



Rural Skills Day 2026

Rule Book

Sunday 26th April 2026

Gisburn Auction Mart, Gisburn Rd, Gisburn, Clitheroe BB7 4ES



Kindly sponsored by
Alice and Bill Bradley

BRADLEY



Membership must be valid on the entry closing date or they will be unable to compete.

All competitors must have their current membership card on the day or they will be unable to compete.

Competitors must provide their own materials for fence erecting.

All competitions bar Egg Throwing, Face Painting and Scavenger Hunt are qualifiers for Northern Area Field Day.

It will be assumed that the top 2 qualifying competitors/ teams will be competing at Field Day (13th June, TD15 2XQ) unless County Office is notified otherwise at least one week before the Field Day closing date (5th June).

Competitions

NFYFC Farm Machinery Skills (pages 3-5)

NFYFC Fence Erecting (pages 6-7)

4x4 and Trailer Handling (page 8)

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General Rules

ELIGIBILITY

- JUNIOR competitors must be 16 years of age or under on 1st September 2025.
- INTERMEDIATE competitors must be 21 years of age or under on 1st September 2025 .
- OPEN competitors must be 28 years of age or under on 1st September 2025.
- All entrants must be a full member of a club affiliated to NFYFC.
- Competitors will be required to produce their current and signed membership card or they will be unable to compete and will incur a £5 fine.

TIMETABLE

Competitors may compete in more than one competition where the timetable allows them to do so. The timetable is final and will not be changed to accommodate any individual or team. Any competitor not reporting at the time stated, or being unable to compete when we require, will be eliminated, and therefore awarded (-1) point. The organisers will make every effort to keep competitions running to the times stated however cannot be responsible if due to unforeseen circumstances they are unable to do so.

JUDGES / STEWARDS DECISIONS

- The judges' decision is final. Written notification of intention to lodge a complaint or to dispute the result must be received half an hour prior to the presentation of awards and should be accompanied by a £10 cash deposit. The £10 deposit shall be returned to the individual complaining in the event that the complaint is sustained. If the complaint is not sustained the fee shall be forfeited. Please note that complaints will ONLY be accepted from a competing member or team captain
- Unacceptable behaviour by competitors or supporters, which adversely affects other competitors, will be penalised.
- Abusive behaviour towards Judges and Stewards will, in continual and extreme cases, lead to disqualification.
- Members are reminded that in taking part in the competitions, material of a questionable nature will be penalised. Members are to bear in mind that they are performing to a family audience.

HEALTH & SAFETY AND CHILD PROTECTION

- All competitions at Rural Skills Day will be Risk Assessed to ensure the safety of competitors, supporters and guests.
- Competitors should be aware of relevant Health & Safety issues and thus follow the instructions of judges and stewards at all times.
- The completion of a PARENTAL AND MEDICAL CONSENT FORM is necessary for all members under the age of 18. This must be submitted on Jotform and a copy carried on the members person throughout the day.

NFYFC Farm Machinery

After Northern Area Field Day, qualifying teams will be entered into the NFYFC Final, to be held on Saturday, 4th July 2026 at the County Showground, Stafford.

Eligibility

A team shall consist of four (4) members all of whom must be 28 years of age or under on 1st September 2025 and 16 or over on the 1st September 2025 and be a full members of a Club affiliated to NFYFC. For this competition, members should work as a team to complete all tasks, planning their own time and duties.

Certificates/ Licence Requirements

Failure to provide the requested certificates will result in the team not being allowed to compete.

For clarity, the team should have at least 2 driving licences, 1 first aid certificate, and 1 ATV certificate.

Judges must make themselves aware which competitors have which certificates and licences.

Task 1: Tractor with a 3-point linkage mounted Flail Mower or Topper Competitor requires a UK driving licence with F entitlement. This must be produced on the day of the competition in order to participate in this task. (The F entitlement can be gained at 16; but is automatically entitled with passing the car driving test).

Task 2: Loader Tractor with a Flatbed Trailer Competitor requires a UK driving licence with F entitlement. This must be produced on the day of the competition in order to participate in this task. (The F entitlement can be gained at 16; but is automatically entitled with passing the car driving test).

Task 3: ATV Handling: Adequate training must have been completed by the competitor who will operate the ATV. At the NFYFC final a certificate of competence to show 'adequate training' in ATV Handling must be produced. A copy of the certificate must be handed to the stewards on the day of the competition.

A Certificate of Competence for ATV's, issued by City & Guilds NPTC is more than acceptable evidence of 'adequate training'. The appropriate City & Guilds NPTC qualification is known as the Level 2 Certificate in the Safe Use of All-terrain Vehicles (0014-32). However, a certificate issued by another training provider (e.g. LANTRA) will also be accepted. The most basic level of certificate which will be accepted is called an EASI (European All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Institute) certificate, available from most reputable ATV dealers. The EASI certificate is very much a dealer short induction course - a basic operator's course designed to familiarise the operator with all the controls and operating procedures, which includes elements of safety. Whilst it ticks the box of 'adequate training', it should not be viewed as a replacement for a City & Guilds type course.

[Under the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) there is a legal requirement that "adequate training", including the use of any towed equipment or attachments, be undertaken by those riding ATV's. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) regards training provided by recognised training providers as "adequate" for the purposes of PUWER]

Task 4: First Aid: The team member in control of the first aid task must hold a current first aid certificate of either the British Red Cross, St John Ambulance, or an alternative nationally recognised body. The certificate must be no more than 3 years old. A copy of the certificate must be handed to the competition stewards on the day of each round of the competition. All teams to provide their own first aid kit.

Although Doctors, Nurses and Paramedics do not technically have a first aid certificate, provided they have a GMC, NMC or HCPC number and provide this on the day of the competition, this will be acceptable.

Procedure

- All competitors must take into account Health and Safety at all times. Correct personal protective equipment must be worn. Safe start and safe stop procedures must be adhered to. All equipment must be returned to its original place after completion of each task.
- The team shall appoint a leader who will undertake the duties of a foreman.
- Note that at the National Final this is a team competition. The competition tasks are not intended to be split into individual tasks - think ahead, work as a team, and plan your time. Judges will judge their allocated task, not necessarily an individual competitor.
- Competitors to provide their own tools. All equipment must be returned to its original place after completion of each task.

NFYFC Farm Machinery

TASK 1: Tractor and 3-point linkage mounted flail mower or topper.

- (Equipment required: 1. Tractor (approx. 100-150 hp); 2. A mounted flail mower to attach via 3-point linkage, typically 2m wide, not a folding machine. A flail mower or topper is chosen as a straight-forward machine with 3-point linkage and PTO, but without specialist hydraulics or electronics, to give all competitors chance to demonstrate competence without needing to have specialist product knowledge).
- An individual competitor is required to carry out daily maintenance and safety checks on the tractor and mower prior to the commencement of this task. The competitor is to carry out a verbal risk assessment with the judge on the task they will be completing.
- The combination should then be prepared for work (e.g., height setting, controls to work position).
- Competitor to demonstrate knowledge of settings, adjustments and procedures when working alongside a water course. (This to be done via questions/answer session, as there will not be sufficient time to physically complete numerous tasks).
- If at all possible, the competitor should operate and use the machine for a short demonstration of “real working”
- Competitor to park the implement and unhitch and return the tractor to the original position.
- Competitor to answer questions about PTO safety, shaft maintenance, etc, and general safety when using a PTO-driven machine.

TASK 2: Tractor with loader and trailer

- (Equipment required: 1. Loader Tractor (approx. 100-150 hp) with loader and bucket; 2. Flatbed Trailer such as a bale trailer or low loader).
- Note - to prevent needless repetition, there only needs to be one road driving section. Drive a loop, returning to original work area.
- One team member is required to carry out daily maintenance and safety checks on a tractor and trailer prior to the commencement of the task. The competitor is to carry out a verbal risk assessment with the judge on the task they will be completing.
- The competitor will unhitch the bucket from the loader onto the trailer, and secure the bucket using ratchet straps. Each team to provide their own ratchet straps to secure the load.
- The competitor will hitch the trailer and prepare for travel along a public highway, and the competitor to follow a course including turning on to, travelling along, and turning off a simulated public road.
- Competitor to unhitch the trailer.
- Competitor to reattach the bucket to the loader and park the tractor.

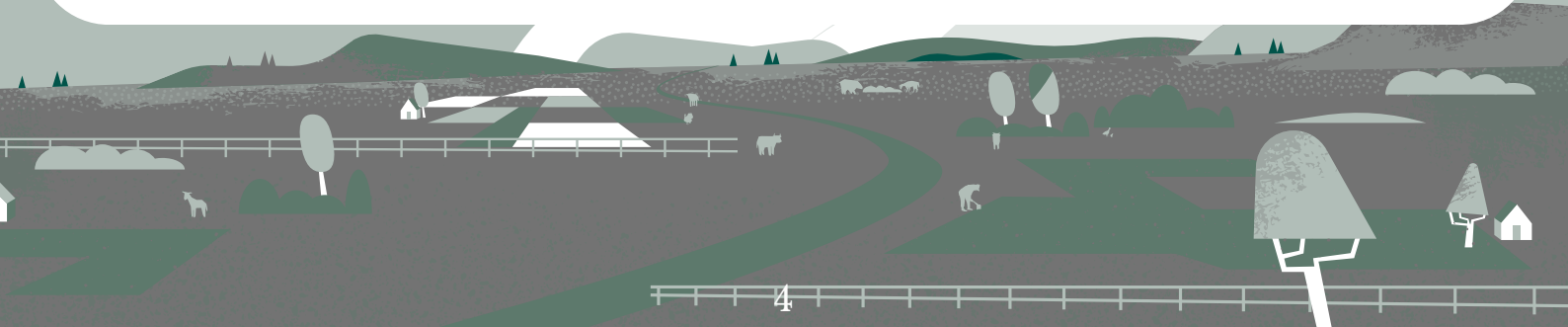
TASK 3: ATV

- Equipment required: 1. Sit-astride ATV 2. Trailer 3. Sheep handling hurdles - minimum 6
- The competitor will carry out daily maintenance and safety checks on a sit-astride ATV prior to commencement of task. This is to include a verbal risk assessment with the judge on the task they will be completing.
- Note - this task needs 2 work areas. The 2 areas should be similar size, layout, ground conditions, etc.
- Competitor will drive the ATV through a course as instructed by the judge, typically involving passing through poles or cones to mark gateways to demonstrate their skills at manoeuvring the ATV.
- The competitor will then drive to a site where a number of hurdles have been assembled into a sheep holding pen, with the trailer parked inside the pen. The competitor will hitch the trailer, dismantle the hurdles, and load them onto the trailer, secure the load, then move to another site and use the hurdles to construct an arrangement suitable for herding a small number of sheep into. Competitor to decide and discuss their pen layout, not simply copy the previous arrangement.
- The competitor will then park the trailer in their new pen and drive the ATV back to its starting point.

All competitors must take into account Health and Safety at all times.

Correct Personal Protective equipment must be worn including an approved helmet.

Safe start and safe stop procedures must be adhered to.



NFYFC Farm Machinery

TASK 4: First Aid

- Suggested Equipment: First Aid Kit.
- During the course of the practical exercise, a mock farm accident will be staged. Teams will be informed when the accident happens; it is the decision of the team as to how and who deals with the incident. It is expected that there will be by-bystanders who may be questioned regarding the accident. The First Aid Judge will indicate when the casualty has been satisfactorily dealt with, and will simulate a handover of the casualty to an ambulance crew.
- Note – it is the team decision as to how many and how long the team members are required to provide assistance.
- Knowledge of elementary First Aid is necessary, but in no case will competitors be expected to render assistance further than instructed in the Joint First Aid Manual of St. John Ambulance and The British Red Cross (available from WH Smith or other large bookshops). The Highway Code and Farm Safety Regulations must be applied at all times. If, in the opinion of the Judges, a competitor is undertaking a Task in a way likely to endanger them or others; the competitor will be stopped, and the danger brought to his attention. The competitor will be expected to correct the matter and then continue with the Task.

TASK 5: HAZARD PERCEPTION (AT THE NFYFC FINAL ONLY).

Supported by The Farm Safety Foundation: Yellow Wellies Campaign. This is to be confirmed

- The 4 individuals from the above tasks will join together to undertake a team hazard perception task. Competitors will be asked to identify 5 hazard scenarios such as (but not limited to): working at height, working with machinery and awareness of overhead power cables
- Competitors will have a maximum of 5 minutes per scenario.

Timing

- Tasks 1 – 4: Competitors will be asked to stop after 35 minutes.
- Task 5 (NFYFC Final Only): Competitors will be asked to stop after 5 minutes per scenario.

Scale of Marks - Total 500 (NFYFC Final 600)

Foreman - 30

Teamwork - 70

Task 1: Tractor and Flail Mower - 100

Task 2: Tractor and Trailer - 100

Task 3: ATV - 100

Task 4: First aid - 100

Task 5: Hazard perception - 100 NFYFC FINAL ONLY

Scores of Tasks 1, 2 and 3 will be broken down as follows:

Safety - 40 marks

- Competitor properly prepared and equipped with suitable safety equipment
- A suitable risk assessment, either written or verbal. Awareness of changing risks.
- Knowledge of relevant regulations.
- Safe Procedures followed, e.g. Safe Stop, Safe Entry and Exit from machines, all-round observation, safe machine positioning and parking, safe driving on site and simulated roads.

Efficiency and Competence of task - 40 marks

- Competitor to demonstrate ability and competence in the task.
- Competitor demonstrating understanding of the task and the wider relevance of the task.
- Competitor makes good progress throughout the task.

Teamwork - 20 marks

- Competitors ask for assistance from their team when it makes the task safer.
- Competitor aware of others and offers suitable assistance when applicable.
- Awareness of their own and others safety at all times.
- Effective communication.

NFYFC Fence Erecting

After Northern Area Field Day, qualifying teams will be entered into the NFYFC Final, to be held on Saturday, 4th July 2026 at the County Showground, Stafford.

Eligibility

A team shall consist of three (3) members 28 years of age or under on 1st September 2025, and full members of a Club affiliated to the NFYFC.

Substitution

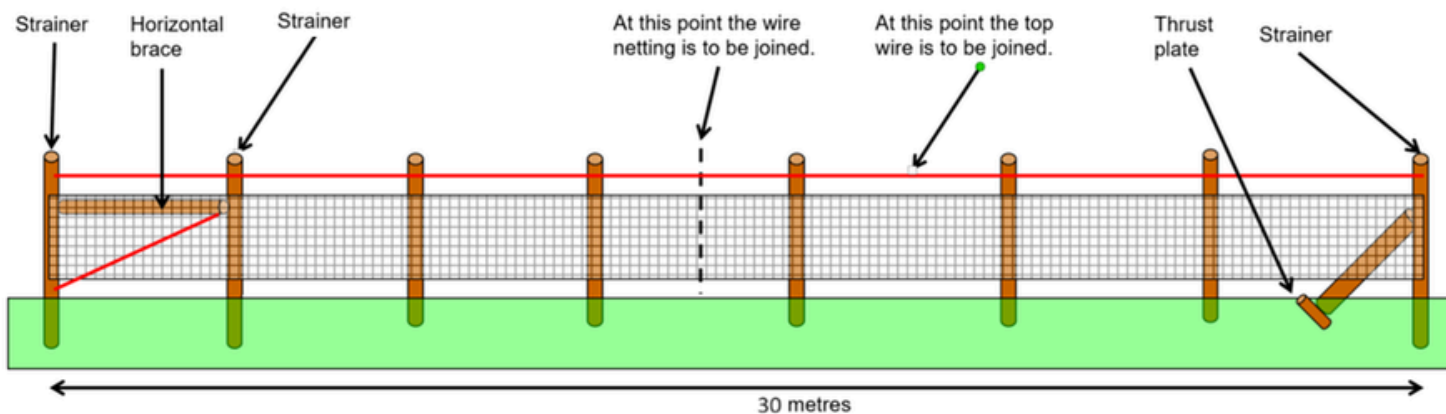
If two or more of the original team are unable to go forward to subsequent rounds, then the next highest placed team will represent the Area.

HEALTH & SAFETY – ESSENTIAL READING/ACTION FOR ALL COMPETITORS

It is essential that all competitors read the Health and Safety Executive's guidance paper concerning fencing ([HSG 151](#)) and note is taken of the safe working practices and protective clothing equipment that is recommended.

Procedure

- At the NFYFC Final the team will be required to erect a stock proof boundary fence using the materials provided, as illustrated in the diagram.
- The team are required to prepare a written risk assessment/method statement, which is to be handed to the Chief Steward on the day of the competition - prior to the competition start. Failure to provide a written risk assessment/method statement or failure to comply with it; or working unsafely, will result in immediate disqualification. Please see NFYFC Fence Erecting Risk Assessment Template below. This may be used and completed as teams wish (Risk 1 already entered as an example).
- The fence shall be in a straight line for 30 metres. The height from the ground to the tensile wire is 75mm (3"), tensile wire to net 75mm (3"), net 800mm (31.5"), net to top tensile wire 100mm (4"), overall height 1050 mm (41.5"). The intermediate posts shall be at equal spacing.
- It shall be constructed of post and netting with 1 strand of tensile wire below and 1 strand above the netting. There shall be 1 strand of tensile wire 75mm (3") above the ground, and the netting shall be 75mm (3") above this. There shall be 1 strand of tensile wire above the netting, set at 100mm (4") above the top of the netting. Netting and wire shall be secured to the end strainers using a recognised knot.
- At one end of the fence there will be a box strainer assembly using a horizontal strut and diagonal brace wire as per diagram. The box strainer shall be made with 2 x 2.4m (8') strainer with a 2.4m (8') 75-100mm (3"-4") diameter horizontal brace, with tensile wire. The horizontal brace shall be morticed into the strainers on both ends.
- At the other end of the fence there should be a strainer with a diagonal strut. The assembly shall be made using a 2.4m (8') strainer and 2.4m (8') angled strut, with the strut secured using a horizontal thrust block. The strut must have a thrust plate at the end to prevent movement. The struts need to be left open for the judges to see. The strut is to be morticed into the strainer at 450mm (18") to the top of the strut – ie, between the 4th and 5th wire on the net.
- Wire joints to be made during the competition. No joining aids will be permitted. A join in the netting should be made by hand approximately in the middle of the length. A join in the tensile wire approximately in the middle of the length must also be completed.



NFYFC Fence Erecting

- Only materials supplied by the organisers are to be used for Area and National Finals (see list of materials below).
- Only hand tools will be allowed, and the teams themselves must provide these. No power tools or chainsaws are allowed. All tools and equipment used must be fit for purpose and be in good condition, well maintained and safely operated by members of the team at all times. Judges/stewards have the right to stop the use of tool/piece of equipment if, in their view, it is not safe to use or is being handled/used in an unsafe manner.
- Competitors are not allowed to shorten any of the vertical posts.
- The Judge reserves the right to inspect any strut following completion of the task.
- All teams are required to dismantle their fence after the Presentation of Awards (The thrust plate must be out of the ground).
- Teams are required to clear away all debris and any off-cuts of wire etc must not be put down the postholes. Receptacles will be provided for this purpose. Soil will be available to make the ground good. Any team not complying with this ruling will be disqualified and receive a £75 fine.
- The Judge's decision is final.

Materials to be Provided

3 x 2.4m (8ft) round pointed posts, 150-175mm (6" - 7") diameter (strainers)
2 x 2.4m (8') round posts, 75-100mm (3" - 4") diameter (horizontal strut, diagonal strut)
5 x 1.65m (5'6") round pointed posts, 75-100mm (3" - 4") diameter (intermediates)
1 x chock (thrust plate) 1800mm x 125mm x 75mm (72" x 5" x 3")
35 metres of X-Knot High Tensile FX8/80/22 wire netting
90 metres of high tensile wire
10 x nails 5mm x 150mm (6") nails
Staples

Timing

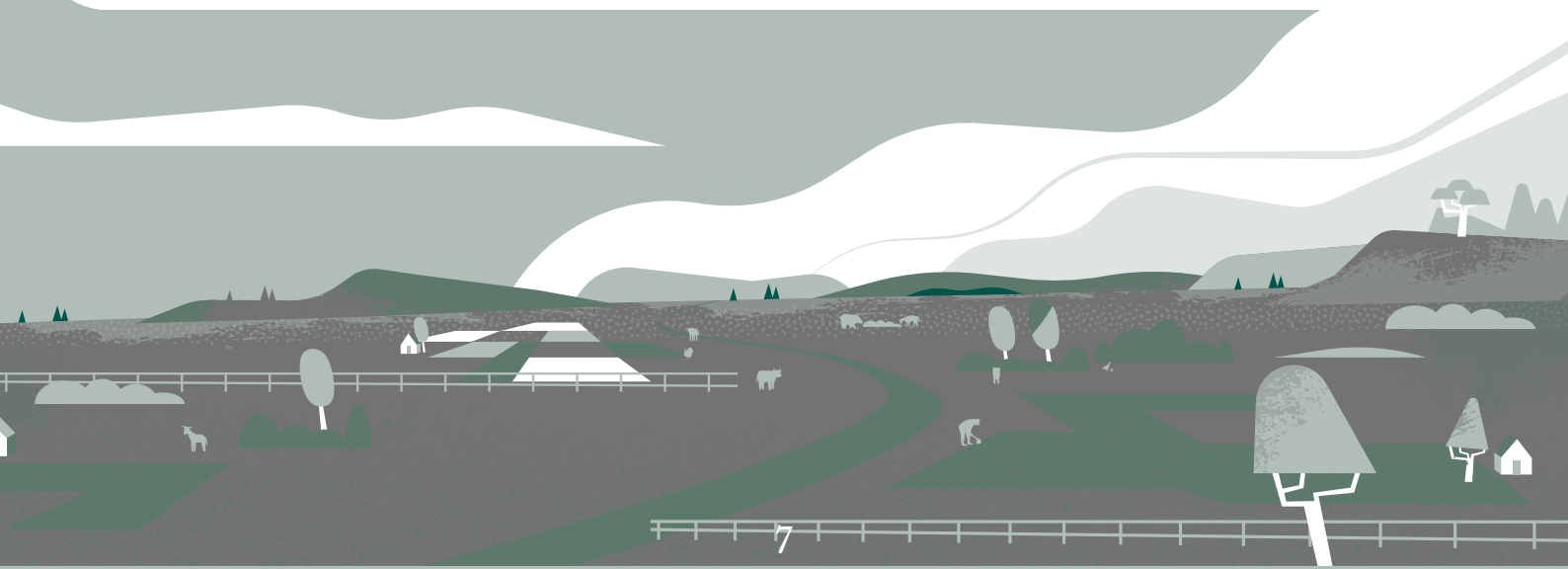
For the NFYFC final will be 3 hours. To note that once the time of 3 hours has been reached, teams will be asked to stop, and the fence will be judged as seen. Please note that the tidying of tools and equipment away will be included in the time to complete the task.

Scale of Marks

Fixing end posts, strainer post, diagonal strut & box strainer - 30
Intermediate posts - 10
Overall neatness - 20
Fixing and tensioning of netting & plain wire - 25
Joint in netting and plain wire - 10
Written risk assessment - 5

Total - 100

Please download the [NFYFC rules](#) for a copy of the Risk Assessment Template



4x4 and Trailer Handling

Eligibility

- May enter one female and one male member.
- Competitors to be between 18 and 28 years of age on the 1st September 2025.
- All competitors must be a full member of a club affiliated to the NFYFC.
- Competitors will be required to produce their current online membership card or a printed equivalent, along with their full drivers licence. NO DRIVERS LICENCE = NO COMPETING.

Procedure

- Team of 2, one female and one male.
- Competitors will be required to drive the vehicle and livestock trailer around a marked out course. One competitor driving around the course, then the other competitor reversing back along the same course.
- Anyone seen to be driving in an unsafe manner will be stopped/disqualified by the competition judge or steward.

Scale of Marks

To be judged on accuracy and safety NOT SPEED. Lowest penalties collected wins. Time penalties will be given for any hitting of stakes in the process.

5 points penalty for hitting stakes.

10 points penalty for driving over stakes.

Skill and safety of manoeuvres - 50

Accuracy overall - 50

Total - 100

Mini Digger Challenge

Eligibility

- May enter one member.
- Competitors to be between the age of 16 and 28 years of age on 1 September 2025.
- All competitors must be a full member of a club affiliated to the NFYFC.
- Competitors will be required to produce their current online membership card or printed equivalent. Failure to do so will result in a £5 fine.

ALL COMPETITORS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 MUST HAVE A SIGNED PARENTAL CONSENT FORM ON THEM AT ALL TIMES THROUGHOUT THE DAY AS WELL AS THEIR ONLINE MEMBERSHIP CARD.

Procedure

Competitors will be required to operate a mini digger as directed by the judge to complete a task.

Note: The mini digger will remain stationary and only the boom arm will be operated by the competitor for the task, as instructed by the judge.

Timing

Competitors will be allowed 10 minutes maximum to complete the task, but competitors should remember that the competition will operate as a time trial.

Scale of Marks

Skill of manoeuvres - 25

Safety of manoeuvres - 25

Speed and accuracy overall - 50

Total - 100

Open Pallet Challenge

Eligibility

- May enter one female and one male competitor.
- Competitors must be 28 years of age or under on 1st September 2025.
- All competitors must be a full member of a club affiliated to NFYFC.
- Competitors will be required to produce their current online membership card or a printed equivalent. Failure to do so will result in a £5 fine.

ALL COMPETITORS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 MUST HAVE A SIGNED PARENTAL CONSENT FORM ON THEM AT ALL TIMES THROUGHOUT THE DAY AS WELL AS THEIR ONLINE MEMBERSHIP CARD.

Procedure

Each team will be supplied with 2 pallets which they are to dismantle and make into an item which will be revealed on the day. The majority of wood should be used in the construction. No staining, no painting. No finish allowed. No power / battery tools, chainsaws or nail guns allowed.

Competitors must bring own tools. Nails provided.

Safety clothing must be worn – Steel toecap boots, gloves and goggles.

Timing

Max time 1 hour

Scale of Marks

Design - 30

Carpentry - 40

Overall Appearance - 30

Total - 100

Egg Throwing

Eligibility

- Team of 2, 1 male & 1 female - both competitors must be 16 years of age or under on 1st September 2025
- Participants must be full member of a club affiliated to NFYFC.
- Competitors will be required to produce their current online membership card or printed equivalent. Failure to do so will result in a £5 fine.

Procedure

- The team who has thrown the furthest unbroken, caught egg are the winners. In the event of a tie, another throw will take place.
- Eggs will be provided.

Nail Bashing

Eligibility

- The competitor must be 16 years of age or under on 1st September 2025
- Competitors will be required to produce their current and signed membership card. Failure to do so will result in a £5 fine.

Procedure

- Member is to hit 1 nail into a block of wood.
- Hammer and nails will be provided.
- Appropriate PPE – safety goggles and gloves must be worn.
- The quickest time to “bash” the nail in will win.
- In the event of a tie, a second nail will be provided.

Junior Facepainting: Theme - Animals

Eligibility:

The competitor must be 16 years of age or under on 1st September 2025 All must be a full member of a club affiliated to NFYFC. Competitors will be required to produce their current online membership card or printed equivalent. Failure to do so will result in a £5 fine.

Procedure:

Teams of 2. One competitor to paint the face of another competitor to the theme of 'Animals'. Max time 30 minutes. Competitors to provide their own equipment, water facilities will be available (hot water included).

Scale of marks:

Creativity 25

Quality 50

Relevance to theme 25

TOTAL 100

Scavenger Hunt

Eligibility

- Intermediate team must be a team of 3 competitors who are between 16 and 21 years on 1st September 2025.
- Senior team must be a team of 2 competitors who are between 22 and 28 years on 1st September 2025
- Competitors will be required to produce their current online membership card or printed equivalent. Failure to do so will result in a £5 fine.

PROCEDURE:

- Teams will have 15 minutes to complete the scavenger hunt task.
- Items must be collected physically.
- The mark sheet must be completed by the team in written form during the provided time.
- One item is to be collected per letter in LANCASHIRE, the name of the item must begin with the same letter.
- Each team will be provided with a mark sheet, a clip board, a pencil, a pen, a collection bag.

SCALE OF MARKS:

Per Item (10 items total)

Creativity 5

Justification/ reasoning 5

TOTAL 100

