

Colusa County Fair Combine Demolition Derby

Rules and Regulations.

DRIVERS

To participate in the derby, a driver must be at least 18 years old with a valid driver's license. It is the responsibility of the drivers to adhere to safety standards to protect themselves as well as others. The consumption of alcohol by a driver while participating in the derby increases the risk of injury or death to the participants and spectators of the derby and is strictly prohibited. When competing in the arena, a driver must be aggressive. Drivers have a three-minute time limit to make contact or to attempt to do so. The three-minute rule applies to all heats. Being non-aggressive and avoiding contact in the three-minute time period can result in disqualification. Each driver must accompany his/her combine from the arena, so the combine gets to its designated space in the pit area & in a timely manner.

DRIVER MEETINGS/INSTRUCTIONS

A driver meeting will be held prior to the derby on a weekday evening. At this time, rules and regulations are explained and discussed. Drivers will be given an envelope containing 2 vehicle pit passes. Heat assignments will be decided at this meeting. Extra pit (gate) passes can be purchased at this time. The entry fee will be returned if the combine is removed from the arena within 2 weeks following the derby. If the combine is not removed, the driver/owner will forfeit the entry fee. It is mandatory that each driver sign and date a release form. This form requires a Notary which will be available to each driver at the final meetings. IRS forms (W-9) are required one time only for all drivers, and it is the driver's responsibility that one is on file.

CREW MEMBERS/PIT AREA

There will be a limit of seven (7) pit-crew members (including the driver), (2) vehicle/trailer passes, and 7 pit passes. The passes (wrist bands) are to be worn by all drivers and crew members, and the vehicle passes, required for service trucks, pickups & flatbed trailers, must be placed in the vehicle window. UNAUTHORIZED vehicles will not be allowed. If a driver or crew member does not have a wrist band, he/she will be asked to leave the pit area. The back gate will close at 5:00pm so vehicles **MUST BE** in place at that time. No one under the age of 18 years is allowed in the pit area for safety reasons, unless under the supervision of an adult. It is the responsibility of each combine crew to help alleviate the confusion and congestion that can cause problems in the area. Alcohol consumption in non-authorized area is prohibited.

EQUIPMENT

Modifying the rear axle is allowed, such as repositioning tie rod, drag, and steering cylinder. There will be no other changes to the combine during the derby other than the two options below.

Axle location: Note the following for rear axle location.

Stock location is acceptable.

The rear axle can be moved from the stock location as long as the rear wheels remain outside the frame.

Unloading augers

Unloading augers must not stick out past the body.

Fuel tank size and securing

The fuel tank may not be more than 20 gallons, and it must be mounted & secured solid in the grain tank. Fuel tanks must be secured with caps that do not allow spillage of fuel, in the event that the combine tips over. (Vent can be used for 'breather.')

Factory fuel tanks need to be removed. Duct tape is allowed to secure the fuel tank cap.

Battery securing

All batteries must be secured in a box for protection from debris and fastened down with metal straps only - no bungee straps allowed.

It is recommended that an eye be installed on the rear axle of each combine to facilitate the removal of disabled combines from the arena.

COMBINE REINFORCEMENT

Reinforcing iron is limited to ten pieces of iron, any length, located anywhere on the combine, except in areas restricted by the rules. Iron reinforcement is limited to a maximum gauge of 2" X 2" X 1/4". This 2" X 2" X 1/4" can be any type of iron, such as angle, square tubing, channel, or flat. Iron spears or external iron used for aggressive action is prohibited. NO extra welding on the Cutter Bar Edge, NO welding on Rock Guards and Header Bottom, and NO concrete in the platform auger, or well casing can be used as a stiffener or as an auger and rub bars, because they're so brittle, cannot be used. Bracing is not acceptable outside of the wheels, but this does not include bracing to keep the headers at the required 10-20 inch height. The reinforcing ten-piece limit allows for protection but leaves machines vulnerable enough to keep the combine mobilized. For safety, any number of iron pieces can be used including bracing used for hydraulic stops

for safety or any driver protection supports. The Driver has the option of using the maximum (5 pieces) of metal from where feeder attaches to combine to the back of the header. Two pieces of iron are allowed to brace the header. The iron will be no bigger than $\frac{1}{4}$ " X 2"X2". The iron will be fastened inside the front tire out to the header. Two other pieces of iron can be added to the header as long as they do not run back to the feeder spout or the combine frame. Minimum header width is as wide as the combine from outside of tire to outside of tire and should not exceed 12" past the outside of the tires on either side. Any type of header is permitted (corn/draper/auger). If the header has a reel the reel must be removed as it will make an unnecessary mess and offer no sturdiness to the header. Square tubing may not be capped. If square tubing is capped, the driver will be required to cut the cap off to verify the thickness of the metal. If a combine has suffered a broken piece such as a tie-rod or axle, it can be repaired with iron to support the break which does not fall into the ten-piece limit, as long as reinforcing iron is the same width as the broken piece. This limit is at the judges' discretion. No cap on header backbone. No welding on top feeder house door. No center support on feeder spout.

Protection must be in place for the driver (e.g., a protective cage, or several bars in the front and to the side of the driver). This does not count against the ten-piece limit. The cage must be as high as the top of the cab. Seat belts & fire extinguishers are mandatory & fire extinguishers must be fully charged, secured & within the driver's reach. ALL GLASS MUST BE REMOVED. The combine inspection committee has the final say. Safety is the first concern!

One or more judges will inspect each combine before the derby begins. Among other things, the judge(s) will be looking at major reinforcements of each combine's header and rear axle. The judge(s) may require that a hole be cut in any piece of metal to verify its thickness. If it is determined that there is an infraction of the rules, the contestant has the option of removing the piece before the event begins or being disqualified.

FLAGS

All combines must carry an orange safety flag with a pole that is a minimum height of 48". This flag will have an external cab mount that the driver can reach without exiting the cab to signal that the driver is no longer able to participate. Once the driver has broken the flag off, they will no longer be participating and therefore out.

HEATS

The Derby will consist of heats (regulated by the number of entries), a consolation heat (if necessary), and the final heat. However, if there are only two combines left for a consolation heat, the two drivers will draw for the final heat status.

Each heat will be fifteen minutes in duration, except for the final heat, and will be run back-to-back. There will be an intermission before the final heat & consolation heat, allowing drivers and crew time to make necessary repairs. The derby championship will be awarded to the combine which is the final combine continuing to do battle, or at the judges' discretion. Combines in the final heat include winners from the first heats & the top combines from the consolation heat.

REPAIRS

Repairs to machines (including welding) may commence at any time after the machine has been removed from the arena, between heats or during intermission. If a machine, approaching the heat or during the heat, suffers an engine failure not caused by competition contact, it may be able to return for a consolation heat before the final heat, depending on the crew's ability to get it running and/or at the discretion of the judges.

DISQUALIFICATIONS All decisions of the judges are final! The judges may, but are not required to, impose a warning prior to a disqualification. A driver will be allowed one warning per heat, at the discretion of the judges. A driver receiving two warnings in a heat will be disqualified from that heat. Driver will be allowed to participate in his next heat only at the discretion of the judges. If a driver is disqualified, a crew member may be chosen to drive, also at the discretion of the judges.

Following is a list of common reasons for disqualifications, but this list is not intended to be exhaustive, as there may be other grounds for disqualification:

Pushing or pulling a combine outside of the barriers lining the arena

Two or more combines locked together must attempt to separate within the three-minute time limit

Continual out-running, out-maneuvering another machine

Losing a header (judges will determine if the header is off or partially off & can require driver to remove his/her flag)

Excessive speed, unsafe or reckless driving (judge's determination)

Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated and may result in disqualification & loss of prize money

All combines must enter heats under their own power

3-minute non-aggressive action

JUDGES

Judges will preside at the derby. They are selected from surrounding communities and are presumed to be fair and impartial. Judges will carry handheld air horns which can be heard by the drivers. All decisions of the judges are final!

PRIZES

Money prizes are awarded to derby winners, heat winners, and to the best decorated combine. Entry money will be returned when the combine is removed from the arena within a one-month period following the derby. A first-place prize will be awarded to the "Best Decorated" combine. Judges for this event will be chosen by the fair

AFTER THE DERBY

All derby combines, debris and pit equipment must be removed by midnight of derby night, or placed in the fairgrounds "storage lot" for future pick up. (Scrap metal bin may be provided by Fairgrounds) It shall be the sole responsibility of the combine driver to remove the combine and equipment from the arena and grounds or to make arrangements for it with the fair manager. Any and all combines, equipment, and other property remaining on the grounds after that time period shall become the property of the Colusa County fairgrounds and shall be disposed of and/or destroyed in the sole and absolute discretion of the Colusa County fairgrounds. The driver of said combine and related equipment shall remain liable for any and all costs and expenses relating to the disposition and /or destruction of said property, and the Colusa County fairgrounds shall not be liable for any costs, expenses, or damages whatsoever relating to the disposition and/or destruction of said property.

Disclaimer

The rules and/or regulations set forth herein are designed to provide for the orderly conduct of the events and to establish minimum acceptable requirements of such events. These rules shall govern the condition of all events, and by participating in these events, all participants are deemed to have complied with these rules. NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY OF SAFETY SHALL RESULT FROM PUBLICATION OF OR COMPLIANCE WITH THESE RULES AND/OR REGULATIONS. They are intended as a guide for the conduct of the sport and are in no way a guarantee against injury or death of a participant, spectator or official. The event directors and officials shall be empowered to permit minor deviations from any of the specifications herein or impose any further restrictions that in his opinion do not alter the minimum acceptable requirements. NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY OF SAFETY SHALL RESULT FROM SUCH ALTERATION OF SPECIFICATIONS. Any interpretation or deviation of these rules is left to the discretion of the officials. Their decision is final.