

2013 Buckeye Horse Pullers Assoc. of Ohio, Inc. Rules
Organized in 1949

1. The distance for each pull will be 27 feet. Distances less than 27 feet will be used to determine the winner of placement at the end of the contest. The best distance will break ties.
2. The distance between the side boundaries will be at least 15 feet. Teams must stay within the side boundaries while pulling. If a horse touches the rope regardless, it disqualifies the pull unless the back judge blows for a full distance or stoppage of sled prior to the rope being touched.
3. The drivers will have six tries to get hitched (1st and 2nd pull attempts). If they miss all six they will be eliminated from the contest. You must take a first or second pull to be permitted to a third pull.
4. A teamster may choose to unhitch and rehook on their second pull. Drivers may forfeit their second pull. A third pull may be taken after all teams have their first and second pull.
5. You will have three minutes to attempt to make your first pull. Time starts when the announcer calls your name. You will have two minutes between your first and second pull. On your third you will have three minutes to attempt your pull.
6. The first and second pulls will be in the direction indicated by the judges. A third pull may be taken in either direction providing enough room remains on the track. If a team is hooked to the sled and keeps bumping it, they may have to go the same direction even if they passed the turn around point.
7. Any forward movement of the load after the driver gives the command to go will be counted as a pull and measurements will be recorded except in case of a breakdown, which entitles the team to take another pull. Judges may require the teamster to straighten the sled. Judges will determine if a breakdown allows a new pull.
8. A whistle or signal shall be given when the team has made the distance or committed an error fulfilling distance. The driver must stop the team immediately after the signal.
9. No heading is allowed at any time a horse is inside the ropes. If the horses get tangled and need to be headed, they must unhook and leave the sled and hook back on for the same pull. Teamsters must have the judge's approval to unhook. If a bit needs changed during the pull, the driver and two helpers only can change the bit on the track. Otherwise they must go back to the sidelines (with clock running) where more teamsters can assist. Violation of this rule will cause the team to lose the pull.
10. Each team shall be driven by the same driver through the entire contest, except in the case of any injury or if the contestants choose to switch drivers. This can only be done on a first attempt to hitch to a new load, and only with the judge's approval. You can only make a change in drivers one time. Each driver will be allowed two helpers in hitching and one helper on the lines at anytime.
11. Drivers and helpers shall not prod, hit or touch the horses while pulling, no petting or touching the horse after they are hooked to the sled. Only the driver can command the horses. The driver shall have reasonable tight lines, and in no case will a driver be allowed to whirl or shake lines over the horses or above his own head while pulling. No driver will be allowed to jump the doubletrees while horses are pulling. Drivers may drive from the front of the doubletrees.
12. A contestant shall be disqualified by the judges or officer if there is:
 - a. Undue abuse or treatment to horses on or off the pulling track
 - b. Undue profanity
 - c. Any needle usage unless by a licensed vet, on the pulling track.
13. If any team is unmanageable or difficult to handle in the opinion of the judge or board, they will be disqualified and ordered to be taken from the field. If a team is disqualified and taken from the field their prize money will be forfeited.
14. Any team may be subject to blood or urine test. Sponsors (fairboards) have the right to test any horse at their discretion. The Association will support the sponsors (fairboards) providing the testing is done properly. The sponsors (fairboards) have the power to bar any teamster from their next year's event. Maximum bar time is the following year.
15. Teams will draw for positions for pulling order one hour before the pull. No late entry once a pair had taken their final pull.
16. In case of breakdown, the team will come in at the end of the round for their turn and pick up their proper place in the next round. (Breakdown example: tug, belly band, hames, eveners, overcheck)
17. A pull will be disqualified if there are any bits, chains, ropes, or extra hanging harness on the horses. All teamsters will pull with blinds on the bridles.
18. Scales for weighing will open 3½ hours before the pull starts. The scale will close ½ hour before the start of any pull. The horses that are pulled together must be weighted together. A designated weigh master must do weighing at the time and place designated before the pull. An official will hold horses while the horses are being weighed. Once a team qualifies for lightweight class, each horse will have a metal clip put in their tail for verification. Division weight will be 3,320 lbs. No baling twine halters allowed. Each team is only allowed across the scales five (5) times.
19. There must be a 1st place winner determined at the sled. A pull can't end with all final pairs passing. Two blocks will be added for the new load in the event of pairs quitting.
 - a. If two teams quit on the same load they will split the prize money.
20. No lightweight team will be permitted to pull in the heavyweight contest.
21. If at any time during the contest the pulling track has developed a bad spot, judges can shorten, lengthen or move the track after weight has been added.
22. Horses may be tied to a trailer as long as the team is in visible sight of the judges and spectators and is on the pulling track.
23. You must be a member to pull in the Buckeye Horse Pullers Assoc. of Ohio, Inc. pulls. If someone other than the team owner drives the team in a pull, they must also be a member.

Membership dues are \$20.00 per year. Members waive their rights to legal action against the Association or its officials per their membership card statement.

Updates 1/21/13