

## 2025 BHVA Skijourning Rules

### EVENT RULES

1. All participants must sign a liability waiver.
  - a. Contestants under the age of 18 must have a parent or a legal guardian sign the 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 be 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 11:00 am at the start line by the rules committee. Using an unapproved rope or one that fails to meet the above specifications will result in disqualification. A safety brief, and rules review will immediately follow the rope inspection.
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 remain on the horse. Missing the finish line/gate is a no time.
9. Participants should not drink alcohol before or during the event. Members of the rules committee may eject competitors who are intoxicated and unable to safely compete in the race/event.
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 is a safety hazard.
11. Once a team is called to start, the team must quickly prepare themselves or they may face disqualification. The course judge at the starting line will make the final call on timeliness.
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 will receive a no time.

A restart will only be allowed if the team was deemed not 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 familiarize them with the course. Please stay in the applicable travel lanes of the course when doing your walk about.
15. Decisions by the chairman of the Skijourning committee will be final.
16. Good sportsmanship must be practiced by all.
17. Riders match the speed of your horse to the conditions of the track and the ability of your skier. Skiers, we strongly recommend you not climb the rope. An excessively long tail of rope left dangling behind you can wrap around you and become a hazard if you fall.
18. No instance replays or video 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 Skijourning committee who will be located at the announcers 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 result in disqualification.
20. All runs on Saturday are qualifying runs which are used to place a team in one of three classes, which will be referred to as classes A, B, C. A being the fastest, C being the slowest.
21. In order to qualify for classes A, B (which are the classes with higher payouts), the team must finish with a qualifying run (i.e. no crashes, slipped rope, safety violation or other means that would result in a disqualification), otherwise they will by default be placed in the C class.
22. Each class will be broken out in the following manner.
  - a. CLASS A (20%) of contestants starting with fastest times.
  - b. CLASS B (40%) of contestants
  - c. CLASS C (40%) of contestants finishing with slowest times or scratched runs from Saturday.
23. The Big Hole Valley Association will pay out an additional \$100 to the team with the highest combined ages of skier and rider over 100, not to include the age of the horse.
24. The fastest women’s team will also receive a bonus prize payout of \$100.
25. \$60 or the equivalent of the sign-up fee will be paid to the fastest team “GO” for each A, B, C class for the Sunday Go around only.
26. All payouts for the purse are based on final runs times from Sunday.

27. All payouts for the race and Calcutta are to be broke out by the following percentages.
  - a. 2-5 Teams 60%-40% (2 Places paid)
  - b. 6-10 Teams 50%-30%-20% (3 Places paid)
  - c. 11- or more teams 40%-30%-20%-10% (4 Places paid)
28. The Big Hole Valley Association will add an additional \$1,000 to the purse after 30 contestants have signed up and paid, and a total of \$2,000 additional after 40 contestants have signed up and paid.
29. The maximum number of teams for the 2025 BHVA Skijouring event will be capped at 50 teams unless otherwise noted by the Skijouring planning committee.
30. If there are no times in a class upon which to make an award, the fees will be retained by the BHVA.
31. Buckles will be awarded to the fastest recorded times on Sundays "GO" around for each winner in A, B, C classes.
32. You can contact the Big Hole Valley Association with questions or concerns by calling.
  - a. Dustin Brown (President) (406) 660-0757
  - b. John Costa (Vice President) (209) 628-2225

***Example of purse payouts with 50 teams (maximum for event)***

***50 Teams x \$60.00 Team = \$3,000.00***

***Added funds to the purse by BHVA \$2,000***

***Total purse \$5,000***

***50 Team Total***

***A CLASS (20% of contestant pool) 10 Teams -45% of \$5,000 (total purse) = \$2250***

***1<sup>st</sup> (50%) payout \$1,125, 2<sup>nd</sup> (30%) \$675, 3<sup>rd</sup> (20%) \$450***

***B CLASS (40% of contestant pool) 20 Teams – 35% of \$5,000 (total purse) = \$1,750***  
***1<sup>st</sup> (40%) payout \$700, 2<sup>nd</sup> (30%) \$525, 3<sup>rd</sup> (20%) \$350, 4<sup>th</sup> (10%) \$175***

***C CLASS (40% of contestant pool) 20 Teams – 20% of \$5,000 (total purse) = \$1,000***

***1<sup>st</sup> (40%) payout \$400, 2<sup>nd</sup> (30%) \$300, 3<sup>rd</sup> (20%) \$200, 4<sup>th</sup> (10%) \$100***

## 2025 BHVA Skijouring 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 for the event 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 each class with a starting bid of \$20.
4. Teams from A, B, C classes, will be sold in the Calcutta. The Calcutta will be held at Fetty's at 7 PM Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
5. The Calcutta payout will be based on the Sunday run times only.
6. The Calcutta **does not** pay on the two-day average.
7. Winning bidders pay with cash or check to the auction clerk upon acknowledgment 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 Fetty's approximately 2-3 hours after the race ends, Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
9. 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.
10. In 2024 Division assignments within A, B, C classes will be based on Saturday times. If a class has no time upon which to make an award, the Calcutta revenue from that class will be retained by the BHVA.
11. 80% of the Calcutta Auction purse is paid out, 20% goes back to the BHVA.