



Musher Info Pack

www.fallssleddog.org.au



ASSA



GENERAL INFORMATION

2018 BRINGS THE **FALLS CREEK SLED DOG FESTIVAL** AN EXCITING NEW RACE FORMAT WITH 3 RACES/RUNS ON SNOW!

ROCKY VALLEY SLED DOG RUN

A 2 heated race on the Thursday and Friday nights, held on the cross country ski trails. This is the ASSA pointscore race for the weekend with prize money, trophies and dog food prizes.

FALLS CREEK SLED DOG CLASSIC

One run for all classes through the streets of the village.

This race is the "lodge race" where you will be representing the lodge who has sponsored your accommodation for the weekend. The Race Committee will promote entries without a lodge sponsor to try and secure accommodation sponsorship for 2019.

This is our way of giving back to the resort and the many lodges who have supported the club and the teams over the years.

The Conditions and Trails

This event, is unlike any of the other alpine races in Australia, with the Saturday night race starting at the base of the Falls Express ski lift and we run throughout the heart of the Alpine Village, under lights and the night sky. A style of racing seen consistently throughout Europe, but a first for the Australian Sled Dog Racing scene and Australian Alpine Resorts. The Thursday and Friday night races will once again be held on the Cross Country Ski Trails starting from Windy Corner Day Car Park, providing firm packed, groomed trails. Mushers come from across the country and from as far as New Zealand to race on these trails. With a captive audience of well over a thousand spectators, mushers and their dogs will enjoy an atmosphere and challenging trail unlike anything they have ever experienced before.

The trails for this event are very technical, demanding and diverse; with lots of steep climbs up ski runs, fast downhill sections, groomed open vista's and narrow 'sno mo' tracks through trees. Distances for Thursday and Friday nights are approximately 3km for 2 dog class and 6 km for 3/4/6 dog classes. Distance for the Saturday night race is approximately 4km.

Please note, entry to the Falls Creek Sled Dog Classic (Saturday night) is by application. The committee will confirm entry for this race once all entries are received. Being the 'village run' teams need to be suitably experienced for this event. We also have a limited time to run this event, so will consider previous race times when accepting entries.

Our advice for the 2018 race is take note of the cautions and advice provided at the drivers meeting and if visibility is an issue 'SLOW DOWN'.

RACE EVENT FORMAT

Venue: Falls Creek Alpine Resort, Victoria

EVENT SNAPSHOT

- Thursday 2nd– Rocky Valley Sled Dog Run – Heat 1 ASSA Snow Point Score Race
- Friday 3rd – Rocky Valley Sled Dog Run – Heat 2 ASSA Snow Point Score Race
- Saturday 4th– Falls Creek Sled Dog Classic
- Saturday 4th– Race Awards Presentation

Event	Date	Time	Notes
Drivers Check In and Registration	Thursday 2/8/2018	1pm	Office next to QT Building at Slalom Plaza
Drivers Meeting Day 1		3pm	Office next to QT Building at Slalom Plaza
2 Dog Open Class and 2/3 Dog Junior Challenge run		6pm	Windy Corner Car Park
Followed by 3 Dog, 4 dog and 6 dog Open Classes		7pm (approx.)	Windy Corner Car Park
Drivers Meeting Day 2	Friday 3/8/2018	3pm	Office next to QT Building at Slalom Plaza
2 Dog Open Class and 2/3 Dog Junior Challenge run together		6pm	Windy Corner Car Park
Followed by 3 Dog, 4 dog and 6 dog Open classes		7pm (approx.)	Windy Corner Car Park
Falls Creek Sled Dog Classic - Drivers Meeting Day 3	Saturday 4/8/2018	3pm	Office next to QT Building at Slalom Plaza
VIP Sled Dog Lodge Visits		9am – 11am	Individual lodges that sponsor teams
Sled Dog Exhibition		11am – 1pm	Opportunity for the public to meet and greet mushers and their dogs. Car park at Slalom Plaza
Falls Creek Sled Dog Classic: 2, 3, 4, 6 dog classes		6pm	Slalom Plaza
Race Awards Presentation for Rocky Valley Sled Dog Run and Falls Creek Sled Dog Classic		approx. 8.30pm	Falls Creek Country Club

2/3 Dog Junior Challenge (12-15 years of age only)

- This is a 2 heat race on the Thursday and Friday nights
- It is run with the open 2 Dog class
- All juniors must have consent from their parents
- They can only enter the race with dogs they have previously trained or competed with
- They need to be capable of driving a sled on snow
- They must be capable of responding to an injured dog without adult assistance
- The need to have endorsement (signed letter) from their race club outlining:
 - Which club they are members of
 - They are capable of handling their team in an open event
 - They have trained at night with lights
 - They have practiced passing other teams and can control their team on a rig or sled (including stopping and using the snub line)

2/3/4/6 Dog Classes

- For safety reasons entries for mushers who have not competed on snow previously will only be accepted to the 2 dog class
- The ASSA snow pointscore race is a 2 heat race – Thursday and Friday night
- The 2 dog class will be run at a separate time to the 3/4/6 dog classes – so it is possible to enter this and another class
- The 3/4/6 dog classes are run all together, without a break in between classes
- It is the mushers responsibility to arrange enough handlers to get your team safely to the start line and to assist at the end of the race
- The committee works hard to obtain volunteers to help handle teams on the night, however this is not guaranteed. If we have suitable volunteers to assist you will be informed prior to the race and we will set up a time for them to meet your dogs and be briefed by you. Remember these are volunteers (some having limited dog handling experience) and you will need to give them good instructions of what to do.

All Classes

- Entries will be accepted by email or snail mail
- The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entries
- This is a capped race, ensure that you get your entries in early to secure your place at the start line and to avoid any disappointment
- You will not be able to enter at the event
- You must attend all drivers meetings. Further information will be provided in the Race Catalogue and via Race updates on our FB group
- We run using ASSA race rules and Code of Ethics, Aggressive Dog Policy and the Musher Sportsman Policy. Please ensure that you have read these documents prior to the race. By entering this race you agree to abide by these rules and any official decision made by the race marshal (s) or organising members of the race giving organisation. ASSA Race Rules and policies can be downloaded from the ASSA or Falls Creek Sled Dog Classic websites
- The race Sponsors/Race organising bodies, Falls Creek Alpine Resort or Individuals will not be responsible or liable for any injury or accident, which may occur during the race. If you elect to pursue any insurance action against the Race Organising Bodies or Individuals the you will be liable to pay the event insurance policy claim excess
- By entering this race you agree to be responsible for the conduct of yourself, your handlers and your dogs at all times
- If the race is cancelled due to reasons beyond Falls Creek Sled Dog Classic Inc. control, refundable items are 50% of Entry Fee
- To be eligible for breed prizes please state the breed of your dog's eg. Siberian Husky, Alaskan Malamutes

- It is important that you advise us of your arrival date and departure dates so that mountain entry and car park passes can be arranged for you (if you don't provide these details you will be charged entry and parking fees). We will require your Vehicle details also.
- Falls Creek Alpine Resort and Alpine Shire Council regulations state registration details of all dogs on the mountain must be recorded. Please ensure that you list all of the dogs you have on the mountain for the weekend and their registration numbers
- Keep an eye out for race updates closer to the date for any changes

Compulsory Equipment to Carry When Racing

- Helmet, gloves, long sleeves, pants
- Mobile phone, water bottle and spare waterproof/warm jacket to be carried in sled bag
- Sled with working brake, working drag mat, snow hook, snub line and cutters
- Two sets of high quality lights (one for helmet and one for sled)

Race Committee

The Committee will be onsite at Falls Creek from Wednesday 1st August to Monday 6th August. We will be checking emails regularly and Vaughan and Idah will be contactable via mobile phone.

President – Vaughan Winther; president@fallssleddog.org.au

Mobile: 0439 651852. Leave a message, text or send an email if I don't answer.

Treasurer and Race Marshall – Idah Watson; treasurer@fallssleddog.org.au

Mobile: 0408 368955

Secretary – Jo Winther; secretary@fallssleddog.org.au

Please remember the decision of the Race Marshall is final

Race Volunteers

- Putting this race on would not be possible without our volunteers who brave the freezing weather and wet conditions – they set trails, corner marshal, chute marshal and also time the heats.
- Corner marshal's will not handle dogs, if you need help with your teams they can assist in securing your sled under your instruction

Car and Trailer Parking

- All teams will have parking set aside opposite the Falls Creek Management building next to Slalom Plaza. Entry to the resort is free from 1pm Wednesday 1st August until Sunday 5th August. Car and trailer registration details must be provided on the entry form
- Trailers with dogs are not to be left unattended on the mountain overnight, if you are not staying on the mountain you need to take them with you

No Dog = No Dogs

- All competitors staying on the mountain please refrain from taking dogs through the village areas. The only exception is for mushers that have accommodation sponsors and are able to take dogs to lodges as part of the VIP lodge visits which is specified All exercising and toileting of dogs must be kept to the parking areas of the resort
- Please clean up after your animals and deposit dog faeces in the bins provided that will be made available by Falls Creek management. This is of paramount importance to ensure we are asked back in the future

Race Vet

- We are pleased to welcome our race vet Leah Withers from Sunbury All Creatures. She will be available just prior to the start of the race on both nights, until about one hour after the completion of the race. If you need the Race Vet please contact Vaughan Winther on 0439 651852 or speak to a committee member/volunteer with a radio
- Emergency and after hours Vet Care will be provided by Ovens and Kiewa Veterinary Hospital (24 hours: 03 5752 1235)

Media

Being a unique snow event for Australia this race will attract a large local and national media contingent. Media coverage is beneficial to the sports continual growth and exposure. Wherever possible please assist the media and if you do happen to have problems with any media immediately advise a Falls Creek Sled Dog Classic Inc. officials. Falls Creek Sled Dog Classic officials and Falls Creek Management will be monitoring and ensuring media crews do not interfere with teams or impact the operations of this event.

Chains Must Be Carried

Chains can be hired from most ski shops around Melbourne, both directions along the Alpine Highway and also depending on what route you are taking to the mountain from both Mt Beauty and Bright. Being a busy weekend the roadside operators may run short of certain sizes therefore it would be wise to hire chains off mountain. Remember to consider a set of chains for trailers for if road conditions are extreme they will be compulsory to use on the mountain.

Note - by law it is still necessary to carry chains thus being well prepared if roadside signs dictate chains are to be fitted

Anti-Freeze and Diesel Vehicles

All vehicles visiting the Alpine region should have their radiators checked and subsequently have their antifreeze tested and if need be topped up. The minimum requirement a driver should anticipate completing is to simply add anti freeze to their vehicles radiator.

We recommend diesel vehicles top up their fuel tanks where it is possible to obtain "Diesel Alpine Mix". Alpine Mix is a diesel fuel manufactured specifically for Alpine conditions thus prevents diesel from freezing or "waxing".