



Skijoring Rules & Information

Saturday & Sunday, January 25-26, 2025

Grandstand Arena

Fergus County Fairgrounds

Hwy 191 North

Schedule

10:00 am each day- Competitor meeting followed by track inspection.

11:00 am each day- Races begin

Superintendent

Jennifer Saunders

406-366-1677

jennifersaunders4h@gmail.com

Attendees

\$5 per day, 12 and under free

Hot Spots - \$50, Includes 8 seats and 1 patio heater

Limited number, must be pre-purchased

Registration forms at MontanaWinterFair.com

- January 22 - Intent to Enter deadline
Riders and Skiers/Snowboarders - complete online Intent to Enter
- Friday, January 24, 4:00 to 7:00 pm - In person team registration at the Stockyard Bar, 610 US-191.
Payment will be required at entry, cash or check to Montana Winter Fair.
- Saturday, January 25, 7:00 to 9:00 am - Team registration will continue at track-side office
- Teams should check-in both days between 8:00 and 9:00 am.

Divisions/ Fees

Skiers

- Pro - \$50/ team (Adults 18* and older, skiers that have competed in eight or more skijor races)
- Sport - \$30/ team (Adults 18* and older, skiers that have competed in three to seven skijor races)
- Novice - \$20/ team (Adults 18* and older, first-time skiers and skiers with no more than two competitive skijoring races.)
- Youth - \$10/ team (ages 9-17*)

Snowboarding (Youth and Novice)

- Novice - \$20/ team (Adults 18* and older, first-time skiers and skiers with no more than two competitive skijoring races.)
- Youth - \$10/ team (ages 9-17*)

*Age on the day of the event, signed parental consent required for youth under 18, parent must be present at check-in.

Payouts

Jackpot Payout per division

- 10% retained by Montana Winter Fair
- 50%- 1st place
- 30%- 2nd place
- 10%- 3rd place

Day runs for either Saturday or Sunday are welcome but will only run as exhibition and will not be qualified for jackpot winnings.

Awards

Belt buckles will be awarded to 1st place Rider and Skier in each division.

Teams

Teams consist of 1 rider, 1 horse and 1 skier

- Skiers/ Snowboarders
 - May only enter in 1 division
 - May enter in that division four times with different horses
- Riders
 - May enter in each division up to four times
 - No riders under the age of 9
- Horses
 - May enter up to four times for the entire event

Course

- The course length will be a minimum of 500 feet, 8 gates and 3 jumps.
- Competitors will have the opportunity to walk the course prior to the start of the first day's competition. Teams choosing not to participate and advising the event secretary, prior to the start of any competition, will be given a full refund of fees. Once the first competitor starts a run no further refunds will be given.

Equipment

1. Rope length shall not exceed 50 feet and should be 3/8" or larger in diameter. No loops or handles allowed on ropes. Knots are allowed, but not recommended.
2. Rope attachment must be to the saddle horn or behind the cantle. If the attachment is behind the saddle, it must be secured to the primary rigging rings of the saddle by a non-elastic attachment, so the pulling rope is within 6 inches of the cantle, carabiner not included. Prior to the race the Chief of Race may inspect the rigging. Quick release shackles are highly recommended.
3. Ropes will be inspected and measured by the Chief of Race at 10 am trackside on Saturday and on Sunday for any new participants.
4. Use of a standard western bit and saddle are required. Riders must dismount and present horse and equipment to the Chief of Race or Veterinarian if asked.
5. All skiers will be required to wear snow sport approved helmets. Eye protection is recommended.
6. Horse leg protection and shoes that increase traction- borium, calks, frost nails with snow poppers- are highly recommended.

Rules

1. Time starts and stops when the Skier/ Snowboarder crosses the start and finish lines.
 - a. The skier/snowboarder must be in an upright position and on at least one ski with rope in hand when crossing the finish line. Both skier/snowboarder's boots must cross the finish line.
2. There is a two (2) second penalty for each gate or jump missed. Both tips of skis and both boots must go around the gate, otherwise it is considered missed. There is a one (1) second penalty for a missed ring.

3. If the horse or rope displaces a gate prior to skier negotiating it is a two (2) second penalty. If a horse breaks the plain of a jump or hits the timing eye, it is a two (2) second penalty.
4. If, due to injury, the rider, skier/ snowboarder or horse is unable to complete their second run, they may find a replacement.
5. Racers will be called to the starting line three times. If they do not respond they will be moved to the end in the start order of their division.
6. Judges reserve the right to invoke THE SPARBY RULE, WHEREIN: Competitors will be allowed 2 minutes from the time they enter the arena to stage their horse for a start. The first infraction will result in that team being moved back in the start order. In the event they are unable to start their horse a second time, within the 2-minute time frame, that team will be disqualified for that go-around.
7. The on-site veterinarian may disqualify a horse for illness, lameness or injury.
8. If a competitor is noticeably inebriated or otherwise impaired, this competitor will be disqualified for his/her own safety and the safety of others.
9. A DNF will be issued if a skier drops the rope AND the horse is required to stop forward motion in order for the skier to regain control of the rope
10. Any protests from a competitor must be made verbally to the Chief of Race prior to the commencement of the next competitor's run.
11. Unsportsmanlike behavior is grounds for immediate disqualification. Furthermore, good sportsmanship is important to the success of the event. Your registration signature pledges your word to the humane treatment of your horse and respectful relationships to all fellow competitors and volunteers hosting this exciting competition. Failure to comply with the spirit of friendly competition will result in your dismissal from this event.
12. The decision of the Judges is final.

Additional Information for Competitors

- Directions to Fairgrounds:
Take truck bypass/ 1st Avenue and turn onto US-191 to Hilger/Roy.
Enter the 3rd gate at the fairgrounds and follow the signs for the competitor's entrance through a chain-link fence.
ALL horse trailers and competitor's vehicles must be parked inside the competitor's area.
The track will be in front of the grandstands.
- Races start at 11:00 am both days.
- All competitors must attend pre-race briefings and course inspections on Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 am
- Hospitality trailer will be heated and stocked with snacks, water, coffee and hot cocoa.
- There will be a skijor gathering at the Stockyard Bar, across the highway from the fairgrounds on Saturday night. Free polish and hotdogs available to roast.

Stalling (Horses and Beef)

- Complete Stalling registration can be found at MontanaWinterFair.com
- Covered horse stalls with one bag of wood chips per stall will be available at the Fergus County Fairgrounds.
- Stall Fees are \$20 per stall per night plus an additional, one-time \$30 cleaning deposit.
- **DEPOSIT AND FEES MUST BE MADE ONLINE PRIOR TO ARRIVING AT THE FAIRGROUNDS.**
- Reserved stalls will be clearly marked with your name.
- When you are ready to check out, call the number posted on the barn to have your stall checked and have your deposit refunded.

Additional Information for Spectators

- Seating will be in the Grandstands arena. Bring blankets for warmth.
- A limited number of hotspots are available and must be reserved by January 15th. Hot Spots include 8 reserved seats under/around a patio heater under the covered grandstands,
- Hotspots are \$50 each, registration can be found at MontanaWinterFair.com.

- You may NOT bring your own heaters.
- Concessions and bar will be available.
- Enter the 3rd gate at the Fergus County Fairgrounds and watch for signage.
The public is not allowed in the competitor's staging area or on the track.