



Skijoring Rules & Information

*****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 20

Saturday & Sunday, January 28 & 29, 2023

North of Pavilion

Fergus County Fairgrounds

Hwy 191 North

Attendees

\$5 per day, 10 and under free

Schedule

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

11:00 am each day- Races begin

Superintendent

Jennifer Saunders

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Registration forms at MontanaWinterFair.com

- January 20 - Intent to Enter deadline
Riders and Skiers- complete online Intent to Enter
- Friday, January 27, 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.
- Saturday, January 28, 7:00 to 9:00 am - Team registration will continue at trackside office

Stalling (Horses and Beef)

- Complete Stalling Information can be found at MontanaWinterFair.com
- Covered horse stalls will be available to rent upon arrival at the Fergus County Fairgrounds.
- 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.

Fee

*Age on the day of the event

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

* If fewer than six teams in a division the committee reserves the right to combine divisions.

- Pro-Open - \$100/ team (Adults 18 and older, highest skilled skiers with competitive skijoring experience.)
- Sport - \$50/ team (Adults 18 and older, intermediate skilled skiers with skijoring experience.)
- Novice - \$20/ team (Adults 18 and older, beginning skiers with no skijoring experience.)
- Century - \$20 (The age of the skier and rider must add up to 100 or more)
- Youth - \$10/ team (ages 13-17)
- Pee Wee - \$5/ team (ages 9-12)

Prizes

1st skier and rider in each division will win a belt buckle.

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.

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.
- There is a three (3) second penalty if the skier misses a ring.
- 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 on the 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. 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.
- The onsite veterinarian may disqualify a horse for illness, lameness or injury.
- 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 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 11:00 am both days and conclude at approximately 3:00 pm
- All competitors must attend pre-race briefings and course inspections on Saturday and Sunday that commence at 10:00 am

Additional Information for Audience

- Bring lawn chairs and blankets.
- Concessions will be available.
- Enter the 3rd gate at the Fergus County Fairgrounds and watch for signage.
The public is not allowed in the competitors staging area or on the track.