

Eastern Ontario Draft Horse Pulling Association Rules

1. a: Horses pulling in light class must be weighed on scales if available. Must be 3425 lbs or lighter (no grace). Scales will be on the grounds 3 hours before the pull start, with 2 participating members in attendance. A puller cannot weigh their own team.
b: ****If pulling in an EODHPA pull, ALL other Associations will need to present a weigh slip showing 3425 lbs or less, or will need to re-weigh**** Slips will be good from Thursday to Sunday of that week.
2. Contestants may enter and drive as many teams as they like in each class.
3. A teamster is allowed two helpers, if so desired.
4. There is to be no interference whatsoever by the helpers while horses are drawing; if so, the draw will be disqualified.
5. Teamsters or helpers are not allowed at horses' heads while hitching or drawing.
6. There is to be no cursing, swinging of lines, or beating horses with ends of lines while horses are hitched or being drawn.
7. Teamsters and helpers are to stay behind whiffletrees while horses are drawing.
8. Teamsters and helpers are not allowed to touch, push, or slap horses with their hands, whips, or any other foreign objects. A check slap with the line is permitted; however, continuous check slaps will be classified as slashing and will result in the disqualification of that pull.
9. In case of a break in the harness, the time to repair will be determined by the Judge. This will not count as a draw.
10. The length of the pull will be 15ft. You will have 2 attempts to complete to advance to the next round. A 4-inch chuck or greater will be considered a pull. A teamster can pass the first 2 rounds but must pull on the 3rd round and forward.
11. **Will have a total of 5 minutes to complete 2 pulls. Will have a stopwatch on hand.**
12. A horse or team stepping on or over markers will be disqualified for the hitch; however, a team or horse stepping over a marker after the draw is completed may not lose the draw. Decisions to be made by Judges.
13. Any teamster or helper arguing with the Judge will automatically be ejected from the contest.
14. Once a team has a draw, the teamster must remain the teamster for the balance of the contest unless injured or sick. Decision to be made by the Judge after talking with the balance of the teamsters left in the competition.
15. All decisions of the Judge are final.
16. Boat will be drawn the length of the arena in both directions for two rounds ONLY, then will pull in one direction till the end of the pull.

17. All teamsters will need to be a paid- up member to pull at EODHPA pulls. This also applies to anyone who drives for another teamster.
18. a-- There will be absolutely **NO ALCOHOL** permitted in the ring while pulling.
b-- If caught with alcohol, the judge will have the authority to ask you to leave the pulling ring.
19. There will be a safe distance of 30ft to pull and 3ft from either measuring line. If not, the boat will be pulled back to the starting point.
20. If any runaways, that team will be placed last in the class.
21. **If a pull is dragging on, too many rounds, we will have at least 2 directors from the EODHPA board to consult with the judge to consider adding more weight.**
22. **There will be no electronic devices allowed for horse pulling in the interest of competition. If a teamster is caught, they will be banned for life from EODHPA. If a teamster is pulling a team for someone else and that team has a device, both the teamster and the owner will be banned. The EODHPA board of directors will have the right to inspect all harnesses under suspicion for any added devices. If caught, the teamster will forfeit any winnings, and the prize money will go towards the club and be banned for life. Also, no other teamsters will be allowed to bring and drive teams that have been banned.**
23. **To vote for any new rule or any existing rules concerning horse pulling ONLY, members who participated in at least 3 pulling competitions the previous year will be able to vote. All other items will be open to all paid members.**

Revised April 2, 2026