



INFORMATION FOR THE COMPETITION 2015

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 Draghundsförbundet 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, 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 and get to keep the relay after the competition. The teams that have completed VINDELÄLVSDRAGET for the 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th and 25th year will receive a diploma made from leather. Team Leaders shall at the latest before the prize ceremony in Björksele register the mushers that have participated in VINDELÄLVSDRAGET for 10 and 20 years to the competition organizer.

Functionaries

These will be recognized by wearing blue overalls or an orange vest 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 "Vindelälvsdragnet"- 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), that is assigned to among other things redirect encountering snowmobiles, will drive. 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. Judges and veterinaries travel by snow mobile along the track sometimes.

Veterinary

Two veterinaries will be present during the entire competition. The veterinary is available every day by the entrance to the starting pen approximately 30 minutes before start, by the hall for the prize ceremony 7.30pm-8pm (19.30-20.00) and at the Team Leader meetings.

Between these occasions the veterinary can be reached through the Secretariat. VINDELÄLVSDRAGET have engaged the veterinaries in inspection and control of the animal protection during the competition. Please observe that the owner of the animal pays the cost for care and treatment of sick or injured dogs.

Medical treatment

Is there a need for medical treatment, contact the Healthcare facility in Sorsele, Lycksele or Vindelön. Musher that has a starting permit despite sickness is urged to report this on the back of their number sheet (BIB).

Jury

The jury consists of the Head of Competition as well as two well-merited and trusted mushers or Team Leaders. The jury is assisted by a veterinary if needed.

The jury's assignment is to decide on protests as well as estimate whether to go through with the competition during, for example, cold or unfit weather. The jury'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 jury's decision cannot be appealed. The jury meets daily at 6.30pm (18.30) at the hall for the prize ceremony, as well as at the request of the Head of Competition.

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 be wear identification markings and be vaccinated against distemper according to applying norms (see rules & 2). 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) and a chip-list where all dogs on the team are listed. Documents must be available to VINDELÄLVSDRAGET's Secretariat Wednesday week 10 at the latest, (see address at the end of this document).

VINDELÄLVSDRAGET has applied for exemption from Statens jordbruksverk from the demand that every dog shall be inspected before start, but all dogs shall be inspected during the course of the competition. If the exemption is granted the team shall plan for an inspection of all dogs at one occasion or half of the number of dogs at two occasions according to the specifications below. Which occasion or occasions you choose is written in the dog form. If the exemption is not granted VINDELÄLVSDRAGET will be cancelled.

Inspection 1 Ammarnäs and Sorsele Wednesday 7pm-9pm (19.00-21.00)

Inspection 2 Finish area in Sorsele Thursday 1pm-4pm (13.00-16.00)

Inspection 3 Finish area in Björksele Friday 1pm-5pm (13.00-17.00)

Inspection 4 Finish area in Hällnäs Saturday 1pm-5pm (13.00-17.00)

The demand of inspection of all of the team's competing dogs is mandatory and shall be completed no later than Sunday before 2pm (14.00).

Transport

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

Forgotten accessories

Found accessories are left at the Secretariat. Accessories can during the course of the competition be retrieved at the Prize ceremony. After the competition the accessories are stored with the Head of Competition. After two years of storage they are viewed as spent.

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. Plowed parking spaces are provided by start and finish as well as at most exchange areas.

To get access to the "close to exchange parking spaces" the car must be marked with the parking verification, "the husky head", received from the Secretariat. At some exchange areas it is one-way traffic and there will be staff showing you where to go. Cars, which are parked on public roads, shall be parked so close to the right plow edge that the cars right door cannot be opened.

OBS! WATCH OUT FOR REINDEERS AND MOOSE!

Trail preparation

The trail is marked by VINDELÄLVSDRAGET's trail group and by local contact persons that are located in almost every village along Vindelådalen. Great effort is put into making the trail safe for those travelling there, 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 Vännäsby to Ammarnäs.

To make 400 km of natural trail as good as a normal illuminated ski trails is, as you hopefully understand, impossible. Be patient!

Marking of the trail

The trail is run for about half of its distance on Vindelälven's unregulated ice. The rest of the distance is run on paths and unplowed forest roads in a nice forest terrain in close proximity to the river.

The trail is in open terrain marked with coupled, red canes.

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 Västerbottnish, "HARTA".

Team registration

Preliminary team line-up (and where the team will make their registration in Sorsele or Ammarnäs) shall be sent in to VINDELÄLVSDRAGET's Secretariat no later than Wednesday week 10, form enclosed (excel-file), (this is in order for us to feed it 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 (15-20 years old) with U and youths with exemption (12-14 years old) with UD.

Teams who have not participated in Vindelälvsdraget before is recommended to make the registration in Ammarnäs.

A representative of the team makes team registration on Wednesday week 11 between 5pm-10pm (17.00-22.00), to the Secretariat in Sorsele or Ammarnäs. At this time, teams that have not sent in vaccination certificates in advance, shall present vaccination certificate and dog form for all the participating dogs in the team, and report when the team want to inspect their dogs. After this the team will get their number sheets, relay, parking verification, programme leaflet etc.

Team Leader meetings

The first Team Leader meeting is held at Sorsele Folkets hus on Thursday and the last on Saturday at Folkets hus in Hällnäs 15 minutes after the prize ceremony.
NB! No Team Leader meeting in Björksele.

A representative from each team shall be present at the meetings. During the meetings the things that have happened during the days is summed up and there is information about what can be expected in the coming days. In Björksele the Head of Competition, track chief, Secretariat, judges, veterinary will be present in the hall for the prize ceremony after the prize ceremony

Number sheets

Every team with more than two sled teams will receive 18 number sheets with the same number. Teams with only two sled teams will receive 4. 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.

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 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 new start!

Start

The start, which is collective, occurs daily at 10am except for Sunday when it occurs at 9am for teams with more than one team and for teams with only two teams at 9.30am (8.30am on Sunday).

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 starts 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.

OBSERVE! 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 the rotating team arrives at the sign, they shall stop there. The musher lets a handler take care of the dog team while s/he 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 goes through the exchange pen.

Please observe, that at the exchange the whole sled team shall change, only the relay and possibly ski gear may be handed over. Teams that will not change go through the exchange area.

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, extra exchange in Djupfors, gives a stage of 10,5 + 10 km, parking on the road.
10 minutes penalty

Day two stage 12 between Sandsele-Torviksele 13 km, extra exchange by ice road into Avanäs, gives a stage of 7 + 6 km, parking on the ice road.
5 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, extra 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, extra exchange by the bridge over Vindelälven (Lyckselevägen), gives a stage of 12 + 6 km, parking at vägverket's resting place by the bridge (Enebacken) 10 minutes penalty.

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

Day three stage 23 between Åmsele-Ekorrsele 17 km, extra exchange on the ice road to Bjursele, gives a stage of 8 + 9 km, parking on the ice road.
10 minutes penalty.

Day four stage 29 between Rödåsel-Vännfors 15 km, extra exchange by the road crossing to Selet, gives a stage of 5 + 10 km, parking on the road.
5 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 with 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 these hours, 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 together.

Day 1 Thursday

Jeribäcken 1pm (13.00)

Nedre N Örnäs 3pm (15.00)

Day 2 Friday

Torviksele 1pm (13.00)

Vindelgransele 3pm (15.00)

Day 3 Saturday

Siksele 1pm (13.00)

Ekorrsesele 3pm (15.00)

Strycksele 3pm (15.00)

Day 4 Sunday

Vännfors 12.00

Early-warning

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

Linkage

There are possibilities to reach veterinary, Secretariat or Head of Competition 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 whomever you wish.

Showers/rest rooms

Showers and rest rooms are situated at every starting point and finish as well as at some exchange areas. Observe that the dogs' excrement must be removed. Avoid walking the dogs in habitation.

Prize ceremony

The prize ceremony will take place the first three days at 7pm (19.00). Day one at Sorsele Folkets hus, day two at Björksele föreningshus, day three at Folkets hus in Hällnäs. On the fourth day the prize ceremony will take place at 2pm (14.00) at Festplatsen i Vännäsby.

The prize ceremony is performed so that 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.

Lantmännen DOGGY's youth award is traditionally distributed the last day.

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. Winners in five consecutive or non-consecutive events receive the trophy in permanent ownership.

Lists of results

Preliminary lists of results are handed out daily at the Team Leader meetings as well as being put up on the speaker cart. Results are also published day-to-day on the Internet. Final lists of results are available on our website in the middle of April.

Our web site: www.vindelalven.se

Secretariat

The Secretariat is open on Wednesday between 5pm and 10pm (17.00-22.00) in Sorsele and Ammarnäs. Everyday, Thursday to Sunday, ambulating 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 to an hour after the last team has finished. The Secretariat is always available through cell phone 070-231 15 77.

Competition organisation Tel week 11

Race Marshal Olle Rosén, V. Myrbäck 110 905 88 Umeå, 090-351 60, 070-568 30 79 e-mail: olle.rosen@ubhk.se

Trail boss Lars Fällman, Hallonvägen 3 903 39 Umeå, 090-14 16 00, 070-344 37 53 e-mail: lars.fallman@vindalalven.se

Secretariat Karin Hedlund, Vitskärvägen 23 931 42 Obbola, 070-231 15 77 e-mail: salsa343@hotmail.com

Media Ann-Kristin Ångström, Avastugan 921 92 Lycksele, 0950-152 67, 070-654 85 95 e-mail: avastugan@telia.com

Address to which 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 Wednesday week 10:

Karin Hedlund
Vitskärvägen 23
913 42 Obbola
Tel 070-231 15 77

Forms for team line-up, speaker text as well as dog forms is available for download at the top of this page.

Application for exemption for youths 12-14 years old is on the last page of the rules.