issue may be extended. Otherwise, a prescription will be given to the musher. He will have to go to the pharmacy.

If needed, a necessity for continuation of treatment beyond the time of the race will result in a prescription for a withdrawal in pharmacy.

If consultation is necessary, the fees of additional tests or treatments performed in a local veterinary clinic will be charged to the musher.

If performing an autopsy after the death of a dog competing in the race, it will be performed by a veterinarian chosen by the Organization if possible.

## **17. Annex 7: Emergency Kit RECOMMENDED by hitch**

Here is the list of **RECOMMENDED** equipment to have in the sled or in your truck at every stage start:

- Sterile gauze (at least 10)
- 1 crepe tape 10 cm
- 2 Elastoplast tape 7.5cm
- Soap to clean wounds (eg usual soap or betadine soap)
- A disinfectant (eg Betadine solution or pod Hexomidine)
- A survival blanket
- 2 sugars
- Compeed (at least a box of 5)
- Super glue (at least a tube)
- Smecta (minimum 10 bags)
- A thermometer
- medical tape
- an american gauze
- A surgical stapler (order it with your vet or pharmacy)
- A gutter splint
- A 10mL syringe
- A tube of Betadine Gel
- A hydroalcoholic gel vial
- Eye cleaner
- Food boxes of convalescence (eg Royal Canin Recovery or A / D Hill's veterinary brand)
- A small mower (to clean wounds before release care)
- A table salt packet

## **18. Annex 8 : Best Dog Care Award**

Best dog care is an award given by the entire veterinary team following examinations of dogs entered in the competition. It aims to reward the musher who takes the best care of his dogs while striving for performance, regardless of the musher's ranking.

This award is intended to show that you can be competitive without compromising the health and well-being of dogs.

Team scoring will take place on three occasions: after the first day's exam, at the halfway point, and after the finish of the last day. The team's veterinarians use a grid of 5 criteria to establish their ranking:

- NUTRITION MANAGEMENT: Assessment based on the state of arrival and maintenance of body, muscle and fecal score, the state of hair and integuments, appetite every day, management of food storage
- MANAGEMENT OF DOGS AROUND THE RACE: vitality of dogs at the finish line, care given in preparation for the race, care given when returning from the stage (active recovery, walk, free stake, massage, stretching, etc.)
- ANIMAL BEHAVIOR: observation of the games and moment of sharing between the musher and the dog, behavior of the dogs among themselves, and towards external people, behavior of the dogs on the starting line
- COMMUNICATION WITH THE VETERINARY TEAM: Listening to advice and implementation of requested corrections, knowledge of basic care, requests from the musher to the veterinary team
- CONSIDERATION OF THE CAPACITIES OF DOGS BY THE MUSHER DURING THE COMPETITION: voluntary choice of resting dogs before injury, recovery of dogs left at rest, number of drops required

For each criterion, the teams will be scored out of 5 points (overall score out of 25) during the first day, at mid-race, and at the last finish. These evaluations will allow the teams to be ranked and the best dog care award to be awarded on the final podium. The results of each team will then be sent by email in order to be able to discuss the potential points of progression of the mushers.

### **DAILY DOG CARE**

Each day, a special prize, the DOG CARE, will be presented to the musher whose behavior towards his dogs on the stage will have marked the spirits.

**19. Annex 9 : Importation in the community territory of pets from a non-member country to the European union**

The regulations applicable in this matter are available on the document issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, [downloadable on this link](#) or on [this link](#).  
The information in English are [available on this link](#).