

***ZERO-TURN COMPACT TRACTOR
DRIVING
Career Development Event***

Central District Contest Only

RULES AND REGULATIONS

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION



ALABAMA FFA ASSOCIATION

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Alabama State Department of Education, Dr. Eric G. Mackey, State Superintendent of Education

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ZERO-TURN COMPACT TRACTOR DRIVING CONTEST CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

PURPOSE

The FFA Zero-Turn Compact Tractor Driving Contest provides a competitive activity for Central District FFA members to demonstrate their knowledge about the care and operation of zero-turn compact tractor less than 20 horsepower. The contest also gives members a chance to improve their knowledge of lawn care and safety.

(SAFETY WILL BE STRESSED THROUGHOUT THE CONTEST)

ELIGIBILITY

For specific eligibility of participants, refer to the Contests and Awards Booklet.

Any active Central District FFA member currently enrolled in grades 7-9 is eligible. Contestants **MUST HAVE** a Release of Liability form signed by parent or guardian. If a cell phone is seen or heard in the possession of a competitor, that individual student will be disqualified from competition and receive a score of zero.

DISCLAIMER

In the event that contests (CDE, LDE, TDE's) cannot be held in person, a virtual option may be conducted. Contest rules and guidelines are subject to change to meet the needs of a virtual experience.

DRESS CODE

Participants must wear closed toed shoes/boots (no sandals, crocs or slides) and long pants (jeans with no holes/ khakis/dress pants) or skirts (for religious reasons) that cover the knees if not in official dress. Leggings, jogging pants, yoga, lycra, are not permitted. Shirts should be long enough to be tucked in (no crop tops or midriff showing) and not contain vulgar or suggestive material or language. Contest where oral reasons are given should respect the professionalism of the event, and dress aligning with the profession is preferred. Official FFA Dress is an allowable form of dress for all events. **Consequences for not being in dress code will result in disqualification, and the participant will not be allowed to compete.**

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

The contest is conducted on the chapter, county and district levels, one county winner can compete in the district contest.

A county event is required when multiple chapters from the same county have a participant.

In the event there is only one participant from a county, at the county level, this individual will represent their respective county at the district event.

If two participants from the same county arrive at the District Event both participants will be disqualified and not allowed to compete.

GENERAL RULES

1. It is the responsibility of the County Chairman to coordinate contests that will select the representative from each county in the District.

2. Only contest officials and operating contestants are allowed in the course area.
3. If a cell phone is seen or heard in the possession of a competitor, that individual student will be disqualified from competition and receive a score of zero.
4. Competitors must enter their name on the scorecard, or they will receive a score of zero. Judges will not attempt to figure out who the card belongs to.
5. Scantrons cards that are incorrectly completed (i.e. chapter numbers are not correctly shaded in, stray marks, etc.) will not be scored thus receiving a score of zero.
6. An orientation meeting for all contestants will be held prior to the contest. The meeting will include:
 - a. Introduction of judges and assistants.
 - b. Collecting Release of Liability Forms from contestants. (Form must be signed by parent or guardian and be with contestant at beginning of contest.)
 - c. Drawing lots to determine the order in which the contestants will participate.
 - d. Handing out forms to contestants and having them put their name and contestant number on the forms.
 - e. Explaining and walking through the driving course.
 - f. Explaining time and phases of the contest.
7. Scoring will be a weighted "fault points" system. Low score wins. Perfect score is zero.
8. Official Dress is NOT required for this event.
9. Failure to attempt all portions of the contest will result in disqualification.
10. Any driver that is deemed a danger to him/herself or equipment during the driving portion or continually operates the tractor in an unsafe manner may be asked by the judges/superintendent to discontinue and will be disqualified from the contest.

TIE BREAKER

1. The first tie breaker for the contest will be the amount of time it takes a driver to complete Part III.
2. A second tie breaker, if necessary, will be the nearest measurement to the perfect clearance on the shed measurements.
3. The participant with the fewest fault points on the driving portion of the contest.

PHASES OF CONTEST

Designated judges will preside over the event and their decisions will be final. Contestants must abide by the rules and requirements. Any judge may disqualify a contestant because of unsafe practices or for acts unbecoming to an FFA member.

The contest will include:

Part I	Written examination (20 minutes).
Part II	Identification (15 minutes).
Part III	Zero-Turn Compact Tractor safety and operation. (Timed event.)

A contestant will accumulate penalty points which are found by adding the points missed in each part of the contest.

Part I - Written Examination

The written exam will consist of twenty (20) questions. The exam is made up of questions about tractor operation, maintenance and safety. There will also be questions about turf and lawn management. The subject matter included in the exam comes from the publications listed as references in this booklet. Four (4) penalty points will be given for each wrong answer.

Part II - Identification

Ten (10) numbered items will be identified by each contestant. The items will include Zero-Turn Compact Tractor parts and lawn care equipment. Items to identify may be: (1) numbered on the Zero-Turn Compact Tractor or piece of equipment, (2) actual items, and/or (3) pictures of the items. Each item missed will be a penalty of 4 points. (See Parts List in this Document)

Part III – Safety and Operation

The Zero-Turn Compact Tractor Driving portion of the contest gives FFA members an opportunity to demonstrate their skills in the operation Zero-Turn Compact Tractors. Safe work habits and safe equipment operation are stressed throughout the event. Penalty points will be added for errors in safety and for poor operation of the machine. There is a time limit of 8 minutes to complete the course. Sample score sheets are provided in this booklet.

Safety glasses/goggles and ear protection will be provided for this event. Closed toes shoes are required for this event (not provided.)

Each participant will be given a few minutes to study and to get acquainted with the machine and its controls. The tractor may be operated in the immediate area of the contest but not through the course. A Zero-Turn Compact Tractor will be provided at the contest.

The contest diagram on page 6 will help you prepare for the driving portion of the contest. Safety is scored throughout the driving part. A few steps to remember are listed below:

1. Approach the Zero-Turn Compact Tractor with a judge and introduce yourself. The first item on the score sheet is a pre-start check. You'll complete this according to the contest instructions before the contest begins. You will tell the judge what you are inspecting as you inspect it. You will then mount the mower and let the judge know you're ready to begin driving.
2. SAFETY CHECK
When the contestant is ready to start Part III of the contest, the contestant must conduct a safety check of the tractor which includes: Before starting the engine, the contestant must check the following and don proper PPEs:
 - a. Tires: Touching or kicking with the foot will suffice. All four tires should be checked.
 - b. Fluid Levels: The fuel check will be a visual check of the fuel gauge (if applicable) or visually on the side of the tank and verbal acknowledgement to the judge, the hydraulic check will be a visual check and verbal acknowledgment to the judge, the engine oil will be a visual inspection and verbal acknowledgment to the judge.
 - c. Brakes: The brakes will be checked by setting the brake in the locked position
 - d. Throttle: The throttle must be set to the starting position and adjusted to the correct operating rpm. (NOT WIDE OPEN).
 - e. Complete the safety check by looking for loose or missing parts.
 - f. Seat Belt: The seat belt (if applicable) must be fastened before starting the engine.
3. Using what you have learned from your review of the course diagram and the contest leader's instructions, enter the course. Remember to be safe. One of the judges will put an obstacle

in front of the machine to test your alertness and reaction to unsafe conditions. This will be done at random points in the course and will be done only one time for each participant.

4. Before departure from the starting point the driver will set the deck height to the approximate cutting height. The suggested setting is 3” cut height.
5. Continue through the course to the finish point which represents a shed for the machine. You’ll back the machine into this location, turn it off, and dismount. The judge may ask you to move the Zero-Turn Compact Tractor back to the starting line for the next participant.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

Care and Operation of Small Gasoline Engines, 1990 Ed., AAVIM

Grounds Keeping Equipment, Vol .1. AAVIM

John Deere EZ Track Operators Manual

<http://www.homedepot.com/catalog/pdfImages/44/440e439d-4d69-4292-a9f7-7534fff5e982.pdf>

Husqvarna Zero Turn Operators Manual (Various)

http://www.husqvarna.com/ddoc/HUSO/HUSO2008_USen/HUSO2008_USen_O0803016_.pdf

Operating Manuals are not exclusive to this contest and actual mowers used in this contest may vary. These documents should be used as a resource for this contest and only as such.

EQUIPMENT

Zero-Turn Compact Tractor less than 20 horsepower

Sidewalk Chalk for marking asphalt

Markers for laying out operation course

Source: Sargent-Sowell Inc., Tel 1-800-527-2450

Miniature PVC 4” Cones - \$2.95 each.

Or

Local Building Supply – 3” PVC pipe (cut in 4” lengths

- 2”x4” lumber (cut in small blocks for curb and shed layout)

Numbers for parts identification

Numbers for driving order

Stopwatch

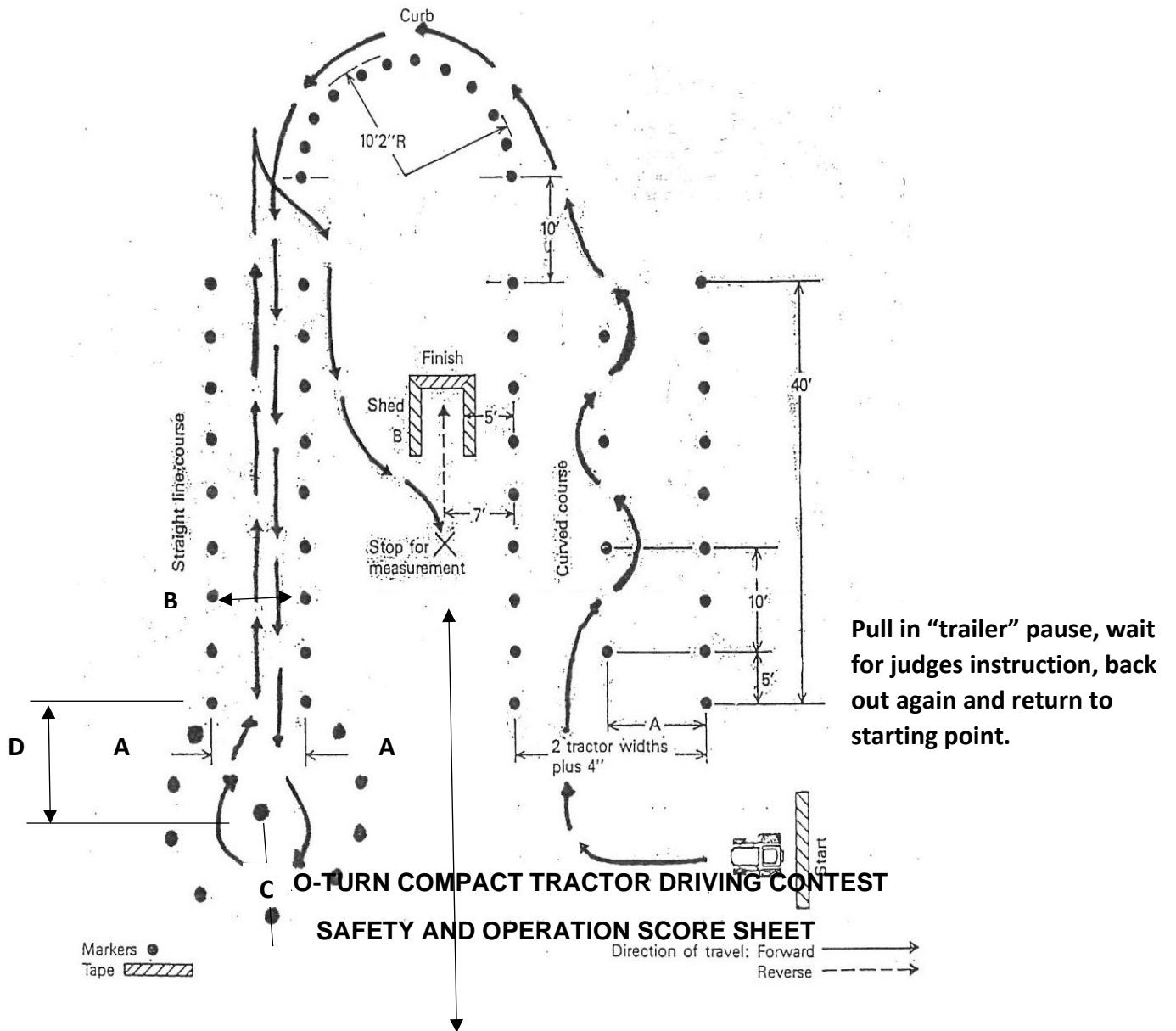
ZERO TURN COMPACT TRACTOR CDE COURSE DIAGRAM

A = Width of mower plus 2 inches

B = Width of mower and discharge plus 1 inch; length required to fit tractor

C = Width of mower plus 2 inches (this is the distance from the center point to each cone in the turnaround portion of the course)

D = Total Length of Mower



Contestant's Name _____ Chapter _____

Safety Procedure: Each participant will be scored on safety throughout the Zero-Turn Compact Tractor operation portion of the event. At some point in the course, a judge will put an obstacle in front of the machine being operated by the contestant. The contestant is expected to stop immediately, remove the obstacle from the course, and hand it to the judge.

Part III: Safety & Operation Score Sheet INFRACTION	NO. OF INFRACTIONS OR INCHES	POINTS LOST FOR EACH INFRACTION OR INCH	TOTAL PENALTY POINTS
Prestart Check			
Failure to check fuel level		25	
Failure to check oil level		25	
Failure to observe hydraulic oil level		25	
Failure to observe tire inflation		25	
Failure to observe loose or missing parts		25	
Failure to don PPE (glasses/goggles and hearing protection)		50	
Starting Safety			
Excessive ignition or ignition starter grinding		25	
Failure to engage motion control levers while starting		25	
Failure to disengage parking brake/engine may shut off or begin to die.		50	
Failure to properly adjust throttle to appropriate operating rpm		25	
Failure to fasten safety belt (if applicable)		50	
Failure to set deck height to appropriate cutting height. Suggested 3 inches.		50	
Mounting and Dismounting Safely			
Failure to set brakes before dismounting		50	
Failure to bring tractor to a complete stop before dismounting		50	
Driving Safety			
Failure to engage motion control levers gently		25	
Failure to ride on seat		100	
Skidding or spinning tractor wheels intentionally or because of excess speed		100	
Part III: Safety & Operation Score Sheet INFRACTION			
Driving Scoring			
Stops or interruption in the continuous movement of the machine where not required by the course		10	
Reverse change of direction other than what is necessary		10	
Any part of the machine extends over the boundaries of the course		10	
Markers are hit		20	
Markers are passed when operating outside the distance allowed around the curb (the contest leader will indicate what this distance is)		10	
Obstacle Removal			
Inches traveled before stopping (Inches)		5	
Failure to set brakes		50	
Failure to disengage		50	
Measurements			
Inches from the back line of the shed after parking (over 1 inch)		2	
Inches over 1 inch that the tractor is off center in the shed		2	
Exceeded 8 minutes		100	
Other Safety Content			
Excessive Tractor Speed		100	
Skidding or Spinning Tractor Wheels		100	
TOTAL SAFETY PENALTY POINTS (DEDUCTIONS)			_____

**Part II -- Identification
Score Sheet**

Name _____ Chapter _____

Directions: Write the name of the item beside the correct number.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Scoring: Mark the incorrect answers. Multiple the number of incorrect answers by 4 to determine the number of penalty points for Part II.

Number of Incorrect Answers		Total Penalty Points Part II
	X 4 =	

Zero Turn Compact Tractor Parts Identification List

Air Cleaner	Grease Fitting
Battery	Hourmeter
Belt Cover	Ignition Key Switch
Bypass Valves	Motion Control Lever
Caster Spindles	Mower Deck Lift Lever or Mower Deck Lift Pedal
Choke Control Lever	Oil Drain Plug
Deck	Oil Filler Cap
Deck Belt	Oil Filter
Deck Height Pin	Parking Brake
Deck Wheels	PTO (Mower Engagement Switch)
Oil Dip Stick	Quick Lock Pins
Discharge	Roll Over Protection Structure (ROPS) (If Equipped)
Drive Tires	Seat
Exhaust	Seat Adjustment Lever
Foot Plate	Seat Belt (If Equipped)
Fuel Filter	Spark Plug
Fuel Gauge	Starter
Fuel Pump	Throttle Control Lever
Fuel Tank	Transaxle Oil Reservoir
Fuel Tank Cap	
Flywheel Cover	

TABULATION SHEET

**ZERO-TURN COMPACT TRACTOR DRIVING
CONTEST**

		Event Phase	Penalty Points
<hr/> NAME <hr/> CHAPTER		Written Examination	
		Identification	
		Tractor Safety/Operation	
		Total Penalty Points	
		PARTICIPANT'S RANKING*	

*The contestant with the smallest number of penalty points will be the 1st place winner, the second smallest number will be the 2nd place winner, etc.

Zero Turn Compact Tractor Driving CDE

Ranking Sheet

NAME	CHAPTER	SCORE
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____
15.	_____	_____
16.	_____	_____
17.	_____	_____
18.	_____	_____
19.	_____	_____
20.	_____	_____

ZERO-TURN COMPACT TRACTOR DRIVING CONTEST

Release of Liability

I, _____, hereby release all
(Parent or Guardian)
parties involved of any liability for accident or injury occurring during
the _____ FFA Zero-Turn Compact Tractor Driving Contest.
(Year)
Specifically released of liability for accident or injury are farm machinery
dealers or their employees, the State Department of Education or its
employees, _____ High School
(Name of School)
and the _____ Board of Education and
(City/County)
its employees, the judges and assistants assigned to conduct the
contest. Contestants will operate the compact tractors at their
own risk.

Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Contestant _____ Date _____

FFA Advisor _____ Date _____

Date of Contest