

# Lawn Mower Racing Rules

## COMPETITION REGULATIONS

### NSW Lawn Mower Racing Rules

(For the conduct of competitions at New South Wales Agricultural Shows & Affiliated Agricultural Shows)

The rules and regulations as set out below are the minimum required rules to be included in organiser rules to conduct a Lawn Mower Race at an Agricultural Show in NSW under the AgShows NSW Insurance program. Any additional rules must be in compliance with relevant legislation and regulations (eg WHS or Safework). This is necessary to improve the safety of participants and other stakeholders and encourage education, competition and skill development.

#### Part 1 – Preliminary

##### **1. Purposes:**

The purpose of the Rules is:

1. To provide for the safe conduct of lawn mower racing in Australia; and
2. To provide specifications for racing lawn mowers in each category as may be amended from time to time; and
3. To provide a safe environment for all persons attending events; and
4. To provide that the sport of Lawn Mower Racing in Australia remains a competitive family sport without fear or favour.

##### **2. Definitions:**

In these Rules –

- “Driver” means a competitor in any event.
- “Event” includes any competition practice or demonstration event.
- “Helmet” means a full face or motor-cross style motorcycle rider’s helmet or race car driver’s helmet.
- “Intoxication” includes being affected by intoxicating liquor or drug, prohibited substance or illegal drug but does not include being affected by medicines which have been prescribed and which are being used in the manner prescribed.
- “Motor” in these Rules means an internal combustion engine naturally operated by any fuel permitted by these Rules.
- “Regulations” includes rules.
- “Restricted Driver” includes a driver who has not reached the age of 18 years. 1 “Unrestricted Driver” in these Rules, is a driver over the age of 18 years.
- “Rules” includes regulations.
- “Ride on Lawn Mower” means a motor driven vehicle which has been specifically designed and sold commercially for mowing residential type lawns but does not include small tractors with or without their attachments.
- “Grid” means starting line.

- “Steward or Marshall” means an official or person assigned the task of supervising behaviour and other matters in the pit, track areas.
- “Track Area” means track and includes the racetrack and surrounding area to any external boundaries, which have been clearly defined as an area prohibited for access by unauthorised persons.
- “Unauthorised persons” include any persons not included in a team or crew.

## Part 2 - Driver Eligibility & Requirements

**3. Minimum age for drivers:** The minimum age for unrestricted drivers shall be 18 years. All drivers 15 to 17 years of age only permitted to drive non-modified mowers.

### **4. Driver to complete and sign Waiver Form:**

All drivers before being eligible to participate in any event shall sign and complete a waiver in the prescribed form discharging the Show Society from all liability.

### **5. Eligible drivers:**

Eligible drivers are drivers who have submitted the required forms and have paid the entry fee.

### **6. No one shall be permitted to ;**

- a) Participate in any event; or,
- b) Enter the pit area; or,
- c) Enter the track area;-

Whilst he/she is in any way affected or under the influence or intoxicating liquor or drug.

**7. Safety briefing:** All drivers must attend a safety briefing prior to commencement of racing, including Rules and Course Layout.

## Part 3-Mower Eligibility

### **a) All Mowers**

**8. Eligible Mowers:** Events are open to all self-propelled rotary or reel type mowers which were originally designed and commercially sold to cut lawns, and comply with the provisions of these Rules.

**9. Good working order:** Mowers must be in good working order and inspected prior to the race. All mowers must demonstrate the ability to corner and stop safely at the safety briefing.

**10. Motors and engines:** No fuel injected or turbo engines are permitted. Only carburetted naturally aspirated internal combustion engines operated by any fuel under the provisions of these rules will be allowed. All Stock mowers shall present in their original configuration with engines “untuned”.

**11. Mower blades: All blades or cutters are to be removed.**

**12. Cut-off switch requirements:** All participating mowers shall be fitted with an operational cut off switch of an approved type (this excludes homemade); and which is connected to the driver by means of a lanyard.

**13. Petrol Tanks:** Petrol tanks are to be constructed of an approved type (no plastic bottles); and need to be secured and covered.

**14. Brake requirements:** Mowers must be fitted with an effective rear braking system only, which must brake the driving wheels. No front brakes.

**15. Sharp or dangerous protrusions:** Mowers which have sharp or dangerous protrusions shall be deemed ineligible for participation until such sharp or dangerous protrusions have been made safe or removed. Stock mowers must have cutting decks in place and **cutting blades must be removed.**

**16. Guards:** Guards must be covering chains.

**17. Handlebars must be plugged:** Handlebars constructed of hollow tubing, which are fitted to a ride-on

lawnmower, shall be deemed unsafe unless the ends of the handlebars are solidly and securely blocked or plugged. Steering mechanisms must be securely fitted.

**18. Bonnets secure:** Bonnets must be properly secured in a closed position.

**19. Suspension not permitted:** Mowers shall not be fitted with suspension to the front or the rear wheels; however springs under the seat as such are permissible. Mowers must have a fixed rear axle, not pivoting.

**20. Batteries:** Batteries shall be securely mounted.

**21. Nudge Bars not permitted:** Rear bars are permitted providing it does not exceed the width of the rear tyres or widest point of the mower.

**22. Subsequent technical inspection requirement:** Any mower deemed ineligible for participation must be re-inspected by the Technical Inspector and approved for participation in the approved manner.

**23. Maximum width of mowers:** The maximum width of any mower shall be 1.0 metres (39") at the widest point.

**24. Maximum length of mowers:** The maximum length of any mower shall be determined by the structural soundness of any lengthening processes.

**25. Mower to be readily recognised as a mower:** Any alterations, repairs or replacements to the body or chassis of the mower are permitted provided the mower retains the appearance of and can be readily recognised as a ride-on lawn mower.

**26. Tyres: Tyres which are fitted to any competition mower must comply with the following to minimise damage to track-**

a) Tyres commonly fitted to "All-Terrain Vehicles" (ATV) are permitted.

b) Any type of pattern tyres including "knobby" type turf tyres, and which are sold for use in lawnmowers are permitted.

c) Any tyres fitted with tractor type lugs are not permitted.

d) All front tyres must have tubes.

**27. Wheel Rims:** Wheel rims shall be of steel or machined alloy only and be of a one piece or welded construction. No two-piece rims are permitted.

#### **b) Additional Requirements for Modified Mowers**

**28. Brake requirements:** Shall be fitted with a braking system such as hydraulic callipers applied to a braking disc, which is securely affixed to the driving axle and which slows both wheels simultaneously.

**29. Chassis Modifications:** Modifications for the purpose of strengthening the chassis are acceptable. All chassis modifications are to be made out of mild steel. The use of exotic materials (e.g., aluminium, carbon fibre, or alloy composition) is not permitted.

**30. Pulley/Driveline Modifications:** Pulley/driveline modifications are acceptable as long as all moving parts are guarded.

**31. Cutting decks/blades:** Cutting decks may be removed, **all cutting blades must be removed.**

**32. Wheel/Suspension:** Wheel and suspension changes are acceptable.

**33. Engines:** Non-standard engines are permitted but limited to commercial engines (e.g. Honda, Vanguard, Briggs & Stratton) with a 20 horsepower limit for both horizontal and vertical shafts and nothing over 250cc or equivalent for motorcycle type engines.

**34. Throttle return:** All modified mowers must be fitted with an automatic throttle closing device eg. spring.

### **Part 4-Fuel**

**35. Permissible Fuels:** Petroleum or gasoline products commonly referred to as: super, avgas,

unleaded, lead, replacement and premium unleaded fuels are permitted fuels.

**36. Prohibited Fuels:** Fuel, petroleum, or gasoline products- a) Not described in **35**; or b) Is a fuel commonly referred to as nitrous oxide, N.O.2, laughing gas; or c) Is a fuel commonly referred to as methanol or alcohol; or d) Is any fuel commonly referred to as LPG or liquid petroleum gas; or, e) Is any fuel which is stored in a pressurised tank or container.

## Part 5- Driver Equipment

**37. Helmet:** Every driver shall wear a protective helmet (to be supplied by Show Society or competitor) which complies with these Rules; a) Fits snugly on the head; and b) Must be securely buckled when the driver is operating a vehicle on the track area; c) If using a motor-cross style helmet, then goggles must be worn

But does not include hard hats, bicycle rider's helmets or other safety equipment of a lesser quality.

**38. Clothing:** Every driver shall wear a safety vest (to be supplied by Show Society or competitor) and a full body of clothing. Drivers are recommended to wear body armour or adequate padding in addition to clothing. Every driver shall wear closed footwear. Every driver shall be responsible for ensuring that clothing cannot be fouled or caught up in the machinery, chains, belts, or any moving parts of his or her mower. Guards must be fitted to prevent this.

## Part 6 – Pit and Track Areas

**39. Persons not permitted on grid:** No unauthorised person shall be permitted on the grid: only mowers, riders, Steward or Starter.

**40. Dismounting from mowers:** Mowers must be completely stopped and stationary before a driver dismounts.

**41. No pets on pit or track area:** No pets are allowed on the pit area or on the track area.

**42. Smoking and alcohol:** There will be no smoking or consuming of alcohol in the pit or track areas at any time.

## Part 7 – Technical Inspections

**43. Mowers must be approved for participation:** The Technical Inspector in any event must first approve any mower. Any fault detected must be rectified before further completion.

**44. Re-inspection may be conducted at any time:** At any time deemed necessary, the technical inspector may require the driver to participate in a re-inspection of the mower before participation can continue.

**45. Unsafe or unstable construction:** The Technical Inspector may refuse any mower on the grounds of unsafe or unstable construction.

**46. Re-inspection after an incident:** Drivers involved in an accident must be re-inspected in the pit or track area.

**47. Driver responsibility to designate correct mower classification:** It is the responsibility of the driver to correctly designate the engine type, size and event classification.

**48. The Show Society has the right to reject any mower:** The Show Society reserves the right to reject at any time any mower which in their opinion represents an attempt to defeat the spirit of these Rules, even though such mower complies with the letter in these rules.

## Part 8 – Racing

**49.** There will be three heats with three mowers racing in each race and one final comprising the winner of each heat.

**50.** The racing track will be set up on the Racecourse and Showground racetrack, with three lanes marked with witches' hats.

**51.** Red Flag indicates all mowers must stop immediately.

**52.** Competitors may be disqualified if competitors;

- a) are seen to be leaving your lane or barging or bumping into other racers while racing
- b) cut corners and don't join the race behind the group they were racing with
- c) are driving in a reckless manner risking injury to your themselves and others have some part of your mower hanging loose that may cause injury. The Organisers may disqualify any entry at any time for failure to comply with any of the above regulations or any other safety related matter

53. All spectators will be behind the fence along the race track, including riders in other heats not competing at the time.

54. There will be three people on the track on safety duty and a race caller off the track and one person starting the race. The area behind the starting point and at the end of the lawn mower race track will be roped off as well.

55. The race caller will remind spectators and other riders to stay off the race track.

56. The race operator will stop any heat or final race if required in the interests of safety, such as if one of the mowers stopped and if any unauthorised person enters the racetrack area.

57. The riders are to stay in their lane and not bump or interfere with the other riders in any way, which would result in the race being stopped and the rider being disqualified.

58. There will be first aid services and a fire extinguisher (preferably the RFS truck as well) on hand if required.

END.