

## **ILLINOIS HORSE PULLERS ASSOCIATION RULES: REVISED JANUARY 2008**

1. Rules consist for one or two class overload pull.
2. The distance for each pull is 27 1/2 feet. A distance less than 27 1/2 feet will determine the winner.
3. The driver is entitled to 3 pulls. He may take his first pull, if he fails to pull the 27 1/2 ft. and wishes to have 3 pulls he must leave his team hooked after that pull. He will have 2 minutes to try for his 2nd pull. If he unhooks from the sled after his 1st pull, he then forfeits his 2nd pull, unless he is at the flag, in which case he has to unhook and go the other way to complete his turn. After either pulling or forfeiting his 2nd pull, he can then unhook his horses and wait 3 minutes, choose the direction he wants to pull, as long as the sled is inside the flag.
4. At the time of the contest there can be 2 drivers, as long as the team pulls through, if there is going to be a driver change it will be done between rounds and that driver will finish the contest, except in case of an injury.
5. Drivers are not to whip, prod, touch horses, or use profanity in anyway. If so, driver and team will be disqualified. Heading of the horses is not allowed except in case of a breakdown, headed horses must be unhooked and driven outside the ropes and brought back to the sled to rehook.
6. Each team will be weighed one time prior to a contest at a designated time and place by the weigh master and that will be the weight of record.
7. Driver must be ready when his turn comes and will be given 3 minutes to come and hook to the sled after his name is called.
8. 3 attempts to hook to sled is considered one pull. 3 more tries is his 2nd pull, and 3 more his 3rd pull. If a driver cannot get hooked after 9 tries, that team is disqualified.
9. If a horse gets out of the traces they can be unhooked and brought back and rehooked as long as it is in the allotted time.
10. Any unnecessary equipment on the horses such as ropes gadgets or tying horses together is not allowed.
11. The same horse cannot be used in 2 different events at the same contest and received premium money for the second event over horses that did not pull in the first contest.
12. In the event of a tie the score keeper will go back to the next best distance pulled by the tied team.
13. Any command by the driver to go, will be considered a pull and measurement will be taken, except in case of breakdown, which will entitle the driver to another pull.
14. Boundary lines are 15 ft. apart and horses must stay in between the ropes. Horses must be between ropes to be hooked to sled.
15. The judge's decision will be final and any driver will be disqualified for arguing with the judges.
16. Any driver who during the event loses control of his horses or loses the lines to his horses is disqualified. The decision of the judges will be final.
17. Annual membership dues will be paid for any contestant to compete in an Illinois Horse Pullers Association Event.
18. An IHPA fee of \$10 will be collected at each pull, this fee will be paid even if do not reweigh the horses.
19. When direction of travel is changed for 3rd pull, that will become the direction of travel of the sled for the next puller. Track permitting. Puller will pair horses at scale, at the time of weighing