



CONTEST RULES FOR VINDELÄLVSDRAGET 2026 rev 2025-10-04

1. Teams, dog team and musher

- 1.1. A team consists of at least three equipages.
- 1.2. Each equipage can go a voluntary number of stages.
- 1.3. Musher can only be part of one team. If teams have a significant shortage of their own drivers, a dispensation can be requested no later than one hour before the start via email to sekretariat@vindelalven.se. The dispensation application must contain which teams and drivers it refers to and which stages. Team managers are contacted before the start if the application is rejected, otherwise it is approved.
- 1.4. Teams may carry out the number of stages of their own choice by skiing with one or two dogs.
- 1.5. Teams may start with a maximum of eight dogs in each team and stage.
- 1.6. "Kickspark" may start with max two dogs
- 1.7. The minimum age of a musher is 15 years old. (Exemption with restriction can be granted from the age of 12)
- 1.8. To start in Nome style with four dogs the musher must be at least 15 years old.
- 1.8. To start in Nome style with six dogs the musher must be at least 17 years old
- 1.10. To start in Nome style with seven or eight dogs the musher must be at least 19 years old.
- 1.11. Referee may state what distance musher with "Kickspark" may enter

2. Dogs

- 2.1. Dogs must be at least 18 months old, i.e. born no later than 2024-09-12.
- 2.2. Dogs must have identification marking by tattoo in the ear or microchip.
- 2.3. Vaccination of the dog must be performed after one year of age (regardless previous vaccination). Vaccination against distemper must not be older than four years.
- 2.4. Vaccination certificate for all dogs in the team must be presented before start. A representative for the team will present this to the sekretariat no later than Thursday W 11 or send the vaccination certificate for checking to VINDELÄLVSDRAGET before Monday W 10. (See competition information under Dogs)
- 2.5. VINDELÄLVSDRAGETS dog form (chip-form) where all the dogs in the team are listed must be submitted to the sekretariat in connection with the team registration Thursday W 11.
- 2.6. Dogs who during the last 14 days have shown signs of or been in contact with a dog that have had a contagious disease, like diarrhoea or cough, cannot take part in or be brought to VINDELÄLVSDRAGET.
- 2.7. Race manager and the judge have the right to exclude a dog from the competition.
- 2.8. Maltreatment or brutal handling of dogs that appear to be offensive to other competitors or audience is forbidden
- 2.9. Dogs who bite a person or dog can be excluded.

3. Relay

- 3.1. Relay must be carried by the team the entire distance with the exception

of those who make a fresh start. Lost relay adds 10 minutes to the stage where the loss occurred.

4. Equipment

- 4.1. All dogs in equipage with sleds or pulka must be fastened to the sled with a pulling rope, a shaft or a pole.
- 4.2. If sleds or pulka without breaks are used, the dog or dogs closest to the sled or pulka must be fastened with a shaft or a pole.
- 4.3. If more than one dog goes with loose lines they must be connected by a neckline.
- 4.4. If the musher is going by skis the musher must be fastened to the sled, the shaft or the dog/dogs with an expander line, the line cannot have metal hooks or rings by the part of the line that the musher is fastened to.
- 4.5. Sleds and/or gear for fastening are not allowed to be a risk for injury to dog/s or musher.
- 4.6. Sled must have sufficient breaks, snow anchor and dog bag.
- 4.7. Muzzle and collar that can be connected as a choker leash or other means of coercion are forbidden.
- 4.8. Neck lines cannot consist of pure metal.
- 4.9. Bib-number must be worn visibly on the chest and back of the musher.
- 4.10. Nome style mushers must wear a helmet.
- 4.11. "Kickspark" is classified as sled (nome style)
- 4.12. "Kickspark" must have brakes

5. Mass Start

- 5.1. Entry of dogs to the starting pen shall be done from the back.
- 5.2. Dogs can stand in front of the starting line. Sleds shall be behind the starting line.
- 5.3. The smallest gap allowed between sleds is approximately 75 cm.
- 5.4. Teams that finished 1-10 in last year's competition or after completed competition day has a better total result than 10th, may start by the front starting line and teams with placing 11-20 by the second starting line. The rest of the teams start by the last starting line.
- 5.5. All sled teams shall be present in the starting pens at least 5 minutes before start.
- 5.6. All handlers shall stand to the LEFT of their equipages and at the starting moment stand stock still.

6. Trail rules

- 6.1. The trail marked by VINDELÄLVSDRAGET shall be followed (see pm under marking).
- 6.2. Sled teams that go outside of the marked trail shall immediately return to the trail.
- 6.3. Mushers shall according to their own judgement, during shorter distances ski or walk in front of the dogs in order to help in difficult situations.
- 6.4. Loose dog or loose dog team cannot delay, obstruct or be a danger to other sled teams.
- 6.5. Pacing on or outside the trail is forbidden.

7. Passing

- 7.1. It is incumbent upon both mushers that passing is done in a both safe and sport like manner.
- 7.2. When one team intend to overtake another, the passing team has a right to request a free trail ("trail") when the dogs in the front is approximately 15 m behind the team that will be passed.
- 7.3. Teams that are being passed must slow their speed and keep to the side.

8. Exchange

- 8.1. A musher may continue through the exchange pen and go on to the next exchange. The incoming musher can be allowed to continue with a new dog team or incoming dog teams be allowed to continue with a new musher.
- 8.2. Musher must leave the dog/dogs before the exchange pen and pass through the exchange pen. Exchange shall occur immediately thereafter.

9. Time penalty

- 9.1. A team that abstains from a stage will receive a race time equivalent to the slowest time on that stage + 10 minutes.
- 9.2. A team that because of an accident is forced to disrupt a stage will

receive the same time as the slowest team of that stage.

9.3. A team that carries out so called voluntary exchange receives a time penalty of 10 minutes of the stage if it is more than 15 km or 5 minutes if it is less than 15 km.

10. Finish

10.1. Handlers and team mates in connection to the finish cannot behave loudly or in other ways disturbing manner causing dogs in other teams to become frightened when finishing.

10.2. A team shall finish or exchange with the same number of dogs as it started with.

10.3. A team has finished when they has crossed the finish line.

12. Protest

12.1. A protest shall be submitted to the secretariat no later than 30 minutes after the last team has finished.

12.2. The protest must be in writing and written on the form provided by the secretariat.

12.3. The protest shall be signed by the team leader.

13. Team leader meetings

13.1. No team leader meetings will be arranged. New information will be published on Facebook and instagram.

14. Disciplinary actions

14.1. If team, team leader, musher, handler or dog does not follow VINDELÄLVSDRAGET's rules, behave in an unsporting manner, damages the reputation of mushing or VINDELÄLVSDRAGET, the Head judge shall issue a warning, a 5 or 10 minutes penalty or in more severe cases disqualification. If disqualification is imposed, it means for the disqualified part exclusion from further participation in VINDELÄLVSDRAGET.

14.2. The Head judge will interview involved mushers, functionaries or other witnesses that could

provide information about the incident before a decision is made.

14.3. The Head judge's decision is reported in writing as soon as possible, but no later than 30 minutes before the next day's start or the last day's prize ceremony.

14.4. The Head judge's decision cannot be appealed.

Abbreviations that may occur on the list of results:

U	Youth, 15-18 years old
UD	Youth with exemption (younger than 15 years old)
A	Team has abstained from the stage = the stage's slowest time + 10 minutes
F5	Voluntary exchange, 5 minutes penalty per voluntary exchange
F10	Voluntary exchange, 10 minutes penalty per voluntary exchange
B	Disrupted stage = the stage's slowest time
DV	Disciplinary action, warning
D5	Disciplinary action, 5 minutes penalty
D10	Disciplinary action, 10 minutes penalty
DD	Disciplinary action, disqualification

The application for exemption from the age demand shall be filled out in a specific form and be available to the Race Manager no later than **2026-03-05**.

VINDELÄLVSDRAGET 2026

Application for exemption for musher under the age of 15

Team:

Name:

Born:

Conditions:

- 1) The musher cannot be younger than 12 years old.
- 2) The musher shall be trusted with the dog/s and be an "experienced musher"
- 3) If the musher is not a member of a dog club one of the adults in the musher's own home club must have a license for competing. If any of these demands cannot be met the parents must secure a sufficient insurance coverage. VINDELÄLVSDRAGET cannot take on any demands for compensation of damages.
- 4) The musher shall wear helmet, is not allowed to use guide rope or painter and to start with more than 3 dogs.
- 5) Nordic style mushers cannot start with more than one dog.
- 6) The musher is not allowed to go the starting stage nor a stage longer than 11 km.

We have read the conditions above.

Place:

Date:

Parent:

Team leader:

The application for exemption shall be sent before **2026-03-05** to:

VINDELÄLVSDRAGET

Race Manager

E-mail: tavlingsledare@vindelalvsdraget.se