

# Horse Pulling

## Superintendent

Gary Gilmond, Jr.

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*The C. V. Fair will pay \$40 to each exhibitor (one time only) participating to help offset travel expenses.*

*\$3 per team entry fee per class.*

1. All horses to compete in contest, other than Free-For-All teams, shall be weighed in before the time that the first class of the day is to start. All teams to be weighed on the day that they pull. In case of postponement the same hours of weighing shall prevail. Horses must have halters on while on scale. All horses will be weighed in the presence of a delegate appointed by the fair or person who is conducting the contest. The scale shall be balanced with a person standing on same, this person will hold all horses when possible and shall be appointed by the delegate if he is unable to do this. The weighing certificate must be signed by the delegate.
2. Once a team has been weighed-in, there will be no switching of horses.
3. Wednesday weigh in is valid for both days of the pull.
4. Starting load: Maximum load of 4,000 lbs. for all weight classes except one horse hitch and 5,000 lbs. for Free-For-All classes. Added loads in each class at the discretion of the judges depending on type of pit. At no time after weight has been increased, may it be decreased.
5. Pulling positions to be determined by the drawing of numbers just before starting of each class.
6. All teamsters to compete in a contest shall have their teams ready at the published time. All classes will close at the completion of the first hitch in each class.
7. Time limit: There shall be a time limit of five minutes for all three hitches. The time will be kept by the announcer or appointed time-keeper.
8. There will be no heading of horses whatsoever. Teams to be driven by one teamster only.
9. Use of reins as a whip: The light use of reins on entry to the pit and while team is making its draw, on the hind-quarters only, may be permitted. The use of reins after the boat has stopped or any place on the grounds is prohibited.
10. What constitutes a hitch: One inch or more.
11. Breakdown: An actual separation, breaking or bending of equipment shall constitute a breakdown. Chains, straps or eveners not properly secured are not considered a breakdown. In event teamster and/or owner wish credit for the distance boat moved before breakage, it will constitute a hitch.
12. Over the rail: If a horse's foot strikes dirt outside the rail it constitutes a hitch with no credit for the distance pulled. Teams must remain within the rails while hitched to the boat.

13. Any team deliberately driven over the rail will be disqualified from the contest.
14. Unhitching after each hitch: Each team shall be disconnected from the boat and will leave the pit before entering for the next hitch.
15. Measuring: Starting point of boat shall be properly marked to indicate same starting point for all loads. The distance of each pull will be measured from the center of the boat to the most recent pin. All teams will be allowed three hitches to qualify the load.
16. The boat shall be returned to the starting pin after each hitch.
17. In case of ties for prize-winning placing, one hitch to be taken at the end of the heat in pulling order. In event one team chooses not to hitch again, they will automatically take the lower placing OR owners will equally divide the premiums involved and toss for their ribbons. This at the discretion of teamsters before class starts.
18. Changing teamsters: No teamster may be changed after pulling the first load in any case or class except in emergency. Then only when permitted by the judges, with the consent of a majority of the other teamsters in the class.
19. The Exposition reserves the right to make any test deemed necessary to determine if any team is under the influence of drugs or stimulants. Please see special information for horse and pony pullers in the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics.
20. Appearance: All participants will be properly dressed.
21. Drinking: Any participant under the influence of alcohol will be disqualified from the contest. The drinking of intoxicating beverages in and around the ring is prohibited.
22. Authorized persons in the ring: The pit personnel and the owners, or his agent only.
23. Interference of Evener Men: No assistance other than hitching.
24. Changing of Classes: Classes shall be as publicized only.
25. Any situations that may arise and are not covered by these rules, the decision will be left to the discretion of the judges.
26. Any variation of these rules shall be in the spirit of aforesaid rules and at the discretion of the judges. The decision of a majority of the judges concerning any matter arising in connection with the draw shall be final.
27. Horses or drivers may be disqualified at any time by the judges, either for violation of one or more of the condition of the draw or because the contesting team's condition is such as to render it cruel or inadvisable to permit the horses to proceed further.
28. Sawdust will be available for bedding. Hay and grain will be available on the grounds and must be paid for by the exhibitor.

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## Premiums for All Classes

Place	Premium
1st	\$230
2nd	\$200
3rd	\$170
4th	\$140
5th	\$110
6th	\$100
7th	\$80
8th	\$50

## Horse Pulling Contest Schedule

### Tuesday, August 26

- 12pm – 3300 lbs., 15' No Touch
- 2:30pm – Open Distance class approx. 2 pounds of rock per pound of Horse
- 5:30pm – 3200 lbs., 12' Pull.

### Wednesday, August 27

- 12pm – 3400 lbs., 12' Pull
- 4pm – FFA 12' pull

\*All classes will be weighed in starting at 7:30am.  
Horses may be re-weighed as long as scales are open.

\* In case of rain, class purse will be split in half and then divided between weighted teams, if the class is cancelled by officials.

\*Weights will hold for day 2 .

Any more information please contact:  
Gary Gilmond  
ggilmond@cvexpo.org  
Or 802-355-3073

**Use Of Drugs:** It is illegal to administer drugs that may alter or affect the normal performance of an animal in a pulling contest. It is illegal to administer substances that have a potential to interfere with drug detection tests. The owner/handler is responsible for ensuring freedom from drugs prior to and during the event.

**Use of Therapeutic Substances:** The pulling superintendent may allow an animal to compete after receiving written notification that a licensed veterinarian has administered a therapeutic substance to the animals no less than 48 hours before the contest begins. Consult the rules for guidance.

**Providing Animals For Drug Testing:** Failure of the owner or handler to make an animal available for drug testing on request will be treated as if a drug was found by the test requested. Failure to restrain an animal for sampling or to provide adequate information is a violation of 13 V.S.A. Section 394 and can result in the assessment of an administrative penalty not to exceed \$1000.00 by the commissioner.

\*Available from the pulling superintendent, the testing veterinarian and the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. For more information, contact: VT Agency of Agriculture, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602 Phone: 802-828-2500.

## Special Notice

All equine animals imported from out-of-state shall be accompanied by an official health certificate stating that said animals are free from any infectious or contagious disease and from exposure thereto. Each animal shall be identified by name, registration number, if any, color and markings, age and sex. The certificate shall also indicate that such animals have been tested and found negative for Equine Infectious Anemia within the past 12 months.

All health requirements, as prepared by the Vermont Department of Agriculture, are found in the General Rules section of the exhibitor handbook.

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## Entry Form

Name of Exhibitor \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ S.S. # or TIN # \_\_\_\_\_

Class	No.	Breed	Name of Horse	Reg. No.	Birth Date

As an exhibitor at the Champlain Valley Exposition (Fair), the exhibitor agrees that he/she shall be liable and responsible for any harm or damage caused by his/her exhibit including but not necessarily limited to such damage as may be caused by art, livestock, horses, 4-H, fruits and vegetables, flowers, home crafts and foods. The exhibitor will hold harmless the Champlain Valley Exposition for any claims made against it and indemnify the Champlain Valley Exposition for any and all damages or costs that may be incurred as a result of any such claim.

I have read and understand, and in consideration for being permitted to exhibit at this event, agree and consent to abide by the rules of competition in the 2025 Exhibitor Handbook, including the IAFE (International Association of Fairs and Expositions) National Code of Show Ring Ethics.

Exhibitor (*owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person*) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian or Parent of the Above Signator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Fill out above form and mail to:**

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