

\$20,000 estimated cash & prizes! \$15,000 Added



ATTENTION Flathead Valley & NW Montana Horsemen & Horsewomen!!!

RIDERS WANTED!!!

**Whitefish Winter Carnival
Whitefish Ski Joring
January 29-30, 2011**

Horse & Rider FAQ's

- Q: What class should I ride in?**
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Q: What class should I ride in?

A: There are four classes at the Whitefish Winter Carnival Ski Joring:

- **OPEN** division will consist of any competitors, men or women. (This is a NASJA sanctioned class).
- **SPORT** division will consist of any competitors, men or women who have not won 1st place in Whitefish in this division. (This is a NASJA sanctioned class). Any horse winning 1st place in this class must move up to the Open class the following year, and any skier winning 1st place in this class must move up to the Open class level for the subsequent year at the Whitefish event.
- **NOVICE** division will consist of any competitors, men or women who are new to the sport and/or have not won in any division. No NASJA membership is required to ride in the Novice class. Any horse winning 1st place in this class must move up at least one class the following year, and any skier winning 1st place in this class must move up at least one class level for the subsequent year at the Whitefish event.
- **LONG JUMP** is a separate event and open to any skill level combination of horse, rider and skier. All participants (skier, rider and horse) are limited to two runs per day.
- The Open, Sport & Novice classes are a two-day cumulative score event. The Long Jump is a separate competition each day.

The event is sanctioned by the North American Ski Joring Association (NASJA). Every competitor pays an Arena Fee which includes necessary memberships to compete in the NASJA classes.

THE RULE: Horse may only compete in one division. A horse may not run more than 2 times in a day (except Long Jump, which a horse can enter twice each day).

THE RULE: Rider may compete in more than one division, but must compete on a different

horse in each division entered. A rider may compete up to 4 times in a day.

EXAMPLE: a horse has to stay in one class, but a rider can ride a different horse in each class. A rider could theoretically ride in all three classes, using three different horses, as long as the rider doesn't exceed four total entries.

COMMENT: The determination of which class you CAN ride in is based on what class you feel you WANT to ride in, subject to the restrictions as noted in the Class Descriptions above. If you've ever won any division, you cannot ride again in the Novice class, period. If you've ever won the Sport Class, you can only ride in the Open Class. **Rule of thumb: the higher class you go, the larger the purse and payback. The Open class will always have the most added money and will always pay better.**

Once a team is entered by Friday night, all three members of the team (including the horse) cannot change. No refunds.

Q: What are the Entry fees, Added Money, Purse and Prizes?

A: An estimated \$15,000 in added money, with estimated over \$20,000 in total purse and prizes

Entry Fees:

Open Class: \$100 per skier or rider (\$200/team)

Sport Class: \$50 per skier or rider (\$100/team)

Novice Class: \$25 per skier or rider (\$50/team)

Long Jump: \$25 per skier or rider (\$50/team)

Purse Calculation:

Open Class Est. **\$8,250 added money (or 55% of all added money)**, 60% payback, plus awards

Sport Class Est. **\$3,750 added money (or 25% of all added money)**, 50% payback, plus awards

Novice Class Est. **\$1,500 added money (or 10% of all added money)**, 25% payback, plus awards

Long Jump Est. **\$750 added money EACH DAY** (or 5% of the added money EACH DAY), 50% payback

Payback: **Skijoring Classes:** 15% fast – go money both Saturday & Sunday (3 holes) 70% to the Average (two days combined time)

Average pays one purse hole for every 7 (or part of 7) entries, pays a minimum of three spots.

Long Jump: Pays one purse hole for every 7 or part of 7) entries each day

Calcutta: Pays three holes in each class.

Q: How do I find a skier to ride with me?

A: There are lots of skiers who want to enter each class. We will be matchmaking skiers and horses/riders in advance of the Friday night entry event at the Black Star Draught House (upstairs at the Great Northern BREWERY). Call 261-7464 to get assistance finding a skier for any class, or feel free to come to any of the listed practice dates and meet gregarious folks there. Everyone is helpful (we promise). It's better to make arrangements prior to the Friday Night Sign-up Party, if possible.

Q: How do I get my horse used to pulling a skier on a rope?

A: Best way is to come to a practice and try it slowly at first. There are no prizes for winning a practice, but even on a Whitefish winter afternoon, folks enjoy refreshing beverages and have fun. Plenty of parking for horse trailers. Introduce yourself to anyone when you arrive and ask for assistance to get you started.

Yes, feel free to practice anytime at home...get yourself and your horse in shape! During the month of January, there will be a practice course set up at Scott Ping's house in Whitefish. Please watch for the

Whitefish Pilot for upcoming dates or contact Scott Ping at 406.261-7464 for available dates. Please note: A liability release form must be signed before using the practice course.

Q: Do I need any special equipment?

A: Equipment RULES vs. Suggestions:

THE RULE: Rope length 50 feet maximum, 3/8" minimum. Handles on ropes are not allowed.

Comment: Ropes are provided. You do not need to bring a tow-rope, even to a practice.

THE RULE: Attachment is to the saddle horn OR if behind the saddle attachment is within four inches (4") of the cantle (under strain) with a non-elastic material. Prior to the race a race official must approve any attachment to the saddle other than the saddle horn.

Comment: Usually, a length of rope is secured from the gullet or horn, under the stirrup leathers, snugged tightly behind the cantle, where a loop is tied into the rope for the tow-rope's carabeener to quickly attach/detach to. Bring a rope length with you and we'll help you rig it. A 1/4" to 3/8" diameter rope is probably fine, at least 10' long to be safe.

Suggestion – use a breast collar: because the tow rope is affixed to the saddle by rigged ropes, a breast collar is a good idea to stabilize your saddle. If you've never done this before, once the skier gets moving, there is actually not that much pull on the saddle. Still, using a breast collar is a good idea...not mandatory by any means.

Special borium-tipped horseshoes: They're not necessary, but they can be shod by a competent farrier like Todd Kiser, Jesse Johnston or Frank Vitale, who make themselves readily available to Ski Joring competitors. At your option, your horse can also run barefoot.

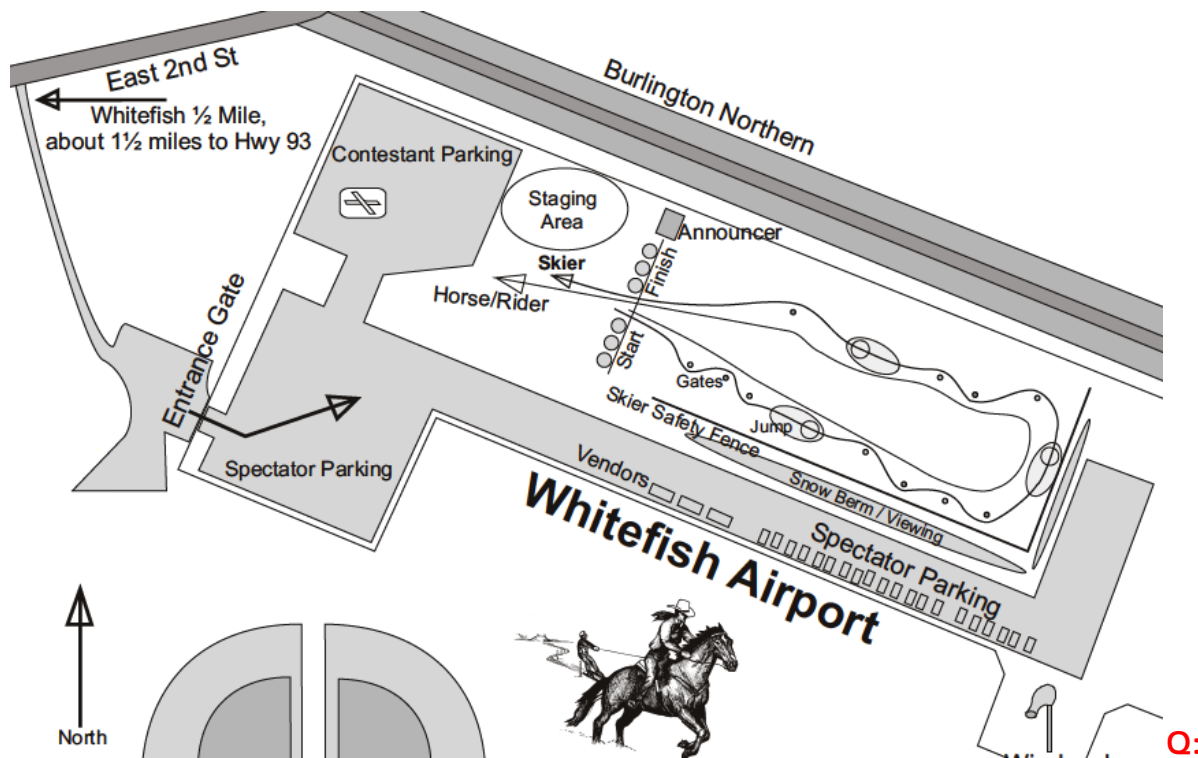
THE RULE: Horse – A veterinarian retained by each race will be on site in the staging area. The veterinarian will have the authority to scratch a horse for health reasons or concerns pertaining to the safety of the horse and the image of the sport. In addition to the veterinarian, only race officials can require a horse to be examined by the veterinarian prior to racing. Any single horse may not run more than twice in one day. **It is recommended that horses be outfitted with bell and splint boots on each foot (4).**

Comment: We strongly (can't emphasize that enough) recommend bell & splint boots on each foot. It is likely to be changed to a requirement, rather than a recommendation in the future.

THE RULE: Course and run-out area will be provided which is to be as safe as possible for competitors, spectators and horses in the space available. The horse track will be designed / built to maintain consistency in footing.

Q: Where is the event held in Whitefish?

A: The skijoring race is held at the Whitefish City Airport. This is located off of East 2nd street in Whitefish (past the Armory). The course itself is a U-shaped course. The horse and rider go on the inside of the U shape while the skier goes on the outside thru short slalom gates and over jumps. See map below.



What is the schedule?

A: Weekend practices in January at Scott Ping's near Whitefish. 261-7464 for information.

Friday, January 28

6 - 9 pm: Registration & Sign-Up Party at the **Black Star Draught House**, upstairs at the **Great Northern Brewing Company**, Downtown Whitefish...no-host bar). Entry fees due at this time for every team. Sign up your team or meet other people to make a team. Come join us for registration and fun watching the videos of past competitions.

Saturday, January 29

10 am – Noon: Warmup your horse / Course Inspection / Mandatory Riders Meeting prior to first go.

Noon – 3 pm: First go-round, starting with Novice, then Sport, then Open, then Long Jump. Whitefish City Airport

7 pm – Calcutta - Great Northern Bar & Grill, downtown Whitefish. View the day's results. Spectators and competitors alike can get into the winning action...go bid for your favorite team...80% payback.

Sunday, January 30

Noon - Second go-round, starting with Novice, then Sport and Open classes. (REVERSE STARTING ORDER), followed by Long Jump.

7 pm SHARP - Awards Ceremony, checks & prizes, with videos at the **Craggy Range Bar & Grille**, back room.

Q: Will there be food and beverage at the Ski Joring race site?

A: You betcha. There are more food concessionaires this year (BBQ, Asian, Mexican, etc.), full hot coffee/espresso/mocha/latte's, and a full bar, with a heated tent...it is supposed to be fun, in the fine tradition of the Whitefish Winter Carnival, after all. Full bar and plenty of beer from our sponsors.

Q: Are there any Non-Profit Beneficiaries?

A: Yes. There is a \$5 per carload parking fee, with the proceeds going to Human Therapy on Horseback. Last year, we raised about \$1,000 for this worthwhile program. This year, we are also supporting WINGS, the local cancer support group as well.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: Full rules, entry forms, and more details are at www.whitefishskijoring.com. Look for videos from previous years on www.YouTube.com.

It's a lot of fun...we invite you to come out and try it, or just bring your friends to spectate or bid in the Calcutta Saturday evening. It's all part of the fun of the Whitefish Winter Carnival!
