



## **INFORMATION FOR THE COMPETITION 2026** Version 2025-10-04

### **Participation**

All participation in VINDELÄLVSDRAGET is at your own risk. Every single musher shall either be a member of a dog club, have a license for competing in "Svenska Draghundsportförbundet" or have accidental event insurance for leisure.

### **Force majeure**

If VINDELÄLVSDRAGET has to completely or partially be cancelled because of circumstances that is outside of the organizer's control (unforeseen weather, accidents, epidemics, **pandemics**, etc.) the competitors cannot demand financial compensation from the organizers.

### **Keepsake**

Every musher and team leader that completes VINDELÄLVSDRAGET will be awarded a medal. The team will receive a diploma that is sent to the teamleader. The teams that have completed VINDELÄLVSDRAGET for the 10th, 20th and 30th year will receive a diploma made of leather. Team leaders shall at the latest before the prize ceremony in Björksele report the mushers that have participated in VINDELÄLVSDRAGET for 10, 20 or 30 years to the Race Manager.

### **Information during competition**

Keep an eye on facebook/instagram before the competition and during the competition days. Current information is published daily.

### **Functionaries**

Functionaries will be recognized by wearing a yellow or an orange jacket with VINDELÄLVSDRAGET's logo on the back. Local functionaries wear a yellow vest. Competitors in VINDELÄLVSDRAGET are obligated to follow the directions of the functionaries.

### **Supervision of the competition**

All functionaries' vehicles are marked with "Vindelälvsdraget" and the snow mobiles are supplied with Swedish flags.

Two hours before start a pre-patrol will depart on snow mobiles. These have the assignment to cut off crossing trails, check and complement the trail marking as well as preparing the trail.

Approximately 500 m before the lead the "lead snow mobile" (with many flags) will drive, assigned among other things to redirect encountering snowmobiles.

In the front of the race there will be one or two functionaries on snowmobiles to supervise and inspect VINDELÄLVSDRAGET.

In the back of the race there will be another snow mobile with a functionary for supervision and control.

Last of all is the "queue snow mobile" whose assignment is to collect signs and pick up forgotten or dropped accessories etc. Parallel to the queue snow mobile there will be a car going along the road with the same assignment as the queue snow mobile.

### **Veterinar**

Veterinaries will NOT be present during the entire competition. Please observe that the owner of the animal pays the cost for care and treatment of sick or injured dogs. The secretary can assist contact to veterinary.

### **Medical treatment**

Is there a need for medical treatment, contact the Health center in Sorsele, Lycksele or Vindelå. Musher that has a starting permit despite sickness is urged to report this on the back of their

number sheet (BIB).

### **Judge**

The Head judge's assignment is to decide on protests as well as to estimate whether to go through with the competition during, for example, cold or unfit weather. The Head judge's decision is reported to those involved as well as in the list of results. Speaker can announce decisions that involve more than two parties at least 30 minutes before start. The Head judge's decision cannot be appealed.

### **Dogs**

It is of outermost importance that the dogs are cared for and treated in a from all points of view correct manner. Dogs who participate in VINDELÄLVSDRAGET must be healthy and trained for the task. Specific importance shall be noted for the feeding of the dogs and the care of the dog's paws and claws. Dogs that are not used to wearing booties should be trained to walk in those before VINDELÄLVSDRAGET.

Dog(s) must wear identification markings and be vaccinated against distemper according to applying norms (see rules § 2, and <https://www.skk.se/>). Since many dogs gather during VINDELÄLVSDRAGET it could be very suitable that the dogs are recently vaccinated against kennel cough and parvovirus infection.

To facilitate VINDELÄLVSDRAGET's control of the vaccination status, the team can send in vaccination certificates (witnessed copies only) to the secretariat, e-mail: [sekretariat@vindelalven.se](mailto:sekretariat@vindelalven.se) at the latest during week 10. NB! Dog passport must be copied in a way that vaccination information can be traced to the current dog.

Dog form (chip list) must be submitted at the time of registration. If vaccination certificate is submitted for control as above, dog form must be attached.

### **Inspection of dogs**

There will be no veterinary inspection of dogs.

### **Transport**

The teams are responsible for all transport of their sleds, clothing etc.

### **Forgotten accessories**

Found accessories are left at the secretariat. Accessories can be collected during the competition at the prize ceremony. After the competition the accessories are stored by the competition organizer. After two years of storage they are viewed as consumed.

### **Traffic and parking instructions**

The traffic can occasionally become intense with many cars and trailers. Therefore be on your way in good time to the start and to the first exchange areas. Car park spaces are provided at start and finish areas as well as at most exchange areas.

At some exchange areas it is only one-way traffic and there will be staff showing you where to go. Car, which is parked on public road, shall be parked so close to the right snowdrift that the car's right door cannot be opened.

### **NB! WATCH OUT FOR REINDEER AND MOOSE!**

### **Trail preparation**

The trail is marked by **VINDELÄLVSDRAGET's** trail group and by local contact persons. Great effort is put into making the trail safe, there are holes being drilled to check the condition of the ice. In the beginning of February the whole trail is prepared. After that "Vindelälvsleden" is opened. During the week of the competition the whole trail is prepared from Ammarnäs to Hällnäs.

To make 317 km of natural trail as good as a normal illuminated ski trail is, as you hopefully understand, impossible. Be patient!

### **Marking of the trail**

The trail follows about half of its distance along the ice on Vindelälven. The rest of the trail distance consists of snow covered paths and forest roads in a pleasant forest terrain in close proximity to the river.

In open terrain the trail is marked with double-sided red sticks.

By crossing trails, severe curves etc, there will be intensely red arrow signs that show you where to go. The red arrow signs are situated 40-50 meters before the turn and are placed at the right and left side of the trail depending on which way the turn is being made. That is, the "reference arrow" is always found in the inner curve. After the turn has been made there will be a "confirmation arrow" that confirms that you are on the right trail.

On every distance there is a sign that tells you when you have gone about half of the distance, a halfway sign, or, as it is called in local dialect, "HARTA".

### **Team registration**

Preliminary team line-up shall be sent in to **VINDELÄLVSDRAGET**'s secretariat no later than Monday week 10 to <https://www.vindelalvsdraget.se/tavling/anmalan/lagupp.php> (this rule is in order for us to enter data into the computer without stress). Changes in the team line-up can be made during the week of the competition, although no later than 30 minutes before start. Do not forget to mark youths (15-18 years old) with U and youths with exemption (12-14 years old) with UD.

A representative of the team makes the team registration on Thursday week 11 between 6 pm-8 pm (18.00-20.00). At the registration, teams that have not sent in vaccination certificates in advance, shall present vaccination certificates and dog forms for all the participating dogs in the team. After this the team will get their number sheets, relay, programme leaflet etc.

### **Race Manager /Team leader meetings**

Race Manager will be present on phone +46 70 588 46 26 and at prize ceremony/team leader meetings.

### **NB! New information will be published on Facebook.**

In Sorsele and Björksele the Race Manager, Judge, trail manager and secretariat will be present in the hall for the prize ceremony after the prize ceremony.

### **Number sheets**

Each team will receive 18 number sheets with the same number. Our aspiration is that teams who have participated in **VINDELÄLVSDRAGET** before shall be allowed to keep their starting number if they register for the next year's **VINDELÄLVSDRAGET** before the turn of the year. The number sheet must be worn by the driver clearly visible on the chest and back on the outer garment.

### **Rules**

It is expected that everyone who is participating in **VINDELÄLVSDRAGET**, competition board, functionaries, team leaders, competitors and handlers, knows and follows the rules of **VINDELÄLVSDRAGET**.

### **Relay**

**VINDELÄLVSDRAGET** is a relay race. Therefore the team shall bring the relay along during the whole stage. The relay is a miniature baton that can be carried on a string around the neck, which is distributed at the team registration. The relay is handed over to the next sled team at the exchange. See also the section about new-start!

### **Start**

The start, which is collective, occurs daily at 10.00 am.

See point 5 in the rules of **VINDELÄLVSDRAGET**.

All teams must be present at the starting pen at least 5 minutes before start. The speaker will announce when it is 5, 3 and 1 minute left to start. At one-minute left the starter will raise the red starting flag and will lower it at the moment for start.

During a possible "false start" all teams will be recalled and a new starting procedure will commence no sooner than 30 minutes later. When 200-300 dogs start at the same time it is crowded and dramatic.

### **Remember, the competition is not determined by the start!**

### **Safety**

**VINDELÄLVSDRAGET** is not like other sled dog competitions! The trails are not always perfect. By the mass start every day the mushers must make sure that the snow hook does not injure anyone and Nordic style mushers are recommended to hold on to the harness or shaft and keep skis and poles together.

**NB!** The smallest gap allowed between the sleds at the start is 75 cm. Handlers in the starting

pen must stand to the left of the team and at the moment of start stand completely still so they do not get run over.

### Exchange

Approximately 20-30 m before the exchange area there will be a sign saying "lämna hunden här" (leave the dog here). When changing equipage arrives at the sign, it must stop there. The musher lets a handler take care of the dog team while the musher skis or runs with the relay to the awaiting musher, who after taking the relay sets off. The time is marked when the arriving musher passes through the exchange pen.

See point 8 in the rules of **VINDELÄLVSDRAGET**.

**NB!** It is not allowed to warm up through running back and forth in the exchange pen. The time taker can mistake incoming mushers and "warm up people" and that might lead to incorrect stage times for your team.

### Voluntary exchange

Voluntary exchange means that the teams if desired can change at the following locations:

Day one stage 1 between Ammarnäs-Kraddsele 20,5 km, voluntary exchange in Djupfors, gives a stage of 10,5 + 10 km, parking on the road.  
10 minutes penalty.

Day two stage 15 between Råstrand and Vindelgransele (24 km) after the second road crossing approximately 12 km from Råstrand, gives a stage of 12 + 12 km.  
10 minutes penalty.

Day two stage 16 between Vindelgransele-Björksele 18 km, voluntary exchange between Vindelgransele and Björksele after crossing from the Norwegian side to the Finnish side halfway, gives a stage of 10 + 8 km.  
10 minutes penalty.

Day three stage 18 between Vormsele-Rusksele 18 km, voluntary exchange by the bridge over Vindelälven (Lyckselevägen), gives a stage of 12 + 6 km, parking at Trafikverket's resting place by the bridge (Enebacken).  
10 minutes penalty.

Day three stage 21 between Siksele-Föjsviken 14,5 km, voluntary exchange by the descent to Mårdseleforsen, gives a stage of 5,5 + 9 km, parking on Vindelälvsvägen at Mårdseleforsen.  
5 minutes penalty.

Day three stage 23 between Åmsele-Ekorrsele 17 km, voluntary exchange on the ice road to Bjursele, gives a stage of 8 + 9 km, parking on the ice road. **If iceroad not open teams can walk from Bjursele village ca 300m.**  
10 minutes penalty.

The teams will provide for the voluntary exchange themselves, there is no exchange staff or other functionaries present. The teams who wish to use the possibility of voluntary exchange **MUST** register this at the secretariat at least 30 minutes before start on the same day.

### New-start

New-start happens if needed every day. New-start means that if a team has not arrived to one of the below mentioned exchange points before the specified time, the waiting sled team is allowed to start without waiting for the teammate. The start works like it does in the morning. New-start is for keeping the competition more compact.

**NB:** If it is good conditions the new start can be a little earlier. Prepair in time.

#### Day 1 fridag

Jeribäcken kl 13:00

Nedre N Örnäs kl 15:00

#### Day 2 saturday

Torviksele kl 13:00

Vindelgransele kl 15:00

#### Dag y sunday

Siksele kl 13:00

Ekorrsele kl 15:00

Strycksele kl 15:00

### **Forewarning**

Forewarning of incoming teams to exchange is given through call-outs as well as sign-up on a flipchart or such. The forewarning is situated 1-2 km before the exchange. Local functionaries with varied associated equipment manage the forewarning, that is why a forewarning cannot always be guaranteed.

### **Communication**

There are possibilities to reach secretariat or Race Manager through phone along the track. By many exchange points and on the snow mobiles of the functionaries there are cell phones that quickly through the secretariat can reach anyone you wish.

### **Showers/toilets**

Showers and toilets are situated at every starting point and finish as well as at some exchange areas. **NB! The dogs' excrement must be removed. Avoid walking the dogs at populated areas.**

Se also: <https://www.vindelalvsdraget.se/tavling/tavlorg/service.php>

### **Prize ceremony**

The prize ceremony will take place Friday at Sorsele Folkets Hus 6 pm (18.00), Saturday at Björksele Föreningshus 6 pm (18.00) and Sunday at Hällnäs Folkets Hus 5 pm (17.00).

At the prize ceremony most of the prizes are raffled among the teams. If your team wins a prize at the raffle and you are not present, this prize will immediately be raffled to another team. In addition to the raffled prizes there are a number of "special prizes" that are awarded.

**VINDELÄLVSDRAGET's** medal is awarded to all the teams' mushers and team leaders.

**VINDELÄLVSDRAGET's** diploma is distributed to all the teams. A challenge prize (made by the artist Kay Isaksson, Lycksele) is awarded to the overall winner and is kept by the team until the next year. **The trophy will be handed over to a new winner every year.**

### **Result lists**

Result lists are published continuously during the competition on **VINDELÄLVSDRAGET's** website: <https://www.vindelalvsdraget.se/> Results are also put up on the speaker carriage at each finish area.

No complete printed results are handed out. Final result lists will be available on our website in the middle of April.

### **Secretary**

The secretariat is open on Thursday between 6 pm and 8 pm (18.00-20.00). Every day, Friday to Sunday, an ambulatory secretariat (a functionary with a sign) will be present at the starting area 45 minutes before first start as well as in the proximity of the finish area from approximately two hours after start. The secretariat is always available through cell phone +46 70 177 09 96

### **Competition organisation week 11**

Race manager:

Sara Byström, +46 70 588 46 26

E-mail: [tavlingsledare@vindalalvsdraget.se](mailto:tavlingsledare@vindalalvsdraget.se)

Trail manager:

Mattias Eriksson, +46 73-028 00 51

E-mail: [banchef@vindalalvsdraget.se](mailto:banchef@vindalalvsdraget.se)

Secretary:

Margareta Åström, +46 70 177 09 96

E-mail: [Sekretariat@vindalalvsdraget.se](mailto:Sekretariat@vindalalvsdraget.se)

**Requested information about preliminary team line-ups and where the team will register, possible vaccination certificates and dog forms shall be sent **no later than Monday week 10.** NB! Only copies.**

E-mail: [Sekretariat@vindalalvsdraget.se](mailto:Sekretariat@vindalalvsdraget.se)

Adress:  
Vindelälvsdraget  
c/o Margareta Åström  
Jan-Ers Vägen 34  
922 63 Tavelstö

**NB. Only copies.**

Form for team line-up is available at <https://www.vindelalvsdraget.se/>

Forms for speaker text as well as dog forms are available for download on the left of  
<https://www.vindelalvsdraget.se/>

Application for exemption for youths 12-14 years old is available on the last page of the rules.  
[https://www.vindelalvsdraget.se/tavling/regler/regler\\_eng\\_2026.pdf](https://www.vindelalvsdraget.se/tavling/regler/regler_eng_2026.pdf)