

GENERAL RULES

1. All OSHA and NESC safety rules are to be observed during events.
2. **As of 2016 --- Fall Arrest and Fall Restraints Shall be used by all Competitors. All Fall Arrest, Fall Restraint or Positioning Safeties shall have non-altered, double locking clips and shall be clipped in D-rings when not in use.**
3. **Transitioning on pole with Fall Arrest or Fall Restraints:** Once a Climber has transitioned above material on a pole (Neutral, Cross arm, Transformer, etc.), OSHA allows for the use of the Positioning Safety to conduct work. This is only contingent upon that they do not put themselves in a position that they could fall more than two feet (24") at any time. **This is a subjective call by the judge,** so be aware that a deduction may occur if the judge believes the Positioning Safety is higher than 24" above any materials that could restrict a fall.
4. **Rubber gloves are required for specified Journeyman events. See specific event rules.** Gloves are subject to be inspected at each event.
5. Gaff guards shall only be removed and installed while wearing approved work gloves or protected rubber gloves.
6. Safety glasses are required for all events. Safety Glasses must be ANSI Z-87.1 Rated and so marked. Judge at the event may allow removal for safety reasons only.
7. Hardhats shall be worn as designed by the manufacturer. Cowboy style hardhats are not approved for TLRA competition. All participants shall wear hardhats and safety glasses while inside the event areas.
8. All Competitors shall wear work gloves with a gauntlet, when work gloves are required. All work gloves shall have gauntlets with at 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.
9. Long sleeve shirts are required to be worn by all Competitors. The sleeves shall be down and buttoned or snapped at the wrist. 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.
10. 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 or equipment.
 - iii. Filled buckles and/or altered locking safeties.
 - iv. Altered fall arrest or positioning safeties.
 - v. Fingers cut out of rubber gloves (Immediate disqualification from Rodeo).
 - vi. Elongated holes in straps and belts.
 - vii. Improper gaff length (Less than 1-1/4").
 - viii. Improper or Unsafe handlines.
 - ix. Knives with blades improperly sheathed or protected.
 - x. Altered or broken suspensions in the hardhats.
 - xi. Missing screws in the climber shanks.
 - xii. And any other safety related items not mentioned above.
11. Points deducted as a result of the tool inspection will be deducted from the active tool inspection score sheet. The altered or unsafe tool may be confiscated, tagged and the Competitor can pick it up after the competition at the TLRA command tent. Should a Competitor receive a deduction in the tool inspection and the tool is not confiscated and it is found being used in another event, the Competitor will have additional points deducted and will be subject to disqualification from the Rodeo.
12. Personal protective equipment is required to be worn by all Competitors while inside any event area, including hardhat, safety glasses, long sleeve shirt, work boots, and work gloves.
13. Teams have a maximum of 5 minutes to ask questions of an event judge prior to the start of an event. Assembling of materials is not allowed at this time. It is the Competitor's responsibility to ask questions.
14. Photos, video footage, and other outside sources will not be allowed to settle judging disputes.
15. Cheering for competitors is encouraged, but professional coaching from supporters outside individual event areas will result in a two (2) point deduction to the Competitor being coached. The Judge will only warn the team and/or coaching person one time. Further coaching may result in disqualification of the Competitor from that event.
16. Competitors shall use travel lanes and enter/exit events as designed. If a Competitor 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 for each infraction.

INFRACTIONS

TWO POINT DEDUCTIONS

1. Failure to cover neutral, secondary or primary properly
All potentials and/or energized conductors must be fully covered with protective cover, when within MAD until covered to include extended reach, fall or slip of the different potential and/or energized conductor.
2. Failure to maintain positive control of conductor while performing task
When moving any conductors, at least two points of control must be maintained at all times.
3. Climber working or handline operation on pole while other man is moving positions
No work, handline operation or climbing while either climber is ascending or descending the pole.
4. Fall Restraint and Work Positioning Safety Strap Infraction
The fall arrest safety must be used to ascend and descend the pole. It must be properly adjusted per manufacturer's requirements. A video on proper adjustment of fall arrest systems is on the TLRA website forum and the judges will use it for judging. All safety straps must be in control at all times. All snaps of safeties must be hooked in the D-rings. The positioning strap may be carried on the shoulder, however both snaps must still be in the D-ring. If the positioning strap slides off the shoulder the contestant will receive a two point deduction. See Ten (10) Point Deductions, Number 7.
5. Transitioning on pole with Fall Arrest or Fall Restraints: Once a climber has transitioned above material on a pole (Neutral, Cross arm, Transformer, etc.), OSHA allows for the use of the Positioning Safety to conduct work. This is only contingent upon that they do not put themselves in a position that they could fall more than two feet (24") at any time. This is a subjective call by the Judge so be aware that a deduction may occur if the judge believes the Positioning Safety is higher than 24" above any materials that could restrict a fall.
6. Improper Handline Operation
The lines of the handline must not be twisted while raising or lowering tools or material. Tools and material can only be hung on the open hook of the handline. The handline may be hung above the neutral on the pole. Beckett must be utilized properly. Cannot apply to pole over uncovered neutral conductor. The first man up the pole shall ascend with the handline and the last man on the pole, once below the neutral shall drop the handline.
7. Dropping tools or materials from pole
Climbers must not drop tools or materials from the pole. If something is accidentally dropped, the contestant must clearly state "Headache" so the Judge can hear it. This excludes handlines and taglines.
8. Misuse of tools, or the use of the wrong tool
Tools must be used for their intended purpose and not altered from manufacturer's specifications (Refer to the General Document under Tools for examples of altered tools).
9. Poor cooperation / communication between team members
Arguing or otherwise displaying discontent with other team members causing poor communication.
10. Extended body contact with covered neutral.
Only incidental or brush contact will be allowed with a covered neutral. Any prolonged contact will result in an infraction.
11. Failure to maintain proper clearance from energized conductors or parts
Competitor must maintain proper clearance from exposed energized primary conductors or parts with all parts of the body except the rubber gloved hand. See MAD.
12. Cutout or slip on pole
Cutout or slip is defined as one or more gaffs out of the pole and the competitor sliding on the surface of the pole and the fall restraint safety preventing the competitor from falling.
13. 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.
14. Failure to wear hardhat and safety glasses properly at all times
All participants shall wear hardhats and safety glasses while inside the event areas.
15. 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.

16. Improper use of rubber gloves
Competitors must wear minimum Class 2 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 MAD extended reach, fall or slip of energized conductors including the neutral. Gloves will be stored in bag securely closed.
17. 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.
18. Dropping or losing hardhat
19. Hanging tools or materials on structure, conductor or safety strap
Tools and materials shall only be hung on the open handline hook or placed in tool bags. The handline and tool bags may be hung by a becket wrapped around the pole and/or cross-arm, if allowed by Event Judge.
20. Exposed blade on skinning knife
All skinning knives must either be folded or properly sheathed when not in use. Blades or exposed blade in the tool pouch on the climbing belt is considered misuse of tools. (No exposed blades).
21. Poor housekeeping
This will include leaving trash at the work area or not keeping tools on the tarp provided.
22. Arriving late/Checking in late for an event. It is the Competitor's responsibility to check in, not the Judges.
23. Coaching from spectators outside the individual competition event arena.
24. 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.
25. Others as determined by individual event descriptions.

FIVE POINT DEDUCTIONS

Exceeding the drop-dead time

The event for the Competitor(s) will be stopped by the Judge; there will be a 5-point deduction from the score and the event will be reset to the original starting condition. The Competitor(s) 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 or conductive object other than rubber-gloved hand(s).
2. Failure to use handline for raising and lowering tools and materials
The handline 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 in working position
The first Journeyman up the pole must be in his work position and communicate before the second Competitor 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 shall not be in contact with opposite phases at the same time with sticks or rubber gloves
6. Others as determined by individual event descriptions.

7. Each registered journeyman rodeo team must supply at least one (1) judge and apprentices must supply one (1) judge for every two (2) apprentices registered. If a utility does not supply enough judges to satisfy their participant/judge ratio, the utility will choose the team(s) and/or apprentice(s) that will receive a 10 point deduction at the Tool Inspection for EACH missing judge. In addition, if assigned judges fail to show up and participate during the competition on Saturday, their teams and apprentices shall be held to the above mentioned deductions.

FIFTY-FIVE POINT DEDUCTION

Once entered into an event area, if a Competitor is not able to complete an event due to illness or injury, they shall be given a 55 point deduction. This includes if a Judge, Team Coordinator, or Medical Professional believes the Apprentice or Journeyman is not capable of continuing to compete due to the illness or injury. If the call is made, the Apprentice or Team will not be able to complete that event. The Apprentice or Journeyman will not be able to continue in any other event at the Rodeo without clearance from the Medical Professionals and authorization from the Team Coordinator and Master Judges. (Exception: If a Team has a registered alternate for that Team, and he is qualified for the position he will be replacing, the Team could continue in additional events, once they follow the substitution procedures).

NINETY-NINE POINT DEDUCTION

Failure to attempt an event, or starting an event but stopping for any reason (except injury, illness or going over the mean time) by a Team member or Apprentice, will result in a 99 point deduction.

TEAM OR APPRENTICE DISQUALIFICATIONS

The Texas Lineman's Rodeo is a family friendly 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/Unsportsman-like Conduct or 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.
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 strongly encouraged to stretch and warm up prior to starting their first event as to prevent sprain or strain injuries. On Friday, only authorized personnel will be allowed within any roped-off area on the Rodeo field.
3. Intentional Sabotage or Tampering with Materials, Tools, or Equipment on the Rodeo Field
Anyone 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, work area or judges' tables.
4. Unapproved/Unauthorized use of Alternates or Changing Status of Team Members During any Event
(See Master Judge for approved use of alternates or change in team status during Rodeo.) Switching out team members without going through proper substitution procedures will result in a 99 point deduction in that event and possible disqualification from the Rodeo. Alternates will be assigned wristbands that differ in color from team members. If a competitor drops from competition, the wristband will be removed and the new team member will be given a wristband by a designated representative at the TLRA command tent. Please refer to the Team Member Substitution Procedure in your team book.
5. Protesting Infractions/Deductions (No help from spectators or others)
Protests from those other than the apprentice or team will result in the apprentice or team being disqualified from that event (99 point Deduction). All protests must be made to the Judge, Chief Judge and/or Master Judges before the apprentice or team leaves/exits the event.

6. Modification/Alteration of Rubber Gloves and Protectors
No holes, notches, cuts or slashes or any modifications of any kind, or in any part of the rubber gloves or protectors.
7. Judging a Team or Apprentice from their own Company, Utility or Relative listed in the rules.
The Team or Apprentice is disqualified from that event and receives a 99 point deduction on their score sheet.
8. Dishonesty or Cheating of ANY Kind
Any Apprentice, Team, Judge or utility attempting to cheat in any form or nature will result in disqualification of the Judge, Team or Apprentice from the Rodeo.
9. Altering of Score Sheets
Any Competitor, Judge that alters or attempts to alter a score sheet will result in disqualification of the Judge, Team, Apprentice and/or Utility from the Rodeo. Following an investigation by the Board, the Judge, Team, Apprentice or Utility may be disqualified from participation at future TLRA events.

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 Chief Judge upholds the event judge's ruling the team forfeits two additional points. If unable to settle the dispute with the Chief Judge at the event, the team may elect to take the protest to the Master Judge. If the Master Judge upholds the Chief Judge's ruling, the team forfeits an additional two points.

The decision of the Master Judge is FINAL.

Under no circumstances shall the dispute time exceed 5 min. Chief Judge or Master Judge

As of 2017 – Journeyman Teams will have 2 minutes to contest infractions at the Rope Event, however they cannot contest infractions above the Chief Judge.

CONTESTANTS FORFEIT ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO CONTEST INFRACTIONS ONCE THEY EXIT AN EVENT.

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