



Second Annual Pumpkin Chunkin' Official Rules and Divisions

Divisions

1. **Lightweight Division:** Age 10 and under
Max. height of catapult = 40"
Projectile weight = Less than 5 lb. pumpkin
2. **Middleweight Junior Division:** Age 14 and under
Max. height of catapult = 70"
Projectile weight = 10 lb. pumpkin
3. **Middleweight Open Division:** Open to all ages
Max. height of catapult = 72"
Projectile weight = 15 lb. pumpkin
4. **Heavyweight Division:** Open to all ages
Max. height of catapult = 14 ft.
Projectile weight = 20 lb. pumpkin
5. **Unlimited Division (Throw for Show):** Open to all ages
Max. height or catapult: No limit
Projectile weight: No limit

Eligibility

Who can participate in the Pumpkin Chunkin' Contest?

- a) Open to anyone to compete. One person or a team of up to 8 people. We are hoping to have kids of all ages – as well as organizations such as cub scouts, boy scouts, girl scouts, universities, companies, and/or colleges to enter the competition.
- b) In the lightweight and middleweight junior divisions, the participants must take part in the construction of their catapult; an adult mentor is permitted to assist in the construction of the catapult only when and if necessary.

General Rules for Catapults

Catapult building restrictions and limitations – what are they?

- a) Height of catapult, including throwing arm fully extended, may not exceed limit. If a sling is included, it is not included in the height limit. A cocking mechanism may also exceed the height limit.
- b) The catapult may be mounted or assembled on a trailer for convenience. The height of the catapult will be measured from the floor of the trailer. This does give slight advantage – so, the height of the trailer will be subtracted from the distance of the throw. For example: if someone uses a 3 ft. trailer and throw 100 ft., they will get credit for only 97 ft.

- c) No digging into the ground is permitted (e.g., pit for counterweight). You may use the ground to stake the catapult, if needed, to prevent rocking. Ropes, wires, or straps are also allowed. This is encouraged for safety reasons.
- d) Winches or other electrical motors are allowed to cock a trebuchet. This is for safety reasons. If these devices are electrical, they must be battery operated since there will be limited – if not any – access to power.
- e) All catapults – including trebuchets – must only be gravity powered. No springs or pneumatics or other power sources. An air cannon will not compete against trebuchets.
- f) A prop or firing device may fall over the firing line, as long as the arm or main structure of the trebuchet stays behind the firing line.
- g) No physical pushing or shoving of the counterweight will be allowed. Breaking this rule – especially for trebuchets – will result in disqualification of the throw.

Catapult Height

What are the height restrictions and how are they measured?

- a) The height of a catapult – including a trebuchet – is the difference between the top and bottom.
- b) The top is the highest point reached by the arm (including the finger if trebuchet) or the counterweight during firing. The bottom is the lowest point of the arm or counterweight during firing.
- c) For a King Arthur trebuchet, two measurements are made when the trebuchet is at rest; the highest point of the finger and the lowest point of the counterweight. Two measurements are made when the trebuchet is loaded; the highest point of the counterweight and the lowest point of the finger. All four measurements are made from a convenient fixed level. The ground is a good level or the lowest point of the catapult or trebuchet.

The Four Measurements are:

- i. Highest point of finger/basket at rest
- ii. Lowest point of counterweight/base at rest
- iii. Lowest point of finger/basket when loaded
- iv. Highest point of counterweight/base when loaded

BYOP (Bring Your Own Pumpkin)

- a) Participants **must** bring their own pumpkin. We suggest that participants bring 3 prime pumpkins at exactly the right weight for the contest – and several others for practice and free-for-all towards the end. Farmville Parks & Recreation will **NOT** provide pumpkins.
- b) Projectile must weigh at least the limit or less – shown below.
 - i. Lightweight = less than 5 lb.
 - ii. Middleweight = 10 lbs.
 - iii. Heavyweight = 15 lbs.

Judging Practices

How will catapults be judged? What about chunkin'?

- a) Judges will measure the height of the catapult – and the weight of the projectile before firing. Weight of the projectile must be AT OR BELOW the limit. Height of the catapult must be UNDER the limit, or subject to a small distance penalty. No part of a trebuchet may go over the line during firing – except the sling.
- b) Pumpkins hurled/chunked the furthest distance, in each division, win.

“Best Design” Prize

All classes of catapults are competing for the overall “Best Design” prize.

- a) The overall “Best Design” winner is determined by computing the *scaled distance* for each division/class winner and the one with the greatest value wins. Prizes will be provided by local businesses.

Safety

- a) All catapults must have a safety device (i.e., C-clamp for trebuchets) to stop the throwing arm or basket from firing prematurely during loading of the projectile. Another excellent safety device is a support which can be placed directly under the counterweight (trebuchet) – preventing it from falling. The Farmville Parks and Recreation staff and judges will determine if a catapult is safe. If a catapult is not deemed to be ‘safe’, on-site staff will make every effort to help the team make it safe – time permitting.
- b) Once a catapult is loaded, it is dangerous. Once the counterweight is lifted for a trebuchet, it too is dangerous. Participants should be careful not to put hands, feet, or any other part of the body in the potential path of the throwing arm or basket – or counterweight. Safety should be turned on – or situated – immediately after the counterweight is lifted (for trebuchets).

Registration

- a) All hurlers/chunkers are welcome! Other catapults, trebuchets, and hurling machines may “Throw for Show”.
- b) Other trebuchets, or catapults, or air cannons not in the above categories are encouraged to come and "throw for show" along with the other contestants. However, if they do not meet the division specifications, they will not be part of the official competition.
- c) To enter the **Pumpkin Chunkin'** competition, please call Isaiah Lubben, Recreation Program Coordinator, at 252. 753. 6722. You may also send an email to ilubben@farmvillenc.gov.

Please have the following information ready when you contact the Farmville Recreation Department:

- ✓ **Name of Captain**
- ✓ **Team Members (optional)**
- ✓ **Representing at awards ceremony (optional)**
- ✓ **Division (Lightweight, Middleweight Jr., Middleweight Open, Heavyweight)**
- ✓ **Name of Catapult/Trebuchet (optional)**
- ✓ **Phone number (required)**

Registration Fee: \$40.00 per team (ALL divisions)