

## 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 Work Positioning Devices shall have non-altered, double locking clips and shall be clipped in D-rings and closed if needed when not in use.
3. **Fall Arrest and Fall Restraint Systems** shall be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and kept in proper adjustment while being used.
4. **Transitioning on pole with Fall Arrest, Fall Restraint or Work Positioning Device.** Once a Climber has transitioned above material on a pole (Neutral, Cross arm, Transformer, etc.), the fall arrest / fall restraint needs to be properly engaged before any work is performed.
5. **Rubber Gloves are required for specific Journeyman Events. (New this year) Absolutely no gloves of any kind are allowed to be worn inside your rubber gloves!** See specific event rules. Gloves are subject to be inspected at each event.
6. **Gaff guards shall only be removed and installed while wearing approved work gloves.** Gaff guards need to be installed on the gaffs when outside the work circle.
7. **Safety glasses are required for all events.** Safety Glasses must be ANSI Z-87.1 Rated and so marked. Judges at the event may allow removal for safety reasons only.
8. **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.
9. **All Competitors shall wear appropriate work gloves when work gloves are required.** All competitors will 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.
10. **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.
11. **A tool inspection will be conducted to check for safe condition and for any alterations to tools such as:**
  - a. Tapered cuts on straps.
  - b. Tape on straps or equipment.
  - c. Filed buckles and/or altered locking safeties.
  - d. Altered fall arrest or positioning safeties.
  - e. Fingers cut out of rubber gloves (Immediate disqualification from Rodeo).
  - f. Elongated holes in straps and belts. Improper gaff length (Less than 1-1/4").
  - g. Improper or unsafe handlines.
  - h. Knives with blades improperly sheathed or protected.
  - i. Altered or broken suspensions in the hardhats.
  - j. Missing screws in the climber shanks.
  - k. And any other safety related items not mentioned above.

## INFRACTIONS / DEDUCTIONS

### 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 Forty (40) Point Deductions.
- 5. Transitioning on pole with Fall Arrest, Fall Restraint or Work Positioning Device.**  
Once a climber has transitioned above material on a pole (Neutral, Cross arm, Transformer, etc.), the fall arrest / fall restraint needs to be properly engaged before any work is performed.
- 6. Gaff guards shall only be removed and installed while wearing appropriate work gloves.** Gaff guards need to be installed on the gaffs when outside the work circle.
- 7. 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 after the neutral is covered. The beckett must be utilized properly. 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.
- 8. Dropping tools or materials from poles.**  
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.
- 9. 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).
- 10. Poor cooperation / communication between team members.**  
Arguing or otherwise displaying discontent with other team members causing poor communication.

**11. 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.

**12. Failure to maintain proper clearance from energized conductors or parts.**

Competitors must maintain proper clearance from exposed energized primary conductors or parts with all parts of the body except the rubber gloved hand. See MAD.

**13. Cutout or slip on the pole.**

Cutout or slip on the pole (one gaff out of pole and out of control) Cutout or slip is defined as "after the individuals gaff makes initial contact with the pole and the gaff comes out of the pole in such a manner that the climber adjusts control while ascending, descending, or repositioning on the pole. If the climber falls to the ground, or the neutral stops their fall, there will be other infractions delivered.

**14. 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.

**15. Failure to wear a hardhat and safety glasses properly at all times.**

All participants shall wear hardhats and safety glasses while inside the event areas.

**16. Failure to wear a 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.

**17. Improper use of rubber gloves (New this year) Absolutely no gloves of any kind are allowed to be worn inside your rubber gloves!**

Competitors must wear minimum Class 2 rubber gloves from ground to ground. Rubber gloves must be stored cuff down in a glove bag. Nothing else will be stored in the glove bag. Rubber gloves are required when the participant is within MAD extended reach, fall or slip of energized conductors including the neutral. Gloves will be stored in a bag securely closed.

**18. Failure to wear appropriate work gloves when work gloves are required.**

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.

**19. Dropping or losing hardhat.**

**20. Hanging tools or materials on the structure.**

Tools and materials shall only be hung on the open handline hook or placed in tool bags on the handline. The tool or material bags may be hung by a becket wrapped around the pole and/or cross-arm.

**21. Exposed blade on skinning knife.**

All skinning knives must either be folded or properly sheathed when not in use. Blades or exposed blades in the tool pouch on the climbing belt is considered misuse of tools. (No exposed blades).

**22. Poor housekeeping.** All material bags, line hose / gut bags, and hot-stick bags must be empty when time starts and must be emptied out before time stops. All material and tools must be on the tarp when time stops.

This will include leaving trash at the work area or not keeping tools on the tarp provided.

**23. Arriving late/Checking in late for an event. It is the Competitor's responsibility to check in, not the Judges.**

**24. Coaching from spectators outside the individual competition event arena.**

**25. Exceeding the event time.**

The event time is used except for hurt man rescue and pole climb. The Event Judge will be responsible for ensuring that the Event Time points are deducted.

**26. 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 an 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 a 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. Apprentices will be using an approved handline, so this applies for apprentice events as well.

**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, secure the handline to the pole 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 a 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 deductions mentioned above.**

## **FORTY POINT DEDUCTION**

If the climber cuts out with both feet and is kept from falling further by proper use of the fall arrest / fall restraint system.

## **FIFTY-FIVE POINT DEDUCTION**

After entering an event area, 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 / Unsportsmanlike 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 and 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 or 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 a 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 unsportsmanlike conduct will result in additional point deductions and/or disqualification from the Rodeo.