

COMPETITOR INFORMATION PACKET

Dec. 24, 2025 – Supersedes all prior versions.



2026 SCHEDULE



FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2026

6pm-9pm	Skijor Team Matching & Registration
8:30pm	Seth Ward and the Silence at Bull O' The Woods Saloon, \$5 cover
9:00 pm	Hooks & The Huckleberries at the Motherlode Saloon, \$5 cover

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31TH, 2026

10:00am—11:00am	Skijoring clinic for "never-ers" - get a slow pull behind a snowmobile
12:00pm	Skijor Races! <ul style="list-style-type: none">Open DivisionSport DivisionSnowmobile Division (snowboarders included)Juniors (12 & Under)
7:00pm	Torchlight Parade & Fireworks and Rail Jam at the Red River Ski & Summer Area
8:00pm	Skijor Party at the Bull O' The Woods Saloon <ul style="list-style-type: none">Saturday Competition PayoutsLive Music by Seth Ward and the Silence at Bull O' The Woods Saloon, \$5 cover
9:00 pm	Hooks & The Huckleberries at the Motherlode Saloon, \$5 cover

SUNDAY, February 1ST, 2026

10:00 am	Skijor Races! <ul style="list-style-type: none">Open DivisionSport DivisionSnowmobile Division (snowboarders included)Juniors (12 & Under)
4:00pm —9:00pm	Skijor Party <ul style="list-style-type: none">Day PayoutsOverall Awards

Schedule is subject to change

DIVISIONS



DIVISIONS

- * OPEN (PRO)
- * SPORT (AMATEUR)
- * SNOWMOBILE (NEVER-EVERS, Skiers & Snowboarders)
- * JUNIORS (12 & Under)

DIVISION CRITERIA

- * **OPEN:** Teams are considered to be the highest skilled competitors with the fastest horses.
- * **SPORT:** Teams are considered to be novice or intermediate level competitors riding horses that may not be fast enough to be in the open division.
- * **SNOWMOBILE:** Teams are considered to be beginning level competitors that do not have horses, and they will be pulled by snowmobile at a steady speed of their choosing according to skill level. This division includes snowboarders and skiers. For skiers to register in this division, skiers cannot have previously competed in the novice, sport or open division at any skijoring venue.
- * **JUNIORS:** This is a non-competitive division for 12 & under to be pulled by a snowmobile. This division is free for participants.

For Snowmobile, Open & Sport divisions: A team consists of a horse, rider and skier. Entrants may be male or female. Entrants must be 14 years of age or older. For all divisions, entrants under the age of 18, must have parent/guardian sign waivers and provide proof of medical insurance.

REGISTRATION



TEAM FORMAT – MATCH & DRAW RULES

- * Competitors in Open and Sport will register for “run sets” which consist of 1 Match (you find your teammate) and 1 Draw (randomized teams)
 - o Juniors and Snowmobile will register for two runs
- * There will be different draws for Saturday and Sunday.
- * If a draw team is the same as a match team it will be redrawn.
- * Riders and Skiers will register separately, but will be required to identify their “match” team before or at the Friday Jan 30th night Team Match & Registration session.
- * If you do not already have a match, visit our website for a list of competitors looking for a match. Or, attend the Friday night on-site registration to find your match. There are plenty of skiers – we need more horses and riders, so spread the word about this exciting event!

REGISTRATION CRITERIA

- * A **Horse** may compete in only one division and may not run more than two times in a day.
- * A **Rider** may compete in more than one division. A rider may ride up to two horses in each division in a single day.
- * A **Skier** can choose their division, but may only compete in one division. A skier may compete up to four times in a day. A skier can only run once behind the same horse and rider in one day.

REGISTRATION METHODS

Registration will close Jan. 28 for Open, and Sport.

Early Registration

The first 50 participants to register and pay will get a free limited edition Red River Skijoring “Competitor” shirt. Payment can be made early by Venmo (@[redriverskijoring.org](https://www.venmo.com/redriverskijoring)). You will still need to sign a waiver and get a match (if you did not identify your match on a team registration form).

Open and Sport Registration

Registration will close Jan. 28 for Open, and Sport and is available online only. Team matches can be made Friday Jan. 30 at the registration party.

Snowmobile Registration

Day-of registration for the Snowmobile division ONLY will be available Saturday, January 31st from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Clinic Registration

With limited time available for the Saturday only skijoring clinic, we strongly recommend registering in advance. Registration for the clinic will be available day-of. The Clinic is designed and intended for those who have never competed. We need to preserve the course for the races so please respect the intention of the clinic.

REGISTRATION FEES

For Open and Sport, cost shown is per competitor per day for one “run set” (one match and one draw). For Novice/Snowmobile, cost is shown per competitor per day for two runs behind a snowmobile.

DIVISION	EARLY REGISTRATION per run set/per day	ON-SITE REGISTRATION
Open Rider or Skier	\$60	-
Sport Rider or Skier	\$40	-
Novice/Snowmobile	\$20	\$40
Juniors	Free!	

HOW TO PAY

You can pay early via Venmo (@redriverskijoring) or by cash in person day-of. Registration payment will be available Friday Jan. 30 at the registration party as well.

COMPETITOR SWAG

The first 50 competitors to register for Juniors, Novice, Sport, or Open will receive a limited edition Competitor t-shirt. Early mail-in/Venmo, registration gives you the best chance of getting your competitor t-shirt in the size you want.

REFUNDS

Registration fees are refundable less a \$15 processing fee with a written request mailed to Red River Skijoring / PO Box 245 / TAOS, NM 87571 and postmarked no later than Monday, January 12th, 2026. *No exceptions!* Refunds may take up to 30-days to receive.

SKIJOR CUP DETAILS

With no membership fees, [SKIJOR USA](#) has launched a standardized point system for all competitive races, converting **1 Point earned per every \$100+ awarded**. Your winnings convert directly into points. \$100 = 1 point or \$950 = 9.5 points, for example. Both **Day Money** and **Overall Money** count.

At the end of the season, money and prizes will be awarded to the top finishers in every division and 2026 SKIJOR CUP™ champions will be declared. The Skijor Cup prize pot and awards will keep pace with the rankings during the season.

HORSE BOARDING

Red River Skijoring is providing complimentary horse boarding at Red River Stables. Pens are available first-come, first-serve for reservations. Call Stephanie at 559-741-5643 to make a reservation. Once the pens are all reserved, competitors will be asked to bring their own panels – there is plenty of pasture space to put up your panels. Water is available at a central location. Bring your own feed.

AWARDS & PAYOUTS



THE PURSE

The purse for the Snowmobile, Sport and Open divisions will consist of a percentage of division entry fees plus designated sponsorship money:

- ❄ Open: 60% of added sponsorship purse money plus 100% of the division entry fees.
- ❄ Sport: 30% of added sponsorship purse money plus 100% of the division entry fees.
- ❄ Snowmobile: 10% of added sponsorship purse money plus 100% of the division entry fees.

- *Note that Venmo transaction fees will be deducted first!*

Award money will be paid out for each division at 50% for Day 1 and 50% for Day 2.

There is no prize purse for the Juniors Division. This is a free, non-competitive division.

Note that there is no Calcutta at Red River Skijoring for 2026.

PLACEMENT SPLIT

Day money for each division will be divided for placement as follows:

- ❄ 1st Place Team = 50%
- ❄ 2nd Place Team = 30%
- ❄ 3rd Place Team = 20%

TEAM SPLIT

Team payouts will be split as follows:

- ❄ Rider 45%
- ❄ Skier 45%
- ❄ Horse 10%

OVERALL CHAMPIONS

Overall non-cash prizes will be awarded to the fastest skier, fastest rider and fastest horse in the Sport and Open divisions. The calculation will be each competitor's fastest time (including penalties) from Saturday and fastest time from Sunday added together. To be eligible, a competitor must compete on Saturday and Sunday in the same division.

FASTEST HORSE OF THE DAY

There will be a prize for the fastest horse (not including penalties) for each day.

COMPETITION RULES



SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship is important to the success of our event and the image of the community. Your registration signature pledges your word to the humane treatment of your horse and respectful relationships to all fellow competitors, race organizers 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, without a refund, or your banishment from future competitions.

SAFETY

- * **General:** If a skier, horse, rider or equipment are deemed unsafe they could be asked to leave at any time by the Starting Gate Judge, or Race Director.
- * **Skiers:** All skiers must wear approved snow sport helmets and eye protection. It is strongly recommended that bindings be tested by a professional prior to skiing.
- * **Riders:** Helmets and protective vests are recommended for riders. Riders 17 and under are required to wear a helmet and protective vest during competition.
- * **Horses:** Must use a standard western bit with a maximum shank length of 8 ½". Shanks may be fixed or loose. If curb bit is used, it must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, which must be at least ½" in width, lie flat against the jaw and be free of barbs, wire and/or twists. Horse should be in physical shape to participate in an extreme sport. The on-site veterinarian 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.
 - o **Protective Legwear & Shoes:** Leg protection (boots or polo wraps) and bell boots are strongly recommended. Horses should have a shoe that will increase traction (borium, calks, etc.).
 - o **Veterinarian:** Should vet services be needed, the rider will be charged.
- * **Alcohol & Drugs:** Alcohol consumption prior to competition is grounds for disqualification for that competitor, and ultimately that team. No refund. All performance-enhancing drugs are prohibited and will not be tolerated – the Race Director has the final say in related matters and refunds will not be given.
- * **Ambulance:** An EMT crew will be on site. Service, if needed, will be charged to the benefactor of the service.
- * **Spectators:** The course, staging area and run out area will have barriers to keep spectators out of these areas. Volunteer crossing guards will be staged along the course to allow spectators to safely cross as needed between runs.
- * **Dogs:** No dogs allowed on or near the track, except for a service dog by a person with disability.
- * **Drones:** Absolutely no drones.

THE COURSE

- ❄ **Length:** Approximately 800 feet from start to finish gates.
- ❄ **Run Out:** The horse run out will be approximately 550 feet in length.
- ❄ **Gates:** There will be two sets of breakaway style gates.
- ❄ **Jumps:** There will be three jumps. Open division jumps will be 5-7 feet high. Sport division jumps will be 3-4 feet high.
- ❄ **Rings:** There will be three sets of rings to collect, with multiple rings in each set.
- ❄ **Inspection:** Open and Sport riders and skiers may inspect the track for 15 minutes prior to the start of their division. During course inspection, skiers must be on skis and will not ski off the top of the jumps. Riders will be allowed to walk their horse down the track and back one time only and must stay in the middle. Inspection will not be allowed outside of the scheduled inspection time. This is necessary to preserve optimal and safe course conditions. Please be respectful of this rule!

EQUIPMENT

- ❄ **Baton:** Skier must use a baton to pick up rings. Batons will be provided. Skiers may use their own baton, subject to inspection and approval by officials. Batons can be no longer than 20 inches long.
- ❄ **Tow Ropes:** Regulation ropes will be provided, though competitors can bring their own ropes, but must have the rope certified by race official prior to competition. Ropes cannot exceed 33 feet in length and must be 3/8" or larger in diameter. Handles are not permitted on the ropes, but ropes must have a loop on at least one end.
- ❄ **Rope Attachment:** Ropes can be attached via one of two methods and is the rider's choice.
 - Method 1: Attach to saddle horn on front of saddle by braided loop and run on either side of rider. Rope cannot run under the saddle.
 - Method 2: Attach behind the saddle, secured directly to the primary rigging rings of the saddle by a non-elastic attachment so that the pulling rope is within 6 inches of the cantle, carabineer included. The horse rider must provide their own rigging and carabineer to which the supplied competition rope will be attached. Prior to the race, the Start Master or designee must approve any attachment to the saddle. Quick release shackles are highly recommended.
- ❄ **Horse Shoes:** Horses should, but are not required, have a shoe that will increase traction (borium, calks, etc.) If horse is sharp shod, then bell and splint boots are highly, highly recommended.
- ❄ **Breast Collars:** A breast collar on your horse is highly recommended.

THE RACE

- ❄ **Substitutions:** No substitutions are allowed for any team member (horse, rider or skier). If any team member cannot compete for any reason, the team will be disqualified. No refunds will be given.
- ❄ **Staging between runs:** (The Sparby Rule) Each team is allowed four minutes to complete staging and begin the race. After this allotted time has expired, the competitors will be asked to leave the staging area. The team will be allowed one more attempt to race at the end of the Division. If the staging time is again exceeded, that team will be disqualified from that day's competition. No refunds will be given. The allotted four-minute time period will begin at the declaration of a clear track. If a rider chooses, they may leave the start area before the four minutes has elapsed to calm their horse; in this event, the team will be allowed one restart when their name is called again.

- ❄ **Restart—or Not:** If the Skier drops the rope before crossing the start line, he/she will be allowed a restart immediately. The four-minute rule restarts upon the arena judge's determination of a clear course. 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, to allow for reasonable recovery time.

If a skier "jumps" the start gate, and does not start the clock, the team will not be allowed to re-start and is DQ'd.

- ❄ **Finishing the Race:** The Skier must finish in an upright position and on at least one ski, with rope in hand when crossing the finish line.
 - Disqualifications:
 - Both skier boots must cross the finish line.
 - Rider must be on horse when skier crosses the finish line.
 - The skier must finish with the baton in hand, otherwise a penalty is incurred.
- ❄ **Gates:** Both ski tips and both boots must go around a gate, or the gate is considered missed.
- ❄ **Rings:** A baton must be used by the skier to collect the rings. The baton must be held in hand and not secured to arm or placed under clothing. Batons will be provided at the event or competitors may bring their own subject to inspection by the race committee.

PENALTIES

Penalties will be added to the running time as follows:

- ❄ **Missed Jump:** 5 seconds per jump
- ❄ **Missed Gate:** 5 seconds per gate
- ❄ **Missed/Dropped Ring(s):** 2 second per ring
- ❄ **Dropped Baton:** 2 seconds
- ❄ **Rings Knocked Off by Rider:** 1 second per ring

There is no penalty for rope or horse hitting jump marker or gate marker. Skier will be given credit for rings not in place on stand during his/her run, i.e. wind, snowball from horse or any other natural cause to make ring fall. Note: Rider hitting ring is NOT a natural cause!

PROTESTS

If a team member has a concern regarding his/her run, that concern must be brought to the attention of the Race Director immediately following the run. The Race Director will consider the concern presented and make a decision before the start of the next run. The decision of the Race Director is final and all involved are ask to accept that decision in the spirit of friendly competition. All evidence is open to review but competitors must be ready to present all evidence for consideration at time of protest submission.

RACE RESULTS

Race results will be announced and posted. Prize money for Saturday races will be distributed Saturday evening as noted on the schedule. Prize money for Sunday races will be distributed Sunday evening as noted on the schedule. Overall winners will be announced on Sunday evening with some prizes awarded that same evening.

Result Services (timing) is provided by Red River Rodeo.

RACE VENUE MAPS

TOWN OF RED RIVER



- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------------|
|  | Race Course (including staging and runout) |  | Horse Boarding |
|  | Friday Night Registration at
The Grill at the Lift House |  | Horse Trailer Parking |
|  | Saturday & Sunday Registration at
the Conference Center | | |

RED RIVER STABLES (reservations shown as of 1/11/17, updated map will be displayed at the stables at the time of the event – be sure to check it when you arrive to identify your assigned pen)

