

## **DRIVING CONTEST RULES AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### Description

The Driving Contest challenges a driver's ability to skillfully, accurately, and safely maneuver a fire apparatus through an established course. The course tests the driver's skill in steering, turning, backing, stopping, and other required actions.

### Guidelines and Rules for the Driving Contest:

- Contestants must be registered for the SFFMA conference.
- Only one contestant per town or industry may compete.
- Contestants must have a valid driver's license.
- Contestants will draw for the order in which they drive when they register for the contest.
- Contestants are not allowed to drink alcoholic beverages prior to or while competing.
- Contestants must be at the driving course site no later than 7:15 AM on the day of the contest.
- Entry to the Driving Contest will end at 7:30 AM on the day of the contest.
- No contestant will be allowed in the contest apparatus prior to the start.
- Before starting, each contestant will be allowed a reasonable time and assistance as needed to adjust his/her seat and mirrors, and get into a comfortable driving position.
- Contestants must wear a seat belt at all times while competing.
- Contestants must operate the apparatus in a safe manner at all times.
- Only one occupant is allowed in the apparatus while competing.
- Contestants must maintain a normal driving position while competing.
- Contestants are disqualified if any three wheels of the apparatus leave the course at the same time (dual wheels count as two).
- This is a timed event. Contestants will be penalized five (5) seconds for each time a pylon or barrel is touched by the apparatus. Time penalties will be added to a contestant's overall time.
- Failure to complete the course will result in disqualification.
- Sliding, or squealing the vehicle's tires anywhere on the course will result in disqualification.
- In the case of a tie, a rerun will only be done to determine the first three places.
- The decision of the judges is final.
- This is an equal opportunity contest.
- The rules and course are subject to change depending upon the host city's requirements.

## The Driving Contest Course:

### **1. Offset Alley**

Purpose: Test the driver's ability to steer, judge distances at all points on the apparatus, and to properly control speed while maneuvering in a continuous forward motion through the course which simulates parked vehicles and/or narrow alleys.

Procedure: The driver moves through one set of traffic cones, turns to the right or left depending on the course, and proceeds through a second set of cones. The goal is to not touch any cones with the apparatus.

Course Dimensions: The distance (width) between cones is 11 feet. The distance between the sets of cones is 24 feet.

### **2. Loading Dock**

Purpose: Test the drivers' ability to back his/her apparatus into a narrow space, and stop the apparatus so that its rear is within a specified distance from a defined stopping point.

Procedure: The driver will drive forward past the opening of the simulated dock, stop, then back into the dock space, stopping with the rear of the apparatus within 24 inches of the defined stopping point. Going past the stopping point, or stopping more than 24 inches from the point will result in a five-second penalty.

### **3. Controlled Cornering**

Purpose: Test the driver's ability to maneuver the apparatus in a controlled manner through a sharp corner.

Procedure: The driver must proceed through a set of traffic cones placed in a continuous corner, with the goal of not touching any cones with the apparatus.

Course Dimensions: The exercise is comprised of 14 cones, with 11 feet (width) between the cones.

### **4. Serpentine**

Purpose: Test the driver's ability to maneuver the vehicle in and out of tight places, travelling both forward and backward.

Procedure: The driver is required to maneuver the apparatus in a figure-eight pattern around a line of obstacles. The driver must maintain a continuous movement forward or backward, with the only authorized stops being those required to change direction while negotiating around the obstacles.

Course Dimensions: Three obstacles (barrels) will be placed in a line 32 feet apart from each other.

### **5. The Stop Line**

Purpose: Test the driver's ability to judge the position of his/her front bumper with respect to a fixed stopping point.

Procedure: The driver approaches the stopping point in a forward motion while maintaining a normal driving position, with the goal of stopping the vehicle with the front bumper as close to the stopping point as possible without going past it. Only one stop is allowed; once stopped, a measurement is taken. The driver is disqualified if they move the vehicle in either direction after coming to a stop. Going past the stopping point, or stopping more than 24 inches from the point will result in a five-second penalty.