

CROWNEST SKIJORING (THE POLE & SPUR)

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Rules are solely for the safety of the competitors, both horse and human, and to ensure fair competition.

DIVISION AND COMPETITION CRITERIA

- Everyone does 1 timed run; you are then seeded into divisions.
- Top 50% will advance to Division 1, bottom 50% will compete in Division 2
- Winning times will be determined by average of your two runs for placement in your division (but you cannot cross divisions after your first run)
- **NOVICE CATEGORY**
 - Maximum 10 teams
 - Must be new to the sport of skijoring, for those who want to go slower.
 - Will also receive 2 runs at the event, separate times, and prizes from main contestants.
 - Organizers reserve the right to move a team up to the Open if they are overly proficient (i.e. not novice)

SKIER RULES:

1. A skier may compete up on two separate teams (four runs in a day).
2. All skiers are highly encouraged to wear helmets.
3. Minimum age is 18 years.

RIDER RULES:

1. A horse may only run on one team (two runs at the event).
2. A rider may ride up to *two horses* in a single day.
3. Horses should be in physical shape to participate in an extreme sport.
4. Must use a standard western bit.
5. Leg protection (boots or polo wraps) and bell boots are strongly recommended.

RULES OF COMPETITION – GENERAL

1. Racers need to be vigilant about starting on time.
2. Rules should be clearly posted and assessable to all competitors.
3. If a horse, rider, or equipment are deemed unsafe the rider and horse can be asked to leave at any time by the Horse Gate Official.
4. If the Skier drops the rope BEFORE crossing the start line, he/she will be allowed a restart immediately after the team's false start. If a delay or the skier drops the rope on the second attempt to start, that team is disqualified for that run. If the Horse runs the course, the team should be dropped down (in the order at the official's discretion) a few racers to allow for reasonable recovery time. If it is the last of the division, they should be scheduled to run 1st prior to the start of the next division.

5. The skier must finish in an upright position and on at least one ski, with rope in hand when crossing the finish line. Both skier boots must cross the finish line.
6. Both ski tips and both boots must go around a gate, or the gate is considered missed. Ski tips and ski boots must cross the horizontal plane of the gate and the vertical plane. Both skis do not need to be on the surface when passing the gate but must not cross the vertical plane
7. All Competitors must be informed of their time at the end of their run prior to the start of the competitive run.
8. Race Venues must have a protest protocol in place for every race.
9. The following will result in no time:
 - (a) Infraction of any law which exists pertaining to the exhibition, care, and custody of horses within the province or country where a race is being held.
 - (b) Abuse of an animal on the track and/or evidence that an act of abuse has occurred prior to or during the exhibition of a horse in competition.
 - (c) Use of illegal equipment.
 - (d) Failure to dismount and/or present horse and equipment to the horse official if asked.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Rules and penalties should be reviewed verbally with all competitors prior to the start of the race.
2. Horses will be randomly checked for equipment. The Horse Gate Official will check all tack. If requested by the Horse Gate Official, a rider may be asked to drop their bit.

COURSE SAFETY RULES

- Run out length of the course is required to be sufficient.
- The Runout must provide a consistent footing for the horse.
- Designated First Aid will be on site with back up EMT on call.
- Signed Waiver is required prior as part of the registration process.

HORSE SAFETY & TREATMENT RULES:

- The on-site veterinarian/vet tech will have the authority to scratch a horse for health reasons or concerns pertaining to the safety of the horse. Any member of the organizing committee can require a horse to be examined by the veterinarian prior to racing.
- No person may abuse a Horse during an Event or at any other time. "Abuse" means an action or omission, which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a Horse, including, but not limited to:
 - Whipping or beating a Horse excessively
 - Subjecting a Horse to any kind of electric shock device
 - Using spurs excessively or persistently
 - Jabbing the Horse in the mouth with the bit or any other device to abnormally sensitize or desensitize any part of a Horse.

RACE EQUIPMENT RULES:

- Ropes must be provided by the race, though competitors can bring their own ropes, but must be certified by race prior to competition.
- Any rope not supplied by the individual race must be inspected and approved at the start line prior to the start of each race.
- Ropes cannot exceed 50 feet in length on the oval track.
- Ropes are to be 3/8 or larger in diameter.
- Handles are not permitted on ropes.
- Ropes must be dallied (wrapped) around saddle horn, no tying of ropes to anything.
- 1 Main Timer with 1 Backup Timer is mandatory.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship is important to the success of every event. Registration signature pledges a competitor's word to the humane treatment of their horse and respectful relationships to all fellow competitors and volunteers hosting this exciting competition. Failure to comply with the spirit of friendly competition at any of the scheduled events may result in the disqualification of your team or banishment from future competitions.

PENALTIES

2 second Penalties will be applied if:

- Pylons/Markers are missed/incomplete.
- Horse & Rider go off course and hit markers/pylons.

5 second Penalties will be applied for missed/incomplete jumps.

Failure to complete the course – horse runs off, skier crashes, etc. will result in a DNF (did not finish)

PROTEST PROTOCOL

- Time will be announced after running and placed on the contestant board.
- Maximum of 10 minutes after running to lodge any disputes. After 10 minutes, time and penalties will stand.
- Deliberation will occur with judge and dispute committee.
- A rerun may be granted in certain circumstances, as decided by the dispute committee.

*** You will not be allowed to compete if intoxicated ***