

Comparing the Iditarod and the Junior Iditarod

	Iditarod	Junior Iditarod
Starting Date	First Saturday in March	The Saturday before the Iditarod start
Length	Ceremonial 1,049 miles	148-158 miles
Checkpoints	Twenty-five – Northern Route Twenty-four – Southern Route	Three – Eagle Song Lodge Yentna Station Eagle Song Lodge
Mandatory Stops	Mushers are required to take two 8 hour stops and one 24 hour stop (Rule 13)	Mushers are required to take one ten hour stop at the halfway mark (Rule 4)
Age of Musher	Must be 18 as of the starting date of the race (Rule 1)	Between 14 and 17 the day the race begins (Rule 5)
Dog Minimum and Maximum	Start – between 12 and 16 dogs Finish – at least 6 dogs (Rule 17)	Start – between 7 and 10 dogs Finish – at least 5 dogs (Rule 6)
Mandatory Gear	Cold weather sleeping bag Ax Snow shoes Promotional material Booties Cooker and pot Fuel Gang line Harnesses Food Vet Notebook (Rule 16)	Cold weather sleeping bag Ax Snow shoes Promotional material Booties Cooker and pot Fuel Drop cables Proper cold weather clothes and boots Head lamp and alternate battery powered light Restraint to hold dogs in the sled basket Matches or lighter – two sources

		Three pairs of socks Three pairs of gloves Rain gear (Rule 18)
Prizes for the Winner	Usually around \$50,000 and a new truck	Usually a scholarship around \$5,000 Tickets to Nome for the Iditarod Finishers' Banquet Gets to be the first sled out in the Iditarod Ceremonial Start
Prizes for Finishers	Usually cash awards Belt buckle and patch for first time finishers	Trophy Patch, Other prizes Some additional scholarships