



## RULES CLARIFICATION STATEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY

### CLARIFICATION

Like any code of rules, including Federal and State regulations—even the Iditarod, the Yukon Quest and other racing events—rules have been evolving documents. Research indicates that this was true also for the All Alaska Sweepstakes races.

It shall be the policy of the Nome Kennel Club to adopt as the official rules for the 2008 centennial re-run of the All Alaska Sweepstakes Race, the historical version of rules adopted for use in 1917. These rules are an update of the original version laid out in the Nome Kennel Club constitution, Article 3, in 1908/1909 and were adopted and (along with an *Interpretation of The Rules Supplement*) were used for the AAS 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Re-run in 1983. Many of them have also been adopted verbatim and in spirit for modern long distance sled dog racing.

In addition, in the 1908/1909 version of the rules “Each team entered ... consist(ed) of as many dogs as the owner ... deem(ed) fit.” However, historical photos generally indicate that 16 dogs were the average; thus, in the interests of the welfare of the dogs and to ensure adequate dog care—including the problems of taking care of too many dogs or the obvious problems of including too few—the Nome Kennel Club strongly recommends that mushers consider using the number of dogs that they can adequately care for and the number of dogs that will provide power enough to assure that their trip to Candle and return will be accomplished in a timely and humane manner.

### ENFORCEMENT

The world in general, including the world of dog mushing, is considerably different in 2008, 100 years after the first running of the All Alaska Sweepstakes.

It shall be the policy of the Nome Kennel Club to instruct its judges for the 2008 Centennial running of the All Alaska Sweepstakes to interpret the 17 AAS rules as written, in the spirit of modern long distance sled dog racing rules, i.e. Iditarod and the Yukon Quest, for the protection of both the dogs and the mushers; specifically, but not limited to dog care, inhumane treatment, drug use—both for mushers and dogs—and sportsmanship!

These rules with the *Interpretation of The Rules Supplement* shall be enforced by a panel of one lead judge and five support judges, as was done in 1983.