



## **2026 Rules and Regulations**

### **Skier Rules**

1. A skier may not compete more than four times per day, with the exception of the Switcheroo division. A skier may not enter more than six teams over the two weekends of competition, again with the exception of the Switcheroo division.
2. A skier cannot compete with an identical team more than once in each class.
3. A skier may choose their competition division.
4. All skiers and snowboarders must wear protective helmets and goggles.
5. Any skier under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian sign a consent form and that parent or legal guardian must be present during competition.
6. A skier/boarder may not cross between Pro, Open, Sport, and Novice divisions but may cross enter from one of these divisions to the Switcheroo, Women's, or Snowboard divisions.

### **Rider Rules**

1. A rider may not compete more than four times in a day, exception for the Switcheroo division. A rider may not enter more than six teams over the two weekends of competition, again with the exception of the switcheroo division.
2. A horse may not run more than two times in a day. Exception for one Switcheroo run on January 24-25 and exception for Snowboard and Junior divisions on January 17-18.
3. A horse may not cross between the Pro, Open, Sport, and Novice divisions but may cross enter from one of these divisions to the Switcheroo, Women's, or Snowboard divisions.

### **Horse Safety**

1. Horses must be in good physical condition to compete in the sport of skijoring.
2. An on-site veterinarian will have the authority to scratch a horse for any health reasons that they deem necessary regarding the safety of the horse.
3. Performance-enhancing drugs are prohibited. Enforcement is at the organizer's discretion.
4. Horse warm-ups will be in the warm-up arena on the North side of the main arena.
5. Horses will be allowed to inspect the course before their division of competition. Course inspection is to be kept to a walk, trot, or slow lope.
6. The abuse of an animal will result in a disqualification as well as dismissal from the Gallatin County Fairgrounds.

## **General Competition Rules**

1. Gallatin Skijor expects good sportsmanship by all competitors. Failure to comply can result in disqualification.
2. All classes will follow a match format. Competitors cannot enter an identical team (horse, rider, skier) more than one time in a single division.
3. Each team is allowed three minutes to complete staging and begin their run after the start official announces "course clear." After three minutes have expired the team will be asked to leave the starting area and will be given one more chance to start. If unsuccessful a second time, the team will be disqualified for that run.
4. There will be no substitutions after the competitor meeting each Saturday.
5. Skiers must finish with the rope in hand and have at least one ski on when crossing the finish line.
6. Both ski tips and boots must go right of red or left of blue gates or the gate is considered missed. Snowboarders, your board and both boots must go right of red or left of blue.
7. Each missed gate is a five second penalty.
8. If a skier drops the rope before crossing the start line, he/she will be allowed one restart.
9. If a horse displaces the timing equipment at the finish line, the team will be disqualified. A horse running through the timing at the finish will be a five-second penalty.

## **Protest**

1. Protests must be voiced by the skier or rider to the arena judge before the start of the next run.
2. Any competitor has the right to protest before the next run begins.
3. Clear video footage will be accepted for review for protests after the race is concluded for the day. Video protests must be presented to course officials by 5:00 PM each day. Protests after 5:00 PM will not be accepted.
4. Decisions by the protest committee are final.

## **Race Equipment**

1. Ropes cannot exceed 33 feet in length and are to be 3/8" in diameter or larger.
2. Handles and loops are not permitted on ropes.
3. Gallatin Skijor will provide ropes, but competitors may bring their own.
4. Any rope not supplied by Gallatin Skijor must be inspected and approved by the start judge prior to the race.
5. Attachment of the rope to the saddle must be either to the saddle horn or to the back of the saddle. Attachment to the back of the saddle must be done to the primary rigging rings of the saddle and with non-elastic material. The pulling rope must be within six inches of the cantle.