

GENERAL RULES

1. All OSHA and safety rules are to be observed during events.
2. Rubber gloves are required for all Journeyman events, and will be inspected at each event.
3. Apprentices will be required to wear rubber gloves at some events. They will be inspected after the written test at Apprentice tool inspection and at any event that requires rubber gloves to be used.
4. Rubber Gloves shall have a test date stamped on them. The date must be within one year of the rodeo (7-16-10).
5. Safety glasses are required for all events.
6. Hardhats shall be worn as designed by the manufacturer. Cowboy hardhats are not approved for TLRA competition. All participants shall wear hardhats and safety glasses while inside the event areas.
7. All Teams and Apprentices shall wear work gloves with a gauntlet, when work gloves are required. All work gloves shall have gauntlets with a least a two-inch minimum cuff. All competitors shall be required to wear work gloves while in the event areas conducting any work, handling tools or materials. Climbing competitors shall wear work gloves while on the pole when not required to wear rubber gloves.
8. Long sleeve shirts are required to be worn by all Teams and Apprentices. The sleeves shall be down and buttoned. If the shirt has buttons on the sleeves, they shall be buttoned. Sleeves cannot be pushed or rolled up at any time while the team is in an event. Sleeves shall not ride up to expose any skin above the top of the cuffs on rubber gloves.
9. A tool inspection will be conducted to check for safe condition and for any alterations to tools such as:
 - i. Tapered cuts on straps.
 - ii. Tape on straps.
 - iii. Filed buckles and/or locking safeties.
 - iv. Fingers cut out of rubber gloves (Immediate disqualification from Rodeo).
 - v. Elongated holes in straps and belts.
 - vi. Improper gaff length (Less than 1-1/4").
 - vii. Unsafe handlines
 - viii. Skinning Knives with blades improperly sheathed or protected.
 - ix. Altered suspensions in the Hardhats.
 - x. Safety Glasses without side shields.
10. Points deducted as a result of the tool inspection will be deducted from the event the Team is competing in at the time the altered or improper tool(s) is discovered. The altered or unsafe tool will be confiscated, tagged and the Team or Apprentice can pick it up after the competition is over at the TLRA command tent.
11. Personal protective equipment is required to be worn when entering any event area, including hard hat, safety glasses, long sleeve shirt, work boots, and leather gloves.
12. Teams have a maximum of 5 minutes to ask questions of an event judge prior to the start of an event, while they are laying out tools and preparing for the event to start. It is the Teams responsibility to ask questions.
13. Photos and Video footage will not be allowed to settle judging disputes.
14. Cheering for competitors is encouraged, but professional coaching from supporters outside individual event areas will result in a two (2) point deduction to the Team being coached. The Judge will only warn the team and/or coaching person one time. Further coaching may result in disqualification of the team from that event.
15. Teams and Apprentices shall use travel lanes and enter/exit events as designed. If a Team or Apprentice passes through an event that is roped off and deemed as a work area or competitive event, they will receive a two (2) point deduction

INFRACTIONS

TWO POINT DEDUCTIONS

1. Failure to cover neutral, secondary or primary properly
All potentially energized conductors must be fully covered with protective cover provided, when within reach, fall or slip of energized conductor.
2. Failure to maintain positive control of conductor while performing task
When moving conductors, at least two points of control must be maintained at all times.
3. Climber working or hand line operation on pole while other man is un-safetied
No work, hand line operation or climbing while either climber is ascending or descending the pole or unsafetied.

4. Safety Strap Infraction
Safety strap must be in control at all times. Both snaps of safety must be hooked on the D-ring while climbing the pole. The safety strap may be carried on the shoulder, however both snaps must still be in D-ring. If the safety strap slides off the shoulder the contestant will receive a deduction.
5. Improper Hand Line Operation
The lines of the hand line must not be twisted while raising or lowering tools or material. Tools and material can only be hung on the open hook of the hand line. The hand line may be hung above the neutral on the pole, if it is done from the back side of the pole and neutral conductor, and the competitor does not make any contact with the neutral conductor. The first man up the pole shall take the hand line and the last man on the pole below the neutral shall drop the hand line. Any other order will result in a deduction.
6. Dropping tools or materials from pole
Climbers can not drop tools or materials from the pole.
7. Misuse of tools, or the use of the wrong tool
Tools must be used for their intended purpose and not altered from manufacturers specifications (Refer to the General Document under Tools for examples of altered tools).
8. Poor cooperation / communication between team members
Arguing or otherwise displaying discontent with other team members causing poor communication.
9. Extended body contact with covered neutral.
Only incidental contact will be allowed with a covered neutral. Prolonged contact will result in an infraction.
10. Failure to maintain proper clearance from energized conductors or parts
Journeyman must maintain proper clearance from exposed energized primary conductors or parts with all parts of the body except the rubber gloved hand. This would include any un-insulated tools attached to the energized primary conductor. Proper clearance is defined as within reach fall of exposed energized conductors. Encroaching the minimum approach distance with the hot end of the stick in contact with the simulated energized conductors, is considered an infraction. This includes the rubber gloved hand.
11. Cutout or slip on pole
Cutout or slip is defined as one or more gaffs out of the pole and sliding on the surface of the pole and deemed out of control by the Event Judge. Climbers must maintain three points of contact at all times.
12. Failure to keep tools and materials on tarp
All tools and materials must be completely on the tarp when time starts and when time stops.
13. Failure to wear hard hat and safety glasses properly at all times
Hardhats shall be worn as designed by the manufacturer. Cowboy hardhats are not approved for TLRA competition. All participants shall wear hardhats and safety glasses while inside the event areas.
14. Failure to wear long sleeve shirt, sleeves down and buttoned
Long sleeve shirts are required. If the shirt has buttons on the sleeves, they shall be buttoned. Sleeves cannot be pushed or rolled up at any time while the team is in an event. Sleeves shall not ride up to expose any skin above the top of the cuffs on rubber gloves.
15. Improper use of rubber gloves
Journeyman must wear minimum 20 kv rubber gloves from ground to ground. Rubber gloves must be stored cuff down in glove bag. Nothing else will be stored in the glove bag. Rubber gloves are required when participant is within reach, fall or slip of energized conductors including the neutral or as required by the Event Judge.
16. Failure to wear work gloves with a gauntlet, when work gloves are required
All work gloves shall have gauntlets with at least a two-inch (2") cuff. All competitors shall be required to wear work gloves while in the event areas conducting any work, handling tools or materials. Climbing competitors shall wear work gloves while on the pole when not required to wear rubber gloves unless otherwise specified by the Event Judge.
17. Dropping or losing hard hat
Hard hats must be worn at all times while inside the event area. This applies to Teams and Apprentices.
18. Hanging tools or materials on structure, conductor or safety strap
Tools and Materials shall only be hung on the open hand line hook or in placed in tool bags. The hand line and tool bags may be hung by a beckett wrapped around the pole and/or cross-arm, if allowed by Event Judge.
19. Exposed blade on skinning knife
All skinning knives must either be folded or properly sheathed. Exposed blade in the tool pouch on the climbing belt is considered misuse of tools. (No exposed blades)
20. Poor housekeeping
Tools or materials placed on the tarp in a pile or directly under workman on the pole.

21. Arriving late/ Checking in late for an event.
22. Professional coaching from spectators outside the individual competition event arena.
23. Exceeding the event time
The event time is used except for hurtman rescue and pole climb. The Event Judge will be responsible for insuring that the Event Time points are deducted.
24. Others as determined by individual event descriptions.

FIVE POINT DEDUCTIONS

Exceeding the drop-dead time

The Team or Apprentice will be stopped, there will be a 5-point deduction from the score and the event will be reset to the original starting condition. The Team or Apprentice will continue to be judged while in the event although time has stopped.

TEN POINT DEDUCTIONS

1. Contact with energized conductor
Contact with any body part on primary conductor at any time. Contact with secondary conductors and neutral with any body part other than rubber-gloved hand(s).
2. Failure to use hand line for raising and lowering tools and materials
The hand line is to be used to send tools and materials up and down the pole. The intent of this infraction is to deduct points for deliberately tossing tools and materials from the pole to the ground or from the ground to the journeyman on the pole.
3. Second man starts to climb before first man is safetied off
The first Journeyman up the pole must be safetied off before the second journeyman starts climbing the pole.
4. Losing control of a conductor
Defined as being unable to hold a conductor in position without touching the pole, hardware, other conductors, or dropping. Dropping the conductor is defined as coming out of tool or hand and falling free.
5. Working Opposite Phases at the same time
The journeymen on the pole can not be in contact with opposite phases at the same time with sticks or rubber gloves.
6. Opening Switch before installing mechanical jumper
This is an infraction when continuity of service is to be maintained and the competitors mistakenly open the switch first.

NINETY NINE POINT DEDUCTION

Failure to attempt, or failure to attempt to complete an event for any reason; including injury or illness of Team member or Apprentice, will result in a 99 point deduction.

TEAM OR APPRENTICE DISQUALIFICATIONS

The Texas Lineman's Rodeo is a Family event and we should all conduct ourselves in a civil and professional manner. Remember, every Team and Apprentice represents the utility that has sent them to compete. The following should not have to be stated, but due to poor judgment by some competitors in the past, we must state the TLRA's position:

1. Unprofessional behavior
Swearing or threatening other team members, contestants, spectators or judges. Pushing, shoving or striking other team members, contestants, spectators or judges. Throwing tools or materials in anger or disgust before, during or after any event. ***This includes Event Workshops on Friday. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed at Event Workshops!***

2. Practicing on the Rodeo field prior to the Rodeo
No one is permitted to practice on any of the poles or structures at the rodeo grounds prior to the rodeo event. each competitor is encouraged to stretch and warm up prior to starting their first event as to prevent injuries.
3. Intentional sabotage or tampering with materials, tools, or equipment on the Rodeo Field
Any one tampering with or seeking to hamper the use of tools to be used by following participants will be disqualified. This includes the materials and equipment on the competition poles.
4. Unapproved use of alternates or changing status of team members during the events
(See Master Judge for approved use of alternates or change in team status during Rodeo.) Switching out team members with out going through proper substitution procedures will result in disqualification from the event and possibly the rodeo. Alternates will be assigned arm bands that differ in color from team members. If a competitor drops from competition, the armband will be removed and the new Team member will be given an armband by a designated representative at the TLRA command tent. Please refer to the Team Member Substitution Procedure in your team book.
5. Protests need to be by team only (No help from spectators or others.)
Protests from those other than the team will result in the team being disqualified from the event. All protests must be made to the Chief Judge of the event before the team or apprentice leaves the event.
6. Modifying rubber gloves in any way
No holes, notches, cuts or slashes in any part of rubber gloves.
7. Failure to attempt an event
Any Team or Apprentice that does not attempt an event automatically takes a "0" in the event.

JUDGE DISQUALIFICATIONS

1. Judging a Team or Apprentice from their own company
The Team or Apprentice is disqualified from the event and receives zero (0).
2. Judging a Team or Apprentice that is a blood relation
The Team or Apprentice is disqualified from the event and receives zero (0).
3. Unprofessional Behavior
Swearing or threatening contestants, spectators or other judges. Pushing, shoving or striking contestants, spectators or other judges. Throwing objects in anger or disgust before, during or after any event. ***This includes Judges Meeting and Event Workshops on Friday. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed at Judges Meeting or Event Workshops!***

CONTESTING AN INFRACTION DEDUCTION

The Team or Apprentice must contest the call to the Event Judge, Chief Judge and /or Master Judge in the order listed below. Help or assistance from spectators or others, including other teams or utility team coordinators, may result in the Team or Apprentice being disqualified. Photographs and/or Video will not be allowed to settle a dispute.

If a competitor wishes to contest an Event Judge's call, the competitor must take the grievance to the Chief Judge of the event before the competitor exits the event. The Chief Judge will make a ruling after interviewing the competitor and Event Judge. If the competitor is not satisfied with the Chief Judges ruling, the competitor may elect to take his/her protest to the Master Judge, but must do so before exiting the event in which the infraction occurred. The Master Judge will make a ruling after interviewing the competitor, the Event Judge and the Chief Judge.

If the Master Judge upholds the Chief Judges ruling, the Team or Apprentice will forfeit two (2) additional points from their score in the event. The decision of the Master Judge is FINAL.

Contestants forfeit all rights to contest an infraction once they exit or leave an event.

***Remember, this is a family oriented event and any un-sportsman like conduct will result in additional point deductions and/or disqualification from the rodeo.