

GENERAL RULES 2026

1. All teams must submit application by Friday, September 10, 2026. No Exceptions!
2. All teams must select a team captain. The captain is responsible for all discussions with the Safety and Rules Committee.
3. The consumption of Alcohol by teams during the event is PROHIBITED!
4. Safety marshaling and clean up shall be organized, set up and implemented by Clayton Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber will provide the judges and spotters to score the competition and will staff the Safety and Rules Committee.
5. There is no limit to the number of members on a team. However, to be on the firing line or to fire a machine, the team member must be listed on the team roster and have a valid pit pass. A maximum of 6 (six) team members are allowed in the pit area on the firing line immediately around the machine when firing.
6. A safety inspection of the machine must be done by the Safety and Rules Committee, this must be completed during the week prior to the event. Or inspections may be done the day of the event. You may be asked to fire your machine before the event. Any safety flaws will be pointed out to the team so they may be corrected in time for the event.
7. All rulings by the Judges or Safety and Rules Committee are final. The team captain may request an explanation of any decision.
8. All pumpkins fired must remain intact until they impact the water to obtain an official measurement. Spotters will mark the location where the pumpkin initially landed and disregard any bouncing, rolling, or sinking.
9. Pumpkins must weigh a minimum of 4 (four) pounds or more for the competition rounds only. No frozen or altered pumpkins will be allowed.
10. All machines registered must be set up in their assigned area two days prior to the event October 15, 2026. There will be no exceptions due to set up procedures. The assigned area for each machine must allow clear and free access surrounding the machine.
11. All machines and equipment should be removed from the pit area within 2(two) days after the event.



PUNKIN CHUNKIN
PRODUCED BY THE CLAYTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Safety Guidelines 2026

1. No combustion systems, or explosives may not be used.
2. IF AT ANY POINT DURING THE EVENT, ANY PART OF THE MACHINE BREAKS OR IT MIS-FIRESTHE, THE SAFETY & RULES COMMITTEE WILL RE-INSPECT AND DETERMINE IF THAT MACHINE IS DEEMED SAFE AND CAN FIRE AGAIN.
3. The Safety and Rules Committee has the final say on consequences if rules are broken. Decisions will be relayed to the team captain.
4. All team captains must sign the field roster on the day of the event stating that they have received, read, and understood the General Rules and Safety Guidelines of Punkin Chunkin. No Exceptions! This sheet will be on the field and will be kept by the head of the Safety Committee.
5. Any machines found to have structural defects will be prohibited from shooting until repaired and re-inspected by safety committee.
6. All cables and cable clamps must be seized and installed properly.
7. All machines must have a safety strap or mechanism to hold the throwing arm mechanism in case of misfire when loading. Team members are all responsible for making sure everyone stays clear of the machine in case of a misfire.
8. Team captains and Safety Committee are responsible for clearing the area around and behind their machines during loading and firing procedures. The Safety and Rules Committee is responsible for clearing the downrange area of the field of all people. A team is not allowed to fire its machine until the area around and behind the machine is deemed clear by a Safety Officer.
9. An air horn or sounding device must be blasted before each shot. If the team does not have a device, the Safety and Rules Committee will provide one.
10. Hard hats are required to be worn in the pit area at all times.
11. *No machine shall not exceed an axel height of (16) sixteen ft. (Axel height is measure from center of axel to the ground.)
12. *Total maximum height of machine is limited to (50) ft. This is measured from the ground to the highest point including the Shute when firing.
13. No lag bolts in load bearing applications. Lag bolts are considered low-end bearing components and will not be approved where stress can fatigue the lag or the hole made for it. The approved method of attachment is with carriage, shoulder, or hex bolts with washer and backing plate.
14. *Any machine that shoots backwards will be disqualified from shooting again. This is due to the safety of the participants and spectators.
15. *All machines must be test fired prior to the event to be deemed safe. Some machines may be asked by the Safety and Rules Committee on day of event to be fired to be deemed safe.
16. *If a cease fire is ordered all machines must stop loading and not fire until order has been lifted. If a machine is already loaded a Safety Officer will give approval to be fired.
17. The Safety Guidelines and General Rules are to make sure the event is as safe as possible to the spectators and participants. The Safety and Rules Committee is here to help all the teams to be successful and to have a fun event. Our goal is not to disqualify any team but to be safe as possible. Thank you.



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Safety Guidelines 2026 (AIR CANNONS)

- 1) Compressed air only / one way valve on compression / tethered lines.
- 2) Max pressure 125 PSI.
- 3) ASME certified safety blow off valve tamper proof 125 PSI.
- 4) Steel barrels only 8" min ID.
- 5) All flanges min 8 bolts orange 8.
- 6) Max barrel length 36ft.
- 7) Max air vessel 250 cubic ft. Approved.
- 8) Cannons must be secured for upward recoil.
- 9) Cannons must be loaded before vessel is pressurized.
- 10) Approved 8" gate valve.
- 11) Ultrasound test on tank.
- 12) Inspection of welds!
- 13) No wading!
- 14) Pumpkins only!
- 15) Smaller air cannons upon review of designs very much



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