

DEMOLITION DERBY

REVISED OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS FOR ORGANISERS (effective 1 January 2026)

1. Introduction

Demolition Derby events are high-risk motor sport attractions and must be conducted under strict, consistent safety and governance standards. These Operational Guidelines outline the minimum requirements Show Societies must follow when planning and delivering a Demolition Derby under the AgShows NSW Insurance Program. They form part of the [Demolition Derby Toolbox Suite](#), which includes:

- Demolition Derby Competitor Rules
- Entry Form & Scrutineering Checklist
- Operational Guidelines & Ring Control Procedures
- Arena Layout Diagram
- Risk Management Plan Template

Together, these documents establish the approved controls, safety requirements, and administrative processes for the safe and compliant conduct of a Demolition Derby at NSW Agricultural Shows.

The AgShows NSW Demolition Rules and Operational Guidelines, **effective 1 January 2026**, are the only approved standards for member events. All affiliated Member Societies must comply with the current rules in full. If a Derby is run under any other rules, the event will not be covered for Public Liability. This insurance requirement is **not negotiable**.

In this document, **Part A** covers the organisational and safety requirements that must be completed before, during, and after the event—such as insurance, documentation, scrutineering, barriers, and risk management. **Part B** outlines the rules and controls used *inside the ring during live competition*, including arena management, driver conduct, and how officials enforce safety throughout the event.

These guidelines strengthen safety, ensure risk management and insurance compliance, and support consistent delivery of derby events across NSW. By following them, Show Societies can deliver a safe, compliant, and insurable Demolition Derby that protects participants and upholds the reputation of the NSW Agricultural Show movement.

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2. Definitions

Competitor: A registered participant driving a vehicle in the Demolition Derby. Must meet age and licensing requirements, attend scrutineering and the Toolbox Talk, and comply with all vehicle and conduct rules.

Judge: The Judge is responsible for monitoring the Demolition Derby event to determine competition outcomes in accordance with the rules. This includes identifying the last mobile vehicle, ensuring fair conduct, and confirming the winner(s). The Judge's role is strictly observational and decision-based. All decisions made by the Judge regarding the outcome of the event are final and cannot be disputed.

Scrutineer: The Scrutineer is responsible for inspecting all vehicles and ensuring they meet the safety and compliance standards outlined in the official rules. The Scrutineer has the authority to approve or reject any vehicle or driver they deem unsafe or non-compliant. They will also conduct the mandatory Toolbox Talk, which all drivers and pit crew must attend. The Scrutineer's decisions are final, and no protests or appeals will be accepted.

To maintain fairness and accountability, the roles of Judge and Scrutineer must be performed by separate individuals

Marshal: An official positioned around the ring or entry/exit points to manage safety, enforce boundaries, assist with communication, and coordinate emergency response if required.

Safety Car: A designated emergency vehicle, such as a fire engine or response unit, positioned with visibility of the ring and ready to respond immediately to fire, rollover, or medical incidents. May also be referred to as the Control Car.

PART A – OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS FOR ORGANISERS

3. Organisational Responsibilities

3.1 Insurance Approval

3.1.1 All Demolition Derby events must be endorsed by the hosting Show Society and included in their approved insurance schedule.

3.2 Required Documentation

3.2.1 The organising committee must ensure all required documentation is completed, including:

- Risk Assessment
- Emergency Management Plan
- Competitor Entry Form and Waivers
- Judge and Scrutineer Appointment Records

3.3 Governance, Waivers & Documentation

3.3.1 Member Organisations must ensure that all competitors receive and acknowledge:

- [Conditions of Entry and General Regulations](#)
- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [Demolition Derby Toolbox Suite](#), including Rules, Guidelines Entry forms and Checklists.
- [AgShows NSW Individual Waiver Form](#). A signed Waiver must accompany every entry form.

Event materials (online, printed, schedules, entry forms) must reference these documents consistently.

3.4 Event Planning

3.3.1 At least one month before the event, the committee must:

- Confirm venue availability and ring layout
- Appoint qualified Scrutineers and Judges (must be separate individuals)
- Notify local emergency services (Police, Ambulance, Fire)

4. Risk Management and Safety Setup

4.1 Safety Procedures

Ensure all staff, volunteers, and contractors are briefed on the safety procedures and emergency response protocols.

4.2 Safety Barrier Types and Arena Design:

4.2.1 Member Organisations must ensure that barrier systems are constructed using suitable materials capable of absorbing and redirecting impact forces. Acceptable barrier systems include but are not limited to:

- Telegraph poles
- Large hay bales
- Rubber tyres
- Concrete blocks and heavy-duty chain
- Any approved combination of the above

4.2.2 Barrier suitability must be determined in consideration of arena size, expected vehicle speeds, and spectator proximity.

4.3 Spectator Exclusion & Buffer Zones:

4.3.1 A minimum 20-metre buffer zone must be maintained between the barrier perimeter and the designated spectator area.

4.3.2 This zone must be clearly marked using signage, bunting, stanchions, temporary fencing, or other approved control methods.

4.3.3 Spectators must be located only in designated viewing areas, preferably seated or standing behind additional reinforced safety fencing where available.

4.4 Barrier Inspection, Documentation & Failure Protocol:

4.4.1 Before the event starts, the Event Manager or delegated official must:

- Conduct a full walk-through inspection of the arena perimeter.
- Check barrier joins, anchoring points, stability, and potential weak points.
- Identify hazards such as loose blocks, unstable tyres, or obstructive signage.
- Document the barrier layout, load-bearing points and risk mitigation measures in the Show's Risk Assessment.
- Establish a Barrier Failure Contingency Plan detailing the required response if a barrier segment is struck or compromised during competition.

4.4.2 Photographs of the barrier setup must be taken as part of due diligence and retained with event files.

4.5 Staff and Volunteer Training for Barrier Safety:

4.5.1 Event staff and arena marshals must be briefed on:

- How to isolate a damaged barrier section
- How to temporarily relocate spectators if required

4.5.2 Reporting procedures for barrier concerns or impact events

4.5.3 Insurers and regulators will scrutinise barrier adequacy; organisers must prioritise heavier barrier systems for high-risk zones where resources permit.

4.6 Safety Fencing

4.6.1 Safety fencing must be installed around the performance area with a minimum 20-metre clearance between the ring boundary and spectator zones.

4.7 Arena Size and Speed Management:

4.7.1 Arena dimensions must be selected to limit vehicle acceleration distance.

4.7.2 Smaller, contained arenas reduce peak impact speeds and assist in preventing barrier breaches or high-force collisions.

4.7.3 Arena design must encourage the intended "bump-and-push" competition style rather than high-speed runs.

4.8 Restricted Access

4.8.1 Access to the ring must be restricted to officials, competitors, and authorised personnel only.

4.9 Fire Protection

4.9.1 A minimum of one fire extinguisher must be available at each entrance and within the control area.

4.10 First Aid

4.10.1 First Aid providers must be onsite for the duration of the event.

4.11 Public address systems

4.11.1 Public address systems should be tested and used to issue safety messages and event updates.

4.12 Drug & Alcohol Testing (Strongly Encouraged)

4.12.1 To support safe event operations and driver capability, Member Organisations are strongly encouraged to implement pre-event drug and alcohol testing for all competitors wherever resources allow.

4.12.2 A 0.00 BAC and negative drug test are required for participation where testing is conducted.

4.12.3 Any competitor returning a positive or non-compliant test result must be excluded from the event.

4.12.4 Where testing capability is limited, Event Organisers must apply alternative risk controls, including enhanced driver briefings, incident reporting, and monitoring for impairment.

4.12.5 Testing is considered best-practice risk management and aligns with insurer expectations for safe conduct of high-risk events.

5. Scrutineering and Driver Briefing

5.1 Scrutineering Personnel

5.1.1 Event Organisers are strongly encouraged to appoint two or more Scrutineers to ensure thorough and consistent vehicle assessments.

5.1.2 The standardised Scrutineering Checklist (see Entry Form) must be used, and all findings recorded, including approval, conditional approval, or rejection.

5.2 Vehicle Compliance

5.2.1 Vehicles must be scrutinised prior to the commencement of the event. Scrutineers will:

- Confirm compliance with all vehicle safety and build rules
- Confirm installation of surrender flags
- Reject unsafe or non-compliant vehicles

5.3 Vehicle Re-Use

5.3.1 Vehicles that have competed in previous Demolition Derby events may only be accepted at the discretion of the Scrutineer.

5.3.1 Cars exhibiting excessive structural damage, compromised safety features, or altered crumple zones must be rejected.

5.3.2 Organisers may request pre-event photographs for assessment.

5.3.3 A Scrutineer's decision to approve or decline a reused vehicle is final.

5.4 Tyre Requirements

5.4.1 Only standard passenger tyres are permitted.

5.4.2 Rally, mud-terrain, winter tread, tractor, reinforced, or heavy-traction tyres are prohibited due to increased grip, increased rollover risk, and potential arena surface damage.

5.5 Toolbox Talk

5.5.1 The mandatory Toolbox Talk must be delivered to all drivers and pit crew, covering:

- Safety rules
- Flag procedures
- Expectations of conduct in the ring

5.6 Roll Call

5.6.1 A roll call must be conducted at the conclusion of the briefing. Late arrivals may not be permitted to participate.

6. Event Communication and Supervision

6.1 Officials

6.1.1 Appoint a Ringmaster or Control Car Operator to oversee the start/stop procedure and enforce discipline in the ring.

6.2 Communication equipment

6.2.1 Communication equipment (radios or headsets) must be tested prior to the event and provided to:

- Control Car Operator
- Scrutineers
- Judges
- Announcers

6.3 Announcers

6.3.1 Announcers must be briefed on key rules, safety messaging, and procedures for allowing public entry post-event.

7. Post-Event Procedures

7.1 Vehicle arrival and Departure

7.1.1 Ensure all vehicles are trucked in and out of the Showground.

7.2 Debrief

7.2.1 Debrief with Scrutineers and Judges to review any issues.

7.3 Post Event Spectator Safety around Vehicles

7.3.1 Following the conclusion of the competition, the arena remains a high-risk environment.

Organisers must implement the following controls:

- Restrict all public access to the arena.
- Supervise movement of recovery and tow vehicles.
- Establish a designated loading and recovery area outside the competition zone.
- Ensure no vehicles are retrieved until authorised by Event Control.
- Maintain supervision until all vehicles have been removed or secured.

7.4 Arena Cleanup

7.4.1 Complete a ring clean-up to remove debris and ensure the area is safe.

7.5 Gather feedback

7.5.1 Gather feedback from officials and document improvements for future events.

PART B - RING OPERATION & CONTROL GUIDELINES

These guidelines apply to all officials and marshals responsible for managing the Demolition Derby ring during live competition. Their purpose is to ensure safety, enforce consistent rules, and maintain control throughout the event.

8. Ring Setup and Access Control

8.1 Arena Markings and Barriers

The derby arena must be clearly marked with physical barriers (e.g., tyres or fencing).

8.2 Ring Access Protocol

Only authorised persons (officials, drivers, scrutineers) may enter the ring.

8.3 Control Car Presence

A control car must be present in the ring with clearly visible flashing lights.

8.4 Emergency Access Routes

Emergency access must be maintained at all times.

9. Competition Rules and Conduct in the Ring

9.1 Use of Reverse Gear

Drivers must use reverse gear unless dislodging their vehicle (permitted up to 2 car lengths in first gear).

9.2 Driver's Side Impact Prohibition

Drivers may not deliberately ram the driver's side door of another vehicle. Doing so will result in disqualification.

9.3 Boundary Exit Rules

Any vehicle outside the boundary must re-enter slowly and near the exit point. Deliberate exits to avoid hits result in disqualification.

9.4 Vehicle Inactivity Elimination

Vehicles stationary for more than 45 seconds (or 2 minutes, depending on Show rule) will be eliminated.

9.5 Surrender Flag Procedure

When a car becomes ineffective, the driver must remain in the vehicle and snap off the surrender flag.

9.6 No Contact with Out/Inactive Vehicles

No vehicle may strike a surrendered or out-of-bounds car.

9.7 Final Determination of Winner

The last mobile vehicle is the winner. The decision of the Judge is final.

10. Flag, Light and Communication Protocols

10.1 White Surrender Flag

All vehicles must have a white surrender flag (30cm x 30cm minimum), mounted above the driver's door.

10.2 Flag and Light Signals

Flag pulled down = vehicle has surrendered.

10.3 Spotlight Warnings

Control Car to use:

- Green Lights = Continue competition
- Red Flashing Lights = Stop immediately
- Spotlight = Warning or disqualification signal

10.4 Judge and Ringmaster Authority

Ringmaster/Control Car may disqualify a vehicle or call all-stop at any time for safety reasons.

11. Emergency and Incident Response

11.1 Fire, Collision, Rollover Procedures

In the event of fire, collision, or rollover:

- Control Car will enter the ring with red lights flashing
- Drivers must stop immediately
- First Aid and emergency services will be called in if required

11.2 Vehicle Rollover Protocol

If a vehicle rolls over, the flag must be pulled down, and no further hits are allowed on that vehicle.

11.3 Driver Exit Policy

No driver may exit the vehicle until cleared by a ring official unless their safety is at risk.

12. Spectator Management and Ring Clearance

12.1 Spectator Access Restrictions

No spectators are permitted in the ring until the all-clear is given.

12.2 Post-Derby Ring Clearance

After the derby, the Ringmaster must confirm that the ring is safe before allowing public access.

12.3 Driver Presence During Inspections

Drivers must remain with their vehicles until all post-event inspections are complete.
