

FECTU asbl
International ploughing competition
With Equines (reversible ploughs)
Rules project (June 6th 2004)

Preliminary remarks:

These regulations summarise as far as possible the rules established for the international competitions with reversible ploughs, as adopted on March 21st 2004 in Sweden.

2. The present regulations are not automatically valid for national competitions.
3. The present regulations are expected to be tested during an international competition in 2005, in order to have a definitive set of rules in 2006.
4. The number of Penalty and Bonus points will be fixed later, together with the rules for conventional [non-reversible] ploughing competitions .

A. The judges

A.1 Each country participating in the competition is allowed to appoint one experienced and competent judge who will accompany his country's team as the team organiser.

A.2. The country organizing the competition will appoint the president of the jury.

A.3. The jury president is responsible for the organization and the smooth running of the competition and will judge it together with the other members of the jury.

A.4. The president of the jury will ensure that all the measures described in the regulations are adhered to.

A.5. He must check and approve the results of the competition before they are made public.

A.6. The judges are must attend all the preparatory meetings. The absence of a judge during a preparatory meeting will lead to dismissal.

B. The Stewards

B.1. Each country is allowed to appoint a steward.

B.2. Two stewards for each three ploughmen will help the judges in their duties.

B.3. They shall ensure that the rules are adhered to during the competition.

B.4. They shall measure the depth of the furrows.

B.5. They shall ensure effective communication between the judges and the ploughmen.

C. The plot sizes and marking

- C.1. The plots will be marked out well in advance of the beginning of the competition.
- C.2. The width measures 4 m to 6 m on one side and 8 m to 12 m on the other side. One width must always be twice the length of the other. The length of the plot is 60 m to 90 m.
- C.3. The number of each plot is placed in front of it.
- C.4. The area to be ploughed will be marked with a very narrow furrow ploughed towards the center of the plot.
- C.5. A strip of 8 m to 12 m is left outside this furrow to allow the team to turn.
- C.6. Each ploughman is allowed to use three marker poles supplied by the organizers or the ploughman can use his own marker poles. In either case, no more than three poles are allowed.
- C.7. One of the marker poles can be placed outside the plot.
- C.8. The plot stakes can only be moved by a steward or a judge, and must be replaced precisely afterwards.
- C.9. The outer limits of the competition field will be marked with clearly visible ropes in order to keep the public separated from the competitors.
- C.10. The plots are allocated to the competitors by drawing lots.

D. Animals and teams

- D.1. All the breeds of horses are allowed as well as other equines.
- D.2. The minimum age of the animals must be 4 years old.
- D.3. The animals must be officially identified, that is to say, have a passport.
- D.4. A veterinary check will eliminate any animals that are unwell or unfit to compete.
- D.5. The animals must have current vaccinations required both in their country of origin and in the host country.
- D.6. The following teams are allowed:
 - Single animal
 - Pair team
 - Tandem
 - Three in line
 - Three abreast
 - Team composed of more than 3 animals
- D.7. The animals and their hitch configuration must not be changed during the event.

E. The ploughs

- E.1. Any type of reversible plough is allowed. They can be equipped with skim coulter and knife coulter.
- E.2. During the event, only the shares, the skim coulter and the knife coulter can be changed.

F. The assistant

- F.1. Each ploughman will have an assistant.
- F.2. The assistant will be given an armband that allows him to be on the competition field.
- F.3. He must remain on the headland ready to intervene if the ploughman calls him.

- F.4. He is not allowed to accompany the ploughman during the ploughing.
- F.5. The assistant may only help to put up and remove the marker poles as indicated by the ploughman.
- F.6. If so asked by the ploughman, the assistant may take charge of the animals so that at no time are they left without supervision.

G. The duration of the event

- G.1. Before the event, the jury will set the time limit for the ploughing.
- G.2. 2hrs 30min represents a reasonable time to plough 600 m².
- G.3. If the time set by the jury is exceeded, ... penalisation points are given for every additional 4 minutes of work started.

H. The depth of the ploughing

The depth of the ploughing is to be decided beforehand by the president of the jury and the owner of the field.

I. The beginning of the event, the signals and the stops

- I.1. The participants and their teams must appear in front of their plot at the required time.
- I.2. All the alterations to the state of the plot such as removing straw are forbidden to competitors and their assistants except when permitted by the jury.
- I.3. All visual alignment marks apart from the three marker poles are forbidden.
- I.4. All the participants begin to plough the opening furrow on the same opening signal. The maximum time set for the opening furrow will be communicated by the jury beforehand.
- I.5. After ploughing the opening furrow, the ploughman must wait for the judges to inspect it before continuing to plough his plot.
- I.6. There will be four sound signals: the opening furrow signal, the signal for starting ploughing the rest of the plot, a signal at 15 minutes before the end of the ploughing and a signal indicating the end of the event. The time set for the event is timed from the signal starting ploughing the plot after the opening furrows have been judged .

J. The ploughing

- J.1. The ploughing should show well formed furrows, correctly turned, even and clearly defined along the length of the plot. The furrows should present a rounded, evenly crumbled profile with no lumps or hollows so as to give a suitable seedbed for the following crop.
- J.2. The ploughman will first make a single straight and narrow opening furrow by throwing the soil towards the outside of the plot. Then the ploughman will stop at the end of his plot and await the furrow to be judged.
- J.3. After the judges have inspected the opening furrows, and after the signal starting the ploughing, the ploughing will be done according to the diagram placed in appendix. A board indicates the place where the last furrow must be ploughed. One empty run over the unploughed ground is permitted. Each additional empty run will be penalized with...points. All empty runs

must be authorised by the judges and marked by the stewards. Each unauthorised empty turn will be penalized with ...points.

J.4. The ploughman is allowed to hold the plough.

J.5. It is forbidden to put finishing touches to the ploughing with the hands, the feet or in any other way, as well as to walk on the ploughed soil. Any breach of this rule leads to a penalty of ... points.

J.6. However, it is allowed to flatten a part of furrow with the foot while passing without stopping to do so.

J.7. Any violent method used to control the team (such as hitting the animals with the reins, use of a whip etc...) will be penalized with ...points for each action.

J.8. It is forbidden to lead the animals by the head. Disobeying this rule leads to a penalty of ... points.

J.9. Any intervention of any person other than the ploughman or his assistant will lead to a penalty of ... points.

K. Measuring the depth

K.1. The stewards are responsible for measuring the depth of the work.

K.2. The depth measurements will be made on 5 different furrows with 3 measurements per furrow.

K.3. The first 2 meters at the beginning and at the end of a furrow will not be subjected to measurement.

K.4. If so requested by the ploughman, the stewards are allowed to tell him the results of their measurements.

L. Jury decision and exclusion

L.1 Any appeal against a decision or a judgment of the jury must be handed-in in writing at the latest 30 minutes after the posting of the results. A decision concerning this appeal will be taken by the entire jury.

L.2. Any breach of the rules or actions contrary to the sporting spirit of the competition, either in acts or in words, can lead to exclusion. This decision will be taken by the jury.