



2026 WOOD RIVER EXTREME SKI JORING ASSOCIATION RULES

Rules and Regulations

Rules are solely for the safety of the competitors, both horse and human, and to ensure fair competition at Wood River Extreme Ski Joring Association race. All rules are required to be followed by Wood River Extreme Ski Joring Association members, directors, volunteers, and competitors.

Divisions and Competition Criteria

- **OPEN CLASS (Pro)** Teams are considered to be the highest skilled competitors with the fastest horses. A team consists of a horse, rider, and skier/snowboarder.
- **SPORT CLASS (Amateur)** Teams are considered to be intermediate level skill participants riding horses that may not be fast enough to be in the Open Class. A team consists of a horse, rider, and skier/snowboarder.
- **NOVICE/LOCALS CLASS (Beginners)** Teams are considered to be, new to the sport and beginning level competitors riding horses that may not have speed enough to be competitive in the Open or the Sport Class. A team consists of a horse, rider, and a skier/snowboarder.
- **WOMEN'S DIVISION** Teams are Women only. Both skier and rider must be women. A team consists of a horse, rider, and a skier/snowboarder.
- **SNOWBOARDER'S DIVISION** Teams consist of a horse, rider, and a snowboarder.
- **COUPLE'S DIVISION** Rider and Skier must be a couple. This is a fun/exhibition race competing for a special prize.
- **Centurion Division** Rider and Skier must be both over 50 years of age.

Youth Divisions

~ Pee-Wee (5 - 10) and Junior (11-16) by age of the skier/snowboarder.

Ages under 18 will need their parent's signature at sign-up. An adult can pull a Pee-Wee skier but a Junior skier has to be pulled by a youth rider (aged 16 or younger).

This division is a fun/exhibition race competing for a special prize.

Skier/Snowboarder – All Divisions Rules and Recommendations

Rules:

1. A skier/snowboarder can choose their division of competition and is not required to advance to the next class if they win their division.
2. A skier/snowboarder must compete in only one division for the Open, Sport or Novice divisions. But can cross enter into the Snowboard and Couples divisions. A woman skier/snowboarder may cross enter from the Women's division into **only one** of the other divisions (Open, Sport, Novice, Snowboard or Juniors).
3. A skier/snowboarder may compete unlimited times in a day (**None behind the same horse**). This rule is effective across all divisions, except for Couples. If a skier/snowboarder competes behind a horse in any one division and crosses over to Snowboard or Juniors they must compete behind a different horse.
4. All skiers/snowboarders must wear approved snow sport helmets.
5. If a skier/snowboarder has won twice within a division in the same year, they must move up to the next division.

Recommendations:

6. Eye protection is recommended.
7. It is strongly suggested that bindings be tested by a professional prior to skiing.

Rider – All Divisions Rules and Recommendations

Rules:

1. A rider may compete in more than **one** division but must compete on a different horse in **each Division** entered for the Open, Sport, Women, and Novice divisions. A rider can cross enter with the same horse into the Pee-Wee, Juniors, Snowboard or Couples divisions.

Recommendations:

2. Helmets and protective vests are recommended for all riders.

Horse – All Divisions Rules and Recommendations

Rules:

1. A Horse must compete in only one division for the Open, Sport, Novice, or Women's divisions. A horse cannot cross enter between divisions except for the Pee-Wee, Juniors, Snowboard and Couples divisions.
2. A horse cannot run more than two times in a day for the Open, Sport, Women, and Novice divisions. But can run one more time in the Pee-Wee, Juniors, Snowboard or Couples divisions. A horse can only run a maximum of **three** times per day.
3. Wood River Extreme Ski Joring Association recommends a horse only running twice for the fairness of the horse and skier/snowboard. At the team's discretion a 3rd run is allowed as a single run in one of the cross enter divisions: Pee-Wee, Juniors, Snowboard or Couples division ONLY.
4. If a horse has won twice within a division in the same year, it must move up to the next division.

Recommendations:

5. Leg protection (boots or polo wraps) and bell boots are strongly recommended.
6. Horses should have a shoe that will increase traction (bohrium, calks, etc.).
7. We recommend horses to be four years of age and older in order to compete for the safety of the horse.

Rules of Competition – General

Rules:

1. If we only have two teams in any division, we reserve the right to combine them and race them as one division.
2. Teams must compete as entered, no substitutions or changes will be allowed after 8 pm on Friday before the race.
3. Two-second penalty for each missed or dropped ring.
4. Two-second penalty for each missed gate.
5. Two-second penalty if horse hits a gate.
6. Two-second penalty if horse breaks the plane of any jump.
7. No time for that run if horse runs over start or finish board.
8. Five-second penalty if skier misses a jump.
9. Competitors MUST listen to the starters and race officials.
10. No Adults in the youth divisions, except for the Pee-Wee Division an adult rider may be participating.
11. The race is a combined time (Saturday & Sunday) for overall payout in each division. For day money the time is based off of each day in each division and is paid for the top 3 times.
12. Impaired competitors will be asked not to compete.
13. **NO DOGS** allowed at venue PERIOD!
14. **NO KIDS** by the timing shack, announcer's booth or around sound system during race.
15. If a horse, rider, or equipment are deemed unsafe the rider and horse can be asked to leave at any time by any race official.
16. Any equipment failure will not receive a re-run.
17. There is to be only one team in the staging area, skiers/snowboarders need to be out of the staging area.
18. If the skier/snowboarder drops the rope BEFORE crossing the start line, he/she will be allowed to restart immediately after the team's false start. The four-minute rule restarts upon the arena judge's determination of a clear course. If a delay or the skier/snowboarder drops the rope on the second attempt to start, that team will receive no time for that run. If the Horse runs the course, the team should be dropped down (In the order at the official's discretion) a few racers to allow for reasonable recovery time. If it is the last of the division, they should be scheduled to run 1st prior to the start of the next division.
19. If the skier/snowboarder hits the flapper board but does not cross the flapper board and the time starts, the skier/snowboarder will receive no time for that run.
20. The skier/snowboarder must be holding the rope, and in a standing position and on at least one ski when crossing the finish line.
21. If the skier/snowboarder loses the rope, the team will receive no time for that run.
22. Both ski tips and both boots must go around a gate, or the gate is considered missed.
23. Skiers/snowboarders and riders may grab or spear ring(s) with their arm and have ring(s) on their arm when crossing

- the finish line to consider them successful. Any rings dropped prior to the finish line are considered missed.
24. If a ring or rings falls from the stand prior to the skier/snowboarder approach, no penalty for missed ring or if ring comes apart or is broken, no penalty for missed ring.
 25. Batons: There will be "NO" use of Batons.
 26. Horses will be marked at prerace track inspection. This eliminates the chances of a horse running more than twice per day or racing in a different division.
 27. If the rider, skier/snowboarder, or horse is unable to complete their second run, they **may not** find a replacement team & will be disqualified.
 28. No skiers/snowboarders or horses will be allowed on the track prior to course inspection.
 29. During course inspection, skiers/snowboarders will have their skis/snowboard on and will not ski/snowboard off the top of the jumps.
 30. Riders will be allowed to walk their horse down the track one time from start to finish only.
 31. All times will be available for the competitors.
 32. Protests:
 - a. All protests must be made immediately after the run is finished and before the start of the next skier/snowboarder's run.
 - b. Decision of race jury is final.
 33. The following will result in a no time:
 - a. Infraction of any state or federal law which exists pertaining to the exhibition, care, and custody of horses during the race.
 - b. Abuse of an animal on the track and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition.
 - c. Use of illegal equipment, including added wire on bits.
 - d. Failure to dismount and/or present horse and equipment to the horse gate official if asked.

Recommendation:

34. Rules will not be reviewed verbally with all competitors prior to the start of the race. Only safety items will be discussed during contestant's meeting.
35. Horses will be randomly checked for equipment. The Wood River Extreme Ski Joring Association Horse Gate Official will check all tack and how the rope is attached to the saddle. If requested by the Wood River Ski Joring Association Horse Gate Official, a rider may be asked to drop their bit.
36. We reserve the right to repair the course at any point during the race for the safety of the competitors and horses.

Race Equipment

Rules:

1. No team shall use a handle in rope or any sort of water ski style rope.
2. Teams must provide their own ropes and carabiners. The rope's length will be **33 feet maximum** and WRESJA must approve such ropes at prerace track inspection and will mark the ropes.
3. Attachment of the rope to the saddle will be the option of the rider as long as it complies with the following:
 - a. Attachment is to the saddle horn.
 - b. Attachment is within four inches (4") of the cantle under strain.
 - c. Attachment must be directly to the primary rigging rings of the saddle with a non-elastic material.
 - d. Connection of the pull rope to the saddle must be to the centerline of the horse, with a carabineer type device.
 - e. A Wood River Extreme Ski Joring Association Technical Delegate must approve any attachment to the saddle prior to the race.

Sportsmanship

To ensure that the sport of skijoring remains a fun and family environment, the following sportsmanship policy is adopted at all races: Sportsmanship will be required from all participants. Ski-Joring officials, field flaggers, and all race officials will have the power to give out warnings or disqualify any person or team that they deem is acting in an un-sportsman like manner. Failure to heed warnings from any race personnel may result in disqualification. Mistreating any horse, inappropriate language towards officials, spectators, or other competitors, and throwing or mistreating of equipment shall be grounds for disqualification. All protests and complaints shall be brought to the Wood River Extreme Ski Joring Association Technical Delegate and Jury at that race. Every team shall act in a sportsman like, reasonable, and professional manner.

Racing Time is run off of official time only.