

18. **PLACING OF TEAMS** - Placing of teams will be made on a basis of 100 percent for pulling. The official pull or distance shall be a continuous forward movement for 27 1/2 feet for any given load. Pulls of shorter distance shall be used only to place teams. A team shall be given a total of three trials to move loads the full distance. Teams failing to take the load the full distance are eliminated and placed on their best distance. In case teams are tied on their best distance, then their second best distance determines their placing. All teams hauling a given load the full distance will proceed to the next higher load until all teams have been placed.

19. **WEIGHING TEAMS** - Teams must be weighed individually without harness on the day of and no more than four hours before the contest. Teams must be weighed on scales designated by the Fair Association and under the supervision of the superintendent in charge. A director of the Horsepulling Boat Association must be present with the superintendent in charge of weighing, any other weight will not be accepted. Horses must be weighed on a loose lead. No lifting is permitted on the lead or otherwise. Official scales should be open for the taking of check weights on light teams at least one hour prior to the time set for taking official weights. No check weight will be accepted as an official weight. Both horses of the team must be brought to the scales together. The official weighmaster should weigh teams. Any light team must be weighed accurately and must weigh under the designated weight chosen by the fair board.

20. **QUESTIONS ABOUT FAIR** - Superintendent in charge of the contest shall have charge of its operation and questions arising in connection therewith. It shall be his duty to keep official records or instruct the fair management to appoint a clerk for recording required data. He shall be one of the judges on all committees of judges.

21. **USE OF BRIDLES** - Bridles used in a contest may be either open face or blind bridles, but no change therein may be made after the contest starts. Blinds on bridles must be up and cannot be dropped at any time. Horses working in open bridles must be controlled and stand in open bridles at all times. Changing sides is permissible as long as it does not hold up contest.

22. **TREATMENT OF ANIMALS** - If any whipping, punching, prodding, or punishing of animals is observed during the contest, the judges and officials may penalize or disqualify the team and contestant from further participation in the contest.

23. **LOSING PART OF LOAD** - Any driver who loses part of this load during a pull will not be held responsible.

24. **FAILING TO HITCH** - Any driver who fails to hitch to a load in three tries, forfeits his trial.

25. **EQUIPMENT TO BE USED** - No team of horses shall be tied together with ropes, neck yokes, or extra straps, or anything other than lines while participating in a contest. Blindfolding is not permitted. Spreaders, rings, or other equipment which may slap or bounce onto the horse while pulling must be removed. Bungy straps may be left on the harness provided the use is for safety reasons only!!!! Short neck yokes may also be left on as part of the harness. Croupers must be fastened.

26. **NO STIMULANTS ALLOWED** - At no time is a teamster or horsepuller allowed to use a stimulant or any drug as a stimulant or shots that contain same, for the purpose to try and benefit his pulls in any way. He is compelled to let a veterinarian test or examine his horses whenever they may request it.

27. **ONLY ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT** - Anyone pulling horses in Michigan is not allowed to use any device other than his original equipment on his team; nothing sewed between the leather, nothing wrapped around any strap on the harness. Anything radio or remote controlled is prohibited, this including buzzers. If he is caught, he definitely is disqualified from the contest and forbidden to pull for one or more years and will have to get his permit to pull in Michigan by a special meeting of the Michigan Horsepullers Boat Association.

28. **DRIVERS MUST RIDE** - All drivers must ride the boat. If a seat is provided on the boat, the driver must be seated also.

29. **HORSE UNFIT TO PULL** - Any horse judged unfit to pull may be denied the privilege to pull by the judges. This includes any horses that look mistreated or physically abused.

30. **HORSEMANSHIP** - Good horsemanship is judged by well broken, good handling teams that are driven into position to be hitched and start and pull together at command of the driver. Good horsemanship includes the skill of the driver in holding the lines taut while the animals are pulling and keeping the animals even and pulling straight ahead. Horsemanship is indicated by a true team that gives a good account of themselves. Their training and handling should be reflected by their willingness to pull and handle when the load gets heavy. A team that refuses to pull when the load gets heavy should be seriously discriminated against. It shall not be counted against a driver in horsemanship when his team is driven to the boat by helpers to be hitched. Proper harnessing, fitting of collars, and shoeing are additional factors to be considered in making awards in horsemanship. Horsemanship awards will be made by the regular judges at the close of contest.

31. **TRAINING OF PULLING SITE** - No training will be permitted on any pull site at any time. Penalty will be suspension from pulling, without warning, or teamster and team for one year from day of offense.

32. **PULL TIME LIMITS** - At the full discretion of the judges in charge at a boat association pull, the stop watch may be used. Time limits will be as follows: 3 minutes for the 1st pull, 2 minutes for the 2nd pull, and 3 minutes for the 3rd pull. Time begins from the call of the team to the boat for the 1st pull and the 2nd pull time begins at the completion of the 1st pull. Time begins for the 3rd pull from the call of the team to the boat for the 3rd pull.

33. **DRIVERS** - Two (2) drivers on the lines and one (1) man seated on the boat will be allowed when hooking a team of horses to the pulling sled. Once the team of horses are securely hooked, the two (2) drivers must release the lines to the seated driver.

34. **JUDGES** - The presiding judge will be the man in charge of the contest, plus others designated by the superintendent. Judges have full jurisdiction over all questions pertaining to the rules. They shall determine winners and award prizes in accordance with the rules. Failure to comply with the direction of the judge shall result in disqualification of the contestant. \*Judges Decision if FINAL\*

35. **BREAKDOWN** - In case of breakdown the team will leave the court and come in at the end of the round for their turn. They will pick up their proper place in the next round. If the breakdown cannot be repaired the driver stands on his load and distance to place him.

36. **TRACK CONDITION** - In case of a bad track, it will be at the judge's discretion to move the track to a different location. The track will only be moved when the load has been crossed by everyone that can cross it.

37. **PULLER MOVING or BUMPING BOAT EXCESSIVELY** - If the puller moves or bumps the boat excessively it will be up to the judge to decide if it should be considered a pull.