

2024 **Big Hole Valley Ski Joring** - Wisdom, Montana
General Information and Rules
(1/6/24)

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 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 sponsors this ski joring event.

The 2024 Big Hole Valley Ski Joring competition will take place over two days, **February 24th and 25th** at the Wisdom Airport which is about a 1.5 miles south of Wisdom on Highway 278.

Wisdom can have unpredictable and often harsh conditions, thus we will **cap the race at the first 50 teams** to keep the event from running long.

Fees

There will be one fee of \$60 per team in 2024.

Note: The Antlers Saloon and the Pioneer Mountain Lodge will each draw 2 teams (for a total of) out of the first 15 teams and will pay their team fees!

Sign up

This years signup will be done on line. Go to our website bigholevalley.com then scroll down to registration and event details where you can sign up your team.

Registration is now open.

On February 1, 2024 our ski joring committee will look at signed up and paid teams and make a “go/no go” decision. If we have 30 or more teams we will move forward with the race. If we have fewer than 30 teams we will cancel the race and refund all the fees. We feel that 30 teams is the minimum we need to have a competition, provide a visitor experience and warrant all the work. If we have 30 teams we will proceed and the race registration will remain open until Wednesday, February 21, 2024.

A second “go/no go” decision will be made on February 15, 2024. On the 15th the committee will assess our snow conditions and decide if we can hold the race. If we do not have enough snow, we will cancel the race and return all registration fees.

For more information on the race call Diane Havig, the Association’s treasurer at 406-925-3573.

At the 2024 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. We will not have a separate Women’s or Century Division in 2024, however we will pay \$100 to the fastest Sunday Women’s and Century teams times.

As indicated 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.

2024 Registration Details

Entry Caps-We will be capping the total number of teams/runs at 50.

Contestants must be 18 years of age to participate.

A team is entered when they have a complete team and have paid the fee. A team entry is one skier, one horse and one rider. A team may only enter once. Switching ends is allowed. Snow Boarders can compete in the race. Ski joring is hard on horses, thus a horse may only run the race twice each day or be on two teams.

Waivers - Waivers must be signed in person by 10 am Saturday February 24 to be allowed to race. Waivers may be signed Friday night at the Antlers from 6-9pm and can be signed on Saturday morning at the announcers stand at the airport until 10am.

Friday's Check in

A check in table will be open at Antlers from 6-9pm on Friday night Feb 23. The waiver of liability must be signed by contestants before the race.

Saturday February 24 events:

The race starts a 12:30 sharp, Contestant briefing is at 11:30 at the start gate. The committee provides ropes for your use however if you choose to use a private rope it must be checked and approved at the start gate at 11:00.

- Gate placement will remain the same for all divisions.
- Run order - Divisions will be mixed to allow time to get contestants back to the start.
- Team Calcutta (buy a team) will be at Fetty's Saturday night at 7pm.

Sunday February 25 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.

Rules for the event

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 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 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 no time.
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 2023 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 will get a no time. 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 ski joring 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. Century teams must have a combined human age of 100 or more.
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 in each Division for Sunday and pay on the average in the Open/Sport/Novice,. 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 have 30 teams in the open, sport, and novice classes we will add \$1000. If we reach 40 teams we will add another \$1000. This will be announced Friday night and at Saturday contestant briefing.

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 = 45% of purse, 1st 60%, 2nd 40%

Sport = 35. % of purse, 1st 40%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 20% ,4th 10%
Novice = 20% 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, and Novice Divisions.

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, and novice, will be sold in the Calcutta. The Calcutta will be held at Fetty's at 7pm Saturday night February 24.
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 25, 2024.
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 2024 Division assignments within the Open/Sport/Novice will be based on Saturday times. 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.