



AWWA ACE Competitions - Rules and Regulations

HYDRANT HYSTERIA

DISCLAIMER

D-1. AWWA specifically does not endorse products manufactured by sponsors and takes no position concerning the adequacy of such products or their compliance with any AWWA standard.

D-2. Each competitor will be required to complete the proper waiver and registration documentation prior to competing in any event.

D-3. This contest is officiated over by very competent officials who are striving for fairness in their judgement for the events so that all contestants are judged as equally as possible. Fair and equal treatment for each and every contestant is the goal of this contest. There is no intention to provide anyone with an advantage. This contest is for the fun and enjoyment of the participants and spectators.

D-4. Interested in joining the Hydrant Hysteria Subcommittee? Submit an application to the Operator Involvement Committee through the AWWA website at <http://www.awwa.org/membership/get-involved/volunteer.aspx>.

ELIGIBILITY

E-1. Hydrant Hysteria Competition shall consist of no more than 2 persons. Teams can be male-male, or female-female. All persons on the team shall be AWWA members. Each Section is responsible for verifying membership prior to entering the team into the contest.

. Each Hydrant Hysteria Competitor shall be an AWWA member. This membership may be an individual membership, as an Active or Affiliate Member of AWWA, or the competitor may be a regular employee of a Utility Member or Organization Member of AWWA. Each Section is responsible for verifying this membership requirement before entering the competitor in the contest.

- A.) The Utility with a returning National Champion may compete at the Section level with a different employee from the same Utility. That competitor will be eligible to represent the Section at the National level in addition to the returning National Champion.
- B.) International Competitors – International competitors who are interested in competing may do so as a representative of their countries. Two representatives per country will be permitted and will be treated as though they were Section representatives.



C.) Should more than one team from one country request to compete, the available positions will be filled on a first-come, first served basis. Although one team from a single utility may be permitted, should two or more register to compete (two being from a single utility), priority will be given to the competitor from another utility in the interest of fairness.

E-3. One team per utility will be allowed to enter the preliminary contest each year. The exception will be when a utility's team is the current reigning AWWA Hydrant Hysteria Champion, which is automatically entered in the next year's finals. In this case, the utility may enter a second team in the Preliminary Hydrant Hysteria Contest with full privileges and rights as all other teams.

E-4 Section Hydrant Hysteria Team members or team coaches who have participated as a competitor in the past three years are not eligible to serve on the AWWA Hydrant Hysteria Subcommittee. Likewise, Hydrant Hysteria Subcommittee members are ineligible from serving as a team member or team coach for 3 years following their service as a subcommittee member. The purpose of this rule is to eliminate any perceived conflict of interest.

E-5. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated and individuals or teams could be disqualified from the competition.

INTRODUCTION

I-1. The Competition is a measure of the team's skill at assembling a hydrant quickly, totally and accurately. All parts will be assembled in proper manner and reassembled hydrant shall be tested by the judges for ability to operate correctly.

I-2. Each team will be required to completely assemble a hydrant commonly utilized by a utility. The event is timed with one team assembling the hydrant at a time.

I-3. At the competition there will be (3) or more (depending on number of competitors) fire hydrants that will be used by the contestants. While one or more teams is competing the next team will be staging at the next hydrant.

1-4. The Hydrant Hysteria Competition will take place over two days with the preliminary round on the first day. The preliminaries will conclude on the second day and finals will be held on the second day.



COMPETITION ENTRY AND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

R-1. To enter, follow the instructions on the Hydrant Hysteria web page. **No registration is available onsite. To allow proper determination of the number of rounds required, AWWA must be informed by the Sections before May 1 of any anticipated late team registration each year.** Each competitor must attend Mandatory Contestant's Meeting at Staging Area prior to the start of the competition. Among other things, the timing and order of competition will be determined at this meeting.

R-2. Each team must make its own travel and lodging arrangements. AWWA will not make travel or lodging arrangements for any team.

HOW YOU WIN

H-1. A time period of no more (10) minutes shall be allowed for each team to disassemble the hydrant and place the hydrant parts on the floor. Once the judges have inspected all the parts the competitors will be asked to assume the ready position. The head official will count down to "GO" to initiate the start of the contest. Once the team has completed assembling the fire hydrant, the competitors will raise their hands to signify that they are finished and the judges will examine and open the hydrant to check for operability.

H-2. *Official Time* for the Competitor's turns will be the raw time to assemble the hydrant. The Competitor with the fastest ***Official Time*** registered shall be declared the winner.

WHAT WINNING TEAM RECEIVES

W-1. The AWWA Annual Hydrant Hysteria Champion is automatically eligible for the next year's ACE Hydrant Hysteria Contest Finals as a special entry and is not counted as the Section entry.

W-2. The AWWA Annual Hydrant Hysteria Champion will be reimbursed for expenses as outlined by the official AWWA Returning Champion Guidelines, to return for the next AWWA Hydrant Hysteria Competition at ACE the following year. (In general, expense reimbursement covers transportation costs to and from the convention site and hotel).



COMPETITION

C-1. There is no such thing as a faulty fire hydrant. All fire hydrants were received in good working condition prior to the hydrant hysteria competition. THE HYDRANT MUST WORK OR A PENALTY WILL BE INCURRED as described in P-5.

- A.) All hydrants utilized in the hydrant hysteria competition are new or nearly new and are in perfect working condition prior to disassembly.
- B.) Any tools, equipment, and other supplies provided for this competition that are broken will be considered to be broken by neglect of the team and will not be replaced during their turn.
- C.) Teams will be able to grease (Food Grade) the hydrant before each run if they deem necessary.

C-2. The work area for the hydrant hysteria competition shall be large enough to accommodate all competitors and judges and their equipment. Equal space must be provided for each team. A minimum of 10' clear area shall be provided between the working area and the spectators to afford safety from accidental flying tools or materials during the contest. This area will also help to provide a safety area between the spectators and the competitors to protect from any tools or materials that may accidentally slip from someone's grasp.

C-3. In the case of multiple competitors competing at the same time, all work shall be conducted on a suitable work area to provide each of the competitors adequate room to move about freely to assemble their hydrants without crowding. It is preferred, but not required, to have some type of partition between competitors to secure their individual work.

C-4. The area for the hydrant hysteria competition shall be large enough to accommodate all competitors and their work areas. Equal space must be provided for each team. Every effort must be made to provide equal work opportunities for all competitors.

C-5. Fire hydrants will be totally disassembled by the competitors down to the lower barrel and shoe. All the hydrants used by every competitor will be identical.



C-6. All competitors will be allowed to examine all the hydrant parts for 5 minutes prior to the start of the contest. Each fire hydrant shall always contain the parts needed to completely assemble the fire hydrant.

C-7. The competitors will be allowed to position their tools and the hydrant parts where they want. Both hands must be empty and not touching the hydrant or any tools when the contest begins.

C-8. Competitors will be allowed two runs during the preliminary round of the competition when time allows. There will only be one round during the final round.

Tools & MATERIALS

T-1. All equipment is to be provided by AWWA, or host utility for each tap.

T-2. Fire hydrants shall be the type complying with AWWA C502, "Dry Barrel Hydrant". They size of the hydrant can either be 4 ½" or 5 1/4" barrel hydrant depending on which hydrant manufacturer is being used. . Each year the hydrant manufacturer and model may vary and will be announced in adequate time prior to the competition.

T-3. Tools provided include:

- A.) 2 - 14" pipe wrenches
- B.) 2 - ½" socket wrenches
- C.) 1 - 15/16" open end wrench
- D.) 1 - ¾" open end wrench
- E.) 1 - 15/16" socket
- F.) 1 - ¾" socket
- G.) 1 - standard hydrant wrench
- H.) 1 - hydrant seat wrench
- I.) 1 - ½" socket
- J.) 1 - top hydrant wrench

JUDGING

J-1. The officiating and supervision of each event shall be the responsibility of the head official who shall have extensive experience in hydrant maintenance and total familiarity with the type and manufacturer of the hydrant to be used in the competition. There shall be (3) officials for each team, which could amount up to (4) hydrants for a total of (12) judges.



J-2. The number of teams for each round shall be limited to the space available for the competitors to perform adequately or to the number of officials available for each round.

J-3. The officials shall be responsible for timing the events with the Head Official being the one to announce the START and STOP of the event. Each team's time as recorded by the official, plus any penalties accrued, shall be used to determine the official time for each team. The head official shall be in charge of the competition and after consulting with the other officials of any infraction of the rules shall make the ruling as required by the circumstances for any penalties to be assessed.

J-4. The head official, determined by the Hydrant Hysteria Subcommittee Chair, shall see that all tools, materials, and teams are in the required positions prior to starting the event. He/She shall also ensure the work area is free from any obstructions or spectators.

J-5. The officials shall watch for safety violations during the actual events and assess appropriate penalty times as required. During the time of the event not taken up by the actual competition, the officials shall see that all preparations for the event are accomplished in a safe manner.

J-6. No timing official will be assigned to a team who works for the same organization.

J-7. There are (3) judges per hydrant:

1. Timing Judge – the Timing Judge is responsible for recording the (3) times and any penalties that may be assessed.
2. Umpire – the Umpire is responsible for checking all the bolts and caps to make sure that they are tight by using a torque wrench.
3. Operations Judge – the Operations Judge is responsible for testing the hydrant and confirming the hydrant was assembled correctly.

J-8. The official time will stop when both contestants have placed their tools to the ground and have both raised their hands.

SAFETY

S-1. Standard water utility safety practices will be observed at all times during the competition.

S-2. Safety equipment will be required to be provided by each team member. The safety equipment required of each team member shall be:



- A.) Head protection for both team members shall be worn during the event. The head protection (hard hats) shall conform to [American National Standard Safety Requirements for Industrial Head Protection \(Z89.1-1969\)](#). If a hard hat falls or is knocked off of a team member, the hat must be replaced on the team members head as soon as possible or a safety violation will be imposed. Head protection must be worn in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, and is not to be worn backwards.
- B.) Eye protection (Glasses or Goggles) are required to be worn by both team members during the hydrant contest. Eye protection must conform to [American National Standard for Occupational and Education Eye and Face Protection \(Z 87.1-1968\)](#).
- C.) Gloves are required to be worn by both team members. Gloves shall be full-fingered and suitable for construction related tasks. Lab type gloves such as latex material and gloves without complete fingers are not acceptable for the contest. Sport gloves with full fingers are allowed.
- D.) Foot Protection shall be required to be worn by both team members (men and women) and shall conform to the [American National Standard for Men's Safety toe foot wear, \(Z41.1-1967 worn\)](#). Sneakers and dress shoes that meet this standard are also allowed.
- E.) Short sleeved shirts and long-legged trousers are required to be worn by both members of the team during the event.

S-3. Judges, Competitors, and/or Volunteers may not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol and/or illegal substances whilst performing duties related to the competition.

PENALTIES

P-1. Various penalties will be assessed by the head official for any infraction of the rules as described herein or for any flagrant violation of normal safety practices.

P-2. The penalties will be in the form of a predetermined number of seconds added to the total time of the team's event time which will then be the OFFICIAL TIME of that event.

P-3. In the event of any disagreement with penalty decision, the head official's decision is final.

P-4. There will be NO INSTANT REPLAY allowed for reversing any decision after the head official has made a final determination of any infraction in these rules.



P-5. Penalties shall be (seconds):

- A.) Safety violation such as throwing of tools, PPE penalty, etc. (+10 each)
- B.) Procedural violation by any member of the team. This is a general penalty for actions of the team that may not specifically be covered in these rules, but are of sufficient gravity to the Judges as to warrant a penalty. (+10)
- C.) Hydrant parts not assembled correctly,
 - a. Loose hydrant bolt (+5 each)
 - b. Loose nozzle caps (+5 each)
 - c. All other hydrant parts (+5 each)
 - d. Loose hold down nut on weather cap (10 Second penalty)
- D.) Hydrant is not completely facing forward (+10)
- E.) Hydrant fails to operate correctly (+10)
- F.) Hydrant is missing any parts (+10)

P-6. Teams without proper personal safety equipment as prescribed above will not be allowed to compete until they have obtained the proper personal safety equipment in a reasonable amount of time during the contest.

P-7. Teams must use the tools provided to tighten down all parts of the fire hydrant when assembling is taking place. **No hand tightening will be allowed!**

SPONSORS

S-1. Requirements for hydrant company sponsorship in the Hydrant Hysteria Contest.

The hydrant manufacturer must:

- A.) Be an associate member of AWWA.
- B.) Exhibit at ACE.
- C.) Be an active committee member (assist with the contest, attend the committee meeting at ACE) for two years prior to being approved to sponsor the event.
- D.) Be in business in North America for five years.
- E.) Be willing to provide hydrants and parts for the nationwide competition.