

2026 HEAVY HORSE PULL RULES

1. Special attention is called to the following Calgary Stampede rules and regulations for all equine competitions:
 - a. [2026 General Rules](#)
 - b. [2026 Health Regulations](#)
 - c. [2026 IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics](#)
 - d. [Agriculture & Western Event Animal Care Code of Practice 2026](#)
 - e. [2026 Therapeutic Medication Control Guidelines](#)
2. The team must make one complete pull to qualify for prize money and/or awards.
3. Teams will be vet checked upon arrival at the barns.
4. Weighing:

Teams will be weighed Thursday, July 9 at 9:00 am. ****TIMES ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE and the scheduled weigh times will be based upon check-in times at move-in.**

- a. Horses will be weighed individually once, with a halter and loose shank.
- b. From the time the horses enter the barn, they are to have ad libitum (as much or as often as necessary or desired) access to feed and water (nothing is to be added to the water or container). This will be closely monitored by officials appointed by the Calgary Stampede and Heavy Horse Pull Sub-Committee. Any entry that does not comply with access to feed and water requirements will be disqualified from the competition and required to leave Stampede Park.
- c. Horses must be in the barn with ad libitum access to feed and water a minimum of three hours prior to weighing.
- d. If a horse in any team is not in good physical condition, including: not properly fed and watered (in accordance with the requirements outlined in the **CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF EQUINES 2013**), appears blemished, ill or lame, the Calgary Stampede and/or judge have the right to excuse the team from the competition. If deemed not fit to pull, the team will be required to immediately leave Stampede Park.

5. Substitutions will not be permitted once teams have been weighed.
6. Teams will be divided by weight into three divisions:
 - a. Lightweight division;
 - b. Middleweight division;
 - c. Heavyweight division.

Please note: the weight break is subject to change at the discretion of the Heavy Horse Pull Sub-Committee to accommodate equal entries in each weight division.

7. Starting weight for all teams is as follows (weight of sled included):
 - a. Lightweight division – 4,500 lbs. or at the discretion of the Heavy Horse Pull Sub-Committee
 - b. Middleweight division – 5,000 lbs. or at the discretion of the Heavy Horse Pull Sub-Committee
 - c. Heavyweight division – 6,000 lbs. or at the discretion of the Heavy Horse Pull Sub-Committee
 - d. Each additional weight will be 500 lbs. or 1,000 lbs. at the discretion of the Ringmaster.
 - e. Competition to be decided by straight pull-out in each division.
8. The Calgary Stampede will determine the order of go via a draw of names to occur at the Teamster meeting.
9. Only demonstration pulls organized by the Heavy Horse Pull Sub-Committee are permitted.
10. Teams must always be under control. Any teams deemed to be out of control by the judge may be excused from the show arena and their last qualified pull will stand as their final result.
11. All Teamsters are responsible for ensuring their equipment is properly fitted and in good working order. The Calgary Stampede reserves the right to inspect equipment prior to competition.
12. Any abuse of horses by Teamster or helpers before, during, or after the show shall immediately disqualify the Teamster and any awards and/or prize money won shall be

forfeited. Abuse such as, and not limited to, slapping, slashing or swinging the lines at the horses will not be tolerated.

13. The Calgary Stampede reserves the right to conduct blood and/or urine tests to determine the presence or absence of performance enhancing substances on each horse in the pulling team. A positive test on any horse will result in the Teamster forfeiting any awards and/or prize money won in each event in which he/she is entered, and further, the Teamster may be banned from future horse pull competitions at the Calgary Stampede for a period of time at the discretion of Calgary Stampede management. Please note the **Calgary Stampede Equine Therapeutic Medication Rules**.
14. The Teamster that will drive each team registered must be identified at the weigh-in and no substitutions are allowed without a signed doctor's note or at the discretion of the Calgary Stampede.
15. Teamsters, hookers, and helpers must be properly attired in western wear, including a sleeved shirt with collar, appropriate footwear, and a cowboy hat. Horses must also be properly presented. The Calgary Stampede, the judge, and/or the Heavy Horse Pull Sub-Committee may, at its discretion, bar any entry or person from entering the show arena if not suitably presented to appear before an audience.
16. Warm-up arena – only people required for team handling and exercising are allowed in the warm-up arena.
17. Only authorized people are allowed in the show arena during competition. Interviews conducted in the show arena will be at the Calgary Stampede's and/or Heavy Horse Pull Sub-Committee's discretion.
18. There will be no unauthorized signage allowed anywhere at any time in the Agriculture Zone.
19. Teamsters and hookers may be subject to a breathalyzer test prior to each pull. Any person testing over the legal limit will be disqualified along with their team(s). The decision of the Calgary Stampede will be final with no appeal and all entry fees, any awards, and/or prize money won will be forfeited.
20. Teamsters are allowed to use neck yokes or offset eveners.
21. Only the Teamster and two helpers are allowed in the show arena with each team. All Teamsters and helpers shall stay clear of the pulling lanes and concrete blocks when the other teams are pulling.
22. No foreign objects are to be brought into the show arena for competitions (example: chairs, coolers, blankets, ropes, etc.)

23. No header is allowed except during a harness break. Helpers are not allowed to talk to the horses. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification.
24. Once a team enters the show arena, no change in harness will be allowed unless due to breakage. This does not include adjustments.
25. The Teamster or hooker may, but is not required to, ride the sled during the pull.
26. A Teamster will be allowed three minutes from the time he/she is called or signaled to hook up to the sled or be eliminated.
27. If a team refuses to pull, a Teamster will be allowed three minutes rest and one minute to try the load again. If the team refuses again, the team is disqualified, and the distance pulled to that point is recorded. The timekeeper is to track the time.
28. The pull is to be made hitched to the sled over a distance of 14 feet.
 - a. Sidelines are 16 feet apart;
 - b. A marker will be placed on each sideline 25 feet from the end of each sideline;
 - c. There will be two tries to pull the load 14 feet; the 14-foot distance is either a single initial legal pull of 14 feet or two legal pulls with a combined total of 14 feet;
 - d. Each time the sled is intentionally moved is counted as a try;
 - e. If the judge should call an infraction where the pin is to be reset and the Teamster is required to re-hook to the load, the load the infraction is called on will be counted as one of the two attempts;
 - f. An extra pin will be set behind the sled each time it is moved;
 - g. The team must not be intentionally unhooked during these tries. If a team becomes accidentally unhooked, the Teamster must back up to the sled and re-hook, staying within the sidelines.
29. While hooked to the sled, the team must stay within the sidelines. Once during the competition, if a horse steps on/over the line while hooked on the initial try, it will be counted as a try but disallowed as a good pull. The pin will be reset, and the team will be allowed one try to achieve a full pull. If the team does not achieve a full pull, they will be credited with the last completed pull. If the team steps on or over the lines, it will be disqualified and credited with the last completed pull. If the Teamster feels the sled is

too close to a line, he/she may ask the judge to waive the line closest to the sled. If the judge agrees, the line will be waived.

30. Once the team starts the load, the Teamster must stay behind the eveners except during a harness break or during the three-minute rest period allowed after a refusal. At these times, the Teamster may move to the head of his/her team. Hookers are not allowed ahead of the eveners at any time except in a potential emergency. Failure to comply will result in disqualification. Behind the eveners is defined as the center point at which the eveners attach to the sled. The swing of the evener forward or back will not be used to determine position of the Teamster.
31. A tight tug is required. Teamsters are not to start in a manner considered to be abusive to the horses. The Teamster must make a reasonable effort to drive the team into the load. Deliberately jerking the load is prohibited. If an aggressive start, such as a bump, jerk, or slam occurs: **Failure to comply the first time, will result in a warning (YELLOW CARD) from the judge. Teams will be required to un-hook, walk around the sled and re-hook. A second infraction of this rule warning will result in disqualification.**
32. If a break in harness or equipment occurs, there will be a time limit of five minutes to fix the break and be hitched back to the load. If a Teamster forfeits the pull at which a breakage occurs, he/she must pull the next weight the full distance or weight goes back to the previous completed pull.
33. The pin and rope laid out flat must measure 14 feet. The pin must be pulled completely out to qualify as a completed pull.
34. There will be a ringmaster, timekeeper, two linesmen, and a pin man to assist the judge. These individuals have the authority to advise the judge of any infractions, and the judge must act upon their information. **All warnings will be announced.**
35. The judge's decision is final.
36. Any animal may be removed from competition at any time, if deemed by the Calgary Stampede veterinarians that the animal is not fit to compete.
37. Teamsters are not to argue with or harass the judge, Heavy Horse Pull Sub-Committee members, or Calgary Stampede staff. To do so will result in instant disqualification and forfeiture of any awards and/or prize money won.
38. An exhibitor lodging a protest must submit it in writing to the Calgary Stampede Agriculture Administration Department before 10:00 a.m. the day following the cause of protest. A protest must state plainly the cause of the complaint or appeal and must be accompanied by a deposit of \$500, which shall be forfeited to the Stampede, if the said

protest is not sustained. The CS Agriculture Administration Management shall have the power to decide all protests and take appropriate action.

39. Teamsters are encouraged to participate in all studies conducted during the Calgary Stampede for the purpose of enhancing animal safety and/or research purposes.
40. **Conduct by an exhibitor, trainer, owner, immediate family member or crew member of an unsportsmanlike, abusive, or detrimental nature will not be tolerated by the show management, including but not limited to threatening or intimidating conduct, physical, verbal, or written toward any show official, volunteer, fellow exhibitor, or staff. Any person(s) guilty of such conduct should be reported immediately to the Calgary Stampede Agriculture Management. CS Officials may suspend the offender for the duration of the show and all prize money and awards may be withheld.**
41. The Calgary Stampede and Heavy Horse Pull Sub-Committee reserves the right to decide any point not covered by these rules and conditions.