LA GRANDE ODYSSEE ROYAL CANIN

OFFICIAL RULES 2027

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Payment by the Musher of the entry fees provided for in **Annex 1 constitutes acceptance** by the Musher of **all articles of these regulations** and their annexes. The regulations may be updated until the first day of the event; any updates will be communicated by email to registered mushers.

It is the Musher's responsibility to familiarise themselves with the description of each Stage (start times, routes, distance, elevation gain) based on the information provided by the **Organisation**.

1. General Information

1.1 Preamble

Definitions of terms used:

Musher: sled driver.

Handler: person assisting the musher during the Race.

Team: a "Team" consists of a musher, their handlers, their dogs and their resources (vehicles, trailers, equipment).

All races forming part of La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin shall collectively be referred to as "the Race".

The Race consists of stages referred to as "Stages".

KCIOP, 11 Avenue Jean Jaurès, 94340 Joinville-le-Pont, France, the company organising the Race, shall be referred to as "the **Organiser**" or "the **Organisation**".

The **Organiser** establishes a race management team referred to as "**Race Management**", comprising Race Officials.

Within **Race Management** there is a veterinary team referred to as the "Veterinary Team".

The Veterinary Team is headed by the "Chief Veterinarian".

Permanent Drop: permanent exclusion of a dog.

Temporary Drop: a dog temporarily withdrawn from racing.

Penalties: refer to the list of penalties in Annex 5.

DNF: Did Not Finish, status assigned to a musher who does not start a Stage and does not complete it in its entirety.

1.2 General race rules

"La Grande Odyssée" is an international sled dog race held in an Alpine environment (see details in Chapter 4) and limited to a maximum of:

- 30 dog teams for La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin - referred to as "LGO";
- 12 dog teams for Trophy 1, from 7 to 9 January: one prologue + 2 Stages;
- 12 dog teams for Trophy 2, from 11 to 14 January: 4 Stages: Savoie Grand Revard, Les 7 Laux, Col de Porte, Villard de Lans;
- 12 dog teams for Trophy 3, from 15 to 17 January: 2 Stages with one overnight bivouac, 3 days of racing;
- 12 dog teams for Trophy 4, from 18 to 19 January: 2 Stages: Les Karellis, Le Corbier - La Toussuire.

All rules may be amended by the **Organiser**, who shall be responsible for communicating any new rules to the mushers before the start.

The length of the Race may be increased or reduced depending on snow conditions. The list of Stages may be revised depending on weather and/or snow conditions.

A Stage is defined by a start point and a finish point and may include one or more mandatory stops, veterinary checks and one or more mandatory bivouacs.

The trail will be prepared by the **Organisation**.

The trail will be marked and signposted in accordance with the rules set out in Annex 4.

Depending on weather and safety conditions, the **Organiser** may change the trail at any time. The **Organiser**

may also postpone a start or cancel a section of the course.

1.3 Official Languages

French and English are the two official languages of the Race.

The main documents will be prepared in both official languages and musher briefings will be conducted in both official languages. In the event of any discrepancy in the interpretation of a text, the French version shall prevail.

At least the lead handler must be fluent in French or English.

1.4 Race Officials

The Race Officials are:

- General Director;
- Operations Director;
- Race Judge (responsible for ensuring compliance with the race regulations);
- Sporting Director;
- Chief Veterinarian;
- Musher Relations Manager;
- Partnerships and Communications Manager.

Each official is responsible for applying all rules within their respective area of responsibility.

1.5 Sporting Management of the Race

Sporting Management is composed of the:

- General Director;
- Operations Director;
- Race Judge (responsible for ensuring compliance with the race regulations);
- Sporting Director;
- Chief Veterinarian.

Race Management is responsible for managing all sporting aspects of the Race.

1.6 Partners and Media

The official list of partners will be communicated to the mushers before the start of the Race. A large number of media representatives are present around the Race. Mushers and Handlers undertake, in all circumstances, to maintain a positive attitude towards all partners and media representatives. Failure to comply with this rule shall constitute a serious breach and may result in sanctions.

1.7 Standings and Podiums

The general classification of the Races is established according to two criteria:

- the number of Stages actually completed in full;
- total time.

Accordingly, mushers who have completed all Stages will occupy the top positions in the general classification. They will be followed by mushers who, for whatever reason (withdrawal, accident, etc.), have not completed all Stages.

For a musher who has not completed a Stage, refer to Section 4.9.

FINISHER status is awarded to a musher who has completed all Stages in their entirety. Likewise, in the event of programme changes due to a potential lack of snow, the musher must take part in all possible replacement activities (parade, conference, activities, etc.).

For La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin and the Trophies:

- overall standings and overall Stage standings (all races and categories combined) will be issued after

each Stage;
- only one Stage podium ceremony will be held per Stage for each race (LGO, Trophy), based on the Stage standings;
- the general classifications will determine the final podiums, which will take place during the closing ceremony of each race;
- Special Awards will be presented following the Stage podium ceremony for the final Stage.

At the end of each Stage of the Race, the **Organiser** holds a podium ceremony to reward musher performances, including the presentation of Stage and general classification bibs according to category. Podium ceremonies will take place at the time set by the **Organiser**, even if mushers are still racing and even if protests are pending. The official standings, after protests have been processed, will be the only results officially published by the **Organiser**.

Mushers must attend podiums and official ceremonies when called, failing which they may be sanctioned.

1.8 DNF and Special Statuses

Several statuses may appear for a musher in the results:

- **DNS - Did Not Start:** Team that did not start;
- **DSQ - Disqualified:** Team that has been disqualified;
- **DNF - Did Not Finish:** Team that did not finish the Stage;
- **ABD - Withdrawn:** Team that has withdrawn.

A musher receiving any of these statuses on a Stage will automatically have DNF status in the general classification. In this case, the musher will not be eligible for FINISHER status. They will continue to appear at the bottom of the standings.

As soon as a musher has DNF status in the general classification, they will no longer be eligible for the Stage classification.

For La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin: after more than three (3) DNFs during the Race, the Team will be removed from the Race and must leave the Race, unless otherwise agreed by the **Organisation**.

For a Trophy: after more than one (1) DNF during the Race, the Team will be removed from the Race and must leave the Race, unless otherwise agreed by the **Organisation**.

1.9 Prize Money and Special Awards

Only FINISHERS are eligible for prize money. In addition, to be eligible for payment of prize money relating to the general classification, the following conditions must be met:

- the musher must have taken part in all official ceremonies included in the programme, including the opening and closing ceremonies;
- the musher must have taken part in any demonstration loops organised in the event of a Stage cancellation;
- the musher must have complied with the commitments set out in the regulations, particularly with regard to communication (see Chapter 10).

The amount of prize money and the list of Special Awards are specified in Annex 3.

Prize money may be redistributed by the **Organisation** before the start of the Race depending on the distribution of the number of mushers across the different categories. However, the **Organiser** may not reduce the total prize money.

Prize money will be paid by bank transfer no later than one month after the final day of racing, subject to the required bank details having been provided to the **Organisation**, and after deduction of any costs, penalties, taxes, duties or other amounts owed to the **Organisation**.

Tax on prize money: in accordance with Articles 182A, 182B and 1671 of the French General Tax Code, 15% will be withheld from prize money paid to bank accounts domiciled outside France. This tax will be paid directly to the French tax authorities by the **Organisation** for mushers who do not file a tax return in France. Mushers with a bank account domiciled in France who pay taxes in France must declare this prize money in

their income tax return.

1.10 Organisation of the Trophies

The **Organisation** organises Trophies. Annex 2 describes the programme for each Trophy.

The names of the Trophies are determined by the **Organisation**.

Trophy 3 is reserved exclusively for Nordic dogs: purebred Nordic dogs or long-distance lineage Alaskan Huskies. The installation of tents for dogs is not permitted for this Trophy.

1.11 Special Bibs

Several special bibs are awarded each day during the podium ceremonies. These bibs must be worn by the mushers during the following Stage.

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

If several bibs are awarded to the same musher, the following rules apply:

- Leader / Best Dog Care combination: the musher wears the Leader bib and the Dog Care armband, and their handler wears the Dog Care bib;
- Dog Care / Leader Nordic combination: the musher wears the Leader Nordic bib and the Dog Care armband, and their handler wears the Dog Care bib;
- Leader / Leader Nordic combination: the musher wears the Leader bib.

The Leader and Leader Nordic bibs are awarded on the basis of the general classification, not the Stage standings.

1.12 Nordic Category

Only dog teams whose dog pool is made up of 100% purebred Nordic dogs are eligible to be classified in the Nordic category (NB). Dog teams must declare themselves as such when registering, and the **Organisation** will check the official documents during the pre-race inspection in order to validate their entry in the Nordic category. A Nordic category will be implemented on La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin when there are at least 5 participants.

1.13 DUO Category

For La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin only, a DUO category is available at registration. It allows two mushers to race with a single dog team, alternating between Stages. A separate classification, distinct from that of individual mushers, will be established for this category, which will not have a podium ceremony during the Race. This category does not entitle participants to FINISHER status for La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin, but DUO Teams completing all Stages may receive prize money after all individual musher finishers.

2. Registration

2.1 Registration Procedure

Registration is completed using an online form, the link to which will be available on the Race website from the registration opening date.

The first 30 mushers for La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin will be selected. For the Trophies, the first 12 entrants for Trophy 1, the first 12 entrants for Trophies 2 and 4, and the first 12 entrants for Trophy 3 will be officially selected.

Mushers registering afterwards will be placed on a waiting list.

For La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin, an Elite List allows 10 mushers to register before the general registration opening date. The conditions for registration on this list are detailed in the Annex to these regulations.

The **Organisation** reserves the right to refuse a registration.

The financial and administrative conditions are described in the Annex to these regulations.

2.2 Minimum Registration Requirements

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

If the musher is under 18 on the day of the Race, parental authorisation is required.

The musher must provide a medical certificate issued less than one year previously confirming that there is no medical contraindication to competitive sled dog sports, or a copy of a currently valid competition licence issued by a recognised national sled dog federation.

2.3 Replacement of Mushers

A musher may only be replaced by another person in the event of force majeure and with the **Organisation**'s authorisation. The replacement musher must meet the same conditions and provide the same documents as the musher being replaced. In the event of a replacement, the Team may not be ranked ahead of other mushers who have not been replaced and will not be eligible for a podium or Special Awards; DNF status will be assigned to the Team.

2.4 Handlers

- Each Team must include at least one handler.
- Handlers under the age of 18 must provide parental authorisation.
- The **Organisation** will provide each Team with 2 official Handler bibs and 2 official Handler badges.
- Each Team must appoint a lead handler. The **Organisation** must have their telephone contact details. They must be able to communicate with the **Organisation** in French or English.
- From 30 minutes before each Stage start, only 2 handlers and the musher are permitted in the stake-out/Parking area. They must wear the official bibs from that time until the end of the musher's Stage, including ceremonies. Any other assistance is strictly prohibited unless an exemption is granted by the **Organisation**.
- 2 Handlers wearing the official bibs will be allowed to wait for their musher in the finish areas, at the locations indicated by the **Organisation**.
- When meals are provided by the **Organisation**, only 2 handlers are covered, upon presentation of the official Handler badge. No other person will be granted access to the dining area.
- When the **Organisation** provides accommodation to the Team, only 2 handlers and the musher are authorised to stay there. The presence of any other person is strictly prohibited unless approved by the **Organisation**.

Handlers must strictly comply with the instructions given to them regarding traffic and the parking location of their vehicle. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in time or financial penalties being

imposed on the mushers.

Handlers must ensure that their vehicles are insured and must be able, at the **Organisation**'s request, to provide proof of valid insurance. The **Organisation** may not be held liable for damage caused to vehicles parked in the parking areas made available to them.

Handler assistance is only permitted at the starts and finishes of Stages. It is therefore prohibited at any stops scheduled within Stages. It may be authorised at a bivouac under specifically defined rules.

Handlers are subject to the same conduct requirements as those described in these regulations for Mushers.

2.5 Musher Responsibilities

2.5.1 Identity Card and Passport

It is the musher's responsibility to check what type of identification and visa they and their handler(s) require according to their nationality.

2.5.2 Animal Regulations and Vaccinations

It is the musher's responsibility to ensure that the documents required for dogs to enter France comply with the regulations in force on the date of the Race.

Please note that these regulations differ depending on whether animals are imported from European Union countries or from outside the European Union.

All dogs not participating in the Race but transported in the musher's or handlers' vehicle or trailer must have the same vaccinations and official documents as participating dogs. Such accompanying dogs are limited to 2.

2.5.2.a Identification

Dogs must be identified by transponders compliant with international standard ISO 11785. If dogs are identified using transponders complying with another standard, the musher is responsible for providing a reader compatible with the standard used. If the microchip cannot be read by the readers used, another microchip must be implanted before the start of the Race at the musher's expense.

2.5.2.b Health Certificate

For dogs coming 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 concerned, issued within the time limit required by the legislation in force before entry into France.

2.5.2.c Vaccinations

For every dog participating in the Race or designated as an "accompanying" dog, the musher must be able to provide proof of vaccination against the required diseases.

Refer to Annex 10 for full details of the vaccination requirements.

Primary vaccination protocols will also be checked.

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

Official certificates proving vaccination status will be required. Only documents signed and stamped by a veterinarian will be recognised as official.

Any non-compliance relating to vaccinations or import documents will result in the dog concerned, or the entire Team, being refused entry to the Race.

If additional examinations or vaccinations are required by the authorities before the Race, the musher must arrange and pay for them at their own expense.

In the event of any doubt, vaccination protocols may be sent to the Race veterinarian up to 2 months before the first day of racing.

2.5.3 Liability in the Event of Damage

As the owner of their dog, the musher is responsible for it. If the dog escapes their supervision and injures a participant, a member of the **Organisation** or any other person, the musher is personally liable for the damage caused and must bear all consequences of the accident.

Mushers must ensure that their vehicles are insured and must be able, at the **Organisation**'s request, to provide proof of valid insurance. The **Organisation** may not be held liable for damage caused to vehicles parked in the parking areas made available to them.

2.6 Transport and Accommodation Costs

2.6.1 Transport

Transport and travel expenses, fuel and toll costs (passengers, dogs and equipment) are the responsibility of the mushers.

Mushers must ensure that their vehicles are properly equipped with snow tyres and that they carry suitable snow chains.

For safety and parking space reasons, only one towing vehicle with a maximum of one trailer is authorised for each dog team.

2.6.2 Accommodation and Food

For La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin:

Accommodation for 3 people per Team is included in the entry from the evening of Thursday 7 January 2027 until the morning of Tuesday 19 January, i.e. 12 nights.

A registration option without accommodation will be offered on the registration form.

The musher will be held responsible for any damage found in the accommodation during the inspection carried out upon departure. The musher must reimburse the **Organisation** for the cost of restoring the premises.

Dogs are not permitted inside the accommodation.

During the Race, certain meals will be provided to mushers and handlers (maximum two handlers per musher). Mushers will be informed of the details of the meals covered by the **Organisation**.

For the Trophies:

The **Organisation** does not provide accommodation.

During the Race, one or two meals may be provided to mushers and handlers (maximum two handlers per musher). Mushers will be informed of the details of the meals covered by the **Organisation**.

2.7 Individual Accident Insurance for Mushers

Individual accident insurance may be taken out with any provider chosen by the Musher, including the "Impact Multisports" insurance policy, which may be purchased directly via the website: https://www.assurance-multi-sports.com

3. Equipment

3.1 Sled Equipment

The sled must be capable of carrying the driver properly and, in an emergency, a passenger. It must have a rigid-bottomed basket with a minimum surface area of 40 cm x 50 cm, allowing all mandatory equipment to be carried and a dog to be transported safely.

The sled model must be approved by the Race Judge during the pre-race inspection. The musher may use a backpack to carry mandatory equipment.

The sled must be equipped as follows:

- a safety line (lifeline) connected to the gangline, which may be used to secure or restrain the sled if necessary;
- a shock absorber fitted to the gangline in order to reduce starting forces and improve dog welfare;
- a neckline attached to the sled, allowing a dog loaded into the sled to be secured by its collar, fixed and accessible inside the basket;
- the sled must be able to support the musher normally. It must be equipped with an appropriate brake, an appropriate drag mat, a front bow ("brushbow") and two snow hooks;
- **Innovations:** other innovative safety, protective, braking or handling equipment may be authorised provided that it is presented during the initial inspection day and subsequently approved by the **Organisation**;
- a closed pocket (minimum dimensions: 25 cm long, 20 cm wide and 10 cm high) on top of the bag to hold the GPS tracking unit supplied by the **Organisation** at the start of each Stage.

Any equipment presenting a danger to the musher, their dogs or other dog teams is prohibited, in particular metal edges under the sled runners. The musher is responsible for any damage caused by the sled and must bear the consequences in the event of an accident.

3.2 Commercial Branding on the Sled

The sides of the sleds are reserved for the **Organisation**. At the start of each Stage, the **Organisation** will provide the sled side panels, which must be installed on the sled used during the Race.

It is the musher's responsibility to correctly attach the sled-side covers supplied by the **Organisation**.

A penalty will be imposed at the start line if these sled-side covers have not been correctly attached by the musher.

3.3 Mandatory Equipment to Be Carried on or in the Sled

The musher must have the following equipment on or in the sled at all times:

- one snow shovel;
- one avalanche probe;
- two emergency blankets;
- at least 2 fabric leads marked with the musher's or Team's name;
- two working headlamps;
- 4 booties per dog (on the dogs or in the sled);
- telecommunications and safety equipment supplied by the **Organisation** (GPS tracker);
- a cable or Dyneema stake-out if the gangline is not made of cable or Dyneema;
- an automatic chain system or a set of two chains designed to be fitted under the sled runners to slow the sled on icy trails;
- spare clothing (minimum: 1 pair of socks, one pair of gloves, one technical top and one technical bottom);
- reflectors on the sled uprights;
- illuminated or reflective collars and/or illuminated or reflective harnesses on the lead dogs.

For Stages including a bivouac, the following additional mandatory equipment is required and may be transported by the **Organisation**:

- a stove for heating water for the dogs' food (methylated spirit will be supplied by the **Organisation** at the bivouac);
- a container capable of heating 0.5 L per dog;
- one bowl per dog with a capacity of at least 0.5 L of water;
- one coat per dog;
- a low-temperature sleeping bag rated to -20°C;
- a ground mat.

The musher must provide a specific bag for all this equipment. The bag must be handed over to the **Organisation** so that it can be transported to the bivouac site. Only 1 bag per musher is permitted, containing the mandatory and additional equipment. It must be closed, easy to carry and identified with the race bib number and the musher's name.

The musher may carry additional equipment (tent, mattress, etc.) considered necessary for the Stage. This equipment may be placed in the bivouac bag transported by the **Organisation**, provided that the "1 bag per musher" rule is respected.

At bivouacs, the **Organisation** strongly recommends having 1 blanket per dog in the event of particularly low temperatures.

The list of mandatory equipment may be amended during the Race by the **Organisation**, which will specify any changes during a musher briefing where applicable.

3.4 Musher Equipment

3.4.1 Mandatory Equipment Carried by the Musher

At the start of each Stage, the musher must carry:

- their race bib;
- their avalanche transceiver (DVA), compliant with the international 457 kHz standard;
- a sufficient supply of high-energy food for the Stage;
- a knife;
- a box of matches or a lighter;
- a mobile phone, charged for the duration of the Stage, with the Red Phone number saved;
- a helmet compliant with EN 1077 (alpine ski helmet) or EN 12492 (ski touring and mountaineering helmet), or equivalent.

When racing, the musher's DVA must be worn **at all times** underneath their clothing.

Only mushers with a fully operational DVA at the start line will be permitted to start.

The musher undertakes to know how their DVA works and to be able to carry out a search in the event of an exceptional incident.

3.4.2 Other Equipment

Wearing a helmet is mandatory.

The **Organisation** reserves the right to apply branding to the musher's helmet in accordance with the Race partnership agreements.

Competitors must not wear footwear that may be dangerous to the dogs. Shoes with spikes or hard studs of a maximum of one millimetre are permitted.

The use of a pole is permitted provided that it does not create a safety issue.

3.4.3 Bib and Handler Bibs

Race bibs will be issued by the **Organisation** to each musher before the start of the Race. The race bib must be worn the correct way up, over all other clothing and any bag, and must remain visible regardless of the musher's equipment. Wearing the race bib is mandatory throughout the Race and during official ceremonies.

The race bib, which is washable, must always be clean. Otherwise, penalties may be imposed at the start lines (see Annex 5: Penalty Table).

Two Handler bibs will be issued to each Team. These bibs must be worn over all other clothing. The musher will be responsible for the cleanliness of their Handler bibs. Otherwise, a penalty will be applied (see Annex 5: Penalty Table).

3.5 Safety Equipment Check at the Start of Each Stage

At the start of each Stage, the **Organisation** will carry out a mandatory check to ensure that each participant has the required safety equipment. A designated stopping point will be set up before the start line, where the musher must present:

- a functioning avalanche transceiver - worn on the musher, not in the sled;
- a snow shovel;
- an avalanche probe;
- two emergency blankets.

To make these checks more efficient, each participant is asked to:

- wear the DVA around the body;
- prepare an easily accessible pack containing the shovel, probe and 2 emergency blankets, and place this pack on top of the sled.

If a participant does not have the required items at this check, or if any item is considered defective, the participant must move their dog team to the side and retrieve the missing equipment. They may only start once the Judge authorises them to do so. Timing will begin when they start and a penalty will be applied (see Annex 5). If the participant is unable to assemble this safety pack before the final start of the races, they will not be permitted to start and will be considered DNS.

3.6 Dog Equipment

Dogs in the dog team must wear a harness.

All harnesses must be padded around the neck and under the chest and must be in perfect condition.

Harnesses may display the commercial brands of the mushers' sponsors.

4. Organisation of the Race

4.1 Musher Parking

Parking areas specifically reserved by the **Organisation** are provided for all Teams at the start and finish of the Stages. These parking areas are managed by the **Organisation**. Each Team must comply with the instructions given regarding its allocated space.

Access to the parking areas before the Stage is strictly prohibited until they have been declared open by the **Organisation**. Mushers must nevertheless arrive by a latest time that will be communicated each day by the Musher Relations Team. Access to the parking area after the Stage, once the **Organisation** has left, is the responsibility of each Team.

The Musher Parking area is accessible to the entire official Team and to the vehicle used to transport the dogs. No size limit is specified, but one "official" vehicle per Team must be designated during pre-race registration. Any other vehicle is strictly prohibited in Musher Parking (handler vehicles, etc.), unless specifically authorised by the **Organisation**.

The Team's designated "official" vehicle must display a sticker supplied by the **Organisation**. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the **Organisation** refusing the vehicle access to Musher Parking.

It is strictly prohibited to drill or make holes in the surfaces of Musher Parking areas where these consist of asphalt, concrete or any other non-natural constructed surface. The Team is responsible for providing suitable equipment so as not to damage the site.

Musher Parking areas must be left in the same clean condition as when the musher arrived. All dog waste, straw and rubbish must be collected and placed in the designated containers provided for this purpose.

4.2 Musher Meeting

Mushers must attend the pre-race Musher Meeting as well as the musher briefings held before each Stage, generally 1 hour before the first start of the Stage. The time and location of these meetings will be announced each day by the **Organisation**.

The musher briefing before each Stage will provide all information required for the proper running of that day's race, including in particular:

- information about the day's Stage: distance, conditions;
- the start procedure.

As a general rule, the information provided during the musher briefing shall take precedence for the Stage.

Musher and Handler bibs must be worn during all official meetings between Teams and the **Organisation**.

4.3 Starts and Finishes

4.3.1 Start Procedure

The following areas are reserved for mushers and are under the authority of the **Organisation** while the Musher Relations teams are present on site:

- Musher Parking;
- dog team preparation area;
- start and finish line.

All the areas listed above must be left clean, and dog waste must be collected by the responsible Teams as soon as possible and no later than immediately after the musher's start.

Because starts may involve logistical and organisational constraints (significant distance between Musher Parking and the other areas, restricted spaces, safety constraints, etc.) and depend on actual site and snow conditions, a specific start procedure will be adapted to each Stage of the Race.

The start procedure will be provided no later than the musher briefing and will specify the organisation

required for all starts to run smoothly: sled drop-off location, access times to the different areas and traffic-control principles. A site inspection may be offered to mushers before or after the musher briefing in order to explain the arrangements on the ground.

4.3.1.a Movement Between Musher Parking and the Dog Team Preparation Area

To move the dogs between Musher Parking and the dog team preparation area, mushers have two options, which must be clearly stated to the Musher Relations Manager before the musher briefing for each Stage:

- **Independent movement of the dogs with the Team's handlers:** as a general rule, all mushers must be capable of operating "independently". This means that the musher must be able to reach the dog team preparation area while complying with the instructions and timing given by the Musher Relations Manager, with assistance only from their Team.
- **Movement of the dogs with assistance from the Organisation (in addition to the Team's handlers):** if the musher requests assistance from the **Organisation**, they must comply with the **Organisation**'s instructions so that their start can take place on time.

The **Organiser** may authorise external assistance (handlers from other Teams) up to the start line.

4.3.1.b Dog Team Preparation Area

It includes:

- a sled storage area: sleds may be brought in once the area has been announced as open, unless otherwise instructed. The number of sleds may be limited due to logistical constraints, in which case priority will be based on the start order;
- a dog team preparation area, where ganglines are laid out and dogs are harnessed: dog teams must be prepared in start order and mushers preparing their Teams must not obstruct mushers starting before them;
- an optional dog team holding area before the start line: sleds may move forward in single file and be stopped at successive points by members of the **Organisation** before access to the start line.

The dog team preparation area is reserved exclusively for starting dog teams and may only be entered after authorisation from the Area Coordinator (a single identified person) positioned at the entrance to the area. A musher entering the dog team preparation area without the Area Coordinator's permission may receive a penalty.

4.3.1.c Start Line

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

At the start, the musher must position the brushbow of the sled immediately 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 authorised by the **Organisation** in the circumstances.

The musher should normally be under the start arch, with the sled positioned and stationary, at least 1 minute before their official start time. The musher must wait for the Judge's start signal before setting off.

If the musher is late to the start line at their start time:

- if the delay is their responsibility, they may receive a penalty;
- if the delay is caused by another musher and/or the **Organisation**, a penalty may be imposed on another musher;
- in all cases, the musher will start when authorised to do so by the **Organisation** (Area Coordinator or Race Officials). The **Organisation** will decide whether the musher's time starts at the scheduled start time or at the actual start time, depending on whether or not the delay was their responsibility.

A dog team that does not clear the start zone (approximately 30 m after the start line) must make way for dog teams starting afterwards and must not obstruct them in any way.

4.3.1.d Start Order

- The start order for the Prologue and the first Stage will be communicated by the **Organisation**.
- In most cases, the start order for a Stage will be the reverse order of the standings from the previous Stage, by race (Trophy, LGO), except for mass starts and mandatory stops during a Stage, particularly bivouacs.

The **Organisation** reserves the right to change the start order due to organisational constraints. In such cases, the change in start order will be communicated during the musher briefing.

A draw or an arbitrary start list determined by the **Organisation** may be used during the Race following a change of venue or a new group of Stages. Such changes will be announced during the musher briefings.

4.3.3 Finishes

The official finish of the complete dog team is determined when the nose of the first dog crosses the finish line. If a dog team without its musher crosses the finish line before the musher, the dog team will be considered to have finished when its musher crosses the official finish line.

The winner of a Stage will be the musher who has completed the entire Stage in the shortest time, including time penalties. The remainder of the standings will be established as indicated in Section 1.7.

Once a dog team crosses the finish line, its Stage is definitively over, whether or not the entire Stage has been completed. This means that the musher may not return to the Stage course, even if it was not completed in full.

4.4 Trail Marking Compliance

The trail is marked regularly along its entire route so that a musher leaving the route should notice quickly. It is the musher's responsibility to follow this regular marking, described in Annex 4, and to ensure that they are on the correct trail. A musher who has made a route error must retrace their path to the point where the error occurred and then rejoin the correct trail.

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

4.5 Mandatory Stops (within a Stage)

The **Organisation** may provide for intermediate checkpoints, day or night bivouacs with mandatory stops, or activity points with mandatory stops within a Stage. These "mandatory stops" will be specified during the musher briefing.

Mandatory veterinary checkpoints may be set up during certain Stages. These checkpoints will be announced to the mushers before the start of the Stage.

At these checkpoints, each dog team will be required to stop for a duration determined by the **Organisation**. This duration may be extended at the request of the veterinarians present. The dog team's stop time will not be deducted from its Stage time. Only veterinarians have the authority to decide whether a clinical examination is required. The musher may not refuse a check.

If an extended stop is requested by a veterinarian, that veterinarian alone is authorised to allow the dog team to depart.

4.6 Bivouac

A Bivouac is a mandatory stop within a Stage. The time and method of departure following this mandatory stop will be communicated during the musher briefings.

During a bivouac:

- dogs may not be changed;

- the musher may not receive any outside assistance, particularly from handlers, during the Stage. **One handler will be authorised to assist the musher on arrival and during set-up at the bivouac, as well as at the Sunday morning departure. Times and conditions will be communicated to mushers during the briefings;**
- the musher must follow the **Organisation**'s instructions regarding the location of the stake-out.

At the bivouac, dogs must remain attached to the stake-out at all times, except for walks on a leash authorised around the stake-out. At no time may they enter a building, a permanent shelter or the musher's tent supplied by the **Organisation**, even temporarily, and in particular not to spend the night.

Mushers may place their dogs in a temporary shelter provided that each dog remains accessible to the Veterinary Team. Dogs must remain at the stake-out while veterinarians examine them and may only be placed in the temporary shelter after authorisation from a veterinarian. Failure by the musher to comply with these requirements will result in a penalty.

At a bivouac, it is the musher's responsibility to demonstrate their ability to provide appropriate care for their dogs. If a musher demonstrates an inability to provide such care, they may be disqualified from the Stage and/or the Race.

During the bivouac:

- all mandatory equipment and gear (see 3.3) must be carried by the musher throughout the Stage and every part of it. Nothing may be left behind when departing, even if the musher is due to return to the same location at the end of that part of the Stage. The musher may leave the stake-out only once the **Organisation** has authorised them to leave their place. A musher who leaves their area dirty will receive a penalty;
- regarding bivouac equipment (see 3.3), the musher must provide a specific bag containing all of this equipment. This bag must be handed over to the **Organisation** so that it can be transported to the bivouac site.

The bivouac start times and start order will be communicated to the mushers by the **Organisation**.

Bivouac areas must be left in the same clean condition as when the musher arrived. All dog waste, straw and rubbish must be collected and placed in the designated containers provided for this purpose.

4.7 Overtaking

When a dog team approaches to within 15 metres of another dog team, it may request the trail by calling "TRAIL". The leading musher must stop or slow their dogs to facilitate the passing dog team's overtaking manoeuvre. The overtaken dog team must remain at least fifteen (15) metres behind for at least three (3) minutes before it may request to overtake in turn. Dogs must not move away from their line in a way that interferes with the dog team overtaking them or that they are overtaking. The musher is responsible for the behaviour of their dogs. If the dogs display aggressive behaviour towards other dog teams, the musher must stop their dog team and keep their dogs at the edge of the trail in order to ensure that other mushers can overtake smoothly and safely.

If it is established that a dog behaves aggressively towards other dog teams, the dog may be permanently dropped by decision of **Race Management**. Failure to comply with these rules will result in a warning or penalty (see Annex 5: Penalty Table).

Any damage caused during the Race by one dog team to another, except in cases of force majeure beyond the musher's responsibility, is the responsibility of the musher driving the dog team responsible for the damage.

4.8 Uncontrollable or Driverless Dog Teams and Loose Dogs

Outside assistance may be authorised by the **Organisation** in order to control an uncontrollable dog team.

A driverless dog team or loose dog may be stopped and secured by anyone. The musher may recover their dog team or dog on foot, with the assistance of another musher or using a motor vehicle. They may then

continue the Race.

If a dog leaves the dog team during a Stage for any reason and cannot be recovered, the musher must attempt to recover the dog. If unsuccessful, the musher must notify **Race Management** as soon as possible. If the musher crosses the finish line without the dog, that dog will receive a temporary suspension of 3 days.

Any damage caused by an uncontrollable dog team or a dog left loose, except in cases of force majeure beyond the musher's responsibility, is the responsibility of the musher who owns the dog team or dog responsible for the damage.

4.9 Race Situations

4.9.1 Stage Voluntarily Not Completed in Full

A musher may voluntarily choose not to finish a Stage or request not to race a Stage. In this case, a fixed time will be applied equal to 150% of the time of the slowest dog team in the Stage. The musher will then be classified as "DNF" for the Stage concerned.

4.9.2 Stage Involuntarily Not Completed in Full

If a musher does not complete an entire Stage for reasons considered involuntary by **Race Management**, three situations are possible:

- a dog team that involuntarily fails to complete the entire Stage but has covered at least 60% of the Stage may, following review by **Race Management**, receive a penalty. This penalty will be calculated by **Race Management** and may be up to 150% of the time taken by the slowest dog team to cover the distance not completed by the dog team concerned;
- a dog team that involuntarily completes less than 60% of the Stage will be penalised in accordance with Section 4.9.1 of the regulations;
- following a protest submitted to the Judge at the finish and an investigation by **Race Management**, if the **Organisation** is found responsible for a trail marking error or an incorrect direction given by an authorised trail marshal:
    - a musher who has covered more distance than planned will be credited with the time taken to cover the extra distance;
    - a musher who has covered less distance will have the time taken by the slowest dog team to cover the missing distance added to their time, without an additional penalty.

It is reiterated that the only information the musher must follow is that provided by the trail markings and that the musher must under no circumstances follow directions given by people encountered on the trail if those directions conflict with the trail markings.

Time calculations will be determined by **Race Management** using GPS tracking tools.

4.9.3 Time Cut-Offs

For safety and/or organisational reasons, time limits for passing certain sections may be imposed on competitors. These times will be announced at the briefing preceding the Stage.

Depending on passage times at certain checkpoints, the **Organisation** may decide, without appeal, to stop a musher if it is clear that the musher will not be able to meet these time limits.

The musher will then receive the penalty provided for in Section 4.9.1.

4.9.4 Race Incident

In the event of a race incident liable to affect the proper conduct of the Race, the **Organisation** may at any time decide to: modify the course; temporarily neutralise the Stage; declare the Stage not contested and cancel its results; cancel a section of the Stage and give a new start near the location of the incident; retain the results already obtained; or give a new start taking into account the time gaps recorded at the time of the incident.

Any decision to invalidate a Stage will only be communicated after the Stage has ended. No communication

will be made during the Stage unless the Stage is neutralised.

4.9.5 Communication

Except in cases of force majeure, mushers and their Teams are prohibited from communicating with the **Organisation** by mobile phone for the entire duration of the Stage.

4.10 Course

Participants do not have exclusive use of the road and do not have right of way. Participants must slow down when they see a sign indicating a road crossing and must stop if instructed to do so by a marshal identified by a yellow vest.

The musher must remain in control of their dog team.

4.11 Rules for Challenges/Prologue

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

- number of dogs permitted: between 4 and 6 dogs;
- accompanying dogs permitted if over 18 months old;
- results do not count towards the general classification;
- results do not count towards the start order for the following Stage;
- mandatory and safety equipment must be carried as for a full Stage.

Timing in these events does not count towards the general classification unless the **Organisation** decides otherwise. However, failure to comply with the general Race regulations during these events may lead the **Organisation** to apply penalties to the musher's general classification.

A musher who does not start one of these events will be considered DNS.

Depending on the Stage format, the rules described above may be adapted.

4.12 Dog List

Before each Stage, mushers must complete their Dog List by selecting the dogs that will start the day's Stage. Dog Lists must be submitted no later than 30 minutes before the first start of the day's Stage, at the location indicated by the **Organisation**.

5. Dogs

Dogs must be at least 18 months old to start a Stage. If a dog reaches 18 months of age during the Race, it may only be harnessed from the date of its 18-month birthday and will therefore be temporarily dropped before that date.

A dog that will not be 18 months old by the 6th day of the Race may not be registered.

Dogs making up the pools must be physically and morphologically capable of completing the entire Race when they arrive on site for the first day of the Race.

Pools must consist of 7 to 9 dogs able to race from the first day of the Race.

During the pre-race inspection, **Race Management** may decide to refuse the participation of one or more dogs for various reasons:

- if the dog is not capable of racing for apparent physical or morphological reasons, the musher must be able to present other dogs as replacements in order to provide a complete pool;
- if an injury or abnormality is detected on site, the musher will not necessarily be excluded from the Race (the decision will be made on a case-by-case basis by **Race Management**), unless the musher no longer has a sufficient number of dogs to start a Stage.

Preamble:

NO CRUEL TREATMENT, WHETHER BY ACTION OR FAILURE TO ACT, CAUSING PAIN OR SUFFERING TO A DOG WILL BE TOLERATED. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.

The document entitled "Veterinary Doctrine" in Annex 6 describes the role and responsibilities of the Race Veterinary Team.

Any musher signing the regulations must have read this document.

Acceptance of the regulations entails acceptance of all provisions described in Annex 6 relating to the veterinary doctrine.

5.1 Number of Dogs

- **For La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin:**
  - each musher must have a pool of 9 to 12 dogs;
  - at the start of a Stage, each dog team must consist of a minimum of 6 dogs and a maximum of 10 dogs, with no dog in the sled. Each dog team must finish each Stage with at least 4 dogs harnessed. If a dog team reaches the finish line with fewer than 4 dogs harnessed, it will be considered DNF for the Stage concerned;
  - at least 2 dogs must be rested.
- **For Trophies lasting 3 days or less:**
  - each musher must have a pool of 7 to 10 dogs;
  - at the start of a Stage, each dog team must consist of a minimum of 5 dogs and a maximum of 8 dogs, with no dog in the sled. Each dog team must finish each Stage with at least 4 dogs harnessed. If a dog team reaches the finish line with fewer than 4 dogs harnessed, it will be considered DNF for the Stage concerned.
- **For the 4-day Trophy (Trophy 2):**
  - each musher must have a pool of 8 to 10 dogs;
  - at the start of a Stage, each dog team must consist of a minimum of 5 dogs and a maximum of 8 dogs, with no dog in the sled. Each dog team must finish each Stage with at least 4 dogs harnessed. If a dog team reaches the finish line with fewer than 4 dogs harnessed, it will be considered DNF for the Stage concerned;
  - at least 2 dogs must be rested.
- Dogs may not be changed during a Stage.
- The maximum number of dogs in the dog team may be reduced or increased by the **Organisation**.

5.2 Dog Team Configuration

- All dogs must be harnessed in single or double file (tandem configuration with a central gangline).
- All dogs must be attached to the central gangline by a neckline and a tugline.
- Lead dogs must be connected by a neckline.

5.3 Transport of Dogs

During the Race

A musher may transport dogs in their sled, but may not allow their dogs to be transported by another dog team.
Dogs must be transported in suitable conditions. A dog transported in the sled must always be secured. It is prohibited to make a dog run on a lead behind the sled or to leave a dog loose.

Outside the Race

The musher must have suitable means for transporting their dogs in good conditions of hygiene, comfort and safety and in compliance with the regulations in force. Failure to comply with this requirement constitutes grounds for exclusion from the Race.

5.4 Dog Identification

During each Stage, **Race Management**, through the Judge or one of its members, will carry out random checks on the identity of dogs racing.

Any violation will be subject to a sanction (see Annex 5).

5.5 Life-Threatening Emergency Involving a Dog on the Trail

In the event of a life-threatening emergency involving one of their dogs, the musher may contact the nearest veterinary clinic. The musher must also contact the **Organisation** by any means available:

- the **Organisation**'s Red Phone;
- any other means of communication (human or otherwise).

The **Organisation** will endeavour to send a veterinarian to the musher's location in order to assist the dog concerned. The dog will then be permanently dropped.

5.6 Accompanying Dogs

Each Team is entitled to have two (2) accompanying dogs. If a musher wishes to bring more than two accompanying dogs, they must request authorisation from the **Organisation**. All such dogs must comply with the same vaccination rules described in these regulations.

5.7 Loose Dogs

Dogs may be off lead around Musher Parking under the following conditions:

- the musher/handler must have control of all their dogs at all times;
- dog waste must be collected without exception;
- this must not disturb other Teams, and an appropriate distance must therefore be maintained.

If a musher fails to comply with these conditions, or if a complaint is made by other mushers, the musher may receive a warning and will no longer be permitted to leave their dogs off lead around Musher Parking.

This rule also applies to bivouac areas.

Any damage caused during the Race by a loose dog, except in cases of force majeure beyond the musher's responsibility, is the responsibility of the musher who owns the dog.

5.8 Responsibility for Dogs

Dog owners remain fully responsible at all times during the event and in all circumstances for the actions and behaviour of their dogs, including bites and escapes, even if the dog is being held by someone other than the owner (member of the **Organisation**, another participant, member of the public, etc.).

6. Animal Health

The Veterinary Team is responsible for:

- checking the compliance of the administrative animal-health documents described in these regulations;
- providing veterinary assistance to Teams during the Race;
- monitoring Teams in order to safeguard animal health at all times.

6.1 Before the Race

Each musher must provide a list of their dogs with their identification numbers using the form supplied by the **Organisation** no later than 25 days before the start date of the Race. Accompanying dogs (present on site but not participating in the Race) must appear on this list. The list provided may include more dogs than the permitted pool, but must be finalised to the maximum permitted number within one hour following the general pre-race Musher Meeting.

6.2 The First Day of the Race

Each Team must undergo two pre-race checks.

Administrative Check

On the first day of the Race, each Team must report to an initial check-in location, which will be communicated by the **Organisation** before the Race.

At this checkpoint, the musher must present to the **Organisation** all administrative documents relating to the dogs declared at registration.

In the event of a breach of legislation or non-compliant documents, the **Organisation** reserves the right to refuse a Team entry to the Race.

Health Check

Once the administrative check has been successfully completed, each dog will undergo a pre-race health inspection carried out by the Veterinary Team.

If a contraindication to racing is identified in a dog, the **Organisation** reserves the right to refuse that dog entry to the Race.

Any ongoing medical treatment must be reported to the Veterinary Team.

6.3 Throughout All Races

At the request of the Veterinary Team, each Team must present a dog for a medical examination when requested to do so.

The Veterinary Team provides an on-call service throughout the Race for emergencies or checks requested by a musher or the **Organisation**.

6.4 During a Stage

6.4.1 Intermediate Check with Mandatory Stop

At a mandatory veterinary checkpoint within a Stage, the Veterinary Team will carry out a brief examination of each dog racing.

At the request of the Veterinary Team, a dog whose condition does not allow it to finish the Stage but which does not require urgent medical treatment may finish the Stage in the sled. It will be re-examined at the finish.

If the veterinarian decides that a dog must stop racing immediately, the Drop rules will apply (see Section 7).

On bivouac Stages, the musher is self-sufficient. The Veterinary Team will not carry out systematic checks.

Veterinarians may nevertheless examine dogs they consider require attention. The musher may not refuse such a check.

6.4.2 Intermediate Check with Optional Stop

The musher stops at optional checkpoints only if they wish to do so. If the musher stops, the rules of Section 6.4.1 apply.

6.5 At the Finish of Each Stage

At the finish of each Stage, a veterinary check may be carried out on dogs that raced the Stage.

Following this check, examined dogs may be permanently or temporarily dropped, according to the opinion of the Veterinary Team (see Section 7).

7. Dog Drops

7.1 Definitions

To "drop" a dog means to exclude it temporarily or permanently from the Race. A drop may take place during or outside the Race, at the request of the musher or a veterinarian from the Veterinary Team.

A permanently dropped dog may no longer take part in the Race.

A temporarily dropped dog will be out of the Race for:

- dogs entered in La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin: the next 3 Stages;
- dogs entered in one of the Trophies: the next 2 Stages.

At the end of a temporary drop period, no later than the morning of the planned Stage, a veterinarian must approve the return to racing of a temporarily dropped dog. If considered necessary, the temporary drop may be extended or converted into a permanent drop.

7.2 Dog Drops During a Stage

Dropping a dog during a Stage outside a drop point designated by the **Organisation** is prohibited.

In an emergency, if a musher calls a veterinarian outside an authorised drop point, regardless of the level of emergency observed by the veterinarian and whether or not the veterinarian can be transported to the location depending on the circumstances, the dog concerned will be permanently dropped. The musher may not leave that location without the veterinarian's authorisation. A musher who drops a dog without authorisation may receive a penalty (defined in Annex 5).

7.3 Dog Team Stop Time During a Veterinary Check

The dog's stop time will be determined by the veterinarian according to the dog's observed state of health.

The dog team's stop time will not be deducted from its Stage time.

7.4 Summary Table of Drop Durations in All Situations

Drop requested by	Outside the Race	During the Race at a drop point	During the Race outside a drop point
Veterinarian	As decided by the veterinarian	Minimum Temporary Drop	-
Musher	As decided by the veterinarian	Minimum Temporary Drop	Permanent Drop

7.5 Identification of Dropped Dogs

A dropped dog will be identified by a red wristband. Only a member of the Veterinary Team or a member of **Race Management** may put on or remove this wristband. If the drop is temporary, the Veterinary Team will remove the wristband from the dog concerned after the drop period. If the drop is permanent, the musher must leave the wristband on until the end of the Race.

If an identified dropped dog loses its red wristband, the musher must report this to the veterinarians and request that a new wristband be fitted. If a dropped dog is checked by a veterinarian and is not wearing the red wristband, the musher will receive a penalty as defined in Annex 5.

8. Code of Conduct

8.1 Musher Conduct

Good Samaritan Rule

Mushers must assist one another in the event of danger on the trail. Failure to provide assistance, if reported to the Judge, may be penalised.

NB: time spent by a musher assisting another musher will not be deducted from the assisting musher's Stage time.

Interference

A musher must not touch another musher's dogs, food or equipment or otherwise interfere with the progress of another dog team without that musher's consent.

8.2 General Conduct of a Team (Musher and Handlers)

Each Team must behave in a civilised manner and act in a sporting manner throughout the Race.

Mushers are responsible for the behaviour of their dogs and handlers throughout the Race.

Any damage caused during the Race by a dog forming part of a dog team, except in cases of force majeure beyond the musher's responsibility, is the responsibility of the musher/handler who owns the dog responsible for the damage.

A musher may receive a penalty if they and/or their handlers fail to comply with the **Organisation**'s day-to-day operating instructions, particularly with regard to parking areas, convoys, meals and accommodation (see Annex 5: Penalty Table).

8.3 Musher Parking

A Musher Parking area is provided and specifically reserved for vehicles near the start and finish areas. The parking area is managed by the Musher Relations Team. Each Team must strictly follow the instructions given by the Musher Relations Team regarding where and when to park. Access to Musher Parking is strictly prohibited until it has been declared open by the **Organisation**.

8.4 Litter

No rubbish may be left in parking areas, on the trail, at mandatory stops, bivouacs or checkpoints.

8.5 Alcohol and Drug Use

The use of drugs by mushers is prohibited under French sports law (WADA list), as is the consumption of alcohol. The **Organisation** reserves the right to prevent a musher with inappropriate behaviour from starting. Unannounced checks may also be carried out by the official French anti-doping body, the AFLD. Any musher may be required to provide urine and/or blood samples at any time.

8.6 Anti-Doping Controls

As part of anti-doping measures, dog teams participating in the Race (mushers or dogs) may be subject to anti-doping controls.

The rules relating to anti-doping controls, analysis of samples collected and any disciplinary procedures are those set out in the French Sports Code.

For more information on control procedures and applicable sanctions, see the AFLD website: https://www.afld.fr

8.7 Health Rules and Social Distancing

The musher and their handlers undertake to comply with:

- the health rules in force and implemented by the **Organisation**;
- the social-distancing rules in force and implemented by the **Organisation**.

9. Penalties

9.1 Sanctions

Any breach of the regulations may result in a written or verbal warning.

Depending on the seriousness of the breach, and after hearing the Musher concerned, the **Organisation** may decide to impose a time penalty, an official reprimand or disqualification. These sanctions are imposed by the **Organisation**.

Official Reprimand

The **Organisation** may issue an official reprimand to a musher. This reprimand will be forwarded to the French delegated federation for sled dog sports, which must forward it to the delegated federation in the musher's country, which may then impose a sanction on the musher in their country of origin.

Penalties

A non-exhaustive table of penalties is set out in Annex 5. Any violation not listed in this table will be reviewed by **Race Management**.

If a penalty or sanction is imposed after a Stage has taken place (the following day or later), it will be applied to the Stage taking place on the day the sanction is imposed.

9.2 Protests

A musher may submit a protest regarding an action by a competitor that they consider contrary to the regulations. To be recognised as a valid protest, it must be reported to the Race Judge both verbally and in writing:

- verbally, immediately after the protesting musher crosses the finish line;
- in writing, in English or French, no later than 20 minutes after the protesting musher crosses the finish line.

If protests are submitted outside this procedure, the Race Judge will decide whether the protest is admissible.

9.3 Appeals

Mushers may appeal sanctions imposed on them. Appeals must be submitted in writing, in English or French, to the Race Judge within one hour of the decision.

Appeals will be reviewed during an informal hearing before the Sporting Management of the Race.

10. Image Rights, Advertising and Communication

10.1 Images and Media

By participating in the Race, each musher expressly authorises the **Organisation** and its partners to use or arrange the use of, reproduce or arrange the reproduction of, their name, image, voice and sporting performance in connection with the events of the Race, for any direct or derivative exploitation of the event, on any medium, throughout the world, by any means known or unknown at the present time, and for the full duration of protection currently granted to such direct or derivative exploitation by the laws and regulations, judicial and/or arbitral decisions of any country and current or future international conventions, including any extensions that may be made to that duration.

This authorisation also applies to the musher's dogs and Team members (handlers), provided that such images are directly related to the Race and do not infringe their privacy or reputation.

Mushers are informed that official Race vehicles will be present during the Race and may approach them, in particular to capture images.

By taking part in the Race, mushers undertake to respect the work of journalists, camera operators and

photographers accredited by the **Organisation** and visibly wearing a press bib.

All participants must agree to be interviewed by the media provided that these interviews are conducted by professionals, do not exceed a reasonable duration and do not interfere with the care and quiet of the dogs. On the first day of the Race in particular, mushers must make themselves widely available to video production teams for interviews.

Any problems with the media must be reported to the **Organisation**. Only the **Organisation** is authorised to discuss such difficulties with media representatives.

New: an onboard camera may be offered to certain mushers and attached to the sled for an entire Stage.

10.2 Musher Sponsors

The names and logos of musher sponsors and partners may be freely displayed in the areas listed below. However, such commercial branding must not harm the brand image or reputation of the Race. In the event of a breach of this rule, the **Organisation** will ask the musher to remove the commercial markings.

Areas available to musher partners and sponsors:

- on the dogs: harness straps, blankets, food bowls;
- musher clothing: no limit;
- handler clothing: no limit;
- vehicles: no limit on the bodywork of private vehicles;
- it is prohibited to install signage such as banners, flags or kakemonos around vehicles throughout the Race;
- sleds: only the top of the bags.

As a general rule, neither the nature of the sponsors nor the associated advertising markings may detract from the brand image of the Race and its partners. If this is the case, the **Organisation** reserves the right to require the removal of such markings.

If a musher's sponsor wishes to organise an on-site activation, for example to support the musher during the Race, the sponsor must contact the **Organisation** in advance and provide precise details of the proposed set-up, particularly any visuals displaying the sponsor's logo. The set-up will be subject to the **Organisation**'s written approval, particularly regarding the nature of the set-up and the area in which it may be installed. Installation of the set-up will be the sole responsibility of the sponsor.

10.3 Positive Attitude

By registering for the Race, mushers undertake to communicate positively about the Race in public regardless of the circumstances. Any comments or matters of dissatisfaction must be communicated to the **Organisation** away from the public, partners and media.

10.4 Drone

Mushers and their handlers acknowledge that they have been informed that they are within the minimum third-party exclusion zone for the **Organiser**'s aircraft (Category A drones weighing less than 2 kg) and that they are taking part in drone filming activities as part of the Event, carried out by the operator appointed by the **Organiser**, on the dates and at the locations of the Event, under the provisions specified in Cerfa No. R5-TAAG-6-F3 in connection with the Order of 17/12/2015 relating to the design of civil aircraft operating without a person on board, the conditions of their use and the capabilities required of the persons operating them (Annex III - Article 3.7).

Annex 1: Registration Procedure

	Included in Registration	2027 Entry Fee
La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin	Accommodation for 3 people from Thursday 7 January to Tuesday 19 January (estimated cost: €1,140). Lunch and dinner provided for 3 people (estimated cost: €1,080). A multidisciplinary Veterinary Team with diagnostic equipment. Also included: official beanie, GPS tracking, photo compilation, etc.	**€790**
La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin (option without accommodation)	Lunch and dinner provided for 3 people (estimated cost: €1,080). A multidisciplinary Veterinary Team with diagnostic equipment. Also included: official beanie, GPS tracking, photo compilation, etc.	**€490**
Trophies	Catering: at least 2 hot meals for 3 people (retail value: €135). A multidisciplinary Veterinary Team with diagnostic equipment. Also included: official beanie, GPS tracking, photo compilation, etc.	Fee according to number of race days: Trophy 1 / Trophy 3: €180 Trophy 2: €210 Trophy 4: €150

Registration for 2027 will officially open on Wednesday 9 September at 12:00 noon (French time). Registration for the Elite List is possible until 21 August 2026.

Online entry fees must be paid by bank card. It is the responsibility of each musher to ensure that they are able to pay by bank card on an online merchant website, taking into account the expected amount of the payment and contacting their bank before registration if necessary. Registration will only be validated once payment has been approved. If registration becomes full before the musher has validated payment, the musher will no longer be eligible to register for the race concerned and must register on the waiting list.

If places become available before the start of the event, the **Organisation** will contact mushers on the waiting list. If they accept the invitation to register, they must confirm their registration by paying the entry fee within 5 days following their acceptance. After 10 December, unless otherwise decided by the **Organisation**, mushers on the waiting list will no longer be contacted.

For La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin

A deposit of €390 will be required at registration. This deposit is non-refundable if the musher withdraws.

The balance of the registration fee for the accommodation package (€400) must be paid on the official registration platform no later than 15 November 2026. After this date, the musher will no longer be considered registered if payment has not been made.

The registration balance for La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin (€400) will be refunded under the following conditions:

- if the musher withdraws before 30 November 2026, the **Organiser** will refund the registration balance (€400);
- if the musher withdraws after the deadline stated above, no refund will be made.

For La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin - option without accommodation

A deposit of €390 will be required at registration. This deposit is non-refundable if the musher withdraws.

The balance of the registration fee (€100) must be paid on the official registration platform no later than 15 November 2026. After this date, the musher will no longer be considered registered if payment has not been made.

The registration balance for La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin (€100) will be refunded under the following conditions:

- if the musher withdraws before 30 November 2026, the **Organiser** will refund the registration balance (€100);
- if the musher withdraws after the deadline stated above, no refund will be made.

For the Trophies

Payment of the entry fee will be required at registration. These fees are non-refundable if the musher withdraws.

For all races and all entry packages, if the Race is cancelled in full due to force majeure, particularly weather or snow conditions, the balance will not be refunded and competitors will not be entitled to any compensation.

For all races and all entry packages, if an event is partially cancelled, the balance will not be refunded and competitors will not be entitled to any compensation.

List of Administrative Documents to Be Provided by Each Musher

Documents	**Submission Deadline**
Complete the supplementary registration form	15 September
Digital photo of the musher if this is their first participation	15 September
Valid identity document (national identity card or passport)	15 November
Medical certificate confirming no contraindication to competitive sled dog sports OR Federation licence	15 November
Bank details / IBAN (for La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin mushers only, not for Trophies)	15 November

Documents	Submission Deadline
Payment of the 2nd instalment for La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin registration (Njuko platform) - €400 with the accommodation option or €100 without the accommodation option	15 November
Signed health protocol (according to the protocol in the Annex)	1 December
Dog List with dog microchip numbers	1 December

All documents must be uploaded to the Njuko registration platform.

Registration on the Elite List

For mushers entering La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin, 10 Elite places are available and distributed as follows:

- 7 places for Open dog teams;
- 3 places for Nordic dog teams.

The main criterion for applying to the Elite List is that the musher is capable of competing for a podium position in the Race and in the category concerned, supported by official race results achieved by the musher.

Mushers may apply for this list by completing the Elite List Application Form no later than 21 August 2026 inclusive.

The **Organisation** will respond to applicant mushers no later than 7 September 2026. Mushers selected for the Elite List will then have until Wednesday 9 September at 12:00 noon to validate their registration by paying the €390 deposit on the Njuko registration platform.

Annex 2: Competition Dates 2027

La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin

Official start date: **7 January**

Official finish date: **19 January**

Trophy 1

Official start date: **7 January**

Official finish date: **9 January**

Trophy 2

Official start date: **11 January**

Official finish date: **14 January**

Trophy 3

Official start date: **15 January**

Official finish date: **17 January**

Trophy 4

Official start date: **18 January**

Official finish date: **19 January**

The detailed programme is available on the La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin website: https://www.grandeodyssee.com

Further details are available in the Musher Area of the official event website.

Annex 3: Prize Money and Special Awards for La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin

Place	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
TOTAL	**€25,000.00**

Special Awards for La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin

- **Dog Care Award:** the Best Dog Care Award recognises the musher who takes the best care of their dogs while pursuing performance. The purpose of this award is to show that it is possible to be competitive without compromising the health and welfare of the dogs. The award procedure is defined in Annex 8.

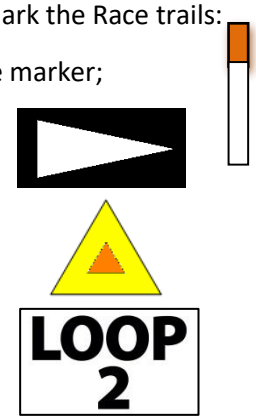
- **Golden Harness:** award presented to the lead dog of the musher finishing 1st in the general classification.
- **Nordic Challenge:** mushers entered in the Nordic category compete for the Nordic Challenge. The winner of the Nordic general classification will receive the Best Nordic award for the Nordic Challenge. The **Organisation** reserves the right to cancel the Nordic Challenge if the number of pure Nordic dog teams is fewer than 5. The exact name of the Challenge may be changed by the **Organisation** at any time.
- **Lanterne Rouge:** award presented to the last-placed musher among those who completed all Stages of the competition.
- **Rookie of the Year:** award presented to the highest-ranked musher among those taking part for the first time, or who have never previously achieved FINISHER status.
- **Fair Play:** award presented to the musher demonstrating the best spirit of fair play. The award is decided by a vote of the Race mushers.
- **Henry Kam Trophy:** award presented to the musher who records the fastest time on the Val Cenis Base Polaire Stage in the overall standings across all races, including Trophies.
- **Handler Award:** award presented to the handler(s) of a single Team. The Team concerned is selected by vote of the veterinarians and Musher Relations staff according to several criteria: dog care and knowledge/follow-up of changes in the dogs' health from one day to the next, positive attitude, degree of assistance enabling the musher to rest, knowledge of the Race, relationship with **Organisation** teams, punctuality, control of the dogs at starts/finishes, maintaining cleanliness of the sites, etc. (non-exhaustive list).

Annex 4: Trail Marking

Equipment Used

Different elements will be used independently or simultaneously to mark the Race trails:

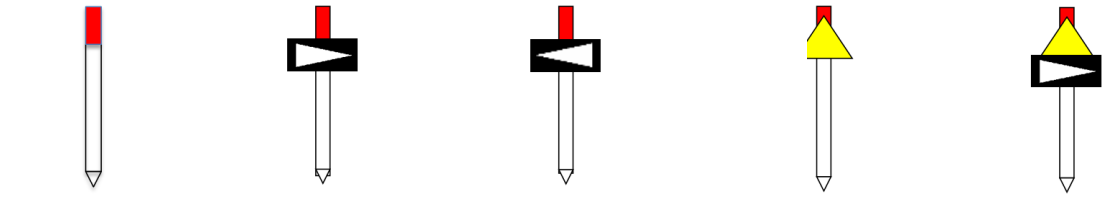
- stakes with the top painted orange and fitted with a reflective marker;
- reflective arrows on black signs;
- yellow triangles with a reflective centre;
- loop indication signs.



Trail Marking Rules

- Trail markings will always be placed **ON THE RIGHT** side of the trail. The reflective part of the stake faces the musher approaching it. This makes it possible to identify the correct direction of travel unambiguously.

Illustration



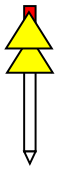
(1) STRAIGHT AHEAD

(2) RIGHT TURN

(3) LEFT TURN

(4) DIFFICULTY

(5) DIFFICULTY ON TURN



(6) DANGER



(7) LOOP 2 + DIRECTION

Annex 5: Penalty Table

This table of penalties is non-exhaustive. If a violation is not listed in the table below, the matter will be decided by **Race Management**.

Disciplinary sanctions may range from a simple warning to time penalties and removal of the Team from the Race.

Grounds	Penalties
4.12: Late submission of the Dog List	2 min
4.1 and 4.3: Failure to comply with instructions in musher areas	2 min
4.3.1: Failure to comply with the start procedure	Between 2 min and 5 min depending on the reason
2.4 - Handlers Failure to comply with instructions	5 min (for the musher)
3.2 - Non-compliant commercial branding	5 min
3.3 and 3.4.1 - Mandatory equipment non-compliant or missing from the sled and/or from the musher	5 min and requirement to rectify
3.5 - Safety equipment non-compliant or missing at the start of a Stage	5 min and requirement to rectify. If not rectified before the final start of the Stage: DNS
4.7 - Failure to comply with the overtaking procedure	5 min
3.4.3 - Cleanliness of bibs	5 min
3.6 - Inappropriate dog equipment	10 min
4.6 - Bivouac area left dirty after final departure	10 min
3.1 - Non-compliant sled or sled equipment	15 min and requirement to rectify
Violation concerning dog identification	Exclusion of the dog(s)
Responsibilities for dog compliance	
Musher who does not start a Stage or does not complete it in full	DNS or DNF
Uncivil or unsporting behaviour by mushers or their handlers	Removal of the Team from the Race
Offensive remarks, criticism, insults or threats towards a staff member	
False documents	
Racing a dropped dog	
Refusal to accept a dog drop	
Non-compliant vaccinations	
Racing a dog under 18 months old	
Mistreatment of dogs	
Refusal of an anti-doping control	
Refusal of an autopsy on a deceased dog	
Refusal of a check decided by the Organiser or an authorised body	
Musher leaving a checkpoint without the Organisation's authorisation	
Inability to provide appropriate care for dogs at a bivouac	

Annex 6: Animal Health Doctrine

La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin is one of the major international sled dog races.

Together with their mushers, the dogs are the elite athletes of this event. It is the responsibility of the organisers to ensure that the competition is conducted with full respect for animal health and welfare.

In order both to meet the objective of animal health and to comply with the sporting rules inherent in all major competitions, this document describes the general doctrine followed by the Veterinary Team throughout the Race.

It is an annex to the regulations signed and accepted by all mushers participating in any of the events organised as part of the Race.

General Animal Health Ethics - Key Principles

Within the limits of the resources available to them and the information to which they have access, the veterinarians of the Veterinary Team aim to ensure that competing dogs are in good health and fit to take part in an international-level race consisting of daily mountain Stages, while complying with administrative and sporting rules.

The Veterinarians ensure the welfare of all competing and accompanying dogs. In collaboration with the veterinary services of the authorities, the Veterinarians of La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin ensure compliance with the regulations governing the transport and importation of groups of dogs. They are responsible for safeguarding the health security of competing and accompanying dogs.

All Veterinarians of La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin undertake to carry out rigorous examinations and provide attentive care for all dogs participating in the Race.

Definition of the Veterinary Team's Responsibilities

Before the Race

The Veterinary Team is headed by the "Chief Veterinarian". The Chief Veterinarian takes part in drafting the regulations of La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin, which are signed by all mushers applying to enter the Race. These regulations specify the administrative and health obligations relating to the transport and importation of animals for foreign Teams. They list the necessary documents and detail the required vaccinations in accordance with national and international regulations, as well as the rules governing the organisation of a public canine event.

The regulations describe the conduct mushers must adopt towards their dogs and the obligations imposed on them with regard to animal health and welfare.

The regulations also recall the legislation in force regarding doping and the obligation to submit to any controls that may be carried out on humans or dogs.

The Chief Veterinarian ensures that all provisions of the regulations relating to animal health are clearly expressed and understood by mushers applying to enter the Race.

The Chief Veterinarian undertakes to answer any question from a musher registered for the Race or from their attending veterinarian in order to ensure proper compliance with these obligations.

During the Race

Veterinarians carry out a clinical examination of every competing dog in order to confirm the absence of any clinically detectable abnormality that could contraindicate the dog's participation in the Race, such as poor general condition or an infectious, cardiac or orthopaedic condition.

Veterinarians provide the daily care required to preserve the physical integrity and welfare of the dogs, using mobile resources. Where necessary, they ensure continuity of care by liaising with local Veterinarians and inform mushers of the possibility of critical cases being treated by an appropriate specialist facility.

Veterinarians liaise with the health authorities where necessary.

General Organisation of the Veterinary Team

The Veterinary Team is composed of qualified graduate Veterinarians competent to perform the tasks assigned to them by the Chief Veterinarian. The Veterinary Team has treatment equipment and medicines for the sole use of dogs entered in the Race. All prescriptions will be made in compliance with the legislation in force. Veterinarians work in accordance with their professional code of conduct and are bound by professional confidentiality.

Veterinarians must comply with the logistical constraints established by the **Organiser** and required for the proper running of the Race. The **Organiser** guarantees every veterinarian professional independence in all acts falling within the scope of their veterinary qualification.

The opinion of the Chief Veterinarian shall prevail when decisions are made concerning possible sanctions against a musher whose conduct endangers the health of their dogs.

Operational Responsibilities of the Veterinary Team During the Race

Pre-Race Checks

The Chief Veterinarian remains available to the Veterinarians of the Departmental Directorate for the Protection of Populations in order to ensure the proper conduct of checks carried out under their authority.

Before the Race, LGO Veterinarians carry out a two-stage check.

1 - Health check: a comprehensive check of the mandatory vaccinations required for entry to the Race is carried out. This is followed by a general examination aimed at excluding the presence of any contagious disease.

Dogs that successfully pass this first check may be considered for entry to the Race and proceed to the second check.

2 - Sporting check: the medical history of each dog seeking entry to the Race is reviewed. Any dog receiving a substance considered to be doping under the legislation in force will be refused entry to the Race. A clinical examination of body condition and cardiorespiratory function and an orthopaedic clinical examination are carried out. Where a cardiac or orthopaedic condition is suspected, the Veterinarians may request an additional examination by a specialist at the musher's expense.

3 - Following the veterinary examinations, a Team health record (vetbook) will be issued to each competitor. This record will state the name and identity of the dogs entered in the Race and the information required for their clinical monitoring during the Race.

During the Race

Concerning Race Dogs

Emergency access to a veterinarian for mushers or members of the **Organisation** working with mushers is guaranteed 24 hours a day throughout the Race. A telephone number provides access to this on-call service.

Along the route: during Stages, mandatory or optional veterinary checkpoints may be established in agreement with the **Organiser**. The musher may not refuse a check or clinical examination decided by a veterinarian for one of their dogs. The conditions for a permanent or temporary drop are described in the Race regulations.

Concerning General Public Safety

In collaboration with the **Organiser**s, the Chief Veterinarian implements measures to inform the public in order to limit the presence of dogs near the various Race facilities and along the route. These information measures are intended to limit health risks for competing dogs.

Musher areas are clearly identified and access is restricted to members of the **Organisation** and/or

authorised persons (media, partners, guests). This measure helps to ensure the welfare and rest of the dogs between Stages and to limit health risks for competing dogs.

What the Veterinary Team Does Not Do

The Veterinary Team will not disclose any information in breach of medical confidentiality and undertakes to comply with the veterinarians' professional code of conduct.

The Veterinary Team may not oppose decisions issued by the Departmental Directorate for the Protection of Populations or the French Anti-Doping Agency.

Except in a life-threatening emergency, the Veterinary Team will not provide treatment for dogs not declared for the Race or dogs belonging to members of the public around the Race.

Clinical examinations carried out by Veterinarians are provided free of charge.

If medication is prescribed for a condition that develops during the event, medication will be supplied free of charge for a maximum treatment period of 24 hours. Subject to available stocks, this supply may be extended. Otherwise, the Race Veterinarians will issue a prescription for medication to be obtained from a pharmacy at the musher's expense.

Where treatment needs to continue beyond the Race period, a prescription will be issued for collection from a pharmacy.

If a consultation, additional examinations or treatment are required at a local veterinary clinic, the costs will be borne by the musher.

If an autopsy is carried out following the death of a dog entered in the Race, it will be performed by a veterinarian selected by the **Organisation**.

Annex 7: First-Aid Kit - Recommended Equipment per Dog Team

The following is a list of **RECOMMENDED** equipment to have in the sled or vehicle at the start of each Stage:

- sterile gauze pads (at least 10);
- 10 cm crepe bandages (minimum 1);
- 7.5 cm Elastoplast bandages (minimum 1);
- soap for cleaning wounds (e.g. regular soap or Betadine scrub);
- disinfectant (e.g. single-dose Betadine solution or Hexomedine);
- one emergency blanket;
- 2 sugar cubes;
- Compeed dressings (at least one box of 5);
- super glue (at least one tube);
- Smecta (at least 10 sachets);
- thermometer;
- adhesive tape;
- one large absorbent dressing for haemorrhaging;
- one surgical skin stapler (available from your veterinarian or a pharmacy);
- one splint;
- one pair of round-ended scissors;
- one 5 mL syringe;
- one 10 mL syringe;
- one tube of Betadine Gel;
- one bottle of hand sanitiser;
- eye-cleaning solution;
- tins of recovery food (e.g. Royal Canin Recovery or Hill's A/D veterinary food);
- a small clipper (to clean and clear wounds before treatment);
- one packet of table salt.

Annex 8: Procedure for Selecting the Best Dog Care Award

Best Dog Care is an award presented by the entire Veterinary Team following examinations of the dogs entered in the competition. Its purpose is to reward the musher who takes the best care of their dogs while pursuing performance, regardless of the musher's ranking.

The purpose of this award is to show that it is possible to be competitive without compromising the health and welfare of the dogs.

Teams will be assessed on three occasions: after the first-day examination, at mid-Race and after the finish on the final day. The Team's veterinarians use a 5-criterion assessment grid to establish their ranking:

- **NUTRITION MANAGEMENT:** assessment based on condition on arrival and maintenance of body, muscle and faecal scores, coat and appendage condition, daily appetite and food-storage management;
- **DOG MANAGEMENT AROUND THE RACE:** vitality of the dogs on arrival, care provided in preparation for the Race, care provided after the Stage (active recovery, walking, free stake time, massage, stretching, etc.);
- **ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR:** observation of play and shared interaction between the musher and dog, behaviour of the dogs towards one another and towards outsiders, and dog behaviour on the start line;
- **COMMUNICATION WITH THE VETERINARY TEAM:** listening to advice and implementing requested corrections, knowledge of basic care, requests made by the musher to the Veterinary Team;
- **MUSHER CONSIDERATION OF THE DOGS' CAPABILITIES DURING THE COMPETITION:** voluntary decision to rest dogs before injury, recovery of dogs left resting, number of drops required.

For each criterion, Teams will be scored out of 5 points, giving an overall score out of 25, on the first day, at mid-Race and at the final finish. These assessments will determine a ranking of the Teams and the presentation of the Best Dog Care Award at the final podium ceremony. Each Team's results will subsequently be sent by email so that potential areas for musher improvement can be discussed.

Annex 9: Importation into the European Union of Pet Animals from a Third Country

The applicable regulations are available in the document issued by the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food, accessible via the following links:

- https://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/demarches/importer-des-animaux-de-compagnie-en-provenance-de-pays-tiers-lue
- https://www.demarches.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/ramener-chien-chat-etranger-quelles-regles

Annex 10: Vaccination Health Protocol

VACCINATION HEALTH PROTOCOL

Grande Odyssée Royal Canin

Introduction

Every dog taking part in La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin, as well as every accompanying dog, whether competing or not, must be able to provide proof of valid vaccination against the following diseases:

- Rabies
- Kennel cough
- Canine parvovirosis
- Canine distemper
- Infectious canine hepatitis (Rubarth disease)
- Leptospirosis

The purpose of this health protocol is to ensure the health and welfare of all dogs participating in La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin, to protect competitors and their teams, and to ensure compliance with French legislation governing canine gatherings and the importation of dogs.

Each competitor is responsible for ensuring, together with their attending veterinarian, that the vaccination programme of every dog in the team complies with these regulations.

All vaccinations must have been administered in accordance with the Marketing Authorisation (MA) applicable in the country where the vaccine was administered.

Official vaccination records will be checked during the pre-race veterinary inspection. Only official veterinary documents duly completed, signed and validated by a veterinarian will be accepted.

For dogs originating from the European Union/Schengen Area, vaccinations are normally recorded in the European Pet Passport. Where certain vaccinations (particularly a recent primary vaccination) are recorded only in a vaccination booklet or another official veterinary document, this document must also be presented.

Failure to comply with the vaccination requirements, health documentation or import conditions may result in the refusal of the dog concerned or, where appropriate, the entire team.

Any additional examinations, laboratory tests or vaccinations required by the French authorities in order to regularise a health or import situation (for example rabies serology, vaccination or any other import requirement) shall remain entirely at the competitor's expense and shall not in itself guarantee permission to participate in the competition.

Rabies (R)

Under French and European legislation, **every dog participating in a canine gathering in France, as well as every dog entering French territory, must hold a valid rabies vaccination.**

A rabies vaccination that does not comply with the applicable regulatory requirements or is no longer valid may place the dog in breach of the animal health import regulations applicable to entry into France and may result in the administrative measures provided for by the competent authorities.

The rabies vaccination must remain valid on the day of the pre-race veterinary inspection and throughout the entire competition.

The period of validity recognised by the Organising Committee of the race is that specified in the Marketing Authorisation (MA) applicable in the country where the vaccine was administered, as certified by the attending veterinarian in the pet passport or official veterinary document.

To be considered valid, the rabies vaccination must comply with all of the following conditions:

- the dog's microchip must have been implanted before or on the same day as the rabies vaccination;
- minimum age at primary vaccination: 12 weeks;
- following a primary vaccination, a mandatory waiting period of 21 days must have elapsed before the pre-race veterinary inspection;
- the vaccination must remain valid throughout the entire event.

Every year, dogs that have genuinely been vaccinated are refused entry because of errors in recording or interpreting the validity period of rabies vaccines.

Competitors are therefore **strongly advised** to have all passports and vaccination records checked by their veterinarian before travelling.

The following tables summarise the rabies vaccines most commonly encountered. Any other vaccine shall be assessed according to the Marketing Authorisation applicable in the country where it was administered.

Tables of most frequently encountered vaccination programmes:

Vaccination administered in France:

Vaccine	Manufacturer	Booster required? 1 year after primary vaccination	Duration of immunization Peculiarities
Nobivac Rage	MSD Animal Health	No	3 years from primary vaccination
Versiguard Rabies	Zoetis	No	3 years from primary vaccination
Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R or Pi/L4R	Zoetis	No	3 years from primary vaccination. The R component must be present.
Rabisin (Mono and Multi)	Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health	Yes	3 years after first booster vaccination
Rabigen Mono	Virbac	Yes	1 year
Canigen (LR, CH(A2)LR or CHPPi/LR)	Virbac	Yes	1 year
Eurican (LR, DAP-LR or DAPPi-LR)	Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health	Yes	1 year

- vaccination administered outside France:

Vaccine	Manufacturer	Booster required? 1 year after primary vaccination	Duration of immunization Peculiarities
Nobivac Rabies	MSD Animal Health	No	3 years from primary vaccination
Versiguard Rabies	Zoetis	No	3 years from primary vaccination
Versican Plus DHPPi/L4R or Pi/L4R	Zoetis	No	3 years from primary vaccination. The R component must be present.
Canigen Rabies	Virbac	No	3 years from primary vaccination - UK only

Vaccine	Manufacturer	Booster required? 1 year after primary vaccination	Duration of immunization Peculiarities
Rabisin vet.	Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health	No - Switzerland Yes in the other listed countries	Switzerland only: 3 years from primary vaccination 3 years after the first booster: Belgium, Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Croatia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary Other countries: check the national MA.
Biocan Novel R (and Novel DHPPi/LR) Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, Poland, Estonia, Lettonia, Latvia	Bioveta	No	3 years from primary vaccination In the countries listed in these regulations only
Biocan R	Bioveta	Yes	**Check the MA applicable in the country of vaccination**
Rabigen Mono	Virbac	**Check national MA**	**Check the MA applicable in the country of vaccination**
Canigen (LR, CH(A2)LR or CHPPi/LR)	Virbac	**Check national MA**	**Check the MA applicable in the country of vaccination**
Eurican DAPPi-LR	Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health	**Check national MA**	**Check the MA applicable in the country of vaccination**

Each competitor is responsible for checking the validity of the most recent rabies vaccination administered to every dog, taking into account the **exact commercial name of the vaccine**, the **manufacturer**, the **country in which the vaccination was administered**, and the conditions of the applicable **Marketing Authorisation (MA)** in that country.

Not all rabies vaccines provide the same period of validity following primary vaccination. In addition, if a booster is administered after the previous vaccination has expired, the new vaccination is considered a primary vaccination again and must comply with the corresponding requirements.

Competitors are strongly advised to have all passports and health documents checked by their veterinarian before travelling. Every year, recording errors or incorrect interpretation of vaccine validity periods result in dogs being refused during the veterinary inspection.

The tables in these regulations cover the vaccines and countries most commonly encountered. For any other vaccine, any other country, or for more detailed country-by-country information, the Marketing Authorisation applicable in the country where the vaccination was administered should be consulted.

For European Union and European Economic Area countries, veterinary medicinal product information is available through the official European database (https://medicines.health.europa.eu/veterinary/search-medicines), including:

- Rabisin — Boehringer Ingelheim
- Canigen — Virbac
- Eurican LR / DAP-LR / DAPPi-LR — Boehringer Ingelheim

- Biocan R — Bioveta

Dogs arriving from Russia or North America may have vaccines that are uncommon in Western Europe, including Biocan R, Defensor-3, Rabikan, Rabix, Nobivac NXT 3-Rabies, Rabvac or IMRAB. In such cases, compliance must be checked using the exact commercial name of the vaccine, its authorisation in the country of vaccination, and the information recorded in the passport or official health document.

Kennel Cough (Pi and Bb)

For kennel cough, the regulations of La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin require all competing and accompanying dogs to have valid, up-to-date vaccination coverage against **both** of the following infectious agents:

- canine Parainfluenza virus (Pi)

AND

- Bordetella bronchiseptica bacteria (Bb).

Due to the variability of the immunity provided by the injectable Pneumodog vaccine, this vaccine is not accepted under the race regulations.

For the Bordetella bronchiseptica (Bb) component, only vaccines administered by a mucosal route — intranasal or oral, as authorised for the vaccine concerned — are accepted under the race regulations.

Recommended protocol: mucosal Bb + Pi vaccination

Because of its simple administration and vaccination schedule, irrespective of the dog's age or previous injectable primary vaccination history, the race regulations **strongly recommend** the use of a mucosal vaccine containing both Bb and Pi components.

Intranasal route

NOBIVAC KC / NOBIVAC BbPi — MSD Animal Health / Intervet

- 1 dose;
- administered at least 3 weeks before the pre-race veterinary inspection;
- minimum age: 3 weeks;
- booster: annually.

VERSICAN PLUS BbPi IN — Zoetis

- 1 dose;
- administered at least 3 weeks before the pre-race veterinary inspection;
- minimum age: 3 weeks;
- booster: annually.

Oral route — North America

NOBIVAC INTRA-TRAC ORAL BbPi — MSD

- 1 dose;
- administered at least 4 weeks before the pre-race veterinary inspection;
- minimum age: 7 weeks.

Alternative protocol: injectable Pi + mucosal Bb

Where a combined mucosal Bb + Pi vaccine is not used, a combination of **injectable Pi vaccination** and **mucosal Bb vaccination** is accepted.

As this protocol is more complex and therefore more prone to vaccination errors, competitors must carefully check with their veterinarian that **both components have been administered and that the respective vaccination schedules are complete and currently valid.**

1. Vaccination against Bordetella bronchiseptica (Bb)

Intranasal route

VERSICAN PLUS Bb IN — Zoetis

- 1 dose;
- administered at least 5 days before the pre-race veterinary inspection;
- minimum age: 3 weeks;
- booster: annually.

Oral route

VERSICAN PLUS Bb ORAL — Zoetis

- 1 dose;
- administered at least 7 days before the pre-race veterinary inspection;
- minimum age: 8 weeks;
- booster: annually.

2. Vaccination against canine Parainfluenza virus (Pi)

The Pi component may be administered by injection, either alone or as part of a combination vaccine.

Vaccines commonly encountered in Europe include:

- MSD Animal Health: Nobivac DHPPi;
- Zoetis: Versican Plus Pi, Versican Plus DHPPi, Vanguard;
- Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health: Eurican DAPPi;
- Virbac: Canigen CHPPi;
- Bioveta: Biocan Novel Pi/L4, Biocan Novel DHPPi.

The vaccination schedule required under these race regulations is:

Dogs up to 18 months of age:

- 2 injections given 3 to 4 weeks apart during the first year of life;
- followed by an annual booster.

Dogs over 18 months of age:

- one currently valid annual vaccination;
- the most recent injection must have been administered at least 4 weeks before the start of the race.

IMPORTANT — Valid DAP/DHP/CHP vaccination does not guarantee that the Pi component is also valid.

Pi is frequently administered as part of the same combination vaccine as D (distemper, sometimes designated C), H/A (hepatitis/adenovirus) and P (parvovirus). However, D/H/P components are commonly administered on a three-year booster schedule, whereas Pi requires annual boosters under the relevant vaccination schedules.

Competitors must therefore **specifically check that the Pi component is present and currently valid**, even when the dog's D/H/P vaccination remains valid.

Canine Distemper, Parvovirosis and Infectious Canine Hepatitis (CHP/DAP/DHP)

A currently valid vaccination against these three major infectious diseases is mandatory for all dogs covered by the regulations of La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin.

For young dogs, documentation of the complete primary vaccination course may be requested. If

the initial vaccinations are not recorded in the European Pet Passport, the dog's vaccination booklet or an equivalent official veterinary document must also be presented.

Dogs up to 18 months of age

Evidence of the primary vaccination course must be available:

- 2 injections approximately 4 weeks apart when vaccination is started from 12 weeks of age;
- 3 injections when the first vaccination is administered from 8 weeks of age;
- booster at 1 year.

Following the booster, the period of validity for these components is 3 years.

Dogs over 18 months of age

currently valid vaccination with a three-year booster interval.

NB: for dogs under 3 years of age, evidence of the primary vaccination course may be requested if there is any doubt regarding the vaccination schedule. Competitors must therefore carry the dog's vaccination booklet or equivalent veterinary documentation when these vaccinations are not recorded in the pet passport.

For the Distemper, Hepatitis/Adenovirus and Parvovirus components, a minimum interval of 15 days between vaccination and the pre-race veterinary inspection is required.

Leptospirosis

Vaccination against leptospirosis is strongly recommended for any dog attending a canine gathering of the scale of La Grande Odyssée Royal Canin. The race regulations therefore make leptospirosis vaccination **mandatory**.

The required vaccination schedule is:

Primary vaccination — regardless of the dog's age

- 2 injections;
- administered 3 to 4 weeks apart.

Boosters

- annual booster.

The required vaccination course must have been completed at least 4 weeks before the pre-race veterinary inspection.