



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL RESOURCES
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AMANDA E. BEAL
COMMISSIONER

Memorandum to: Agricultural Fair License Holders, Pulling Competition License Holders,
and Other Interested Parties
From: Craig Lapine, Bureau Director
Subject: Allowable and Prohibited Activities for Suspended Owners and Drivers
Date: June 13, 2025

The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (“DACF”) is authorized to suspend animal owners and drivers who violate certain laws pertaining to pull events. *See, e.g.*, 7 M.R.S. § 96(8), (10). Maine statute alternately uses the terms “competing” and “participating” when referring to what suspended owners and drivers are prohibited from doing. This memorandum, which affirms a position shared by DACF staff at a meeting of the Pull Events Commission on March 21, 2025, is intended to clarify DACF’s interpretation of those terms as used in section 96 and chapter 226 of DACF’s rules,¹ as applicable to whether certain activities, locations, etc., are prohibited for owners and drivers who are under suspension. Holders of permits under 7 M.R.S. § 97(1) are responsible for ensuring that no suspended person competes in a pull event. *See* 01-001 C.M.R. ch. 226, § 5(1).

The following activities are examples of competing in or participating in pulling events and are therefore prohibited for owners and drivers under suspension:

1. Walking any animal entered into a licensed pulling event across the scales for weigh-in.
2. Handling in the ring any animal entered into a licensed pulling event.
3. Receiving premiums from a licensed pulling event.
4. Using one’s insurance to enter animals into licensed pulling events.

The following are examples of activities not considered a part of competing in or participating in pulling events and are therefore allowable for those owners and drivers under suspension:

1. Witnessing the weigh-in.
2. Being present in the grandstand.
3. Being present in the ring for the purpose of offering verbal or moral support to youth teamsters.

¹ Dictionary definitions of “compete” and “participate” offer helpful guidance for applying these terms here. “Compete” is defined as: “to strive consciously or unconsciously for an objective (such as position, profit, or a prize) : be in a state of rivalry[.]” *Compete*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/compete> (last visited June 12, 2025). “Participate” is defined, in relevant part, as: “to take part[.]” *Participate*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/participate> (last visited June 12, 2025).

The above examples are not exhaustive and are not intended to cover every circumstance or eventuality at a pulling event. Additionally, penalties issued by the DACF commissioner may include other prohibitions or conditions. Permit holders and superintendents should always refer to the specific conditions of any individual Decision and Order.

cc: Amanda Beal, DACF Commissioner
Nancy McBrady, DACF Deputy Commissioner
Carey Gustanski, Assistant Attorney General