

Team-Pumpkin Certified Weigh off Standards

Team-Pumpkin believes a weigh-off should be a time of recognition, sharing and fun for everyone. As a result Team-Pumpkin strives to promote giant pumpkin growing and support for all growers. At a weigh-off growers deserve recognition and their day in the limelight which is the basis for the standards for a Team-Pumpkin certified weigh-off. If you think your site qualifies you need to submit an application to Team-Pumpkin for evaluation to see if your site meets the essential goals of support for all growers and ensures fair play for all participants. Weigh-offs that qualify and are approved will earn the recognition of becoming a "Team-Pumpkin Certified Weigh-off".

Weigh off Site Rules:

- (1) Each weigh-off will have a designated club or group to officiate the proceedings. There must be at least one experienced grower as the leader along with additional support staff as needed. Two persons (excluding the grower) should be entry inspectors.
- (2) In fairness to all growers entries should be presented in random order when possible.
- (3) The scale showcase area should have a standard sized Team-Pumpkin banner on display in a location that allows it to be present in the pictures taken of the growers and entries while on the scale. This is a simple 18" x 60" black and white banner printed on paper that can be sent to the contact person electronically so it can be printed by the site or a printed copy can be mailed to the site for a \$15 fee.
- (4) Sites will be designated as *International Competition* or *Certified (C)*.
 - a. *International Competition* sites will use a certified/calibrated platform scale large enough to accommodate the largest entry and follow the more stringent guidelines recognized by the growing community. These entries must be weighed 'bare' without any lifting device attached or on the scale.
 - b. *Certified* sites will be permitted to use various calibrated inline scales as long as corrections for tare weights are performed.
 - c. Both sites will need to comply with all rules for entry inspection and soundness.
 - d. Only *International Competition* sites meet all the requirements for international competition and do not require additional designation.
 - e. *Certified* weights are equivalent to exhibitions weights as valid but not eligible for competition. These weights will have a (C) designation. Example "305 GrowerX2013 (C)" would be used for the 305 pound pumpkin grown by GrowerX in 2013 at a *Certified* site.

Entries:

- (1) Each entry should be accompanied by the grower or group representative. The person that has done the majority of the hands on work to grow the entry shall be recognized as the 'grower' except where a group of associated individuals have participated in which case the designated representative will be the grower. Limited exceptions to this rule are at the sole discretion of the local officials.
- (2) The entry must be healthy and sound as judged by the officials before being weighed and comply with the normally accepted standards such as free from penetrating holes and disease. In the absence of obvious disease the entry should easily pass the standard sniff test by experienced growers or undergo additional close inspection.
- (3) Entries with penetrations into the seed cavity and serious soft spots as determined by the designated inspectors(s) will be declared Damaged (DMG) and not eligible for prizes unless a prize is explicitly declared for such damaged entries. (Usually this is considered a consolation prize). Serious soft spots are those that the inspectors do not think will allow the entry to survive the duration of the event plus one day.
- (4) Only a single entry is permitted to be eligible for prizes. Multiple entries when permitted by local rules and not declared DMG will be designated as Exhibition (EXH) entries. EXH entries meet all the same standards as entries not declared to be DMG. For *Certified* sites there will be a 'C' after the weights to denote the designation the site applied for.
- (5) All entries will be examined for damage or disease before being weighed. International *Competition* entries will be weighed bare on the digital platform scale without any tarps, straps or lifting devices. Reasonable accommodation for tare weights is permitted for *Certified* entries only.
- (6) The entry inspectors will have the final say on the soundness of an entry.
- (7) All entry weights, grower, genetics, and measurements should be recorded with only weights and grower names required for *Certified* sites.
- (8) Photos of all entries is strongly encouraged but not required.

Prizes:

- (1) The prize structure if any will be determined by the local club or group.
- (2) The one requirement is that prizes be reasonably distributed across all valid entries.
- (3) Team-Pumpkin is not responsible for providing or contributing to the prize pool if any.
- (4) Reward and recognition is a key element for new and developing growers. Tiered prize structures are not prohibited.

The Goals:

- (1) Have Fun!
- (2) To allow equal recognition time for all entries and growers
- (3) Uphold the “Team” atmosphere

Process:

Sites that want to apply for Team-Pumpkin certification should take the following steps...

- (1) Read the rules and agree with the standards set forth
- (2) Send an e-mail to Team-Pumpkin filling it out the application which includes...
 - a. Title of weigh-off
 - b. Supporting group
 - c. Copy of groups ‘Philosophy’ or ‘Mission Statement’
 - d. Contact person
 - e. Indication if you need an electronic copy or a hard copy of the banner
 - f. Statement that you agree with the rules and what category fits your event

Upon completion of the event the results should be e-mailed to Team-Pumpkin for inclusion with the other entries that were entered in other sites.

Team-Pumpkin Weigh-off Site Application

Weigh-Off Title: _____

Name of Supporting Group: _____

Copy of Groups Philosophy and/or Mission Statement:

Contact Person information:

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Banner request:

Electronic copy _____

Mailed hard copy _____ -note requires a \$15 fee to cover printing + shipping and handling

I have read and understand all of the above rules and will act in a way to support the standards set by Team-Pumpkin.

X _____

Date: _____