

## 2017 Pumpkin Heaves and Autumn Leaves Rules

October 14, 2017

### Official Rules and Divisions

Three divisions for trebuchets/catapults

1. Junior Division: Age 8-17  
Max. total weight of trebuchet/catapult is 100 lbs.  
Max height = 70"  
projectile weight = 1 pound pumpkin
2. Heavyweight Division: Open to all ages  
Max. total weight of trebuchet/catapult is 500 lbs.  
Max. height is 10 feet  
projectile = 3 pound pumpkin
3. Unlimited Division  
Age: Open to all ages  
Max Weight: No limit  
Max Height: No limit  
Min pumpkin weight: 5 pound minimum

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### Eligibility

#### Who can participate in the Pumpkin Heave Contest?

Open to anyone to compete. One person or a team of up to 8 people. We are hoping to get kids of all ages, cub scouts, boy scouts, brownies, girl scouts, universities, companies, etc. to enter the competition.

In the junior division the participants must take part in the construction of their trebuchet or catapult; an adult mentor is permitted to assist in the construction of the trebuchet only when and if necessary.

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#### General Rules for Trebuchets/Catapults

Total weight of trebuchet or catapult (including counterweight, when applicable, and not including projectile) may not exceed limit. See table above for weight limits for the 4 competitive divisions. There are no limits for the Unlimited Division, all hurlers are welcome.

Two exceptions; a cocking mechanism may be used without counting towards the total weight. This mechanism can also exceed the height limit. This exception was added for safety reasons. Also a trailer may be used without counting toward the total weight.

Height of trebuchet or catapult including throwing arm fully extended (the un-cocked height, straight up in the air) may not exceed limit. The sling is not included in the height limit, so the sling may exceed the limit. Also as state above, a cocking mechanism can also exceed the height limit.

Another exception; the trebuchet or catapult may be mounted or assembled on a trailer, for convenience. The height of the trebuchet or catapult will be measured from the floor of the trailer. This does give a slight advantage so to compensate, the height of the trailer will be subtracted from the distance of the throw. For example, if someone uses a 3 foot trailer and throw 100 feet, they get credit for only 97 feet.

No digging into the ground is allowed (like a pit for the counterweight to fall further). You may use the ground to stake the trebuchet or catapult to prevent rocking. Ropes, wires or straps are also allowed and are not included in the total weight. This is encouraged again for safety reasons.

Winches or other electrical motors are allowed to cock a trebuchet or catapult. This is for safety reasons. The winch or motor will not count towards the total weight. If these devices are electrical they must be battery operated since there will be no access to AC power in the field.

All trebuchets/catapults must be only gravity powered. No springs or pneumatics or other power sources.

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1. A loading or firing structure CAN go over the height limit with no penalty. This is to ensure safety in loading and firing the trebuchets or catapults. The height limit refers to the top of the throwing arm (at its highest point during the throwing motion) and the top of the counterweight at its highest point. Neither the top of the throwing arm or the counterweight can go below ground. This is to ensure that all the contestant have the same amount of potential energy to use.
2. A loading or firing structure is NOT counted towards the total weight of the trebuchet or catapult. The weight limit is meant to ensure that all contestants have the same potential energy, and the loading or firing structure does not contribute to that potential energy.
3. Staking the trebuchet or catapult to the ground is also permitted, as well as adding sand bags to the frame, etc. This will NOT be counted towards the total weight of the trebuchet.
4. Teams must get their trebuchets or catapult weighed and measured before they are staked down, to get a fair weight.
5. A prop or firing device may fall over the firing line, as long as the arm or main structure of the trebuchet or catapult stays behind the firing line.

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### **BYOP**

Bring your own pumpkin. We will have some on site, but there is no guarantee they will meet your needs. We suggest you have 3 prime pumpkins at exactly the right weight for the contest, and several other for practice and free-for-all at the end. Water balloons are an easy projectile. Be sure the projectile is AT LEAST the required weight.

Projectile must weigh at least the limit or more. Junior = 1 pound, Heavyweight = 3 pounds.

Judges will weigh trebuchet/catapult and projectile and measure height before firing. Total weight of the trebuchet/catapult (including counterweight) must be UNDER the limit, or subject to a small penalty. Weight of projectile must be OVER the limit. Height must be UNDER the

limit, or subject to small penalty. No part of the trebuchet/catapult may go over the line during firing, except the sling.

If any of the trebuchet/catapult weights or heights are above of the specified range, a small penalty will added by the judging committee. For example, if a heavyweight trebuchet weighs 525 pounds and throws 100 feet, they will be penalized by a percentage. For example, they would get credit for  $100 * 500 / 525 = 95$  feet.

There is no advantage given to trebuchets/catapults that are under weight or under height.

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### **Safety**

All trebuchets/catapults must have a safety device (like a C-clamp) to stop the throwing arm from firing prematurely during loading of the projectile. Another excellent safety device is a support which can be placed directly under the counterweight, preventing it from falling. The safety committee will determine if the trebuchet is safe. If the trebuchet/catapult is deemed not safe, the safety committee will make every effort to help the team make it safe, time permitting.

Once the counterweight (when applicable) is lifted, the trebuchet/catapult is dangerous (even the small ones). Be careful not to put hands, feet or any body part in the potential path of the throwing arm or counterweight. Put the safety on immediately after the counterweight is lifted (before loading the sling, etc)!

All trebuchets/catapults will be inspected before firing and must pass the inspection to fire.

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**Two Flags and Costumes are encouraged:** We are encouraging teams to bring two flags to add to the visual spectacle. One flag will be placed by the team's trebuchet/catapult. The other flag will be placed at the team's best throw. This will allow spectators to see who is winning during the three rounds. Fly your flags and wear your colors!

### **Prizes**

Prizes awarded for division 1-3. Total purse equal to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of half of the total entry fees.

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### **How to Enter**

To sign up for the trebuchet/catapult contest: Contact Lauren LeFebvre via email [franklinclerk@roadrunner.com](mailto:franklinclerk@roadrunner.com) or phone 518.891.2189. Cost is \$5. **The entry fee allows only the captain to get in free.** All others on the team pay \$5 to attend the festival and compete. All competitors and team members will sign a waiver provided the day of the competition.

## **2017 Pumpkin Heaves and Autumn Leaves Official Entry and Registration Form**

Send fee and this completed form to:

Lauren LeFebvre  
Town of Franklin  
PO Box 209, 7 Cold Brook Road  
Vermontville, NY 12989  
franklinclerk@roadrunner.com

**Name of captain**

**Team members (up to 8)**

**Representing (school, cub scouts, boy scouts,  
girl scouts, university, etc)**

**Division ( junior, heavyweight, open)**

**Name of your trebuchet/catapult**

**Email**

**Phone number**