

NORTH EAST OHIO HORSE PULLERS ASSOCIATION 2024 RULES

- 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 18 feet. Teams must stay within the side boundaries while pulling. If a horse touches the rope or chalk line regardless, it disqualifies the pull unless the back judge blows for a full distance or stoppage of the prior to the rope being touched.
- 3 – A teamster receives two attempts at each weight. A teamster may choose to unhitch and rehook on their 2nd and final attempt. The teamster may do a one and done.
- 4 – You will have 3 minutes or 3 attempts to attempt to make your 1st pull. Time starts when the announcer calls your name. You will have 3 minutes between your 1st and final attempt. If you do not get hooked on your first attempt, a second is not given.
- 5 – The 1st pull will be in the direction indicated by the judges. A 2nd 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 have passed the turn around point.
- 6 – 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 the case of a breakdown, which entitles the team to take another pull. Judges will determine if a breakdown allows a new attempt at the same load, without counting toward the 1st or 2nd attempt.
- 7 – A whistle or signal shall be given when the team has made the distance or committed an error fulfilling the distance.
- 8 – 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 the sled for the same pull. Teamsters must have the judges approval to unhook. If a bit need 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 the clock running, where more teamsters can assist. Violation of this rule will cause the team to lose the pull.
- 9 – 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 judges 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 any time.
- 10 – Drivers and helpers shall not prod, hit or touch the horses while pulling, no petting or touching the horses 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 to allowed to whirl or shake the lines over the horses or above his own head while pulling. No driver will be allowed to jump the double trees while the horses are pulling.
- 11 – A contestant shall be disqualified by the judges, officers, or board if there is:
 - a – undue abuse or treatment to the horses on or off the pulling track
 - b – undue profanity
 - c – any needle usage unless by a licensed vet on the pulling track

12 – If any team is unmanageable or difficult to handle in the opinion of the judges, officers, 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.

13 – Any team may be subjected to blood or urine tests. Sponsors (fair boards) have the right to test any horse at their discretion. The association will support their sponsors (fair boards) providing the testing is done properly. The sponsors (fair boards) have the power to bar any teamster from their next year's event. Maximum bar time is the following year.

14 – Teams will draw for positions for pulling order one hour before the pull. No late entry once a pair has taken their final pull.

15 – In the event of breakdown, the teamster must repair the break down and pull in order.

16 – A pull will be disqualified if there are any bits, chains, ropes, or extras hanging harness on the horses. All teamsters will pull with blinds on the bridles.

17 – Scales for weighing will open 2 ½ 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 weighed 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 the light weight class, each horse will have a mark for verification. Division weight will be 3700 pounds and under; overweight. No baling twine halters allowed.

18 – There must be a 1st place winner determined at the sled. A pull cannot end with all final pairs passing. Two blocks will be added for the new load in the event of pairs quitting.

a – If 2 teams quit on the same load, they will split the prize money

19 – No horse shall pull in more than one class at the same contest.

20 – 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.

21 – No horses shall be tied to trailers during the duration of the pull.

22 – You must be a member to pull in the NEOHPA's pulls. If someone other than the team owner drives the team in a pull, the driver must also be a member. Membership dues are \$20 per year. Members waive their rights to legal action against the Association or its judges, officers, and Board of Directors. See membership form for details.

23 – Teams will be weighed at every contest.