

RULES AND REGULATIONS

West Yellowstone Skijoring Association

West Yellowstone Skijoring rules are designed to create a fair competitive event, as well as to ensure safety for competitors, horse and human alike.

DIVISION AND COMPETITION CRITERIA

OPEN CLASS: Teams are considered to be the highest skilled competitors with the fastest and most skilled horses. The Open class will consist of all match teams. Skiers are limited to **4 entries** in the open. Horses and skiers entered in the Open **cannot** compete in the Sport or Novice. Competitors **cannot** enter an identical team (skier, horse, rider) more than one time.

SPORT CLASS (Amateur): Teams are considered to be intermediate-level skill participants riding horses that may not have the experience to be in the Open Class. Sport class will consist of all match teams. Skiers are limited to **3 entries**. Horses and skiers entered in the Sport **cannot** compete in the Novice or Open. Competitors **cannot** enter an identical team (skier, horse, rider) more than one time.

NOVICE CLASS (Beginners): Teams are considered to be new to the sport, beginner level competitors, riding horses that may be brand new to the sport. Novice class will consist of **all match teams** and be limited to **2 entries**. Horses and skiers entered in the Novice **cannot** compete in the Sport or Open. Competitors **cannot** enter an identical team (skier, horse, rider) more than one time.

SNOWBOARD CLASS: Teams consist of horse, rider, and snowboarder. The snowboard class will consist of **2 match** format. Snowboarders are limited to **2 entries** within the snowboard class. Competitors **cannot** enter an identical team (border, horse, rider) more than one time.

JUNIOR CLASS: (Kids 12 and under): Teams are considered to be kids not yet old enough for the Novice Class but who want to compete. This also helps build the sport for future years. Both the rider and skier must be 12 and under. There will be mandatory gates for this class and all teams will be in a match format.

SWITCH-A-ROO: Team members must switch spots from Saturday to Sunday. If you ski/snowboard on Saturday, you have to ride the horse on Sunday and if you ride on Saturday, you have to ski/snowboard on Sunday. The same horse must be ridden each day. The Switch-a-Roo class will consist of all match teams. The track will be set to accommodate all levels of skiers and snowboarders. Skiers and riders in this class are limited to **1 entry per person**. You **cannot** enter an identical team (skier/snowboarder, rider, horse) more

than once.

****West Yellowstone Skijoring Association has the right to deny competitors from competing in classes in which they are knowingly over skilled to be in. This includes horse, rider, and/or skier. Please register in the appropriate class that matches your skill level and the skill level of your horse. Intentional “Sandbagging” in order to gain a paycheck will not be tolerated. Please be honest with us and each other.**

SKIER, RIDER FORMAT

1. All teams in the Open, Sport, Novice, Snowboard, and Switch-a-Roo Classes will follow a Match format. Skiers and Riders must have a team created to enter the competition.
2. All teams in the Junior Class will follow the Match format. We will work to make sure every interested junior gets the chance to compete. If we are short on Junior Riders or Skiers, an adult will be allowed to fill in, but that run will not be eligible for the buckle.

SKIER/SNOWBOARDER RULES

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2. A skier or snowboarder must follow the division and competitor criteria for a number of entries per division.
 - a. Skiers must stay within their class of choice unless they enter the Switch-a-roo or snowboard.
 - b. Skiers and snowboarders cannot compete with an identical team more than once in each class.
3. All skiers and snowboarders must wear approved snow sport helmets.
 - a. Protective Eyewear is recommended.
4. Any skier/snowboarder under 18 must have a parent/guardian sign a parental consent form.
 - a. Parent or Guardian must be present during signup and competition.
 - b. Protective Eyewear and helmet must be worn during competition.

RIDER RULES

1. A Horse cannot move between Open, Sport or Novice Classes.
 - a. Horses are allowed to move between any of the other classes.
 - b. *For example*, a horse can run in the Sport and Snowboard.
2. A Horse may not run more than two times in a day.
 - a. One exception can be made for horses in the Junior, and Switch-a-Roo divisions.

3. Horses should be in physical shape to participate in the extreme sport of skijoring.
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RULES OF COMPETITION – GENERAL

1. Races will start on time. Please be ready.
2. The Sparby Rule: Each team is allowed 3 minutes to complete staging and begin their run. After the allotted time has expired the team will be asked to leave the staging area. They will have one more chance to start successfully or they will be disqualified for that run.
3. Substitutions are allowed for any team member (horse, skier, or rider) prior to the competitor meeting on Saturday. After the competitor meeting on Saturday, there will be NO substitutions. Substitutions for exhibition runs will be allowed with approval by the field judges. Exhibition runs will not count towards placing.
4. If a horse, rider, or equipment is deemed unsafe the rider and horse can be asked to leave at any time by the Start Judges or the Arena Judge.
5. If the Skier/Snowboarder drops the rope BEFORE crossing the start line when the rider and horse have clearly started down the track, he/she will be allowed a restart. If the skier/snowboarder drops the rope on the second attempt to start, the team will be disqualified for that run.
6. Skiers/Snowboarders must finish with rope in hand and have at least one ski or snowboard on when crossing the finish line.
7. Skiers - Both ski tips and both boots must go around a gate, or the gate is considered missed.
8. Snowboarders must go cleanly between both brush gates or the gate will be considered missed.
9. There will be a 5-second penalty added for every missed gate.
10. There will be a 2-second penalty added for every missed or dropped ring.
 - a. You must carry rings through the finish.
11. Timing Equipment hit by a horse at the start will be given one warning for that run and hitting it a second time will result in a disqualification for that run. Timing Equipment hit by a horse at the finish will result in a disqualification for that run.
12. If a horse goes through the finish, but does not hit the timing equipment a 5-second penalty will be added.
13. All performance-enhancing drugs are prohibited and will not be tolerated. Random drug testing may take place on either day of the event. West Yellowstone Skijoring will follow the protocol of Allwest Veterinary Services when it comes to performance-enhancing drugs.
14. Protests must be voiced by the skier/boarder or rider to the **Finish Judge** or **Arena Judge** before the start of the next run. The Arena Judge will have the final ruling before the

start of the next run.

a. Any competitor has the right to throw a flag before the next run begins if they believe that the previous team has a penalty that wasn't called.

b. If a gate is missed that isn't flagged, competitors have the right to protest that night with "clear, 100% footage" to assess a penalty for the missed gate. A unanimous decision must be reached by the protest committee for a penalty to be assessed.

i. This rule is put in place to keep competition fair, and integrity at the highest level. Any competitor can "call out" any other team.

ii. Protests must be made at the Wild West Pizzeria before 6:30 p.m. on Saturday night for Saturday's runs, or 6:00 p.m. on Sunday night for Sunday's runs. Protests after this time will not be heard.

c. If a penalty is assessed at the race and a protest is lost, that call will not be changed.

15. The following will result in disqualification:

a. Infraction of any state or federal law that exists pertaining to the exhibition, care, and custody of horses within the state or country.

b. Abuse of an animal on the track and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred at any time on the City of West Yellowstone and Custer Gallatin National Forest premises.

c. Failure to dismount and/or present horse and equipment to any official or Veterinarian.

16. All horse warm-ups will be done in the *competitor-only zones south of the track*. Unless otherwise announced, there will be no restrictions against horses inspecting the skijoring track.

17. Please do not open your horse up beyond a slow lope during the inspection.

HORSE SAFETY & TREATMENT

- Water for horses will be available and easily accessible at the race venue.
- The on-site veterinarian will have the authority to scratch a horse for health reasons or concerns pertaining to the safety of the horse. Any member of the organizing committee can require a horse to be examined by the veterinarian prior to racing.
- No person may abuse a Horse during an Event or at any other time. "Abuse" means an action or omission, which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a Horse, including, but not limited to:
 - Whipping or beating a Horse excessively
 - Subjecting a Horse to any kind of electric shock device
 - Using spurs excessively or persistently
 - Leaving a Horse without adequate food, drink, or exercise

**Any person witnessing an Abuse must report it in the form of a Protest, without cost immediately. If abuse is witnessed during or in direct connection with an Event, it should be

reported as a Protest to an Official.

RACE EQUIPMENT

- Skijoring will provide ropes for competitors, though competitors are allowed to bring their own ropes.
- Any rope not supplied by West Yellowstone Skijoring must be inspected and approved by the Start Master or his designee prior to the start of the race.
- Ropes cannot exceed 50 feet in length.
- Ropes must be 3/8" or larger in diameter.
- Handles are not permitted on ropes.
- Attachment must be to the saddle horn or behind the saddle. 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 that the pulling rope is within 6 inches of the cantle. Prior to the race, the Start Master, or his designee may inspect any attachment to the saddle. Quick-release shackles are highly recommended.
- Electronic timing and backup timing will be provided to ensure accurate competition times.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship is important to the success of every event. Registration signature pledges a competitor's word to the humane treatment of their horse and respectful relationships to all fellow competitors and volunteers hosting this exciting competition. Failure to comply with the spirit of friendly competition at any of the scheduled events may result in the disqualification of your team or banishment from future competitions.