

2025 CURRENT RULES

1. Ploughing commences at 09:30am prompt and will finish by 12:00 noon or within 2 hours of restarting after the openings are judged.
2. All competitors to be on the field by 09:15 am. The field will open to competitors from 08:15 am.
3. All competitors to set ridge, plough one round, then turn to the next highest number on their right and finally finish furrow, having cut out all the ground when opening the ridge. All competitors must finish towards their own crown.
4. All competitors will plough not more than one-third acre per bottom of plough used.
5. **Each ploughman will be allowed 15 minutes for opening after the start is authorised by the stewards. Ploughing will then stop for a minimum of 15 minutes whilst openings are judged, and ploughing will not re-start until signalled by the Stewards. Tractors will remain stationary until signalled by the Stewards. Total ploughing time will not exceed 2½ hours. Extra time taken may result in reduction in marks.**
6. Any competitor who must make two furrows out may take his second furrow whilst the openings are judged.
7. **The land to be ploughed in the best workmanlike manner for winter ploughing at a depth of no more than 6 inches maximum.**
8. No assistance whatsoever to be given to competitors and no visitors allowed on their plots.
9. Any number of marking sticks allowed.
10. Ploughing must be done with the same number of furrows throughout. **The width of the plough must stay constant.**
11. Objections by any competitor must be lodged by 1 pm with the Steward of that class, whose duty it will be to call the Committee to settle the same and whose decision will be final.
12. No attachments may be fitted to standard ploughs, except chains and weights. Skims and Trash Boards are permitted.
13. No turn furrow used may be more than 36" long excluding extensions and the share.
14. Any class may at the discretion of the Committee be divided into two classes by means of a draw.
15. The Committee reserves the right to interpret the rules as it sees fit and to disqualify any competitor who does not abide by the rules and the Committee decision will be final.
16. The Association will not be responsible for any loss, damage or accident incurred by competitors or visitors and all persons attending do so at their own risk.
17. Tractors are to be steered manually and no GPS units or similar will be allowed.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES FOR VINTAGE PLOUGHING

1. Tractor – all models of tractor must have been produced prior to Q Cab regulations (approx. 1976).
2. Ploughs
 - a) Mounted ploughs in production before 31 December 1976 but excluding Fiskars; Kverneland ` Hydrien and Super Hydrien and Ransomes/Bonning YCN; UCN and SCN not allowed.
 - b) Plough bodies to be in production before 31 December 1976.
 - c) Skimmers and tailpieces are optional – no other attachments allowed.
 - d) Plough bodies cannot be raised out of the 'ploughing' position.
 - e) All plough bodies to be used when ploughing the finish.
 - f) Extraneous attachments that manipulate furrows or scratches are not allowed.

VINTAGE PLOUGHING GUIDELINES

1. Discs/skimmers/tailpieces can be of different make.
2. Weights can be used on tractors or ploughs.
3. Adjustable stays on plough mouldboards are allowed but must be fixed.
4. Quick entry or slotted links are not allowed.
5. Extended wheel axles are not allowed.
6. Screw adjustments on cross shafts are not allowed.
7. Modified plough shares are not allowed.
8. Diesel engine conversions are allowed.
9. Hydraulic top links and other hydraulic rams are not allowed.
10. Stubble chains are not allowed.
11. Two-piece adjustable tailpieces are not allowed.
12. Draw-bars with hydraulic movement are not allowed.
13. A list of eligible tractors is available from the Society of Ploughmen on request.

SUPPLEMENTARY RULES FOR REVERSIBLE PLOUGHING

Rule 3 does not apply.

An opening split shall be made at the start. This run is done by using one body working at least 3" deep and 10" wide and must be turned towards the next lowest plot number. After judging of openings, make two runs (one with each set of bodies) turning the opening split back towards the next highest plot. Then commence one way ploughing against neighbouring plot (next highest number) and plough parallel work to finish against the original opening.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Your attention is drawn to the Health and Safety notes set out below and employers and all competitors are asked to ensure that they have read these fully. A copy of the full statement and policy is available from the Secretary and will be displayed at the Match.

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

The Society's policy is to create and maintain an environment that is both safe and healthy for the benefit of all members, competitors, exhibitors and spectators at the Ploughing Match, its preparation and dismantling. The prevention of all accidents is recognised as being essential and the Society actively asks for the co-operation of all members in achieving this aim.

The Society's Health and Safety Policy Statement will be revised from time to time as required by the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and derivatives.

It is a condition of entry that all competitors, exhibitors and those involved with the event comply with this safety policy at all times.

PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY: Ploughing Match Committee

Committee members shall have overall responsibility for all aspects of health and safety and shall ensure everyone under their control are familiar with this document.

Members of the Committee will assist with the implementation and enforcement of this safety policy and encourage members, competitors and spectators to commit to the same.

PLOUGHING AREA

1. All tractors and ploughs used before, during or after the match may only be operated by competent persons, fully trained and experienced in its use. Any Personal Protective Equipment deemed necessary shall be provided by the competitor and the Association assumes that the wearer is fully trained in its use.
2. Passengers must not be carried on any tractor unless it is adapted for that purpose. Use of any machine by anyone under 14 years of age is prohibited.
3. All tractors and ploughs must comply fully with current legislation relevant to their use, must be properly maintained, particularly with regard to brakes, steering and tyres, hydraulic pipes, connections and electrical safety. No equipment should be used unless it is considered safe, by a person trained to do so, is fully guarded, properly maintained and complies with relevant legislation.
4. The stewards and ploughmen must ensure that adequate precautions are taken to protect the ploughmen and bystanders. If any person encroaches into the ploughing designated danger area, operations shall cease immediately. Unsafe operation will not be allowed and may lead to eviction from the site and possible legal action by the enforcing authority.
5. The correct personal protective equipment must be worn at all times when participants or exhibitors are engaged in an activity for which personal protective equipment is required. Users must also be trained in the use of PPE. All such personal protective equipment must be suitable for the purpose.

DISCLAIMERS AND WARNINGS

1. The Committee for the Avebury Ploughing Association and their hosts The Hues Family do not accept any liability for loss or damage to any vehicle or its accessories and equipment or any article or articles contained in or on any vehicle: howsoever caused, including whether caused by the Committee's or organiser's servants or agents and including, without any way limiting the generality of the foregoing, any loss or damage caused by the Committee or organiser's servants or agents.
2. All visitors are to be aware of tractors and vehicles at all times, comply with the instructions of the stewards and the notices provided and take care when passing by the plots while ploughing is in progress.