



# Rules of Black Isle Ploughing Match

(Updated Dec 2024)

## Easter Bennetsfield Farm, Avoch, 2026

- 1 All vehicles taking part will be required to have a valid proof of insurance, and this must be submitted with the entry form. Failure to supply the proof of insurance will result in the entry being rejected.
- 2 In the event of **only one entry** being **received in any class**, this class will be **CANCELLED**.
- 3 **No changing of plots, ploughs or tractors.** Should any competitor not claim their plot by 9.30 a.m. they will be disqualified, except where good and sufficient reason can be given that the cause of delay was beyond their control. In circumstances of an unavoidable delay extra time will be given provided full details are reported at the time of any hold-up and are acceptable to the Committee.
- 4 It is forbidden to draw any scratch or other mark on the headland with the plough and on no account must any plough be put into the ground on the headlands either before the starting time or at any time during the course of the Competition.
- 5 The plot number stake, as placed by the Committee, indicates the centre of the crown/feering.
- 6 Sighting and setting out. Three sighting posts only may be used. The use of a guide line, footmarks, stones, sods or anything else instead of, additional too, the three permitted posts are forbidden. Sighting posts may be put in position before starting time and one pole may be sighted on the headland of the plot. The plot markers stakes must be removed and not used for sighting, after the opening run, they should be replaced in the centre of the feering.
- 7 No assistance is allowed except with the setting and removing of sighting posts; thereafter assistants remain on the headland, with the exception of juniors and novices who are allowed one assistant.  
**Please Note - juniors who are aged between 14 & 16 MUST have an assistant, WHO IS AGED OVER 18 years old, present at all times when in charge of their tractor and plough.**
- 8 After setting out, no persons other than the competitor, authorised Judges and Officials will be allowed on the plot (see exception for novices and juniors rule 7 above).
- 9 **STARTING TIME 9.30 am. FINISHING TIME – 1.30 pm, WHEN ALL PLOUGHING MUST CEASE** except when extra time has been granted. A competitor having an empty plot or an outside plot will be allowed 15 minutes extra time. Throw out to be completed by 9.50 am., halt of 30 minutes for Judging, and commence ploughing at 10.20 am. Crown/feering must be completed by 11.30 am  
**NO ROLLING AT ALL**

- 10 DEMONSTRATORS STARTING TIME APPROX. 9.30 am STILL PLOUGHING AT 1.30 pm** Ground will be allotted for demonstration purposes. No feering will be required but please ensure that the competitor next to you ploughs through your start so that no land is left unploughed. Demonstrators wishing to compete in the competition must enter the appropriate class.
- 11** No shaping of furrows by hand held instruments, by treading or other manipulation will be allowed. ASSISTANCE BY TREADING ON PLOUGHING WILL INCUR PENALTY POINTS BEING DEDUCTED
- 12** In conventional and reversible ploughing no extraneous attachment, on tractor or plough, may be used. Also, no fins or knives may be fitted to the mouldboard other than a flat adjustable- tailpiece.
- 13** No plough bodies to be moved out of the Ploughing Position. Any questions, arising and not provided for in the Rules, will be decided by the Chief Steward and/or Committee whose decision will be final and binding.
- 14** In all classes, with the exception of Class 1 Butts, opening must be completely thrown out, and no strips left: third loose furrow is permissible.
- 15 CONVENTIONAL** – the specified depth must be achieved by the completion of the crown/feering and adhered to until last 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> furrow.
- 16 REVERSIBLE** – The stipulated depth must be achieved by the 6th furrow and adhered to until the commencement of the last two runs.
- 17 CONVENTIONAL CROWN/FEERING** –to consist of three Rounds and must be completed by 11.30 am. No measuring Plot until last run of Crown. Then commence to your higher number. Last furrow must be thrown towards own Crown/Feering, otherwise no points awarded for finish. ONLY ONE VISIBLE TRACTOR WHEEL MARK ALLOWED ALSO TWO EMPTY RUNS PERMITTED, BOTH WHEELS MUST BE ON STUBBLE OTHERWISE POINTS WILL BE FORFEITED.
- 18 REVERSIBLE PLOUGHING:** All competitors must make a single opening either body can be used. After they have been judged, the competitors then plough 8 or 9 furrows from lower number using alternate bodies and must be completed by 11.30 am. No measuring of Plot until last run of Crown/feering. The competitor then proceeds to their higher number AND COMPLETES THEIR PLOT TO THE FIRST FURROW AND MUST BE COMPLETELY PLOUGHED THROUGH. ONE VISIBLE WHEEL MARK ONLY. NO EMPTY RUNS OTHERWISE POINTS WILL BE FORFEITED.
- GPS Reversible Ploughing – this must be on land.
- 19 BREACH OF PLOUGHING RULES** – a Competitor committing an infringement of the rules shall be warned by the Steward and given notice by the Steward. Each infringement of any Rule will incur a penalty of 10 points.
- 20** Vintage Tractor and Ploughs should be 1965 or earlier (Exhibitors must sign entry form confirming the above). No hydraulic attachments.

- 21 In the event of a tie**, the competitor with the **highest points in seedbed, firmness and uniformity of ploughing will be awarded the prize.**
- 22** Any dispute arising from the award of any prize shall be notified to the Committee verbally at the match within one hour of the results being posted and followed up in writing within 7 days of the match.
- 23** Classic Classes – tractors to be manufactured before December 1992, can have “Q” cab 2- or 4-wheel drive. Ploughs manufactured before December 1992. To include – Ransomes Bonning TS97; Kverneland Super Hydriens; Fiskars Match Ploughs; Dowdeswell Ploughs.

**No hydraulic attachments.**

- 24 Beginner’s Class** – open to any beginner plougher, and competitors can only compete in this class twice.
- 25** Prize money for each class is awarded at the discretion of the Ploughing Committee.

**PLEASE NOTE: Min Depth 6”; Max depth 8”; Finish to be no deeper than 8” IN ALL CLASSES (with the exception to the Horticultural Class)**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE – A panel of Inspectors/Stewards are available on the day to ensure the smooth and safe operation of the Ploughing Match, please co-operate and follow BIFS rules/regulations and risk assessment procedures (which are posted on the notice board). It is your responsibility to bring to the attention of the Organisers any issues that you feel fall below good practice and/or you feel may cause a danger to yourself, other competitors or the public.**

**ANY BREACH OF SAFETY RULES WILL RESULT IN INSTANT DISQUALIFICATION**

**The Inspectors/Stewards will check all Competitor’s ploughs, depth of ploughing, use of skimmers, direction of lay or sole furrow, number of sighting posts used, reports of handling and assistance and other matters as required by the rules. The panel of Inspectors/Stewards has authority to deduct points as penalty for infringement of rules. Persistent breaking of the Rules will result in disqualification.**

**RULES MUST BE ADHERED TO; OTHER WISE COMPETITOR’S WORK WILL BE PENALISED**

**METHOD OF SCORING**

Throw Out	20 pts	Straightness of Ploughing	20 pts
Crown or Feering	20 pts	Ins and Outs	20 pts
Seedbed	20 pts	Finish	20 pts
Uniformity of Ploughing	20 pts	Butt Ploughing (Class 1)	20 pts
Firmness of Ploughing	20 pts	<b>(N.B. The points awarded for the Butt aspect will be disregarded when totaling points for combined prizes between ERPM &amp; BIPM)</b>	

# Publicity & Privacy

**NB - Please make sure that you tick the privacy and publicity acceptance box on the entry form if you are happy to comply with the above.**

**Failure to tick this box means that we cannot accept your entry.**

The Black Isle Farmers' Society is committed to protecting your personal data and processing it only in accordance with legal requirements. We process your personal data as it is necessary for the performance of our contract with you in order to facilitate your entry to the show. The Society will use your information to do the following:

- a) store, process and retain, including electronically, all data and personal information provided by exhibitors for the purpose of operating the Show, maintaining appropriate records and communicating with the exhibitor in future concerning any of the Society's activities
- b) publicise the names and home locations (town & County only) of exhibitors, including but not limited to prize winners, in Show catalogues, on the show website and elsewhere as part of the operation and promotion of the Show and future shows
- c) photograph any exhibitor or other person on the Showground and store and use the resulting image (including edited or altered versions) for any of the Society's commercial or non-commercial purposes in all and any media including without limitation, use in promotional materials and on the Society's website, or supply to carefully selected third parties for use for their own purposes. The Society shall own the copyright in any such images
- d) Publish the details and results of any disputes and/or appeals.

You have various rights in the data we hold including rectification and objecting to processing.

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