

General Rules outlined below align with the International Competition rules.

The 1st ANNUAL COMED LINEWORKER SKILLS COMPETITION will be Saturday, September 7th, 2019 in Chicago, IL at the Chicago Training Center.

This event enables lineworkers to compete in events based on traditional lineworker tasks.

Team Events:

- Pole Climb
- Poletop Rescue
- 12kV Tie Wire Change Hot Stick
- Over the Arm Tap Installation
- Rope Splice

Apprentice Events:

- Written Test
- Pole Climb
- Poletop Rescue
- Crossarm Change Out

Our Goal

At the end of the Skills Competition teams will say we were fair and consistent in judging, i.e. we all played by the same rules applied consistently. The Skills Competition was a pleasant and fun event. The Overhead electrician's Skills Competition Board, Advisory Committee, Master & Chief Judges Committee, representing all groups determines the guidelines listed below.

Competitor Definitions

Journeyman Team

A team consists of three participants: two overhead electricians and a ground person. A journeyman team can be made up of any combination of OE, Crew Leader, OHT and OES. All team members must be qualified Journeyman Overhead Electricians. If a team member must drop out of the competition for any reason, the alternate who takes his place must be a qualified Journeyman Overhead Electrician.

Ground Person

A ground person is a non-climbing participant of the team. He / She will be allowed to climb if one of the climbing overhead electricians should have to drop out for any reason. The ground person must be a Journeyman Overhead Electrician to replace a climbing member of the team.

Should the ground person replace a climbing member of the team they must be replaced by an alternate to keep the team whole as a three-person team.

Apprentice

If an Apprentice makes journeyman by **September 15th, 2019**, they will not be permitted to enter that year's Skills Competition as an Apprentice. If they make Journeyman after **September 15th, 2019** they will be permitted to compete as an Apprentice.

Rule for Substitution

A team consists of three persons: Two overhead electricians and one ground person. One person must be designated ground person for the team. The ground person remains the ground person for all events. If a person is hurt, they are out of the competition for the rest of the events, but the team can substitute an alternate for the one hurt. The ground person can be the alternate overhead electrician if they are a journeyman. The alternate can be designated as a substitute for an overhead electrician or ground person. The alternate must be a journeyman overhead electrician if they are to replace a climbing participant.

Substitution Procedure

For Journeyman Teams only, allowing one alternate substitution per team. This procedure is used when an alternate team member substitutes for an original team member because of illness or injury.

- If a team member becomes ill or injured his team is to notify the Chief Judge at the event where the illness or injury occurred.
- The Chief Judge of the event will remove the wristband from the ill or injured team member.
- If the illness or injury results in the team not completing an event, the team will receive an incomplete for that event.
- To continue participating in other events, the team needs to request that an alternate take the place of the ill or injured team member. (see above Rule for Substitution)
- The request to substitute an alternate should be made to the Chief Judge at the event in which the illness or injury occurred.
- The Chief Judge of the event where the illness or injury occurred will escort the team and alternate to the command tent, where one of the event coordinators will process the necessary forms and issue a new wrist band for the substitute team member.
- Once the alternate replaces the original team member his name will be shown as team member for any awards the team receives in any event. (Includes events prior to the substitution)

Scheduling & Judging Sheet Procedure

Scheduling

Scheduling of each team will be determined and communicated prior to the start of the Skills Competition.

Judging Sheet Procedure

Team number will be filled in on each event judging sheet by the judges at the event. Individual names will have to be entered on the Pole Climb events for individual consideration. These sheets will be the standard multi part sheet. After event completion, the judge must sign the scoring sheet and include his judging number. The Judge or designee then takes the scoring sheet and the team with all copies to the Scoring Group at the scoring building located at the event exit. The scoring group will enter the teams score into a computer, allow the team to verify the score, and then release the team with a copy of the score sheet.

We will use team number to enter the scores in each division.

The Chief Judge or his designee will have a team number list to check off teams as they come through his event. This way he can track who has not been through.

After the event is completed the Chief Judge secures the original scoresheet and provides this to the runner, who brings it to the scoring tent.

Skills Competition Rules Governance

Judging for the Skills Competition is based on rules adopted by the Skills Competition. Local rules and interpretations are not to be used as criteria for judging.

Participant Questions – Day of Skills Competition

Participants may ask the judge questions before the event begins, but not while he is judging. They may ask the judge to clarify any questions they have before the event starts. It is the participant's responsibility to ask the questions. They have a maximum of 5 minutes to ask questions and lay out their tools.

Video footage will not be allowed to settle judging disputes.

Contesting a Call

The team or apprentice must be the one to protest a call. No team or apprentice will be allowed to protest another competitor. Each event has a Chief Judge. If the team wants to contest a call they must take it to the Chief Judge at the event. The Chief Judge will try to settle the dispute. The dispute must be brought to the attention of the Chief Judge before the team leaves the event. If unable to settle the dispute with the Chief Judge at the event the team may elect to take the protest to the Master Judge.

Exceeding Mean Time

2 points will be deducted from the team or apprentice score for exceeding the mean time. If the team or apprentice continues an additional five minutes past the mean time the event will be stopped at that point and the team or apprentice will have an additional 2 points deducted for not completing the event. It will be the Event Judges responsibility to make sure the proper points are deducted.

Tools

Contestant material / tool carts will not be allowed in event areas

Each contestant needs to bring their own hooks, belt, hard hat, safety glasses, long-sleeved shirt, hand tools, work gloves with a gauntlet, 20KV rubber gloves (minimum) with protectors and hand lines.

Hard hats and safety glasses are required for all participants once inside the roped off sections of all Skills Competition events. Work gloves are required any time work is being performed.

Event tools will either be provided or teams and apprentices will be furnished a list of tools needed.

- Only Company provided tools will be allowed, NO home-made or altered handline hooks will be allowed to be used at the Skills Competition. If the integrity or compliance of a hand line hook is questioned the chief judge of tool inspection will evaluate the hook. The handline (or pulley line) must have a sheave in it and must have an approved “becky” for hanging on the pole. An approved “becky” consists of an eye plaited into the sheave, another eye on the other end to snap back into the sheave, and three loops for adjustment of length. The handline must be a minimum of ½” in diameter. (The safety latch at the top of the pulley block is not required.)
- The designated work area for all events will be an 5 foot radius around the pole.
- Any special tools required for the events will be provided and must be used.
- In the Hurt Man Rescue events for both Journeymen and Apprentices 3” PVC Conduit will be used to measure between the rope and the mannequin to evaluate the knot.
- Please make sure that your tools are clearly marked with your name for identification.
- No battery-operated tools will be allowed other than those provided by the Skills Competition.
- Altered tools or equipment cannot be used. Final determination of altered tools will be made by the Chief Judge.
- Contestants will be disqualified if found with fingers cut out of rubber gloves, or altered in any way, at any time on the Skills Competition grounds, no warning will be given.

The penalty for altered tools will be 2 to 10 points or disqualification for each infraction as determined by the Chief Judge.

Alterations or unsafe conditions that may result in deductions are as follows:

- Tape on straps, tools or equipment.

- Tapered cuts on straps.
- Buckles filed.
- Elongated holes in straps and belts.
- Improper gaff length.
- Fingers cut out of gloves. (Disqualification)
- Rubber gloves will be inspected at the beginning of the day.
- Velcro straps on climbers must be used as manufactured. No modifications, such as cutting the Velcro shorter. In general, no tool modifications are allowed.
- Keepers removed from safety strap

This is not an all-inclusive list of items that may result in deductions.

Scoring

Each team or Apprentice will verify their score prior to leaving the events and will initial their scorebook as proof of verification. There will be no further verification after the team leaves the event.

- Each event is worth a total of 100 points.
- Time will be used only to break a tie.
- Judges must sign score sheets.
- The first place team or apprentice winning each event will have no points added to its score. Time will be the determining factor in case of ties.
- Failure to complete an event will be an automatic 100-point deduction, with the exception of exceeding the event completion time.

Infraction Definitions

The following are definitions for the infractions listed on the score sheets used at the International Overhead electrician's Skills Competition. These are the most common infractions. Only those infractions relating to each particular event will be on that event's score sheet.

Example: Infractions for sticking events are different from gloving events, so there will not be any gloving infractions listed on sticking events etc.

The list of infractions consists of four categories:

- General Infractions: (These are the most common occurring infractions. The infractions that relate to individual events will be listed on that event score sheet.)
- Other Infractions: These infractions will not be listed on the score sheets. They will be indicated as infractions under the "OTHER" section of the score sheet, with a brief notation of the infraction. The reason that we are not listing these on the score sheet is because these infractions only occur occasionally and do not warrant individual listing on the score sheet.

- Sticking Infractions: These infractions will be for hot sticks and the proper use and will be added to the general infractions for the sticking event.
- Gloving Infractions: These infractions will be for the proper use of gloving procedures and will be added to the general infractions for the gloving events.

General Infractions – Two Point Infractions

- Failure to cover neutral, secondary or primary properly.
 - All potentially energized conductors must be fully covered with protective cover provided, when within reach, fall or slip of energized conductor.
- Failure to maintain positive control of conductor while performing task.
 - When moving conductors at least two points of control must be maintained.
- Climber working or hand line operation on pole while other man is un-safetied.
 - No work, hand line operation or climbing while either climber is ascending or descending the pole or un-saftied.
- Fall Restraint / Safety Strap Infraction
 - Safety strap must be in control at all times. All snaps of safety must be hooked on the D-ring, before time starts and while climbing the pole (see below for exceptions). The safety strap may be carried on the shoulder however both snaps must still be in D-ring. If the safety strap slides off the shoulder the contestant will receive a deduction.
 - For those contestants using a fall protection system type safety belt, the above rules shall apply as well as those listed below:
 - All fall restraint / arrest type safety belts will be used in accordance with the manufacturers' specifications and must be properly adjusted.
 - No contestant may start an event with a safety strap on or around the pole or in their hand prior to the start, regardless of manufacturer.
 - Manufactured rope lanyards / safety straps will be allowed. All rope lanyard / safety straps must have ANSI or other approval tags attached. All other rules will apply to these safety straps (no modifications, worn / damaged etc.).
 - Fall Restraint Usage- The Skills Competition's commitment to safety acknowledges the proper use of the manufacturer's suggested operation of all fall restraint in addition to the contestants required company's policy concerning climbing with a fall restraint device. It is the contestant's responsibility to operate all fall restraint devices as recommended by the manufacturer or their company's work policy. It is not the intent of the Skills Competition to become fall restraint authorities, but to promote safe work habits for our contestants and the utility industry.
- Improper hand line operation
 - The lines of the hand line must not be twisted while raising or lowering tools or

material. Tools and material can only be hung on the open hook of the hand line. The hand line may be hung above the neutral before cover-up only if there are no secondary conductors to reach over and the uncovered neutral is not touched by any part of the hand line or hand without rubber gloves. All handlines must be hung by the becky unless otherwise indicated in the event description.

- Dropping tools or materials from pole
 - Climbers cannot drop tools or materials from the pole.
- Misuse of tools or the use of the wrong tool
 - Tools must be used for their intended purpose and not altered from manufactures specifications.
 - The ground person must wear Company approved work gloves all times while they are performing work or handling tools or materials.
- Poor cooperation / communication between team members
 - Arguing or otherwise displaying discontent with other team members causing poor communication.
- Extended body contact with covered neutral.
 - The body cannot have more than brush contact with the covered neutral.
- Failure to maintain proper clearance from energized conductors or parts
 - Journeyman must maintain proper clearance from exposed energized primary conductors or parts with all parts of the body except the rubber-gloved hand. This would include any un-insulated tools attached to the energized primary conductor. Proper clearance is defined as within reach fall of exposed energized conductors.
- 2 Point Deduction for EACH Cutout or slip on pole;
 - Cutout or slip is defined as “after the individuals gaff makes initial contact with the pole and the gaff comes out of the pole in such a manner that the climber adjusts control while ascending, descending or repositioning on the pole.
- Failure to keep tools and materials on tarp
 - All tools and materials must be completely on the tarp. (2 Point deduction when time stops if all tools and equipment are not on the tarp).
- Failure to wear hard hat properly at all times (not backward)
 - Hardhats must be worn with visor over face and not over the neck. Hard hats that are improperly adjusted and are having to be continually repositioned causing participant a distraction effecting concentration on the event, is an infraction.
- Failure to wear long sleeve shirt, sleeves down and buttoned
 - Long sleeve shirts are required. If shirt has buttons on the sleeve, they must be buttoned. Sleeves cannot be pushed or rolled up.
- Failure to wear work gloves, when work gloves are required
- Dropping or losing hard hat (any team member)
 - Hard hats must be worn at all times while inside the event area. This applies to all team members or apprentices.

- Hanging tools or materials on structure, conductor, hand line or safety strap
 - Tools or materials can only be hung on the open hand line hook or in tool bags hung on the open hand line hook. Bags with snaps or hooks shall not be placed / snapped into the rings on the back side of any hand line hook, in the snap of the hand line or inserted in the hand line rope. All tools, material and bags must be placed on the open end of the hand line hook.
- Poor housekeeping
 - Tools or materials placed on the tarp in a pile or directly under workman on the pole.
- Exceeding the mean time this event = XX min.
 - The mean time is used in all events except for the pole climb. The Event Judge will be responsible for insuring that the Mean Time points are deducted..
- Rope Splice
 - The contestant will perform the required rope splice, when the rope splice is completed it will be placed on a table to be observed by the judge. The judge may ask the contestant to lift or rotate the rope splice for inspection. If there are deductions the judge will let the contestant know what is not correct, but will not touch or change the rope splice. The judge will ask the contestant if they are clear with the score and / or deductions and if they are, the contestant will undo the rope splice. Once the rope splice is untied by the contestant they will not be able to protest the deductions. If there is a protest the rope splice will stay in the original position until the protest process is completed.

Other Two Point Infractions:

Infractions that have a low occurrence and listed on the other infraction list of definitions will be shown here with a brief description.

- Hooks / gaffs shall not be worn outside the work area and should be covered with approved gaff guards when not in use.
- No work shall be performed on the ground while wearing hooks / gaffs.
- Material or tools shall not be placed in the contestant's mouth. The only exception to this rule will be in the "pole climb" event.
- Improper hand line procedure
 - The first man up the pole should take the hand line and the last man on the pole below the neutral, or as indicated in the contestant's scorebook should drop the hand line. Any other order will be an infraction.
- Not wearing safety glasses
 - All participants need to wear safety glasses while inside the event area.
- Hot-dogging
 - Hot-dogging is defined as having both hooks out of the pole while descending the pole, while periodically catching one gaff as to be almost out of control.
- Not wearing Company Issued overhead electrician belt

- Exposed blade on skinning knife
 - All skinning knives must either be folded or properly sheathed while not in use. Exposed blade in a ditty bag or a tool pouch on the climbing belt is considered misuse of tools. (No exposed blades)
- Failure to inspect rubber gloves at the start of the Competition
- Improper storage of rubber gloves
 - Rubber gloves must be stored cuff down in glove bag.
- Improper use of glove bag
 - Glove bag cannot be used to hold tools, material or wire.
- Mishandling of materials and / or tools
 - Materials and / or tools may not be placed in contestant's mouth. This rule will not apply to the Pole Climb event, but will apply to all others.

Sticking Infractions

General - Two Point Infractions:

- Failure to wear Rubber Gloves within reach, fall or slip
 - Rubber gloves are required when participant is within reach, fall or slip of energized conductors including the neutral.
- Encroachment into marked safety zone of hot stick
 - Anytime the hand (bare, gloved or rubber gloved) goes above the marked safety zone.

Gloving Infractions

General - Two Point Infractions:

- Failure to wear rubber gloves ground to ground
 - Journeyman must wear minimum 20 KV rubber gloves from ground to ground on gloving events.
- Failure to have two journeymen up the pole while primary gloving is preformed

Ten Point Infractions:

- Contact with energized conductor
 - Contact with any body part, except the rubber-gloved hand on neutral and secondary.
- Failure to use hand line for raising and lowering tools and materials
 - The hand line is to be used to send tools and materials up and down the pole. The intent of this infraction is to deduct points for deliberately tossing tools and materials from the pole to the ground or from the ground to the journeyman on the pole.

- Second person starts to climb before first person is belted in and in a stationary position.
- Losing control or dropping conductor
 - Losing control of a conductor is defined as being unable to hold in position without touching the pole, hardware, other conductors or dropping completely. Dropping the conductor is defined as coming out of tool or hand and falling free.
- Working opposite phases or phase and neutral at the same time
 - The journeymen on the pole cannot be in contact with opposite phases at the same time with sticks or rubber gloves.
- Opening switch before installing mechanical jumper
 - This is an infraction when continuity of service is to be maintained and the participants mistakenly open the switch first.
- Dropping hot arm
 - This hot line tool if not installed properly can fall from its installed position. If this happens with the conductor in the hot arm it is a deduction in this category.
- 10-point cutout or slip on pole;
 - This is defined as, after initial contact is made with each gaff to the pole; both gaffs are out of or sliding down the pole rendering the climber out of control.

Disqualification:

- Unprofessional behavior
 - Pushing, shoving or hitting other team members, contestants or judges. Swearing or threatening other team members, contestants or judges. Throwing tools or materials in anger or disgust before, during or after the event.
- Practicing on the Skills Competition field prior to the Skills Competition
 - No one is permitted to practice on any of the event structures at the Skills Competition grounds prior to the Skills Competition event.
 - On Skills Competition day participants may warm up prior to events on poles not being used for events, however you must ask permission to do so from the Chief Judge at the event. He will direct you to a place where you can warm up on a pole.
- Intentional sabotage or tampering with materials, tools, or equipment on the Skills Competition Field
 - Any one tampering with or seeking to hamper the use of tools to be used by following participants will be disqualified.
- Unapproved use of alternates or changing status of team members during the events
 - (See Master Judge for approved use of alternates or change in team status during Skills Competition.)
 - Switching out team members without going through proper substitution procedures will result in disqualification. Please refer to the Team Member Substitution Procedure in your team book.

- Protests need to be by team only (No help from spectators or others.)
 - Protests from those other than the team will result in the team being disqualified.
 - All protests must be made to the Chief Judge of the event before the team or apprentice leaves the event.
- Modifying rubber gloves in any way
 - No holes, notches, cuts or slashes in any part of rubber gloves.
- Additional points may be deducted per the event description as found in the contestants score book

Stopwatch Start Procedure

Judges will verbally start events by saying to the contestants

“Are you ready” after contestant responds in the affirmative the judge will say “go” the clock will start when judge says go

Enjoy the competition and have a safe day.