

Rennet Skijoring Race Rules

While this event has competitive elements, the safety of dogs, participants and spectators is the highest priority

1. Race Classes

- 1.1 Class selected must be based on experience of team (both dog and Skijorer.) An experienced skier should not enter the 10K class with little or no Skijoring experience.

1.2 10k Class

- 1.2.1 One or two dogs allowed
- 1.2.2 Skijorers must be at least 16 years of age.
- 1.2.3 Open to race experienced Skijorers
- 1.2.4 10K Skijorers are expected to be skilled, athletic, experienced and knowledgeable in race rules and trail etiquette. Dogs are expected to be particularly fit and well trained.

1.3 10k Pulk Class

- 1.3.1 One dog allowed.
- 1.3.2 Skijorers must be at least 16 years of age.
- 1.3.3 10K Skijorers are expected to be highly skilled, athletic, experienced and knowledgeable in race rules and trail etiquette. Dogs are expected to be particularly fit and highly trained.

1.4 3k Class

- 1.4.1 One dog allowed.
- 1.4.2 Skijorer must be at least 12 years of age.
- 1.4.3 Teams must be able to complete a 2.5k distance in 30 minutes.

2. Starting

- 2.1 Classes will be started separately.
- 2.2 Classes may be combined at race officials' discretion.
- 2.3 All classes will be started gender mixed.
- 2.4 Race officials may limit the number of dogs with which a participant may race for safety reasons.
- 2.5 Race officials have final say in determining class eligibility.
- 2.6 Team must arrive at the designated start on time or risk being move to a later starting class.
- 2.7 Officials may assign starting position if it is deemed necessary for any reason

3. Behavior

- 3.1 Profanity is strictly prohibited.
- 3.2 Dogs must be controlled and kept from other teams.
- 3.3 Loose dogs are not permitted at any time.
- 3.4 Aggressive dogs are prohibited from this event.
- 3.5 Waste must be picked up immediately except for during race.
- 3.6 Doping of any kind prohibited for Skijorer or dogs.
- 3.7 Skijorers cannot interfere with or impede another Skijorer's progress on racecourse or in start area.
- 3.8 Skijorers are responsible for preventing and resolving dogfights.

4. Dog Welfare & Fitness

- 4.1 Dogs must be treated humanely at all times at the event and is expected away from the event.
- 4.2 All dogs must be sufficiently fit to be able to complete the course without risk of injury. Review the course information for your class.
- 4.3 Dogs must be vaccinated for Rabies and DHPP and owner must provide proof upon demand. Rabies tag is acceptable proof of vaccination.
- 4.4 Sick dogs are not permitted at this event.

5. Drug use is Strictly Prohibited

- 5.1 Use of any performance enhancing drugs by human or dog is prohibited.
- 5.2 Humans and dogs must submit to drug testing upon demand. Refusal to submit to testing will result in automatic disqualification.

- 6. **Equipment** - All equipment must be in good working order and safe for dog, skijorer, competitors, handlers and general public.

6.1 Skis/Poles

- 6.1.1 Nordic skate or classic allowed.
- 6.1.2 Metal edges on skis are not permitted.
- 6.1.3 Poles must have wrist straps and must be used.
- 6.1.4 Poles must have baskets
- 6.1.5 Sit Skis are permitted

6.2 Skijor Belt (required)

- 6.2.1 Must be padded and minimum of three inches wide
- 6.2.2 Tow-bars not allowed except for pulka class.

6.3 Quick Release (required)

- 6.3.1 Must be capable of releasing under load. Carabiners and bolt snaps are prohibited.
- 6.3.2 Quick release must not remain with towline upon release. This poses a risk of injury to your dog but can be altered to make it safer. Contact race organizers for information on making this adjustment.
- 6.3.3 Must be positioned within arm's reach of Skijorer.

6.4 Towline

- 6.4.1 Internal bungee required.
- 6.4.2 Minimum distance between Skijorer and dog(s) is 7 feet and maximum of 13 feet, 8 inches.
- 6.4.3 Measurement assumes full elongation of bungees in line, including skijor belt bungee, if applicable.
- 6.4.4 Measurement taken from waist of Skijorer to the rear of the dog closest to the Skijorer, excluding tail.

6.5 Dog Harness

- 6.5.1 Pulling style harness is required with padding around neck and chest
- 6.5.2 Dog harness must of correct size and must be correctly put on dog.
- 6.5.3 Under no circumstances can towline be attached to dog's collar or any harness not specifically designed for pulling.

6.6 Dog Collar (required for every dog)

- 6.6.1 Must fit snugly to prevent dog from slipping out.
- 6.6.2 Collars with plastic quick releases are strongly discouraged.

6.7 Necklines

- 6.7.1 Required if running two dogs and must be attached to the collars of both dogs.

6.8 Helmets

- 6.8.1 Helmets are allowed in this event. They are not required.

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6.9 Pulks/ sleds, carriers

- 6.9.1 Pulks or other towing sleds are permitted only in 10k Pulka class

7. Start Format & Related Rules

- 7.1 This race is expected to be a "Mass Start" format.
- 7.2 No skating is allowed for a distance of 80 meters yards after the start. Only polling is permitted. Skating may begin only after crossing the red line 80 meters after the start.
- 7.3 Teams will start by class in assigned waves.
- 7.4 Format and location may be changed at the discretion of race officials. This will be announced as soon as possible.
- 7.5 Skijorers missing their assigned start time must start in the last wave of the Novice group and will not be timed.
- 7.6 Skijorer and team should arrive at start area 30 minutes before official start time.
- 7.7 Skijorer must ensure team is under control at all times or risk disqualification.
- 7.8 A limited number of handlers may be available to assist.
- 7.9 Skijorers must provide their own handlers if there is any concern about maintaining adequate control of their team in the start area.
- 7.10 Front tips of Skijorer's skis must be positioned behind start line until race official signals start.
- 7.11 No flying starts, Skijorer and team must be at a complete stop before starting.
- 7.12 Race number must be clearly visible to race officials.
- 7.13 Failure to wear race number results in disqualification.
- 7.14 Skijorers must yield to the faster team.
- 7.15 Skijorers must at all times be aware of teams nearby and must keep control over their ski pole tip to avoid injuring dogs or Skijorers.

8. Passing (Beginning of race to last kilometer)

- 8.1 Safe and effective passing is important to not only prevent incidents and potential injuries, but helps both parties involved in passing achieve the best race result.
- 8.2 Passing Skijorer must execute pass only when conditions are safe and clearly call out "trail" before attempting pass.
- 8.3 Skijorer being passed should slow and move to side of trail if possible (teams do not need to stop).
- 8.4 Skijorer being passed must stop poling and hold poles behind, low and away from passing team.
- 8.5 Passing Skijorer must exercise extreme caution when poling in close proximity to team being passed.
- 8.6 After completion of pass, passed Skijorer must maintain a minimum 40-foot distance behind passing team to avoid distracting passing team's dogs.
- 8.7 Passed teams cannot attempt to repass for 1 kilometer or three minutes, whichever occurs first.
- 8.8 Any Skijorer whose dog is aggressive towards any other dog must stop and permit the other team to pass. This applies if the aggressive dog is being passed or is doing the passing.

9. "Free Passing Zone".

- 9.1 The final ¼ mile leading to the Finish Line is designated the "Free Passing Zone". Skijorers can pass at will and only when conditions are safe in the "Free Passing Zone."
- 9.2 All other passing rules apply.
- 9.3 Skijorers must exhibit care, good judgment and fairness when passing at all times.
- 9.4 This area will have the greatest concentration of spectators. The Skijorer must exercise exceptional care in this area.
- 9.5 Call respectfully to any spectator that may be in your way.

10. Trail Help

- 10.1 No time penalty levied against Skijorers using trail help to resolve tangles or other problems on trail.
- 10.2 Trail help is instructed not to initiate assistance. Skijorer must request help and give trail help clear instructions.
- 10.3 Trail help must not intervene in dogfights.
- 10.4 Trail help may help Skijorer back onto trail, but cannot push or pull Skijorer when on trail, except to start team moving.

11. Finishing

- 11.1 Timing ends when Skijorer's body cross the finish line, indicated by timing chip mounted in bib.
- 11.2 All dogs must cross finish line in front of Skijorer's ski tip.
- 11.3 Skijorers must exit finish area immediately to clear way for subsequent finishing teams.
- 11.4 Skijorers must not ask race officials for times (times will be announced when all times have been calculated and verified.)
- 11.5 Personal dog handlers are welcome but must stay clear of finishing team traffic.

12. Injured Dog

- 12.1 Skijorer must stay with injured dog until trail help arrives and then immediately escort injured dog back to Veterinarian station.
- 12.2 Veterinarians may advise on what should be done for the injured dog. They are not equipped to treat the dog on site. There is emergency Veterinarian care nearby.
- 12.3 Trail help will transport remaining dogs back to Skijorer's vehicle.

13. Protest

- 13.1 Protests must be made within 10 minutes of finishing race.
- 13.2 Protest must be accompanied by a non-affiliated witness.
- 13.3 Skijorer must arrange with race officials to meet privately.
- 13.4 Under no circumstances will race officials discuss protests in public.
- 13.5 Protesting Skijorer must not discuss complaint with any person who is not a race official.
- 13.6 Protest not received in the time allowed will not be addressed
- 13.7 Suggestions to improve the event will be greatly appreciated.

14. Race Official Authority

- 14.1 Race officials have complete and final authority concerning race rules, finishing and infractions. Competitors who violate the rules or exhibit inappropriate behavior will be disqualified from the race at the race official's discretion.
- 14.2 Rule violations may be reported to Mushing USA, Skijor USA, IFSS, ISDRA and any other governing body for consideration of additional sanctions.
- 14.3 The attending Veterinarian will rule on all dog safety and health issues. Dogs determined unfit for racing must be removed from the team.

