

Pumpkin Blast 2018 Competition Scoring

Pumpkin Blast is a pumpkin launching competition to be held at Tate Farms. Teams of up to 4 members in the Primary Competition and up to 2 in the Short Range Division are invited to build devices to launch pumpkins for distance and accuracy. There will also be a Judges' Award for the team that best embraces the spirit of Pumpkin Blast.

Please read the rules below carefully. If you have questions that are not addressed within them, please email us at rules@pumpkinblast.com.

Access to the launching area will include a dirt path into the field. Please ensure that you have adequate and safe transportation for your device!

Also, please note that all pumpkins for the event will be provided at Tate Farms, on the day of the event, as part of your registration fee.

As Pumpkin Blast draws closer, we will post more details on device drop-off, event-day registration and pumpkin pick-up. Keep checking back on www.PumpkinBlast.com and on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pumpkinblast for updates.

1.0 Primary Rules

- 1.1 Safety of all involved is the primary concern. In all cases the judge's decisions on safe design or operating conditions shall prevail. Any questions involving approvals or best practices in design or use of materials are subject to judges' decisions.
- 1.2 Secondary are the intended rules and guidelines meant to allow the competition to occur in the manner of good sportsmanship. Deviations in design or use of materials seen by the judges as an attempt to circumvent the rules in any manner will be grounds for handicapping, denial of competing, or disqualification – at the judge's discretion.

These two rules supersede all other rules below.

2.0 Teams

- 2.0 There will be two competitions with prizes awarded within each:
 - 2.0.1 The Primary Competition will be for larger devices, with a larger distance to the target, and encompass teams of up to 4 members on the firing line.
 - 2.0.2 The Short Range Competition will be for smaller devices, with a shorter distance to the target, and encompass teams of no more than 2 members on the firing line.
- 2.1 Primary Competition: Within each competitive category of the Primary Competition, the divisions will be based on the age of the competitors. These divisions are:
 - 2.1.1 Adult – includes all competitors above the age of 18 not enrolled in college or university and all competitors that are part of a corporate-sponsored team.

- 2.1.2 Collegiate – all members of the team must be currently enrolled in a college, university, community college, trade school, or similar institution. No more than half of the team members may be graduate students.
 - 2.1.3 Youth – all members of the team must be at least 14-years old but no older than 18-years old. No members of the team may be currently enrolled in college, etc.
 - 2.1.4 Teams should consist of no more than 4 competitors, and all team members must meet the qualifications of the division, as deemed appropriate by the organizers.
 - 2.1.5 Note – Collegiate and Youth teams may have an adult advisor / coach who does not count as one of their 4 team members. Actual construction and firing of the device must be done by the youth/student members of the team. All teams may have additional team members involved in the design and construction of the device. During competition, however, only the 4 registered team members will be allowed in the pit at one time.
- 2.2 Short Range Competition: This will include all teams entering the Short Range Competition, regardless of the age of the competitors. Competitors in the Short Range Competition must be at least 12 years old. However, any Short Range Competition team must include at least one adult over age 19, or if consisting of two youth team members, must have an adult advisor or coach. Teams are comprised of only 2 competitors.

3.0 Devices & Pumpkins

- 3.0 Competition will be divided into divisions based on device type. Devices that fit into the following categories shall be permitted:
- 3.0.1 Air Cannon (Primary Competition Only)
 - 3.0.2 Mechanical (consisting of):
 - Catapult
 - Trebuchet
 - Sling Shot
 - Human Powered or Other Devices (at the discretion of the Judges)
 - 3.0.3 The organizers reserve the right to combine these device categories into one open division or break any division into specific like-machine divisions.
- 3.1 Pumpkin Blast organizers shall provide all pumpkins for the event. Competitors will have access exclusively to pumpkins known as “Field Trip Variety Pumpkins” which average between 3-5 pounds with an average approximate diameter of 7”. **Please be aware that our ammunition is a VEGETABLE! It is subject to climate and crop conditions each season and the will of Nature. The organizers and Tate Farms make no promises as to the actual size and weight of pumpkins which grow in the field. Competitors should be prepared for variance in the actual size and weight of available pumpkins.**

4.0 Scoring

- 4.0 General: Event will be scored as a combination of performance, efficiency and accuracy. The team with the highest total points will be declared the winner. If there are multiple divisions, then a winner will be determined based on the team with the highest total points in their respective division.
- 4.1 Prizes: If there are sufficient entrants, prizes will be awarded in each division. Based on participation, the Judges reserve the right to combine divisions into one open division or otherwise as necessary.
 - 4.1.1 Prizes consist of a First-Place Trophy and Medals for the members of the top 3 teams in each Competition Division. Cash Prizes will be awarded to the First Place team in each Competition Division.
 - 4.1.2 Plaques will be given to the teams winning the Big Shot Award in both the Primary Competition and Short-Range Division and the Judges' Award (described below).
 - 4.1.3 Crowd-Favorite Award will be given to only one team for the entire competition based on votes from the audience. The organizers will provide details on the voting process and any associated prizes closer to competition time.
 - 4.1.4 Additional prizes may be made available at the discretion of the Organizers and will be announced if they become available.
- 4.2 Competition Scoring: Teams will be allowed as many shots as practical during the competition. The top 5 shots for accuracy and the longest distance shot will be scored. The organizers reserve the right to alter the number of shots and time period based on the number of entrants and safety concerns. Teams will be notified in advance if this decision is made. Teams will also be afforded practice shots prior to the competition time.
 - 4.2.1 In the Primary Competition, a Target will be placed within a range of 85 – 135 yards from the firing line. The exact placement of the target will be announced the day of the competition.
 - 4.2.2 In the Short Range Division, a target will be placed within a range of 15 – 35 yards from the firing line. The exact placement of the target will be announced the day of the competition.
 - 4.2.3 Bands will be marked on the field in varying distances from the target, with point values diminishing in bands farther from the target and the highest points available closest to the target. Bonus points will be awarded for hitting the target. Point values for each range will be announced at the Captains' Meeting the morning of the competition based on the layout of the field provided by Tate Farms.
 - 4.2.4 At the end of the competition rounds, teams will be allowed up to 2 shots for distance. The Judges and Organizers reserve the right to alter the

number of distance shots based on time limitations. The team in each division with the longest shot will be awarded the Big Shot Award and receive a +50-point bonus on their overall score.

- 4.3 Judges' Award: Competing teams are all considered for the prestigious Judges' Award. This honor is awarded to the one team (across all Competition Divisions) that the Judges' Panel feels best embraces the spirit of Pumpkin Blast. Judges consider the effort and creativity shown in concept design and device construction, the attitude of the team's members, and the overall team spirit shown throughout the day.