**01-303 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

**PULL EVENTS COMMISSION**

**Chapter 15: RULES FOR SUPERINTENDENTS AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS OF PULL EVENTS**

**Summary**: These rules describe the procedures for certification of pull events superintendents and assistant pull events superintendents, the qualifications necessary for certification, and the requirements to maintain certification.

**Section 1. Definitions**

1. **Commission** means the Pull Events Commission appointed as authorized by 7 MRSA §75, subparagraph 6.

2. **Commissioner** means the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

3. **Department** means the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

4. **Driver** means the person(s) that controls/drives the animal(s) that is pulling in a licensed pulling event, also referred to as Teamster.

5. **Pull Events Venue** means any pulling event licensed within the previous two years by the Department.

6. **Superintendent** means a certified pull events superintendent or a certified assistant pull events superintendent.

7. **Training** means a program or seminar for the certification of pull events superintendents and assistant pull events superintendents developed and conducted by the Pull Events Commission.

8. **Teamster** means the person(s) that controls/drives the animal(s) that is pulling in a licensed pulling event, also referred to as Driver.

**Section 2. Certification Required**

No person shall act as a Superintendent of any pulling event unless that person is certified by the Commissioner in accordance with these rules.

**Section 3. Qualifications for Certification as a Superintendent**

Any applicant for certification as a Superintendent must meet the following minimum qualifications:

The applicant must never have been found guilty, in this state or in any other state, of a violation of any civil or criminal animal welfare law, any domestic violence law, or other violent crime.

**Section 4. Procedure for Certification**

1. The Department shall issue public notice of annual Pulling Events Training.

2. An applicant for initial certification shall work as an apprentice under a Certified Superintendent for two (2) years: in the two (2) years the applicant must work with a certified superintendent for at least four (4) licensed pulls per year, which must include at least two (2) draft horse pulls and two (2) oxen pulls, including weigh-ins. The licensed superintendent shall sign off on the apprentices’ sign off sheet to verify that these requirements have been met, in order for an applicant to become eligible to apply to be a certified superintendent. The apprentice requirement does not apply to applicants seeking to renew their certification in accordance with Section 4 (6) below.

3. Beginning in the year 2002, any person seeking an initial certification as a Superintendent must, no later than February 15th of the year in which certification is requested, submit an application to the Department and register for the training.

4. An applicant for initial certification must be sponsored by a Maine pull events venue. A letter from a presiding officer of that venue affirming sponsorship must be mailed to the Department no later than February 15 of the year in which certification is requested.

5. Certification of qualified applicants shall be made by the Commissioner upon successful completion of the training. Successful completion shall require the applicant to demonstrate a working knowledge of the laws and rules pertaining to pulling events and animal welfare, and other information provided by the Department.

6 Certification shall be valid for a period of two years. Any person seeking to renew his or her certification after the two-year period must submit a renewal application and successfully complete training as provided in this Section.

**Section 5. Responsibilities of Pull Superintendents and Assistant Pull Superintendents**

1. Certified Superintendents must assure the pull events are being conducted in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

A. When a teamster receives a first warning for any violation of the laws or rules, the teamster is able to stay in the ring to finish his/her pull.

B. When a teamster receives a second warning for any violation of the laws or rules, the team is disqualified and must leave the ring. The teamster can return in that class or any other class that day with a different team, but upon receiving any subsequent warning for a violation, he/she will be disqualified and he/she must leave the ring and must not return to the ring that same day.

C. The next day the teamster will be able to start fresh.

D. Every certified superintendent and assistant superintendent shall examine every steer and ox entered to compete in a licensed pull event in the State of Maine to determine if they have a body condition score of 2.75, or greater, when the animal is weighed for competition. The body condition score shall be determined by referring to the Body Condition Scoring Chart established by Elanco Animal Health (Elanco Animal Health Bulletin AI 8478 (Rev. 9/96)). If the condition score of the animal is determined to be less than 2.75 by the Pull Superintendent, that animal shall not compete in any pull event until that animal is determined to have a score of 2.75 or greater.

E. Every certified superintendent and assistant superintendent shall examine every draft horse entered to compete in a licensed pull event in the State of Maine to determine if they have a body condition score of 4/9 or greater, when the animal is weighed for competition. The body condition score shall be determined by referring to the Henneke Horse Body Condition Scoring System. If the condition score of the animal is determined to be less than 4 by the Pull Superintendent, that animal shall not compete in any pull event until that animal is determined to have a score of 4 or greater.

**Section 6. Commission Responsibilities for Certification of Superintendents**

1. The Commission will establish criteria, establish dates and conduct training for applicants. The training will, at a minimum, cover all of the following:

A. All pulling event rules.

B. All pulling event statutes.

C. All appropriate Maine animal welfare statutes.

D. The proper conditioning of animals to compete.

E. The correct use, size and taping of the goad stick.

F. The correct use of the reins.

G. The appropriate use of blankets.

H. Heat and humidity.

I. Dehydration.

2. The Commission will review all applications and assure that the qualifications of the applicants for certification as a Superintendent are met. The review may include background checks to validate statements made in applications.

3. The Commission will notify applicants of training dates.

4. Hearings before the Commission, as authorized by law, will be held in accordance with the requirements of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, 5 MRSA Chapter 375.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 7 MRSA §75, Sub-paragraphs 3 and 6

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