

The Big Hole Valley Association is a non-profit organization made up of individuals and businesses in the upper Big Hole Valley. Our goal is to help people in the valley, sponsor events that are fun for the valley residents and visitors alike, improve the appearance and well being of the community. Event entry fees, donations, and receipts from sales are used for prizes, to buy insurance, buy or rent equipment, purchase supplies, and conduct advertising. The association makes annual donations to local or regional charities. The Big Hole Valley Association sponsors this Winterfest activity.

Winterfest 2017- Ski Joring Event Description
And Rules (revised February 21, 2017)

Changes from the past - The 2017 event will take place over two days, February 25 and 26 in Wisdom Montana. We will be ski joring at the Wisdom Airport which is about a 1.5 miles southeast of Wisdom on Highway 278.

There is a change in signup procedures. Registrations must be made as a team. A form is available on our website; bigholevalley.com. We will **not** be using Pay Pal in 2017. You may mail in your registration with a check to Big Hole Valley Association, PO Box 193, Wisdom MT 59761; note that mail is slow in getting to Wisdom. You better plan on 4 days. You may also call the Crossing Bar and Grill and register by phone using a credit card. Finally, you may register in person at the Crossing Bar and Grill on Friday night. All registration information and payment of fees must be received by 9pm Friday Feb 24. The registration/signup form is on our website.

We will be restricting the number of teams in each division. Signup is first come first served.

We will have 6 Divisions; open, sport, women's, century, snowboard, novice and we will have a few exhibition runs. Awards will be given in all divisions except novice. There is no fee in the novice thus there is no awards. We will have one "go" in each division each day of the two day event. On Saturday night we will hold a Calcutta and sell teams in Open, Sport, Women's and Century Divisions. If we have a good number of snowboard teams we will also sell them in the Calcutta. Competitors must be 18 years of age.

In 2017 we will allow private ropes; see the rules for details. Additionally, we are adopting a new rule which restricts a horse to two entries. We want to protect our horses from over use.

Our event will not be sanctioned by Ski Joring America (SJA) in 2017. Points will be awarded toward the SJA national championship based on their rules.

In 2017 our rules state that a team is made up of a rider, a horse, and a skier. Several people have registered and argued that a change in horse is by definition a change in team and we should allow them to enter as a new team. For 2017, we allow this interpretation of our rules.

Friday's Registration and Check in

Registration and Check -It must be completed by 9 pm Friday night February 24th at The Crossing Bar and Grill at Fetty's. A registration table will be open at the Crossing Bar and Grill from 7 to 9 pm on Friday night. This means all division entries and payment of fees must be made by 9 pm. The waiver of liability must be signed by contestants before the race, however it can be signed on Saturday morning before 10 am at the restaurant. Contestants must be 18 years of age to participate.

Pay Pal will not be available this year.

If participant insurance is offered by SJA at this race, you will be able to find it Friday night during check in at the Crossing Bar and Grill and on Saturday morning until 10 am. Participant insurance if offered is optional, but we

highly recommend you take advantage of this opportunity, especially if you don't have other health insurance.

Saturday February 27 events:

- Women's, Century, Snowboard, Novice, Open and Sport will be the first "go" order of events.
- Gate placement may be modified between divisions to bring the course difficulty more in line with the anticipated competitive level of the contestants.
- You must be at least 18 years of age to participate in the competition.
- Calcutta of all teams at the Crossing Bar and Grill Saturday at 7pm.

Sunday February 28 events:

- Women's, Century, Snowboard, Novice, Open and Sport will be the second "go" order of events. We will reverse Saturday's run order on Sunday. The last contestant on Saturday will run first on Sunday.
- Gate placement may be modified between divisions to bring the course difficulty more in line with the anticipated competitive level of the contestants.
- You must be at least 18 years of age to participate in the competition.
- Awards will be at the Crossing Bar and Grill a hour to two after the event is finished. Check in and we will give you an estimate of the time.

Rope approval, race briefing and start - rope approval is at 1130 at the start line, competitors briefing is at 1200 at the starting line; race starts at 1230 each day.

A team entry is one skier, on horse and one rider.
Open Division - \$50 per entrant - \$100 per team

Sport Division and Women's - \$30 per entrant - \$60 per team,
Century and Snowboard - \$20 per entrant - \$40 per team
No Novice fees

Tentative entry cap-
Sport Division - 40 teams
Women's Division - 20 teams
Open Division - 20 teams
Century Division - 15 teams
Novice Division - 10 teams

Course description

The track is straight and will be approximately 900 feet long. The track will have gates, three jumps and one ring.

Overall rules –

1. All participants must sign a liability waiver.
2. Skiers must use an approved rope and it must be pulled from the horn of the saddle or the cantle. If behind the saddle the attachment must not be more than 4 inches from the cantle and must not be elastic. The Big Hole Tourism will supply ropes for the event. If you elect to use your own rope, it must 33 ft or less, it may not have bars, loops or knots on the skier end. It must have a loop to be placed on the horn or it must have a carabiner to be hooked behind the cantle of the saddle. Ropes will be approved at 1130 at the start line by the rules committee. Using an unapproved rope or one that fails to meet the above specifications will result in a disqualification.
3. Timing systems and timers will flag the skier not the horse.
4. Skiers go right of the red gates, left of the blue gates.
5. Skiers missing a gate or a jump will result in a 5 second penalty.
If the horse goes into or through a gate, or rides onto a jump, it is a 5 second penalty.

6. The skier or the horseman must cross the finish line with the ring in their hand or around the arm. Failing to have the ring is a 5 second penalty.
7. Skis must go through the gate.
8. The skier must be holding the rope and be in an upright position at the end of the race; at least one ski and both boots must go through and across the finish line/gate; no other body part may be on the ground. The rider must also be on the horse. Missing the finish line gate is a DQ.
9. Participants should not drink alcohol before or during the race.
10. A course rules judge can disqualify a contestant, if they are unable to complete the course safely, or if a horse is over worked, is injured or becomes unruly or a safety hazard.
11. Once a team is called to start, the team must quickly ready themselves or they will be disqualified. The course judge at the starting line will make the final call on timeliness. (Note, in past years we have been very liberal with the order of the runs and have allowed changes. In 2017 we will run the event in the order called. If you have two horses have two sets of tack.)
12. A team in the sport, womens, century, or snowboard divisions can have one restart if the skier drops the rope before the skier passes the first gate at the start of the races. **There is no second start in the Open Division.**
13. Skiers must wear a helmet and eye protection.
14. Horses may be walked through the course prior to the event without skiers to get them familiar with the course. Stay in the middle of the course.
15. Decisions by the chairman of the rules committee will be final.
16. Good sportsmanship must be practiced by all.
17. Riders match the speed of your horse to the conditions and the ability of the skiers. Skiers we recommend you not climb the rope. A long tail of rope behind you can wrap around you and be a hazard if you fall.
18. No instant replays (videos cameras) will be used by the judges in the case of a protest. Protests must be filed before the end of the

division or subclass of the run with a member of the Ski Joring Committee.

19. In all Divisions a team is made up of a rider a skier and a horse and must be the same in both go arounds. There are no substitutions. Switching horses will be a DQ. A team may enter once in a division. Switching ends is a new team and is allowed within a division.
20. Women's- Participants, both rider and skier must be women.
21. **Participants must be 18 years of age at the time of the event to participate.**
22. **Open skiers with two exceptions, may only participate in the Open Division however, Open Division horses and riders may participate in the Novice, Sport, Women's, or Century Divisions. In the Open Division we will allow Century skiers over 50 years old and women from the Women's division to compete. We are allowing this as we have experienced a shortage of horses and riders in past events. Skiers that won the 2016 Open or Sport Divisions may only enter into the Open Division in 2017. If a Open Division horse is used in the Sport Women's Century or Novice Division or subclass the time or place will not be reported to Skijor America for finals standings.**
23. Century – a team must have a combined age of 100 at the date of the event. Your horses age does not count.
24. The Divisions will run one “go” on Saturday and one “go” on Sunday. We will pay on the fastest time for each “go” and pay on the average. See the payout schedules on the following pages.
25. No team substitutions can be done once the event has started.
26. Horses may only be used twice per day. You may only enter a horse as a member of two teams .

Payouts Saturday and Sunday

ALL ENTRY FEES will be paid out in all Classes. We will pay 100% of the purse in all classes.

Fastest team time of the day in each class, will receive their entry fees back.

All payouts in all classes will be calculated as follows:

2-5 teams - 2 places will be paid 60% / 40%

6-10 teams - three places will be paid 50% / 30% / 20%

11 or more teams - 4 places will be paid 40% / 30% / 20% / 10%

There are no fees for the true novice class thus no payout.

Buckles will be awarded to the Open, Sport, Women's, and Century Division average winners. The snowboard division is unpredictable thus a buckle will not be provided, however an alternate award will be offered.

Calcutta

1. No refunds will be given in the Calcutta. If for some reason your team does not race on Sunday there will be no refund. All teams must be purchased.
2. Minimum bids will be \$20 for a team.
3. Teams that do not receive a bid will be sold in a lot at the end of the Calcutta with a combined starting bid of \$20.
4. Teams from the open, sport, women's and century divisions will be sold in the Calcutta. If we have a large enough number of snowboarders to make a competitive event we will also sell the snowboard teams at the Calcutta. We will make a decision on Saturday morning. The Calcutta will be held at the Crossing Bar and Grill at Fetty's at 7pm Saturday night.
5. The Calcutta payout will be based on the Sunday run times only. The Calcutta will not pay on the average.
6. During the Calcutta, we may elect to split a large division into two groups. We would sell teams in the first group and payout on the places in the first group. We would sell teams in the second group and payout in the second group. This provides another layer competition. Faster teams will compete against one another, and slower teams will compete against each other for the Calcutta only.

The breakout of the groups will be determined by the race committee on Saturday afternoon once we see the size of the divisions and the race results.

7. Winning bidders pay with cash or check to the auction clerk upon acknowledgement of the winning bid. Betting syndicates are allowed however one member of the syndicate must be the designated bidder.
8. Event awards and funds will be distributed to the winning Calcutta bidders at the Crossing Bar and Grill at approximately 6:00pm, Friday February 26, 2017.
9. Day one times will be available at the Calcutta, day two times on which the Calcutta is based will be available at the payout and awards ceremony at the Crossing Bar and Grill.

Calcutta

70% of the purse is paid out in the Calcutta, 30 % goes to the Big Hole Valley Association

All payouts are based on the Sunday Division times.

2-5 teams – 2 places paid 60%- 40%

6-10 teams -3 places paid 50%-30%-20%

11 or more teams – 4 places paid 40%-30%-20%- 10%

You can contact the Big Hole Valley Association by calling Diane Havig at the Crossing Bar and Grill, 406-689-3260.