

Rules

Wood ChopFest

Chudenice

2026



1) Race Announcement

- Publication of race disciplines.
- Publication of racing and safety regulations.
- Publication of the registration form.
- Publication of any limitations on the number of competitors for qualification in selected disciplines with limited capacity.

2) Competitor Registration

- The completed registration form must be submitted to the competition organizer by the specified deadline.
- Entry into the competition is subject to an entry fee – wood. The entry fee depends on the number of disciplines the competitor has been selected for. The organizer is obliged to notify the competitor in a timely manner regarding which disciplines they have been selected for.
- The registration is only valid once the entry fee has been paid.
- The minimum age for participating in the Wood ChopFest competition is 16 years. However, it is at the discretion of each organizer whether to accept minors into the competition.
- A competitor may only be registered for disciplines for which they meet the requirements.
- If a competitor fails to participate in the disciplines they are registered for and does not notify the organizer 7 days prior to the date of the competition, the entry fee is non-refundable.

The organizer reserves the right to:

- Accept or reject any registration.
- Limit the number of competitors in individual disciplines.
- Change the schedule of disciplines if circumstances require it.
- Refuse registration without stating a reason.

3) Competition Format

- The format of the competition is determined by the organizer.
- In the event of adverse weather conditions, the organizer may decide to cancel the competition.
- For each discipline, there must be 1 to 8 competition stations, with a maximum of 8 competitors starting simultaneously.
- Timekeeping is conducted solely for the sawing disciplines (single buck, double buck, Jack & Jill, Jill & Jill, Hot saw), Hard Hitting, and Springboard.
- The timekeeping equipment is provided by the competition organizer.
- The starting command will be explained clearly to all competitors during the competitors' meeting.
- At the competitors' meeting, competitors will be introduced to the competition judges (2 people) and the competition manager. The judges will officiate and make decisions for the individual heats.

- If a competitor files a protest against a judge's decision, the main competition manager will have the final say on the matter.

4) Competition Procedure

- The competition consists of individual heats across all disciplines.
- The order of disciplines and their start times will be announced on the day of the competition.
- The competitor is obliged to monitor official announcements and be ready to compete at the designated time.
- Regardless of any other rules, it is the sole responsibility of the competitor to know when their discipline begins.

Qualification

- Selected chopping disciplines consist of qualification heats and one final heat (max. 8 competitors).
- A competitor must advance to the final heat from a qualification heat.
- The two fastest competitors from each qualification heat will advance.
- The qualification procedure for a specific discipline is detailed in its respective rules.
- If a chopping discipline does not reach the capacity of 4 heats (with 2 competitors advancing to the final from each heat), the competition judge may decide as follows:
 - In the case of three heats – randomly draw from the competitors to determine who advances to the final 8.
 - In the case of two heats – the 4 fastest competitors from each heat advance.
 - In the case of 1 heat – there is no obligation to hold a qualification heat, and it can be designated directly as the final heat. The Competition Manager will announce this at the beginning of the competition if this situation arises.

5) Wood draw

- The type of wood is specified well in advance (website, social media, registration forms, promotional flyers).
- For the chopping disciplines, the competition organizer may prepare: aspen, black poplar, white pine, or European beech.
- For the sawing disciplines (singlebuck saw), the wood used is white pine.
- For the Hot Saw discipline, the wood used is white pine, black poplar, or aspen.
- The wood block is turned/milled and wrapped in protective foil before the start of the entire competition.
- Each block is marked with a label indicating the competitor's name, the block's diameter, and the type of wood.
- It is up to the competitor which block they prepare for which discipline, but they **MUST** adhere to the wood type and diameter specified for the discipline they are entering. *(Example: A competitor receives two blocks of black poplar with a 30 cm diameter. They are registered for the Standing Block Chop 30 cm and the Underhand Chop 30 cm. They can choose which block to use for each discipline at their own discretion.)*

Wood ChopFest rules 2026

- A competitor has the option to change a block if it does not meet the competition conditions (e.g., knots). However, they must notify a judge of the exchange, and the judge will determine whether the block is unchoppable.
- The competitor is obliged to prepare their blocks every morning before the start of the competition, i.e., before 10:00 AM.
- There is no time for wood preparation during the day, and it will not be tolerated. (Exception: springboard and final disciplines).

6) Awards Ceremony

- The awards ceremony will take place on the same day, following the completion of all disciplines.

7) Prize Money

- The WoodChop Fest competition pays out prize money in amounts that are established and publicly announced in advance.
- Competitors will receive their prize money during the awards ceremony for the final of their respective discipline.
- The competitor is required to sign an acknowledgment of receipt for the prize money; failure to do so will result in the prize money being withheld.

8) List of All Disciplines

8.1 Underhand Chop

Wood: Poplar, white pine.

Diameter: 27, 30, and 37.5 cm for men and women – turned.

Length: Minimum of 70 cm.

- If the log is not completely severed or if the foothold is damaged, the competitor is disqualified.
- The axe must have a safety pin secured through the handle and the axe head.
- The log is secured with spikes on one side only.
- The competitor is required to wear shin and leg protection.
- The log must be chopped completely through from both sides.
- After the heat concludes (once the last competitor in the given heat finishes their block) and until the judge releases the log, the competitor must not touch the log again; doing so will result in disqualification.
- For title disciplines, the competitor is required to drill in 6 wood screws provided by the organizer. Three screws must be placed opposite the first hit near the edge of the wood, spaced 7 cm apart.

Advancement: Selection of the 2 fastest competitors from each qualification heat (see point 4).

Protective Equipment: Leg protection.

8.2 Standing Block Chop

Wood: Poplar, white pine.

Diameter: 25, 27, 30, and 37.5 cm for men and women – turned.

Length: Minimum of 70 cm.

- If the log is not completely severed or if it is broken off, the competitor is disqualified.
- The axe must have a safety pin secured through the handle and the axe head.
- The competitor is required to wear shin and leg protection.
- The log must be chopped completely through from both sides.
- The competitor must not wrench the log with the final strike.
- In the event the block splits or breaks apart, the competitor must finish chopping their block on the ground.
- After the heat concludes (once the last competitor in the given heat finishes their block) and until the judge releases the log, the competitor must not touch the log again; doing so will result in disqualification.
- For title disciplines, the competitor is required to drill in 6 wood screws provided by the organizer. Three screws must be placed opposite the first hit near the edge of the wood, spaced 7 cm apart.

Advancement: Selection of the 2 fastest competitors from each qualification heat (see point 4).

Protective Equipment: Leg protection.

8.3 Single Buck

Wood: white pine.

Diameter: 40 and 46 cm – turned.

Log mounting height: 85 cm to the top.

Starting notch (pre-cut): Block diameter of 40 cm = a measured arc of 25 cm. Block diameter of 46 cm = a measured arc of 30 cm.

- If the disc is not completely severed or has a wedge shape, the competitor will be disqualified (DQ).
- The disc is only valid if the cut is complete.
- In the event that the disc breaks off, the competitor may re-insert the saw and finish cutting the remaining piece. This will then be evaluated as a complete disc.
- If the wood breaks inward at the site of the cut, a second attempt is permitted.
- However, this should be discussed in advance at the competitors' meeting prior to the competition. If it is necessary to re-insert the saw, the competitor must do it themselves.
- An assistant may only help the competitor with wedging and lubricating the saw, and they must not touch the wooden disc.
- The assistant doesn't have to wear the official competition t-shirt (only neutral colour t-shirt).
- The saw may only have one handle and must not have a weight attached to the other end.

Wood ChopFest rules 2026

- The competitor must not touch the disc or the log from the moment the timekeeping stops until the judge releases the disc/log; otherwise, disqualification will follow.

Scoring: Time in seconds.

Protective Equipment: None.

Timekeeping: A person appointed by the judge.

8.4 Springboard 1 board

Base Log:

Wood: Softwood

Height: 1.75 m

Chopping Block:

Wood: Softwood, poplar, eastern white pine

Diameter: 27 cm

Length: 75 cm

- The axe must have a safety pin secured through the handle and the axe head.
- The competitor must use an axe to chop a pocket into the 1.70-meter-high base log, into which they insert a board (acting as a footstep), known as a springboard.
- The chopping block (25, 27 cm in diameter and 75 cm in length) is mounted on top of the base log, and the competitor must stand on the board (springboard) while chopping.
- The chopping block must be secured with screws.
- The first axe strike must be an upward strike, and the competitor must chop through the log from both sides.
- If the board is not securely fastened, it is permitted to re-insert the board and climb up again. The same applies if the competitor falls. The competitor sets up the board themselves.
- The discipline concludes the moment the top section of the block is severed.
- The competitor must not touch the log from the moment timekeeping stops until it is released by the judge; otherwise, disqualification will follow.
- At the start, the competitor holds the axe in their hand.
- Exceeding the 300-second time limit results in disqualification.

Protective Equipment: Leg protection.

8.5 Springboard 2 Board

Base Log:

Wood: Softwood

Height: 2.75 m

Chopping Block:

Wood: Softwood, poplar, eastern white pine

Diameter: 27 cm

Length: 75 cm

Wood ChopFest rules 2026

- The axe must have a safety pin secured through the handle and the axe head.
- In this discipline, the competitor must use an axe to chop a log placed at a height of 2.75 meters. The log must be secured with screws. To do this, the competitor must chop two pockets at two different heights in the base log. The competitor inserts springboard boards into these pockets. Using these springboards, the competitor reaches the block located at the top of the base log. While standing on the top springboard, the competitor must chop the block. The first axe strike must be an upward strike, and the competitor must chop through the log from both sides.
- If the board is not securely fastened, it is permitted to re-insert the board and climb up again. The same applies if the competitor falls. The competitor sets up the board themselves.
- The block must be clearly completed by being severed into two parts. In the event the block breaks off, the competitor may finish chopping their block on the ground.
- If the log is not completely severed, the competitor is disqualified.
- The competitor must not touch the log from the moment timekeeping stops until it is released by the judge; otherwise, disqualification will follow.
- At the start, the competitor holds the axe in their hand. Time is kept by a person appointed by the judge. The time judge stops the time the moment the log (block) splits into two parts.

Scoring: Time in seconds.

Protective Equipment: Leg protection.

8.6 Treefelling

Base Log:

Wood: Softwood.

Height: 2.75 m.

Chopping Block:

Wood: Softwood, poplar, eastern white pine.

Diameter: 30 cm.

Length: 75 cm.

- The axe must have a safety pin secured through the handle and the axe head.
- In this discipline, the competitor must use an axe to chop a log placed at a height of 2.75 meters.
- The log must be secured with screws.
- To do this, the competitor must chop four pockets at two different heights in the base log. The competitor inserts springboard boards into these pockets. Using these boards, the competitor reaches the log located at the top of the base log. While standing on the top springboard, the competitor must chop the log.
- From the first two pockets, the competitor chops the log as they see fit; however, they must create another two pockets on the opposite side of the base log to completely sever the top block.

Wood ChopFest rules 2026

- The first axe strike must be an upward strike, and the competitor must chop through the log from both sides.
 - If the board is not securely fastened, it is permitted to re-insert the board and climb up again. The same applies if the competitor falls. The competitor sets up the board themselves.
 - The block must be clearly completed by being severed into two parts. In the event the block splits/breaks apart, the competitor may finish chopping their block on the ground.
 - If the block is broken off, the competitor is disqualified.
 - The competitor must not touch the log from the moment timekeeping stops until it is released by the judge; otherwise, disqualification will follow.
 - At the start, the competitor holds the axe in their hand. Time is kept by a person appointed by the judge. The Time judge stops the time the moment the log (block) splits into two parts.
- Scoring:** Time in seconds. **Protective Equipment:** Leg protection.

8.7 Hot saw

Wood: Poplar, softwood, white pine.

Diameter: 44-47 cm – uniform diameter for the competition.

Log mounting height: 85 cm to the top.

- The competitor has 60 seconds to warm up the saw. The command to warm up is given by the judge.
- The competitor must use a chainsaw to cut three complete discs within a 15 cm zone. The order of the cuts is predetermined: top downward, bottom upward, and again top downward.
- At the starting command, the competitor must have both hands on the log.
- The discs must be complete around their entire circumference.
- The saw rests unstarted on the ground prior to the start.
- Incomplete discs may be replaced with a new full disc, but the competitor must still fit within the 15 cm zone. Only discs that fit within this zone are counted.
- The competitor must not touch the log or the discs until they are released by the judge; otherwise, disqualification will follow.
- The starter cord must be attached to the carabiner on the stand.

Scoring: Time in seconds. If there are not 3 complete discs, the competitor is disqualified.

Protective Equipment: Cut-resistant trousers or chaps, hearing and eye protection.

Timekeeping: A person appointed by the judge.

8.8 Butchers Block – standing

Wood: Poplar, softwood.

Diameter: 40-50 cm – uniform diameter for the competition.

- The axe must have a safety pin secured through the handle and the axe head.
- Competitors are required to wear shin and leg protection.
- The log must be chopped completely through from both sides.

Wood ChopFest rules 2026

- Competitors must not wrench the log with the final strike.
- In the event the block splits or breaks apart, the competitor must finish chopping their block on the ground.
- After the heat concludes (once the last competitor in the given heat finishes their block) and until the judge releases the log, competitors must not touch the log again; doing so will result in disqualification.
- Two competitors perform this chopping discipline simultaneously; however, they are obliged to be mindful of the other competitor's safety.
- The judge may stop the competitors in the event that the safety of any participant in the discipline is compromised.

Scoring: Order of heat completion.

Protective Equipment: Leg protection

Timekeeping: A person appointed by the judge.

8.8 Butchers Block – underhand

Wood: Poplar, softwood.

Diameter: 40-50 cm – uniform diameter for the competition.

- The axe must have a safety pin secured through the handle and the axe head.
- Competitors are required to wear shin and leg protection.
- The log must be chopped completely through from both sides.
- Competitors must not break off the log with the final strike.
- After the heat concludes (once the last competitor in the given heat finishes their block) and until the judge releases the log, competitors must not touch the log again; doing so will result in disqualification.
- Two competitors perform this chopping discipline **together** and are obliged to be mindful of the other competitor's safety.
- It is up to the competitors in what order they start chopping, but they must switch at least once.
- The judge may stop the competitors in the event that the safety of any participant in the discipline is compromised.

Scoring: Order of heat completion.

Protective Equipment: Leg protection.

Timekeeping: A person appointed by the judge.

8.9 Standing Block – hardhitting

Wood: Poplar, white pine.

Diameter: 27, 30 cm.

Length: Minimum of 70 cm.

Wood ChopFest rules 2026

- The competitor must completely sever the block within 2 minutes of the start (the start begins with the first axe strike into the wood).
- The judge must not inspect the block before the 2 minutes have elapsed, unless the competitor announces that they have finished.
- Once the competitor announces they have finished, they must not continue chopping.
- At least one chip must be chopped out from each side of the block.
- During the discipline, the block must be chopped in the traditional manner; a V-cut is PROHIBITED.
- If there is a chip or piece of wood in the chopped-out section of the block that the competitor believes could cause injury during the next strike:
 - The competitor may remove it only with the back of the axe (the poll).
 - Only by pushing it out of the cut.
 - -> Such removal is not counted as a strike.
 - Removal with the axe blade, or a strike with the back of the axe that simultaneously advances/deepens the cut -> is counted as a strike.
- If the competitor removes a chip in a manner that assists in severing the block, an additional strike may be added as a penalty.
- If the competitor removes a chip with any part of their body, they will be disqualified.
- The competitor may be disqualified if, in the judge's opinion, they intentionally split the block.
- The competitor may rest the axe on the block between strikes to help maintain balance (however, the axe blade must not touch the chopped-out section of the wood => if it does, it is counted as an additional strike).
- The competitor must not twist or pry with the axe in the cut, nor break out chips by moving the axe head after completing a strike into the wood (one additional strike will be added for each violation of this rule).
- In case of competitor uncertainty regarding a loose chip hanging from the block, the competitor may look at the judge to confirm whether the chip will be accepted or not, and must remove it with a strike – i.e., an additional strike.
- For this discipline, the competitor is required to drill in 6 wood screws provided by the organizer. Three screws must be placed opposite the first strike near the edge of the wood, spaced 7 cm apart.

Axe specifications: The choice of axe is unrestricted.

Scoring: Number of strikes. If competitors have the same number of strikes, the faster time decides the winner.

Protective Equipment: Leg protection.

Timekeeping: A person appointed by the judge.

8.10 Underhand – hardhitting

Wood: Poplar, eastern white pine.

Diameter: 27, 30 cm.

Wood ChopFest rules 2026

Length: Minimum of 70 cm.

- For this discipline, the competitor is required to drill in 6 wood screws provided by the organizer. The competitor must completely sever the block within 2 minutes of the start (the start begins with the first axe strike into the wood).
- The judge must not inspect the block before the 2 minutes have elapsed, unless the competitor announces that they have finished.
- Once the competitor announces they have finished, they must not continue chopping.
- At least one chip must be chopped out from each side of the block.
- If there is a chip or piece of wood in the chopped-out section of the block that the competitor believes could cause injury during the next strike:
 - The competitor may remove it only with the back of the axe (the poll).
 - Only by pushing it out of the cut.
- ➔ Such removal is not counted as a strike.
- Removal with the axe blade, or a strike with the back of the axe that simultaneously advances/deepens the cut -> is counted as a strike.
- If the competitor removes a chip in a manner that assists in severing the block, an additional strike may be added as a penalty.
- If the competitor removes a chip with any part of their body, they will be disqualified.
- A strike to the foothold results in disqualification.
- The competitor may be disqualified if, in the judge's opinion, they intentionally split the block.
- The competitor may rest the axe on the block between strikes to help maintain balance (however, the axe blade must not touch the chopped-out section of the wood => if it does, it is counted as an additional strike).
- The competitor must not twist or pry with the axe in the cut, nor break out chips by moving the axe head after completing a strike into the wood (one additional strike will be added for each violation of this rule).
- In case of competitor uncertainty regarding a loose chip hanging from the block, the competitor may look at the judge to confirm whether the chip will be accepted or not, and must remove it with a strike – i.e., an additional strike.
- For this discipline, the competitor is required to drill in 6 wood screws provided by the organizer. Three screws must be placed opposite the first strike near the edge of the wood, spaced 7 cm apart.

Axe specifications: The choice of axe is unrestricted.

Scoring: Number of strikes. If competitors have the same number of strikes, the faster time decides the winner.

Protective Equipment: Leg protection.

Timekeeping: A person appointed by the judge.

9) Handicapping

- A time handicap is assigned to the competitor before the competition – only for disciplines designated as "handicap".

Wood ChopFest rules 2026

- Before the start of the heat, the judge will write the handicap value on the competitor's block.
- The competitor is obliged to start after their value is called out (English countdown).
- The handicap does not change in the event of winning a qualification heat.
- The competitor's handicap will be increased in the event of winning a final heat (typically by 3 seconds, unless the organizer determines otherwise).
- The competitor must demonstrate that they are chopping to the best of their ability; failure to do so may result in disqualification. That is, if a competitor deliberately observes other competitors and chops slowly to manipulate the system.

10) Disqualification

- A Disqualification (DQ) for non-participation is always recorded.
- A competitor who fails to start a discipline will receive a disqualification (DQ).
- Failing to appear for the competition without providing notice at least 7 days prior to the start will result in a DQ, and the wood fee will not be refunded.

11) Clothing

- The organizer will provide a competition t-shirt to each competitor in the size and quantity selected and paid in the registration form.
- Competitors must wear the organizer's advertising (t-shirts) fully visibly from the start of the competition until its very end. The t-shirt must not be covered by suspenders bearing the logo of another company.
- Competitors must not wear any t-shirt other than the one provided by the organizer in the competition area during the competition.
- Any t-shirt may be worn during wood preparation.
- Competitors must always wear long white trousers on the competition stage (shorts are not permitted).
!!! Failure to comply with this agreement will result in disqualification from the entire competition !!!
- A competitor may only wear their own sponsor's logo during the competition on their white trousers or headwear.

12) General Competition and Safety Regulations

- Competitors must provide their own equipment and protective gear.
- For organizational reasons, each competitor must have their equipment available at all times.
- The organizer reserves the right to brand the wood with their logo prior to the competition.
- During the competition, only competitors participating in the current discipline are allowed in the competition area; otherwise, they must stand at a safe distance. Stage personnel will only perform their duties after the last competitor has finished their discipline.
- The capacity for qualifications and individual disciplines is limited.
- Every competitor must follow the instructions of the judges and the head judge.

Wood ChopFest rules 2026

- Any cheating, dangerous handling of equipment, or unsportsmanlike conduct will result in immediate disqualification.
- Competitors compete at their own risk.
- The consumption of alcohol or narcotics before or during the competition is strictly prohibited.
- During the competition, these rules are binding for all persons present, not just the competitors.
- Safety is the highest priority of the competition.

Competitors must use:

- It is mandatory to wear protective chainmail socks for every chopping discipline.
- The organizer highly recommends using protective chainmail socks that reach just below the knee (if a competitor chooses to use short protective chainmail socks, they may do so, but they assume full responsibility for their own safety while chopping).

The tools, equipment, and machines used must be in a satisfactory condition regarding safety:

- Axes: The axe must have a safety pin secured through the handle and the axe head.
- Hot Saw: The saw must have a single-cylinder engine with an extended hand guard. Modified tuning of the saw is permitted.
- For every discipline involving a standard chainsaw or a specially modified saw (Hot Saw), the competitor is required to wear cut-resistant trousers (or chaps), safety glasses, hearing protection, and potentially a safety helmet.
- Warming up saws: Warming up saws off the competition stage is only permitted in a designated area. The organizer will announce the specific location and the times when this is allowed during the competitors' meeting prior to the competition.
- On the day of the competition, chopping or sawing wood for training purposes is strictly prohibited throughout the entire competition venue.
- If a competitor fails to properly attend the awards ceremony, their prize money will not be paid out. Exceptions to this rule can be discussed in advance with the competition organizer (e.g., due to medical issues).
- A competitor may be disqualified (by the competition organizer) during the event for unsportsmanlike conduct, unethical behavior, or any other negative intentions towards the competition.

13) Warnings and Risks

- The sport of woodchopping disciplines and wood sawing is highly physically demanding. Axes and saws are also extremely sharp and can cause serious personal injury (including death).
- Participation in the competition may therefore pose a risk to the competitor's health and well-being. By registering for the competition, each competitor declares to the organizer that they are fully medically fit, possess sufficient experience, are capable of competing safely, and have not been advised otherwise by a medical professional.

Each competitor:

- Participates in the competition at their own risk.
- Agrees that the organizer, judges, and the head judge are not liable for any injury to health or damage to property.
- Releases the organizers from liability for any claims arising in connection with the competition.

14) Liability

The organizer bears no responsibility for:

- Injuries sustained during the competition.
- Damage to personal equipment.
- Loss of personal belongings.
- By participating in the competition, the competitor agrees to assume full responsibility.

!!! The competitor is solely responsible for adhering to the rules !!!

!!! Ignorance of the rules is no excuse for the competitor !!!

