



Outlaw Truck and Tractor Pulling Association
www.outlawpulling.com

DATE: 3/07/17

TO: Outlaw Competitors

FROM: Doug Roberts, OTTPA CEO

SUBJECT: 2017 OTTPA Schedule

As we gear up for the Outlaw Truck & Tractor Pulling Association 35th anniversary season the 2017 OTTPA schedule is about complete as far as events are concerned and could be our best schedule ever. Not our biggest schedule but our best when it comes to locations, sweeps, purse, etc. My goal has always been not to start the season before June as our northern competitors may still be finishing up farming. Sometimes we have had to have one event before Memorial Day weekend and do have one event still looking at that date, but for now the weekend of June 3rd will be our first hook. All our classes will have at least a couple weekends off this summer in June, July & August to plan a family vacation. I asked the pullers at the fall banquet how many hooks they wanted and most wanted 20 to 25 at the most and that is what I tried to do.

After we finished the 2015 season it was just too much and I decided to start cutting back on some smaller pulls and go with larger pulls. I gave a lot of thought in changing our direction on scheduling and purse. For one with all these small events we are diluting our product when we have big events close by. In 2015 we had 60 events with 68 sessions of pulling and just wore everyone out. We had 6 classes that year with over 30 hooks and 4 classes over 25 hooks. So in 2016 I dropped 12 events that paid us \$180,000 in purse and added 4 new pulls and upgraded 2 others that paid us over \$300,000 in purse. This trend continues in 2017 as we have dropped another 11 smaller pulls and added 4 new pulls, Macon, MO; Corydon, IA; Jackson, MN & South Dakota State Fair. That makes 5 state fairs we do in front of the big grandstands. We now have 40 events with 51 sessions of pulling. I also raised our purse significantly this year for 8 classes (P4x4, D4x4, LLM, LLP, DSS, USS, PS & MOD) which will bring in another \$110,000 in purse for those classes. Next year I plan on raising the other 5 classes (LSS, SF, LPS, 4WD & 2WD). Some events cut back on a class with the new purses, but a lot stayed the same and some added another class or two. With 60 events in 2015 and 40 events in 2017 we have 33% less events yet our purse went from \$1,391,000 in 2015 to \$1,270,000 in 2017 which is just 8% less. Our total hooks for classes in 2015 was 335 and in 2017 is 291 which is just 13% less. In 2015 we had just 8 more sessions than events and now that is 12 sessions which is a 66% increase. In 2015 we had 28 Regional events with a purse from \$10,000 to \$20,000, in 2016 it was 22 and in 2017 it is down to 13. In 2015 we had had 11 Grand National events with a purse from \$20,000 to \$30,000, in 2016 it was 13 and now in 2017 it is up to 15. In 2015 we had 3 Super National events with a purse of \$30,000 to \$40,000, in 2016 it was 4 and now in 2017 it is up to 5. So you see the direction I want to take Outlaws, less small events and more larger events with multiple sessions, more purse, with less hooks. This year we have no classes over 30 hooks and only 4 classes over 25 hooks (2 with 26 & 2 with 27). These scheduling and purse changes along with rules to keep the cost down and fair competition that lead to multiple winners are helping us grow. I look for another banner year for Outlaws as these rules and changes we have really shine when we have years with either high fuel prices for travel or a tough Ag market. We have had over 30 new rookies the last 3 years in a row with a record 52 new rookies last year. We are blessed to have the great promoters and competitors as that is what makes Outlaws go!

When you look at class and event changes in the schedule I have to make some tough decisions on who hooks where. When it comes to classes here is a review of them.

PSS – This class just can't seem to get going. After 5 years we got up to 3 a couple years ago and down to 1 last year, so now hard to sell and just 5 hooks in 2017.

DT2.5 – We were going to start a Diesel truck 2.5 turbo class this year, but just couldn't get organized this year. PPL went to a smooth bore 2.6 turbo rule and I think that is a good choice. So in 2018 we will start this class as a smooth bore 2.6 class as a lot of the pullers cross over to both associations. In 2018 as in all our other single turbo classes where everyone runs same turbo, Diesel Performance Engineering turbo will be the only one allowed, so keep that in mind when buying turbo this year.

DT3.0 – This class was a great class last year and we finally had good numbers while most other associations had a decrease in numbers. Last year it was either a 2.6 with map ring or 3.0 smooth bore turbo. This year it is 3.0 only and in 2018 everyone will have the same turbo and it will be from Diesel Performance Engineering, so keep that in mind when buying new turbo this year. The purse was increased to \$3500.

LLM – I started this class to take the load off our MOD class with them having over 30 hooks as we needed noise at some events when the MOD class was down south. It just has not took off like I would have liked as we have had some events the last two years that none showed up and some other events with just 2 or 3. Even though we pay more purse than Nebraska Bush they choose them first when a conflict of dates and this year I needed the LLM class at Sac City and Gibbon but could book them as I knew the numbers would be low with conflicts on those dates. With that said when Rock Valley & Wisner needed to shorting up there show because we have too many hooks this is the class I went with this year. If you want to go to the bigger events you have to support the smaller events like the other classes do. With the MOD class having less hooks now we will have to see what the future of this class is with Outlaws. The purse was increased to \$3500.

P4x4 – This class has really grown the last two years and we have more trucks from Iowa now running the circuit. Some of the associations in Missouri changed their rules and some trucks cannot pull with them anymore, so we have a lot of new members, so now this class has 20 hooks and a purse increase to \$3000.

DSS – This class struggled last year with numbers as most events had very few tractors. This class will have only 15 hooks this year and most are weekends and also an increase in purse to \$4500. This will be a critical year for this class as it could turn around and come back or drop below 10 hooks next year.

The rest of our classes did great last year and some got a raise and the other classes will next year.

This year we are changing our "Pull-off for the Championship" to everyone can qualify if you do not miss more than your allotted amount of hooks if you pre-entered. If you did not pre-enter you can also qualify, but you cannot miss any hooks. This should hopefully lead to more running for the end of season point fund. The pre-entry form will go out next month when I finalize the classes at all events along with the 2016 refund. Last year the points fund was \$250,000, but we only paid out \$190,000 as some classes did not have many qualify and some classes for other reasons. This year with a lot less hooks and over \$100,000 higher purse for 8 classes we are going to guarantee a \$132,000 point fund. This is \$58,000 less than paid out last year. It could be higher if we get more sponsorship, but that is a tough market right now. Kurt & Taylor Van Beek, Fred Petsch and myself have been working hard on sponsorship and we will see what happens but right now this is the minimum payout for classes. I changed it some from the past as I looked at number of hooks, miles traveled, etc. The \$132,000 in points fund will be paid out as follows: PSS - \$3500 - \$1500, \$1000, \$750, \$500, \$250; LLM - \$5750 - \$2000, \$1500, \$1000, \$750, \$500; P4x4, LSS, LLP, SF - \$7500 - \$2500, \$2000, \$1500, \$1000, \$500; LPS, USS, DSS, 4WD - \$10500 - \$4000, \$3000, \$2000, \$1000, \$500; PS, 2WD, MOD - \$15000 - \$5000, \$4000, \$3000, \$2000, \$1000.

This year we will not be co-sanctioning with Xcaliber. They decided to go with PPL rules and they needed to try something different. When we had our USPA Insurance board meeting last month and they have went from 92 members in 2014 to 58 last year. Outlaws just can't help them that much co-sanctioning events with our busy schedule so hopefully this will help them. We will have some events together this year as we still have the same insurance and they offer different classes than us. If there competitors want to hook in Outlaw classes at these events they will need to join or pay the OTTPA one-time hook fee. I have a lot of friends in Xcaliber and wish them the best. I wish everyone a safe planting season and hope to see everyone this summer.

Thanks, Doug