

SKIJORING

Saturday & Sunday, January 29 & 30

Fergus County Fairgrounds

Hwy 191 North

******This event is dependent on snow and will be postponed if adequate snow cover is not present. ***
Final call on snow availability will be January 14***

Schedule

10:00 am each day- Team check-in trackside

11:00 am each day- Races begin

Superintendent

Jennifer Saunders

406-366-1677

jennifer.saunders@montana.edu

Spectator/ Gate Prices- Bring lawn chairs and blankets

- \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth (ages 5 to 17) on Saturday for admission to both Skijoring and Ranch Rodeo on Saturday and Skijoring on Sunday
- \$5 for both Adults and Youth (ages 5 to 17) for Sunday Skijoring only

Registration forms at MontanaWinterFair.com

- January 20 - Intent to Enter deadline
Riders and Skiers- complete online Intent to Enter with name, address, phone, email.
- January 28, 5:00 to 8:00 pm - In person team registration at Fergus County Fairgrounds Trade Center.
Payment will be required at entry, cash or check to Montana Winter Fair.
- January 29, 7:00 to 9:00 am - Team registration will continue at trackside office
- Teams should check in trackside both days by 10:00 am.

Stalls

See page 10 for Stalling Information

Fees

*Age on the day of the event

*Signed parental consent required for youth under 18, a parent must be present at check in

- Pro-Open- \$50/ team (Adults 18 and older, highest skilled skiers with competitive skijoring experience.)
- Sport - \$30/ team (Adults 18 and older, intermediate skilled skiers with skijoring practice experience.)
- Novice- \$20/ team (Adults 18 and older, beginning skiers with no skijoring experience.)
- Youth- \$10/ team (ages 13-17)
- Pee Wee- \$5/ team (ages 9-12)

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.

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2022 Skijoring Info and Rules

Teams

- Teams consist of 1 rider, 1 horse and 1 skier
 - Skiers
 - May only enter in 1 division
 - May enter in that division four times with different horses
 - If a skier has won in a division two or more times they must move up a division.
 - 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

- 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.
- 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.
- Ropes will be inspected and measured by the Chief of Race at 10 am trackside on Saturday and on Sunday for any new participants.
- 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.
- All skiers will be required to wear snow sport approved helmets. Eye protection is recommended.
- Horse leg protection and shoes that increase traction, borium, calks, frost nails- with snow poppers, are highly recommended.

Rules

- Time starts and stops when the Skier crosses the start and finish lines.
 - The skier must be in an upright position and on at least one ski with rope in hand when crossing the finish line. Both skier's boots must cross the finish line.
- There is a five (5) 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.
- If the horse or rope displaces a gate prior to skier negotiating it, the gate is considered missed.
- If the rider, skier or horse is unable to complete their second run, they may find a replacement, but the run will be considered exhibition only and will not be eligible for payouts second day or overall payouts.
- 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. 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.
- The onsite veterinarian may disqualify a horse for illness, lameness or injury.

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- Alcohol consumption prior to competition is grounds for disqualification for that competitor, and ultimately that team! (Including Horses)
- A DNF will be issued if a skier or snowboarder drops the rope AND the horse is required to stop forward motion in order for the skier to regain control of the rope
- Any protests from a competitor must be made verbally to the Chief of Race prior to the commencement of the next competitors run.
- 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.
- The decision of the Judges is final.

*no skiers or riders under the age of 9 as of the day of the event

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.

Races start at 11:00am both days and conclude at approximately 3:00pm All competitors must attend pre-race briefings and course inspections on Saturday that commence at 10:00am

Additional Information for Audience

Bring lawn chairs and blankets.

Concessions will be available.

Enter the 3rd gate at the Fergus County Fairgrounds and park in the parking lots next to the highway. The ticket booth is next to the livestock pavilion. Non-competitors are not allowed access to the areas west of the small animal barn, livestock pavilion and campground.

STALLING (Horses and Beef)

Contact Michelle Bass, 406-366-3090 with questions and to receive cleaning deposit after stalls are cleaned.

Covered horse stalls will be available to rent upon arrival at the Fergus County Fairgrounds.

Check-in the day of the event at the stall rental office.

Stall Fees are \$20 plus an additional \$30 cleaning deposit per stall per night.

Cleaning deposit will be returned at check-out if stall is clean.

Please pay by cash or write two checks, the deposit check will be returned when the stall is cleaned.

One bag of wood chips will be provided for each stall.

Stall rental office will be located at the competitor's entrance and will be manned:

Friday January 28, 3:00- 7:00pm

Saturday, January 29, 8:00am- 6:00pm

Sunday, January 30, 8:00am- 6:00pm