Estes Park Skijor Rules

Revised 12/28/2024

DIVISIONS

OPEN CLASS: Teams are considered to be the highest skilled competitors with the fastest and most skilled horses. The Open class will consist of 1 match on Saturday,1 Match on Sunday format. Skiers are limited to 4 entries in the open. Horses, riders and skiers entered in the Open cannot compete in the Sport or Novice. Registration $200 per team.
Scores will be determined on a team basis with the average time from Saturday & Sunday.

SPORT CLASS: 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 1 match on Saturday, competing with your registered teammate, 1 draw on Sunday format, competing with a teammate drawn from a hat. Skiers are limited to 3 entries in the Sport class. Horses, riders and skiers entered in the Sport cannot compete in the Novice or Open.
Registration $150 per team.
Scores will be determined on an individual basis with the average time from each competitor's fastest Saturday & Sunday runs.
Prize purse will be split evenly between Skier and Rider.

SNOWBOARD CLASS: Teams must have a rider on a snowboard or splitboard. Snowboard class will consist of 1 match on Saturday competing with your registered teammate, 1 draw on Sunday format competing with a teammate drawn from a hat. Boarders are limited to 3 entries in the Snowboard class. Registration $150 per team.
Scores will be determined on an individual basis with the average time from each competitor's fastest Saturday & Sunday runs.
Prize purse will be split evenly between Boarder and Rider.

NOVICE CLASS: 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 1 match either day. Skiers are limited to 2 entries in the Novice class. Horses and skiers entered in the Novice cannot compete in the Sport or Open. Registration $100 per team. There are no maximum number of times you can enter as a rider/horse.

JUNIOR CLASS: Free (Both Rider and Skier must be 14 or under to be eligible for awards). Adults may pull youth but will not be included in awards.

DIVISION FORMATS

1. Open Class will compete each day Saturday & Sunday as a team and have their times averaged for a total weekend score.

2. Sport & Snowboard Class will follow the 1 Match, 1 Draw format. For every Match team entered there will also be a Draw team created. On Saturday you will compete with your registered team. On Sunday you will compete with your Draw teammate. Scores will be determined on an individual basis with the average time from Saturday & Sunday. Prize purse will be split evenly between Skier and Rider.

3. Novice Class will select their day and get 1 run via Match format.

4. Junior - will follow the match format. We will work to ensure that every interested Junior competitor gets a chance to compete. Junior times will be calculated to include obstacles and gates. Both team members must be 14 or younger to be eligible for awards. Junior age 15-16 may ride but will be ineligible for awards.

RIDER RULES

1. A Horse may not run more than two times for a class.

2. Horses should be in physical shape to participate in the extreme sport of skijoring.

3. A horse cannot move between Open & Sport classes.

SKIER RULES

1. A skier/rider can choose their division of competition and are not required to advance to the next class if they win their division. However, if they win a division more than once they must be able to take grief from other competitors for not moving up.

2. Skiers must stay within their class of choice. Skiers cannot register with an identical team more than
once in each class.

3. All skiers must wear approved snow sport helmets and eye protection

4. Any skier under 18 must have parent/guardian sign a parental consent form. Parent or Guardian must be present during signup and competition. Protective Eyewear and helmet must be worn during competition.

RACE RULES GENERAL

1. Races will start on time. 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.

2. 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 if approved by the field judges.

3. 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, the Judge, or Estes Park Skijor staff.

4. If the Skier drops the rope BEFORE crossing the start line when the rider and horse has clearly started down the track, he/she will be allowed a restart. If the skier drops the rope on the second attempt to start, the team will be disqualified for that run.

5. Skiers must finish with rope in hand, have at least one ski on and be relatively upright when crossing the finish line.

6. Skiers - Both ski tips and both boots must go around a gate, or the gate is considered missed.

7. Penalties: There will be a 5 second penalty added for every missed gate, there will be a 2 second penalty added for every missed or dropped ring. If a horse goes through the finish but does not hit the timing equipment a 5 second penalty will be added. If a horse goes through the start line or over any jumps it is a disqualified run.

8. If the course has rings, you must carry rings through the finish.

9. All performance-enhancing drugs are prohibited and will not be tolerated.

10. Protests must be declared immediately by the skier/rider at the finish line for consideration. Judge will have the final ruling before the start of the next run.

11. The following will result in a disqualification: Infraction of any state or federal law which exists pertaining to the exhibition, care, and custody of horses within the state or country. Abuse of an animal on the track and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred at any time during the Estes Park Skijor Event. Failure to dismount and/or present horse and equipment to any official or Veterinarian.

12. 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.

13. Estes Park Skijor will provide ropes for competitors, though competitors are allowed to bring their own ropes. Any rope not supplied by Estes Park Skijor must be inspected and approved by the Start Master or his designee prior to the start of the race. Ropes cannot exceed 33 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 recommended.

14. If a skier wants a tow back to the start, they must continue to the finish line to meet the Backbone Adventures crew.

Safety for Horses, Skiers and Riders is the highest priority. The event can be discontinued at any time by the judges or Estes Park Skijor staff for unsafe conditions.

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.

This event is run by volunteers – please treat them with respect.