

Horse and Ox Drawing Rules

Adapted from the Maine Draft Horse and Ox Association

Show proof of \$1,000,000 Liability Insurance

The object of the rules is to:

- A) INSURE PROPER TREATMENT OF ANIMAL.
- B) Raise the standard of Horse and Ox drawing
- C) Stimulate interest in Horse and Ox drawing among the general public
- D) Facilitate the efficient staging of Horse and Ox drawing contests.

RULE 1 - STARTING TIME:

All teamsters to compete in the contest shall have their teams ready at the published starting time. All classes shall be closed after the positions are drawn. Classes shall start as nearly as possible to published time.

RULE 2 - DRAWING OF POSITIONS:

Entries in all class pulling for both oxen and draft horses open to State of Maine and New England. Numbers shall be placed in a container according to the position the team weighed-in or entered. A disinterested person at ringside shall draw all the numbers to determine the positions the team shall draw. There must be a contest in each class.

RULE 3 - WEIGHING IN:

Official weigh-in shall start for all horses, other than "Free-For-All" teams not earlier than three (3) hours or later than one and one-half (1 1/2) hours before class of the day is to start. The first part of this rule will not apply when there are two classes, one following immediately after the other. Check weighing will be allowed prior to official weigh-in. Official weigh-in will allow one weigh-in only by same team of horses. Team must have leather halters and shoes on. Even weight only. Nothing extra for shoes and halter. All horses will be weighed in the presence of a delegate appointed by the Fair or person who is conducting the contest. The delegate shall present a weigh bill to the teamster, a copy of which is to be kept by the delegate, certifying the horses' names and descriptions, also the exact time of weighing. The scale shall be balanced with a man standing on same; this man will hold all horses where possible. Anyone weighing one horse but pulling another in its place shall be barred from pulling for one year. Fair superintendents or person weighing shall notify the Maine Draft Horse and Ox Association, and in turn, fair superintendents of all fairs shall be notified.

RULE 4 - MEASURING:

Measuring shall be in a straight line to the nearest point of the drag. Line to line measure will be allowed. The front of the drag must touch the line before turning. To get the full line measure, drag must be turned more than one-half way or completely out over the line.

RULE 5 - UNHITCHING:

Team shall stay hooked to the drag at all times until time is up or the teamster wishes to stop pulling. No unhitching and rehitching is allowed.

RULE 6 - BREAK-DOWN:

An actual separation, breaking or bending of equipment shall constitute a breakdown. Chains, straps, eveners not properly secured, or snarling of horses are not considered a break-down. Any team breaking down can take the distance pulled or return to the last position and pull over. Only one (1) break-down is allowed.

RULE 7 - TIME LIMIT:

On distance, pull five (5) minutes, unless otherwise agreed upon by the teamsters before pulling time. The time shall be kept by the announcer or appointed time keeper. The drag may not be pulled out and reset by the pit crew unless they are unable to reset between lines or agreed upon by all teamsters. Teams shall remain in the ring at all times until they are dismissed by the Superintendent. In case of a tie on the longest distance, the second longest distance already pulled will take top placing. No teamster may be changed after pulling the first load, in any class, except in an emergency. Then only when permitted by the judges with the consent of the majority of the teamsters in the class. There shall be no assistance from evener tenders other than hitching. There shall be no heading of horses, whatsoever. Teams are to be driven by one teamster only. One inch or more constitutes a hitch. Starting point shall be properly marked to indicate same starting point for all loads. In short pulls, when the top teams quit, one team must hitch to winning load to prove his win.

RULE 8 - USE OF REINS AND WHIPS AND GOADS:

On Horses: The light use of reins on the hindquarters only, no over and under will be allowed. No whips, brads or goads will be allowed. Reins shall not be doubled up. No electric or electronic devices will be allowed. No open bridles will be allowed. On Oxen: The use of the goad shall be very light. The goad shall have no brad in it. Only a plain yoke and chain or pole may be pulled, with all bull rings, ropes, halter, etc., barred. All chains shall be covered to the hook. No plastic goads shall be allowed. The goad stick must not be over 4 feet long and must not exceed one/half inch in diameter on the small end, blunt on both ends. The goad stick may be taped with tape, but not weighted. The goad stick may be used lightly on the face to control the oxen, but not around the eyes.

RULE 9 - HELPERS:

Any number of helpers will be allowed to help hitch. After hitched on, two (2) helpers only. They shall stay behind the drag unless needed to help teamster in snarls or turns. On oxen, the helper shall stay behind the drag at all times after hitch-on. The helper shall not have a stick.

RULE 10 - GENERAL:

All participants will be properly dressed. Proper language must be used at all times. Any participant under the influence of liquor will be disqualified from contest. Tests may be administered to determine intoxication. The drinking of intoxicating beverages in and around the ring is prohibited.

RULE 11 - STALLS:

Stalls shall not be used for sleeping quarters if needed for horses.

RULE 12 - USE OF DRUGS:

Use of drugs or stimulant is prohibited. The Fair or person conducting contest reserves the right to administer any type of test deemed necessary to any animal after pulling. The owner and teamster found to have used a drug or stimulant on an animal shall be barred from this pulling for two years, as required by section 74-A, chapter 226.

RULE 13 - ELIMINATION CONTESTS:

Starting load shall be determined by superintendent. Added loads in each class at the discretion of the judges, dependent on the ring. At no time after weight has been increased, may it be decreased. OVER THE RAIL: If a horse's foot strides over the line, it will count as a hitch, with no count for distance pulled. Teams must remain within the lines while hitched to the drag. ANY TEAM DELIBERATELY DRIVEN OVER THE LINE SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE CONTEST.

RULE 14 - TEAMSTERS:

Teamsters must stay behind horses' rumps at all times when pulling.

RULE 15 - CARE OF PULLING RING:

The ring will be taken care of as good as it is possible by Fair and person conducting contest to have an even and fair pull. Grading and covering the ring helps.

RULE 16 - VARIATIONS:

Any situation that may arise and is not covered by these rules, the decision will be left to the discretion of the judges.

RULE 17 - RECOMMENDATIONS:

By vote of the Maine Draft Horse and Ox Association, it was decided to weigh oxen for the several classes instead of to measure them by a girth chain. All animals entered at this meeting are at owners' risk and subject to all rules and regulations of this Association. The owners or their agents agree to indemnify the management against all claims, demands, suits and expenses arising out of an injury to any person or damage to any property caused by his animal, attendant or himself, and this rule is part of this contract. The management reserves the right to accept or reject any entry, to close or reopen any class, to set ahead or change program if deemed necessary for the best interest of the Fair. No entries accepted on teams after 10:00 a.m. on day on which class pulls.

RULE 18 - INTERFERENCE

"No interference with any judges, State Veterinarian or State official will be allowed when these men are discharging their duties. Any abusive language by the exhibitor or their attendants shall make these exhibitors liable to be suspended from the privileges of this fair, by the Livestock Superintendents, and forfeit all prize money."

RULE 19 - INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Warts will be classified as an Infectious Disease. The practice of removal of warts from livestock on the fairgrounds during fairs will not be condoned by the Maine Department of Agriculture No Brucellosis or Tuberculin test is required for cattle in the State if they originate directly from herds with the State, not under quarantine.

RULE 20 - CONDITION OF ANIMALS

Any animal which is thin, or dehydrated, or is lame, or shows open sores may not be allowed to pull. This decision is at the discretion of any of the Directors, thus relieving the superintendent of some of his work load. (a) That all horses, ponies and oxen and steers shall be offered all the clean water they need to drink just prior to being weighed, for determination as to which class they are eligible to enter. (b) That the above shall not apply to sweepstakes classes where weighing is not required.

RULE 21 - INSURANCE

Before a team is allowed to pull, the owner must show proof of insurance providing a certificate of insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.

Rules for 6-Foot Pull

Contestants must own all animals and no animal shall be allowed to compete in more than two classes. Drivers shall name the team they are going to drive before drawing numbers for position. The official pull of distance shall be a continuous forward movement of not less than three (3) minutes for each draw. Teams may start boat from any spot from starting point provided boat is not out six (6) feet. As soon, however, as boat is out more than six (6) feet, and two or more draws have been made, the boat shall be set back to starting point. At any time the driver has the right to request that the boat be set back and time will be taken out for this purpose. The load after the initial load may be increased as the judges may require. Drivers will be allowed to help hitch team to boat: in all cases, however, the helper must step back, as soon as the hitch is made, a distance prescribed by the judges. Teams shall have only one driver and no driver can be changed during the draw unless permitted by the judges with the consent of the other drivers in the class. No team shall be allowed outside the rails of the course after being hitched to the boat. The decision of a majority of the judges concerning any matter arising in connection with the draw shall be final. Horses, oxen or drivers may be disqualified at any time by the judges, because the contesting team's condition is such as to render it cruel or inadvisable to permit the horses or oxen to proceed further.