

MAINE ANTIQUE TRACTOR CLUB

2024 Farm Tractor Pulling Rules

[2022 Rule Changes](#)

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Youth Puller: A puller from the age of 12 to 16 years old. Must have passed the MATC safety course for farm tractors.

First Puller: If a full pull occurs the pulling committee may reset the drag for the class.

Sportsmanship: Unsportsmanlike Conduct will result in disqualification. The penalty for the first offense will be the driver cannot pull with our club for the next three events. Second offense, the driver cannot pull with our club for one year from that date. Disqualified drivers must load their tractors and equipment and leave immediately. The pull committee chairman, co-chairman, safety officer, and/or club officers, Board of Directors who witness the unsportsmanlike conduct, will make a final determination. This determination will be final. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes but is not limited to: fighting (verbal or physical), verbal abuse, harassment, bullying, teasing, endangering the safety of yourself or others, being disrespectful.

1. All pulls will have even weight classes of either 1000 or 500 lb. increments, depending on time allowed. The weight classes are: 2000, 2500, 3000, 3500, 4000, 4500, 5000, 5500, 6000, 6500, 7000, 7500, 8000, 8500 and 9000. Feb 2022
2. One tractor can make a class so points may be awarded.
3. All pullers must produce a current MATC and EDGE&TA membership card.
4. Tractors pulling in Maine Antique Tractor Club Pulls will meet the following conditions:
 - a. Tractors must have been manufactured in 1970 or before, with the exception of tractors whose model # series began in 1970 and before may be pulled with a cutoff year of 1970, even if the series continues. All other rules governing the use of tractors still apply.
Examples:
Farmall 140, 240, 340, 460, 560
Cockshutt 540, 550, 560
Oliver 550, 660, 770, 880, 1800
John Deere 730, 830, 1010, 2010, 4010

Ford 541, 641, 741, 841, 941
Case 430, 530, 630, 730, 830.

- b. Tractors will be “stock” which includes stock engine, frames, transmissions, rear-end and axle housings or a manufacturer’s replacement. Stock engine means the correct O.E.M. block offered with that model and year tractor. No engine can exceed the recommended horsepower or rpm by more than ten percent (10%) and in no case shall exceed one hundred (100) horsepower. All tractors will have a working governor. Only a single exhaust will be allowed unless it is a standard manufacturer’s option
 - c. All tractors must be equipped with working brakes.
 - d. All tractors must have a kill switch or a device accessible from the operator’s seat to kill the engine (ignition switch).
 - e. Fuel: Gasoline, diesel, kerosene or LP fuels only. No racing, alcohol or nitrous fuels may be used in tractor. Tractors manufactured to use diesel fuel only cannot be converted to gasoline or LP. No airplane fuel is to be used. Fuel is meant to be the same fuel that you use in your automobile or truck. Feb 2022
 - f. Any tractor with or without a PTO (even if it originally came with one), whether it is working or not will be allowed to pull. Feb 2022
 - g. Drawbar: The drawbar and drawbar support must be in excellent condition. Drawbars must be solidly attached to rear-end housing having a cross support bar. Drawbars have a maximum height of twenty inches (20”). This distance is the distance from a flat surface to the highest point on the drawbar including any shims or washers, or to a point where the hook meets the clevis if that point is higher than the drawbar. Tractor operators must equip their tractors with a clevis that is pinned vertically through the drawbar. Clevis pin must be at least 18” out from the center of axle line. Measurement is taken from axles centerline to the back edge of pinning point.
Tractor operator may use a modified drawbar with a 3” minimum inside diameter opening for direct attachment of the drag hook. Measurement requirements will be the same as for the use of a pinned clevis.
The chain must remain in a straight line from point of attachment at drawbar to point of attachment at sled.
5. Three-point hitch drawbars may be used only if support struts and anti-sway bars are used. No vertical or horizontal movement is allowed by any O.E.M. hitch or pulling point. Operator may in no way be able to move the hitch from the seat of the tractor. Drawbar must be solidly bolted or pinned in place. All other types of two-point hitches must follow the above rules, and have been recommended for use by manufacturer
 6. No altered (cut), dual, or radial tires may be used. Also, no track, chains or steel wheels, except at special events. Tire size limited to a width of 18.4.
 7. The only weights allowed are O.E.M., cast, bolt on wheel weight, suitcase and weight brackets and/or prior approved by Pulling Committee. Wheel weights will be allowed to be bolted to the front of the tractor. No railroad iron, concrete or curling dumbbell weights. All weights must meet the following requirements before pulling:

Wheel weights & suitcase weights may be any brand, not necessarily the same brand as the tractor. All hanging weights must be factory appearing weights, no wheel weights hanging off the front. All ready rod and bolt ends will be covered for protection. All wheel weights must be tightly secured to wheel with no movement. No bungee cords or elastic or rubber cords are allowed when securing hanging weights. Ratchet straps or chain straps are allowed if they are secured tightly. Front hanging weights are not to extend more than 3ft. from the front of the tractor frame. IF anything falls off of the tractor during pull, the tractor is disqualified. Starting with a tractor without any weight on it (be it weights or ballast in the tires) you will be allowed to add weight to the nearest class of your tractor's bare weight (be it an even or odd class)., from this point, there is no limit to the amount of weight you may add, as long as you don't exceed 1% over the weight class you are pulling in and the maximum width of the weights does not exceed 4 feet from the center of the tractor to the outside of the weights or tires. Feb 2022

8. Tractors will be weighed with the operator that is to pull that tractor. If the tractor is to be pulled again with another operator, it must be weighed again. LIMIT – any tractor can only pull twice during an event. The Pulling Committee may change this rule at an event if too few tractors are available for a full event. A youth from the age of 12 to 16 years old, who has taken the MATC Safety Course and passed on all tractors they operate can pull the each tractor twice, even if that tractor has or will be pulled twice by an adult. Feb 2023
9. Tractors may be weighed as many times as necessary to obtain your desired weight class. Remember that tractors pulling before you have priority, especially when pulling has started. No member may load or unload weights on, or near scales, so as to interfere with the weighing of tractors. No parts may be removed from a tractor other than cast weights to get into a class. It is the discretion of the committee members present to weigh tractors before the pull or just weigh the first three places at the end of the class. Whoever is unsure of their weight may still weigh their tractor at the beginning of the pull. Tractor and driver may not exceed 1% over their weight class. Once the tractor has entered the pulling ring, weights cannot be added to the tractor. However, re-arranging of existing weights will be allowed if the puller is not supposed to be hooking to the drag. No delays will be allowed because of weight.re-arrangement.

10. Speeds: Tractor speed may not exceed 4.5 miles per hour.

Speeds: 1st or 2nd gear, not to exceed 4.5 MPH.

Torque shifting is not allowed.

If the speed is broken, the driver slows at the first sound of the horn staying within the stated speed. If you speed a second time during the pull, you get the distance at the horn with no disqualification. Pull will be disqualified if driver chooses not to slow down or stop.

11. If the first puller in any class achieves a full pull, the drag may be reset, weight added, and that member may elect to pull again or move to last and pull again.
12. Tractor pullers must put the tractor in neutral and have both hands raised before being hooked to the drag. If you back into the drag you will be disqualified.
13. A tachometer may be used to check O.E.M. RPM at the discretion of the committee. PTO RPM are not to exceed 700 RPM. If stock RPM are over 700 you must have proof by means of an owner's manual, etc. Engine RPM are not to exceed 10% of O.E.M. rated RPM. Tractor horsepower may not exceed 10% of O.E.M. rated horsepower and in no case more than one hundred (100) horsepower.
14. (OPTIONAL) 25 Ft Rule - This is the committee member's choice and will be announced at the beginning of pulls when using a weight transfer sled. If a member starts the sled in either the wrong gear or too high a gear or has an engine problem and stops before the sideline markers at 25 feet, the drag will be reset and member may pull again. A member may use this rule one time per class. In the event of an engine problem, the member may pull last at the discretion of official. If any part of the drag crosses the 25-foot line and the member stops, the distance will be measured and recorded as the distance pulled. If boundaries are to be set up at a pull, they will be white sidelines. If any part of the tractors tires touches the white line you will be stopped and the distance measured. If your tire crosses the white lines you will be disqualified.
15. No four-wheel drives in regular classes. Special classes can be set up for antique four-wheel drives only.
16. All members will conduct themselves in an orderly fashion at all times.
17. No tractor operator may stand while pulling the tractor.
18. There will be no step-on sleds allowed at any time.
19. Only one person is allowed on a tractor at any time. Drivers must remain seated at all times except for tractor which are designed for standing; i.e., steam tractors and certain gas, kerosene tractors which are allowed no more than two operators.
20. Spectators must be kept at least thirty (30) feet from the edge of the track. Spectators may be closer if a solid barrier or a fence separated the spectators from the track.
21. No tractor shall be left unattended with the engine running.
22. There will be no hot-Rodding in the pits (staging area) or track area.

23. The front of the pulling tractor is not to lift more than sixteen (16) inches (wheels off the ground). A chain device will be provided by the MATC.
24. Wheelie bars are recommended but not required. If wheelie bars are used, they must be checked to ensure that they will not allow the front of the tractor to lift more than sixteen (16) inches off the ground and must be tested to weight of tractor. If wheelie bars are used, the chain device is not needed.

SAFETY

The track flagman rules while the tractor is on the pulling track.

Each sled will have a certified working fire extinguisher mounted in such a manner as to be easily available to the sled operator or ground personnel in case of a tractor fire.

No alcohol is to be consumed or served at any Maine Antique Tractor Club event – when tractors are involved.

STONE BOAT PULLS

Mandatory Requirements

1. The “Stone Boat” sled must be built with safety in mind to protect the puller, the sled operator and the public.
2. EDGE&TA recommends that a ¾” alloy steel grade 80 chain and hooks which have a working load limit of 28,300 lbs. be used on stone boat sleds.
3. The branch safety advisor shall review the pulling chains, hooks and bolts.
4. The branch safety advisor must be satisfied that it meets all EDGE&TA requirements.
5. All weights must be built so they can be easily handled safely.
6. Tractors not to exceed one hundred (100) horsepower.
7. Chain must be tight before the pull is started.
8. Puller must not jerk the chain when starting a pull
9. Stone boat pulls may have classes up to and including 10,000 pounds.
10. A full pull is ten (10) feet.
11. All Stone Boat pulls will be conducted using a (14’) fourteen foot pulling lane. This lane to be marked on the pulling track under the direction of the pulling committee. The operator of any tractor that touches or crosses the lane marking line, while pulling, will be disqualified in that class.

RULES FOR SPECIAL PULLS

Six-foot (6') elimination on concrete: Concrete-pulling places will be determined by the best/furthest of the three tries, not a totaling of the three. Measurements will be taken from a parallel point and measured to center of drag.

Ten-foot (10') elimination on dirt: Places will be determined by the best/furthest distance of the two tries, not a totaling of the two.

These are a set of general rules, and other instances may arise. Pulling committee members running the pulls have final say on any new instance that may arise. All other major changes will be done at the beginning of the pulling season.