

CITY OF BURLINGTON, WASHINGTON
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
LAWNMOWER RACES
RULES AND REGULATIONS 2023



Rules and Regulations Disclaimer:

The rules and/or regulations set forth herein are designed to provide for the orderly conduct of racing events and to establish minimum acceptable requirements for such events. These rules shall govern the condition of all events, and by participating in these events, all participants are deemed to have complied with these rules. NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY OF SAFETY SHALL RESULT FROM PUBLICATION OF OR COMPLIANCE WITH THESE RULES AND/OR REGULATIONS. They are intended as a guide for the conduct of the sport and are in no way a guarantee against injury or death to a participant, spectator or official.

The race director shall be empowered to permit minor deviation from any of the specifications herein or impose any further restrictions. NO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED WARRANTY OF SAFETY SHALL RESULT FROM SUCH ALTERATION OF SPECIFICATIONS. Any interpretation or deviation of these rules is left to the discretion of the officials. Their decision is final.

City of Burlington Lawnmower Races 2023

Table of Contents: Rules and Regulations

1. Event Coordinator Contact Info Contact Information for those involved in event planning and implementation	Page 2
2. Definitions Definitions for terms you will find in the 2023 Lawnmower Races Rules and Regulations	Page 2
3. General Competition Regulations Rules of the Track	Page 3
4. General Competition Regulations Rules of the Pits	Page 4
5. General Competition Regulations Driver Eligibility Criteria	Page 5
6. General Competition Regulations Driver Safety Equipment	Page 5
7. General Competition Regulations Mower Technical Inspection Criteria	Page 5
8. General Mower Requirements Complete, Detailed Listing of Mower Specifications	Pages 6-8
9. Code of Conduct Rules to follow, behavior expectations and sportsmanship	Page 9

1. Event Coordinator Contact Information:

City of Burlington Parks and Recreation Department

Recreation Coordinator

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2. Definitions

Race Day Chief Steward:

The person appointed on race day to lead the event: This will be a Burlington Parks and Recreation Staff Member

Technical Inspector:

Person/s appointed on race day to inspect all lawnmowers, driver personal protective equipment, race course, etc. prior to being allowed to race. This will be a Burlington Parks and Recreation Staff Member

Pit Steward:

Person/s involved in running a safe and efficient Pit.

Pit Crew:

Person/s who will be supporting driver/lawnmowers for the race (Age 18+ Only).

Safety Crew:

Person/s appointed on race day to enforce the following of the rules to ensure a safe event.

Driver:

Person/s who will enter into races and race with their lawnmower (Age 18+ Only).

Spectators/Guests:

Person/s who are viewing the event, but not participating in the race or assigned any other day-of-event duties.

Pits:

The place where the Driver, Pit Crew and Lawnmowers will be staged as they prepare themselves for the races.

3. General Competition Regulations

Rules of the Track

- A. A Driver who has consumed any alcoholic beverage or **ANY** substance that causes impairment on the day of event may **NOT** participate in a practice or race event.
- B. NO alcoholic beverages may be consumed by any driver, or race staff before the end of the last race or other on-track activity or in the pits.
- C. NO illegal drugs or controlled substances shall be tolerated on the track premises at any time. Violation will result in disqualification from event.
- D. NO bumping lawnmowers will be tolerated. The responsibility of a safe pass rests with the overtaking Driver.
- E. The following flag signals will be obeyed without question:
 - a. **Green:** The race/practice is underway – GO.
 - b. **Yellow:** Take Care. Danger. No passing on the entire course. Drivers must form a single line, close to the leader, and follow the Starter's directions. Very slow machines may signal following machines to pass under yellow.
 - c. **Yellow & White:** The two flags are drawn together by the Starter to indicate that the field is not sufficiently bunched for the restart. If you see this signal, close it up!
 - d. **Green & White Crossed:** Half-way through the race
 - e. **Green & White Side by Side:** Two laps until the end of the race.
 - f. **Red:** Stop racing immediately. Clear the course as much as possible.
 - g. **Black:** Generally used for a driving infraction or equipment violation. Driver must complete lap and pull into the pits for consultation with Safety Crew at designated spot.
 - h. **White:** One lap until the end of the race.
 - i. **Checkered:** End of race or practice session.
- F. Driver must keep both hands on the handle bars, except to momentarily operate controls.
- G. If a driver leaves the course, they must re-enter the course as close as possible to the same point which the lawnmower left the marked track, as long as they're within two pace laps. The driver may not simply re-enter further down the track.
- H. If a mower stalls on the course, the driver's first responsibility is to move the mower to a safe position at least 10 feet off the course. Pit Crew or guest may NOT go on the course at any time during a race unless specifically directed to do so by the Safety Crew.
- I. Mower must be completely stopped before driver dismounts.
- J. Unsafe on or off/track driving practices may result in disqualification.
- K. **All drivers/racers must attend all announced Driver's Meetings.** Failure to attend Driver's Meetings may result in not being allowed to participate in the day's events, practices, heats or features. Roll may be called to verify driver's attendance at meeting.
- L. Drivers/Racers involved in an incident must be inspected by the Technical Inspector and the Race Day Chief Steward.
- M. All mowers involved/causing a caution/accident will be moved to the end of the racing order after it is determined that they are safe to continue.
- N. No onboard communication devices or spotters on the side of the track are allowed.

- O. The Race Day Chief Steward has the right to remove from competition any Driver, crew member, or guest who does not comply with these regulations, who fails Technical Inspection, or who, in the Race Day Chief Steward's sole discretion, is exhibiting behavior which is dangerous to participants or spectators.

4. General Competition Regulations

Rules of the Pits

- A. No person under 18 years of age shall be in the pits.
- B. Mower pit speed is "0" MPH. Mowers MUST be pushed in the pit.
- C. No mower may have more than two attendants in the pit, in addition to the driver.
- D. Long pants, leather or work-type boots and shirts are required in the pit and track area.
- E. No smoking on the track or track infield during the racing event.
- F. Refueling: Driver must dismount the mower and the engine must be turned off when fuel is added. A fire extinguisher must be at four designated points in the Pit at all times.
- G. Mower must be completely stopped before driver dismounts.
- H. Driver crews are under the discretion of the Race Day Chief Steward and Pit Steward at all times.
- I. Driver is responsible for the conduct of their guests and crew, even while on the track.
- J. Unauthorized personnel shall not enter the race course. Anyone, including crew member and guests entering the controlled area which includes, but is not limited to, the race course, and pit area, must wear a wristband and sign a release discharging the City of Burlington from liability.
- K. No pets are allowed on the race course. Pets in the pits must remain on a leash and owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets.
- L. The City of Burlington reserves the right to limit pit space. Campers and RVs may be permitted on race day only if space allows.
- M. No vehicles other than racing mowers and official vehicles shall be on or near the track.
- N. Driver must pay the designated entry fee to Burlington Parks and Recreation to be eligible to participate in the racing events.
- O. Only one person shall be allowed on a racing lawnmower. This includes parade laps, sanctioned races, and/or any occasion sponsored or administered by, or with the knowledge of the City of Burlington. The person on the mower MUST be registered as a racer for the event.
- P. Everyone in the pits including Drivers and their Pit Crew MUST have wrist bands.
- Q. During racing events, the switching of mowers is NOT allowed. Back-up mowers are permitted provided they pass the technical inspection upon entry. The mower used by a driver during practice and heat races MUST be the same mower raced in the feature race.

5. General Competition Regulations

Driver Eligibility Criteria

1. ALL Drivers must be 18 years of age or older to participate in the Lawnmower Races and must currently have a valid government-Issued Driver License. No exceptions.
2. ALL Drivers must wear helmets, long pants, leather or work-type boots and shirts in the track area.
3. ALL Drivers are subject to testing on the Rules of Racing such as flags and passing.
4. Drivers are not required to have previous racing experience to enter the races.
5. Driver eligibility is subject to passing Technical Inspection by appointed Technical Inspector. Failure to pass inspection will result in Driver being ineligible to race.

6. General Competition Regulations

Driver Safety Equipment

1. Every Driver must wear an automobile racing or motorcycle type FULL FACE HELMET approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The helmet must fit snugly and be securely buckled when the driver is on the track. Long hair must be kept tucked inside the helmet. Goggles, face shield, or approved safety eyewear must be worn.
2. Every Driver must wear: long pants, shirt or jacket, and leather work-type boots on the track.
3. It is highly recommended, but not mandatory, that drivers wear chest protectors of their choice for their safety.

7. General Competition Regulations

Mower Technical Inspection Requirements

1. Every mower entered in any City of Burlington event must be approved for competition by Technical Inspection before practicing or racing at any event. A Safety Tech/Build Tech Sticker will be issued at each race to show having passed inspection.
2. All racing mowers MUST have been originally sold to cut grass.
3. Final determination of eligibility is up to the Technical Inspector or Race Day Chief Steward.
4. Drivers must show their personal safety equipment at Technical Inspection before practicing or racing at any event.

5. When going through Technical Inspection, you must bring the complete mower. This includes the hood. No exceptions.
6. ONLY the Driver or their designated Pit Crew members will accompany the mower through Technical Inspections.

8. General Mower Requirements

All Mowers will be in an "OPEN" Class with the Same Requirements

1. **Engine:**
 - a. Overhead cam engines are not allowed. No liquid cooled engines.
 - b. Only 4-Stroke Engines with an advertised 13hp and below are allowed.
 - c. All mowers that do not have the top of the engine completely covered by the hood must have the flywheel covered by either the recoil housing, the stock wire housing or racer made cover.
 - d. All positively charged terminals must be insulated with a cover or heavy tape, and the battery must be well secured.
 - e. Fuel lines must be clamped at all joints.
2. **Frame:**
 - a. Discrete Strengthening is allowed. Front and rear axles must use original frame as primary mounting point. The original frame can be used and can be reinforced.
 - b. Minimum 4" ground clearance to frame, 2" ground to deck.
 - c. No offset or stagger.
3. **Wheelbase:**
 - a. Wheelbase may not be altered.
 - b. You will be allowed, but not required, a maximum width of 36" sidewall to sidewall.
4. **Wheels:**
 - a. Wheels must be the same size on each axle, or any origin made of metal.
 - b. No dual or tandem wheels allowed.
5. **Tires:**
 - a. Tires must match in size, brand and tread design per axle.
 - b. Tires must be lawnmower tires. No ATV, commercial, or performance compound or competition kart tires.
 - c. No slick tires.
6. **Rear Axle:**
 - a. Mowers must be free of projections, which could injure the driver or a competitor, or damage another mower. No axle or wheel mounting bolts may protrude beyond the face of the tire sidewall.
7. **Front Axle and Steering:**
 - a. Steering wheels may be replaced with any commercially available pieces, but not substituted for each other. Steering columns must pass through the original hole in the hood or dash at the original angle. All nuts and bolts attaching the steering assembly (tie rods and spindles) must be secured with lock nuts, castle nuts with cotter pins, or coiled tension pins. Grips may not be added to steering wheels in any class.
8. **Driveline:**

- a. All exposed chains and sprockets must be fitted with metal guards to direct a broken chain downward.
- b. All mowers must utilize a clutch.
- c. Centrifugal clutches and/or torque converters are not allowed.

9. Exhaust:

- a. Exhaust design is open, but must terminate away from the driver and competitors and present no apparent safety hazard.

10. Throttle:

- a. All mowers must be equipped with automatic dual spring throttle closing device.
- b. Throttle and clutch controls may be relocated.
- c. Mowers must be fitted with sturdy double return springs mounted at two different mounting points on both ends to help eliminate the throttle from sticking or failure to completely close when released. Below are two photos (samples of intent):

Photo 1: This is the **CORRECT** way to attach the throttle return springs on the carburetor. Notice they are mounted on two different locations and not together.



Photo 2: This is the **INCORRECT** way to attach the throttle return springs on the carburetor. Notice that the springs are attached to the same bracket in this photo. Springs must be mounted on two separate mounting brackets. If for any reason one breaks, there will still be one spring attached.



11. Kill Switch:

- a. All mowers must be equipped with a kill switch, which will turn off the ignition if the driver leaves the mower. Non-stock mowers shall use a tether, mechanically attached to the mower and driver. Velcro is NOT acceptable. Pressure switches are not allowed. Kill switches must remain in closed position (engine not running) until the driver mounts the mower. The ignition interrupter kill switch and cap/prong must be commercially

available for racing type vehicles such as jet skis, snowmobiles, four-wheelers, etc. Magnetic, or any other form of homemade switch is not allowed.

12. Body:

- a. Cutting blades must be removed completely from all mowers with a minimum 2" ground clearance under the lowest point of the deck. Mowing deck is allowed but not required.
- b. No headlights of any kind are allowed.
- c. Mowers must be safe and complete, all parts and panels in place, with no missing nuts, bolts, cotter keys, etc.
- d. Mowers must be neat and clean, with paint in new or very good condition. No excess dirt, oil, grease, rust or primer.
- e. Front bumpers are not permitted.
- f. Rear bumpers are allowed, but not required. If used, they can be no wider than sidewall of the two rear tires.
- g. Fenders may be discretely moved, modified and altered so that the driver can lower the seat assembly. Fender trimming is allowed, however, chopping of fenders is not allowed. The following are guidelines:
 - Trimming of fenders must have ½" of clearance between the fender edge and the top of the tire.
 - Trimming should follow the contour line of the fender, not merely remove sheet metal in the immediate area.
 - Trimming that results in sharp edges will not be allowed.
- h. Modifications to the fender assembly are allowed to lower the seat. Seat bottom will be no lower than 13" from the ground. Fender cutouts are permitted but must have protective trimming to eliminate the possibility of having sharp edges.

13. Race Numbers:

- a. Race numbers MUST be of a sharply contrasting color from their background, and must be visible from three sides of the mower (right, left, rear). All mowers must have their number visible from the front for grid line up and scoring purposes. Machines without numbers will have them assigned on race day. Class letters, should be a minimum of 5" high, and be shown on both sides of the mower.

14. Fuel and Fuel Delivery:

- a. The only acceptable fuel is pump gasoline. Fuel must be pumped fuel bought at Service Stations. Additives are prohibited. Any apparatus other than the carburetor which can be used to introduce any gaseous or liquid substance into the induction flow, whether connected or not, is prohibited, and will result in disqualification. Such devices include, but are not limited to, nitrous oxide, alcohol or water injection systems, turbo or superchargers, and/or the attendant hardware consistent with these systems. Any attempt to conceal or disguise such apparatus will be considered a flagrant violation and may result in expulsion from event.
- b. Electric fuel pumps are NOT allowed in any class.

9. Code of Conduct

Staff, Drivers, Guests and Spectators

The City of Burlington expects its staff, volunteers, drivers and guests to always act in a courteous, professional manner. The City of Burlington reserves the right to accept or deny any person/s to attendance of events for any action(s) deemed detrimental to the event.

As stated in the above Rules and Regulations document, the Driver is responsible for the conduct of Pit Crew members/guests, even while on the race track. Should anyone attending the event be found committing any detrimental act, that person will be removed from the premises. Removal from the event will be at the sole discretion of the Race Day Chief Steward. The following offenses will result in removal from the event:

- a. Any conscious effort by a person to ignore or circumvent in any way the rules and regulations defined by the City of Burlington.
- b. Verbal assault, either public or written of any staff member or race day volunteer.
- c. Physical assault of any staff member or race day volunteer.
- d. Persistent on-track violations, including, but not limited to rough driving, passing under yellow, failure to follow on track instruction.
- e. Any conscious effort to undermine the integrity of the City of Burlington, its staff, or race day volunteers is prohibited.