

RULES FOR VINTAGE PLOUGHING



1. **TRACTOR**
In both trailing and mounted plough classes, all models of tractor must have been in production before 31st December 1959.
2. **PLOUGHS**
 - a. Trailing plough class – any trailing plough is eligible.
 - b. Mounted plough class – any mounted plough in production before 31st December 1959.
 - c. Plough bodies to be in production before 31st December 1959.
 - d. Skimmers and one-piece tailpieces are optional – no other attachments allowed.
 - e. No modified tailpieces or brackets allowed. Tailpieces should not be more than 22cm long from the end of the mouldboard and 11cm wide and can only be adjusted by the mouldboard bolts.
 - f. Plough bodies can be raised or lowered but cannot be raised out of the 'ploughing' position.
 - g. All plough bodies to be used when ploughing the finish.
 - h. Extremous attachments that manipulate the furrows or scratches are not allowed.
 - i. Only one plough wheel allowed in mounted ploughing.
3. **TIME ALLOWED**
 - a. 20 minutes for opening. **Penalty for failure to finish opening on time – 2 points per minute or part minute.**
 - b. 40 minutes for openings to be judged.
 - c. 4 hours to complete the plot. **Penalty for failure to finish the plot at finishing signal – 10 points per minute or part minute**
 - d. 15 minutes for any cast-off made after commencement of ploughing.
 - e. Maximum of one hour only allowed for a breakdown.
4. **OPENING**
 - a. Double opening – no land left unturned.
 - b. On grassland there is no opening. Scratches may be handled but not removed.
5. **START**
 - a. The start shall consist of 11 or 12 furrows.
 - b. Competitors must cast towards the next highest numbered plot.
6. **FINISH**
 - a. The finish shall consist of the last 8 furrows.
 - b. Last furrow to be cast towards competitors' own start.
7. **DEPTH**
Depth to be at the competitors discretion.
8. **GENERAL**
 - a. The first and second runs next to the neighbours' plot will be allowed as straightening furrows and will not be judged.
 - b. Rolling of furrows or scratches is not allowed. **Penalty – 20 points deduction.**
 - c. Twin tractor wheels not allowed.
 - d. Three sighting poles only (one can be placed on the headland) – assistance to set and remove is allowed. No other assistance allowed including no assistance by signal, radio contact, mobile phone or any other method.
 - e. Handling, shaping or treading of scratches or furrows is not allowed.
 - f. Only one tractor and one plough wheel mark allowed at the finish.

- g. Only the competitor allowed to clean the plot of straw, stones, etc. Clearing stubble is not allowed and will be penalised.
- h. Competitors must produce evidence of age of tractor if requested.
- i. The use of Global Positioning Technology, laser beams or any other electronic or computerised measuring devices are not allowed.
- j. Any abuse or dispute by a competitor with an official or fellow competitor is not acceptable. **Penalty – 20 points.**

9. **SAFETY**

- a. Passengers not allowed on tractors or ploughs at any time.
- b. Society of Ploughmen Safety Policy to be adhered to at all times.

10. **FINAL DECISION**

Any question arising and not provided for in these rules shall be decided by the Directors whose decision shall be final and binding.

JUDGES METHOD OF SCORING – VINTAGE PLOUGHS

OPENING	20
<i>Well cut, uniform and straight</i>	
START (11 or 12 furrows)	20
<i>Uniform and level</i>	
SEED BED	20
<i>Weed control and soil made available</i>	
FIRMNESS	20
<i>Firm, well packed furrows, no holes</i>	
UNIFORMITY	20
<i>Clearly defined uniform furrows and no pairing of furrows</i>	
FINISH	20
<i>Uniform and shallow</i>	
INS AND OUTS	20
<i>Neat, accurate and regular</i>	
STRAIGHTNESS	20
<i>Straightness of the whole plot</i>	
GENERAL APPEARANCE	20
<i>Workmanship and general appearance of the whole plot</i>	

FIXED PENALTY DEDUCTIONS

Two tractor wheel marks	up to 20 points penalty
Finish wrong way	20 points penalty
Rolling	20 points penalty
Failure to finish opening on time	2 points per minute or part minute over time
Failure to finish plot by finishing signal	10 points per minute or part minute over time
Abuse of officials or fellow competitors	20 points penalty
Failure to adhere to the Safety Policy	Disqualification
<u>At British National Ploughing Championships:</u>	
Failure to report for Plough Off Parade	20 points penalty
Failure to adhere to the Safety Policy	Disqualification

Any other penalty deduction will be decided by the Directors

EQUIPMENT

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.
4. Quick entry or slotted top links are allowed.
5. Extended wheel axles are allowed.
6. Screw adjustments on cross shafts are allowed.
7. Modified plough shares are allowed.
8. Diesel engine conversions are allowed.
9. Hydraulic top links and other hydraulic rams are not allowed.
10. Stubble chains, or any other attachment used to bury stubble, are not allowed.
11. Modified tailpieces or brackets are not allowed.
12. Two-piece adjustable tailpieces are not allowed.
13. Draw-bars with hydraulic movement not allowed.
14. Four wheel drive tractors or conversions not allowed.
15. A list of eligible equipment is available from the Society of Ploughmen on request.

GUIDANCE FOR SOCIETIES

1. Tramlines – plough at 90° across tramlines if possible.
2. Avoid plots on side headlands.
3. Recommended size of plots: length 75m; width 14m (Maximum length 100m, minimum 60m. Maximum width 16m, minimum 12m.)
4. Recommended minimum width of headland :
Trailing ploughs - 15 metres; Mounted ploughs - 10 metres
5. A list of eligible equipment is available from the Society of Ploughmen on request.
6. Score sheets and rules are available to affiliated societies of the Society of Ploughmen.

NATIONAL VINTAGE AREA FINALS

7. Area finals are part of the National Ploughing Calendar and only experienced and competent judges should be chosen to officiate – judges to judge individually on each half of the plots.
8. All Society of Ploughmen rules must be adhered to and the Society of Ploughmen conventional points scoring system used.
9. Qualifying matches can be part of existing events or run separately.
10. Competitors can reside in or out of the area of the competitions.
11. Each judge may have a judges clerk to mark the score sheet. The clerk could be a novice judge wishing to learn how to judge ploughing.