



Rules & Regulations

Basic Info:

- Safety Equipment
 - Skiers are required to wear approved snow sport helmets, eye protection is recommended.
 - Riders are required to wear an ASTM SEI approved helmet.
 - Horses are required to wear front boots or shoes that are studded or have borium. Hind boots and shoes strongly encouraged but not required.
 - Mini's ARE NOT required to wear boots or shoes.
 - Tack – Riders must provide an approved saddle rigging consisting of a non-elastic rope loop extending no more than 6 inches from the saddle, as well as a weight bearing carabiner.
 - Any questions please email organizer or refer to the Skijor Maine Facebook page for an excellent video on attaching rigging.
 - Rigging will be checked at registration. Inappropriate rigging can be grounds for disqualification.
 - Organizers can ask the riders to adjust their rigging to the required dimensions.
 - *** Tow Ropes will be provided by Topsham Fair Skijoring and consist of a rope, 30-35ft in length, a quick release shackle will be attached at the end with a 3-4ft string that can be taped to the leg, held or tucked into the waistband of the rider. Shackles will be attached to the carabiner on the saddle rigging.
 - Protective leg boots or wraps are strongly encouraged for the horse to prevent injuries from ski and snowboard edges.
- Age Requirements
 - Topsham Fair Skijor requires for insurance purposes for all riders to be a minimum of 14yrs old and skiers/boarders to be a minimum of 10yrs old.
 - All riders and Skiers/boarders under the age of 18 must have parental/guardian consent. See the Liability form on the main page.

- Horse Health Requirements
 - There will be a veterinarian on site with the authority to disqualify an animal for medical reasons. Any member of the organizing committee can require a horse to be examined by the veterinarian prior to racing.
 - Coggins – In state horses must have a negative Coggins dated within the last 3 years. Out-of-state horse must have a negative Coggins within the last year.
 - Horses are required to have an up to date rabies vaccine, as well as 3 way (EEE, WEE, Influenza) within 1 year.

Competition Rules:

- Divisions:
 - Novice – Considered to be **beginner level** skiers/boarders with riders on horses that may not have the **speed enough to be competitive** in the pro division.
 - Novice skiers/snowboarders are not expected to hit jumps, if you feel adventurous give it a go.
 - Prizes awarded to the top three fastest runs (snowboarder/skier combined)
 - Pro – Considered to be the **highest level** competitors with the **fastest horses**.
 - The skier/snowboarder is expected to hit **all of the jumps** in the course.
 - Skiers/Riders must grab all of the rings.
 - Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 teams in the pro division.
 - Junior – Age of skier/boarder is between 10-17yrs old at the time of the competition. (over 18 is considered an adult).
 - Not required to hit jumps.
 - Prizes to be awarded to the top three teams.
 - Mini – Skiers to be pulled by a mini (horse up to 42" tall) in harness using a quick release connection. Skiers will have a course of gates to navigate.
 - **Snowboard (NEW 2026)**
 - Novice and Pro level horses, riders, and boarders may enter the snowboard division.
 - Boarders are required to complete all obstacles in the Novice level course with the same applicable penalties for missed obstacles (gates & rings). - Boarders are NOT required to hit the jumps
 - If a boarder elects to take and successfully complete a jump(s), **2 seconds (per jump)** will be taken off the final time.
 - Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 fastest teams.
 - There needs to be a minimum of 5 snowboarder teams entered to hold a snowboarding division, unless otherwise decided by the Topsham Fair Skijoring Committee.

- If there are not enough teams to hold a Snowboarding Division, those teams will be automatically entered into the Novice Division unless the team(s) chooses to enter the Pro Division. The applicable course and penalties will apply for the selected division.
- Winning Times:
 - Timing at Topsham Fair Skijor will be via chip or laser timing to ensure best accuracy. **Mini racing will be via stop watch due to a shorter course.**
 - Winning time is based on the best of two runs.
 - Age groups and division heats will be run consecutively so please be prompt to the start line.
 - Finish line/Course judge decisions will be final.
- A horse cannot run on more than ONE team (maximum of two runs).
- The same team (horse, rider) may only compete in ONE division.
- Riders and skiers/boarders can compete on up to TWO teams
 - A rider cannot use the same horse on both teams (see above)
- **Skiers CAN compete in more than ONE division.**
- It is permissible on the second run on any horse or division for the rider & skier to swap positions (this does not create a new team)
- Finishing the race:
 - Skier/Boarder MUST finish in an upright position and on at least one ski, with the rope IN HAND when crossing the finish line.
 - Both skier/boarder boots must cross the finish line.
- Gates:
 - Both ski tips and boots must go around a gate, or the gate is considered missed.
 - Ski tips and boots must cross the horizontal and vertical plane of the gate.
 - Both skis do not need to touch the surface but must cross the vertical plane. i.e. Pretend the gate is extended straight up to the sky, both skis must go around the gate and cross the vertical plane.
- Rope:
 - If the skier/boarder drops the rope before crossing the start line, he or she will be allowed to restart immediately.
 - If the skier/snowboarder drops the rope prior to crossing the finish line you will have a no time. (this includes if the rider disconnects the rope early)
- Rings:
 - Rings must cross the finish line still in hand/on the person/horse to count.

Penalties:

- Missed jumps (pro division) = 5 second penalty per jump.
- Missed gates = 5 second penalty per gate (see course map for each division)
- Missed Rings = 1 second penalty per ring

- Missed Barrel (mini's only) = Disqualification

Miscellaneous:

- All attendees must attend the orientation/instruction meeting to be held in the infield at 9AM the morning of the race. Any additional rule changes will be announced at this time.
- Competing under the influence of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited.
- The event officials are authorized to pull competitors from the race if they deem the team to be unfit for the competition.
- Event organizers have the right to put age limits on divisions.

Sportsmanship is important to the success of the event and is a value of the Topsham Fair Skijor community. Please use humane treatment of your horse and be respectful of other competitors, event officials, volunteers and spectators.