

2023 **Big Hole Valley Ski Joring** - Wisdom, Montana  
General Information and Rules  
(1/2/23)

*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 the people of the valley, sponsor fun events for the valley residents and visitors, 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 advertise the event. The association makes annual donations to local or regional charities. The Big Hole Valley Association, a non-profit corporation, sponsors this event.*

The 2023 Big Hole Valley Ski Joring competition will take place over two days, February 25th and 26th at the Wisdom Airport which is about a 1.5 miles southeast of Wisdom on Highway 278.

We will **cap the race at the first 55 paid up teams/runs**. Knowing that Wisdom can have unpredictable and often harsh conditions, we want to keep the event from running long.

We will have an **open registration from 8am Tuesday February 21, through 6pm Thursday February 23**. Teams will sign up by calling Diane Havig, the Association's treasurer at 406-925-3573. Payment can be made by phone with a credit or debit card, or in person with cash, a check or credit card or debit card. Make arrangements with Diane to pay in person. **Payment must be made to be registered in the event.**

At the 2023 Wisdom Race your team time on Saturday will determine which Division you will be placed in for the second days race and the average. Your time on Saturday will place you in one of three Divisions = Open, Sport or Novice. For true first timers or true beginners we will have a division called Beginners. We will also have a Women's Team Division. We will not have a Century Division in 2023.

As we said above, your time after the Saturday race will place you on a ranked list of all teams. The top 20% of times will go in the Open, the second 40% will go in Sport, the next 40% will go in Novice. If the number of teams results in a percent calculation with a less than a full number, we will round to the nearest full number to determine which Division you will fall into.

## **2023 Registration Details**

**Entry Caps-**We will be capping the total number of teams/runs at 55. Within the cap we will initially allow 40 teams in the Open/Sport/Novice, 10 teams in the Women's, 5 teams in the beginners including snowboarders.

After the close of registrations on Thursday the 23th, we will review where we stand relative to the caps. Assuming we are not at 55 total teams, we may expand the individual classes on a first come first paid basis using the information collected during the registration period until we reach 55 teams. We will contact teams who may not have initially gotten into the event as quickly as possible to confirm their continued interest. If we can not contact the team in a reasonable time frame we will move to the next team on the list.

**Entries must have a complete team for registration. Our entries shall be awarded on first come and paid basis in reaching class caps.** A team entry is one skier, one horse and one rider. A team may only enter once in a class (see women's exception in following section). Switching ends is allowed within a class.

### **Fees**

Open/Sport/Novice Division - \$85 per team

Women's Division - \$85 per team

Beginners including Snowboard - \$25 per team

Women's teams can pay an extra \$85 entry fee and be entered in the Open/Sport/Novice format. Women paying the extra \$85 will still only run once and have their time applied in both classes. They will be sold twice in the Calcutta.

Total entry cap- 55 teams/runs

Tentatively distributed as follows:

Open/Sort/Novice -40 teams

Women's Division - 10 teams

Beginners including Snowboard Division - 5 teams

Snowboarders will typically be signed up in the Beginners unless they request otherwise.

**Waivers** - Waivers must be signed by 10 am Saturday February 25 to be allowed to race. Waivers may be signed Friday night at Fettys and can be signed on Saturday morning at the Hook and Horn until 10am. A copy of the waiver is attached to this document. Please print, sign, scan, or photograph the waiver and email a signed copy of the waiver to [dshavig51@gmail.com](mailto:dshavig51@gmail.com).

### **Friday's Check in**

A check in table will be open at Fettys from 4 to 7 pm on Friday night Feb 24. The waiver of liability must be signed by contestants before the race.

**Contestants must be 18 years of age to participate.**

**Pay Pal will not be available this year.**

### **Saturday February 25 events:**

The race starts a 12:30 sharp, Contestant briefing is at 11:30 at the start gate. Private ropes will be approved at the start gate at 11:00.

- Gate placement will remain the same for all divisions.
- Divisions will be mixed to allow time to get contestants back to the start.
- Calcutta of teams at Fetty's Saturday night at 7pm.

### Sunday February 26 events:

- We will reverse Saturdays's run order on Sunday. The race begins at 11:30, the contestant briefing is at 11:00 at the start gate.
- Gate placement will remain the same for the Divisions.
- Awards will be at Fetty's approximately two hours after the event is finished.

### Course description

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

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 Valley Association 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 place on the horn or it must have a carabiner to be hooked behind the cantle of the saddle. Ropes will be approved at 11:00 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 red gates, left of blue gates.
5. Skiers missing a gate or a jump will result in a 5 second penalty. If the horse touches or goes 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. Members of the rules committee may eject competitors who are intoxicated and in our view unable to safely compete in 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 overworked, 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 2022 we will run the event in the order called. If you have two horses have two sets of tack.)
12. Once the horse, rider, and skier are in “a race ready mode” meaning the rope is attached to the saddle, the skier has the rope in hand and the flag is up, if the skier drops the rope before crossing the start line, he/she is disqualified. A restart will only be allowed if the team was not deemed to be in a race ready mode. The Start Judge will make this determination.
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 strongly 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 reviewed or used by the judges in the case of a protest. Protests must be filed at the end of the run with the chairman of the Ski Joring Committee who will be located on the announcer's stand. Protests after a class has run will not be considered by the Committee.
  - 19.In all classes 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 within the team will be a DQ.
  - 20.Women's Class - Participants, both rider and skier must be women.
  21. Horses may only enter twice. Skiers may enter 4 times. Riders may enter an unlimited number of times assuming they have multiple horses.
  - 22.If a team has a medical issue to a rider, skier, or horse that prevents them from competing, the team must notify the race committee **before** the start of the race on Saturday morning to get a "med out" and receive their fees back. A team can "med out" at any time once the race begins, but their entry fees will not be returned.
  23. We will pay on the fastest time for Sunday and pay on the average in the Open/Sport/Novice, Women's, and Beginners. See the payout schedules on the following pages.
  - 24.No team substitutions once entries are closed.
  - 25.Horses may only be run twice per day.

## Payouts Saturday and Sunday

ALL ENTRY FEES will be paid out in all Divisions. If we receive enough financial support, we may put "added money" in the open sport and novice classes. This will be announced Friday night.

Fastest team time Sunday in each class and division, will receive their entry fees back. These payouts are subtracted before the average payout is calculated.

Payouts in the Open/Sport/Novice will be calculated as follows:

Open = 30% of purse, 1st 60%, 2nd 40%

Sport = 40% of purse, 1st 40%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 20% ,4th 10%

Novice = 30% of purse, 1st 40%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 20%, 4th 10%

If there are no times in a class upon which to make an award, the fees will be retained by the Big Hole Valley Association.

Buckles will be awarded to the average winner in the Open, Sport, Novice, and Women's Divisions. The beginner division will not receive a buckle award.

### Calcutta Rules

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 each class with a combined starting bid of \$20.
4. Teams from the open, sport, novice, and women's, will be sold in the Calcutta. If we have a large enough number of beginner skiers or snowboarders to make a competitive event we will also sell these teams at the Calcutta. We will make a decision on Friday night. The Calcutta will be held at Fetty's at 7pm Saturday night February 25.
5. **The Calcutta payout will be based on the Sunday run times only.** The Calcutta will not pay on the average.
6. 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.

7. Event awards and funds will be distributed to the winning Calcutta bidders at Fetty's approximately 2-3 hours after the race ends, Sunday February 26, 2023.
8. Saturday 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 Fetty's.
9. In 2023 Division assignments within the Open/Sport/Novice will be based on Saturday times. Women's teams that have bought into two classes will be sold twice.
10. If a class has no time upon which to make an award, the Calcutta revenues from that class will be retained by the Big Hole Valley Association.

80% of the purse is paid out in the Calcutta, 20 % goes to the Big Hole Valley Association

All payouts are based on the Sunday 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 406-925-3573.