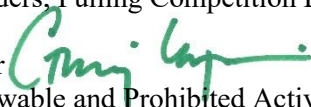




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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
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COMMISSIONER

Memorandum to: Agricultural Fair License Holders, Pulling Competition License Holders, and Other Interested Parties
From: Craig Lapine, Bureau Director 
Subject: Further Clarification Re: Allowable and Prohibited Activities for Suspended Owners and Drivers
Date: July 9, 2025

On June 13, 2025, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry issued a memo entitled "Allowable and Prohibited Activities for Suspended Owners and Drivers." On June 30, 2025, the Clerk/Secretary of the Maine Pull Events Commission received a report that a person may have violated the terms of his suspension by engaging in prohibited activities.

The June 13 memo noted that the examples of prohibited activities "are not exhaustive and are not intended to cover every circumstance or eventuality at a pulling event." Recognizing that legitimate uncertainty may exist in the minds of some participants and observers, I am providing this further clarification:

Youth pulling events for participants 16 and under are licensed pulling events pursuant to 7 M.R.S. § 81(4). Therefore, someone suspended from participating or competing in pulling events under 7 M.R.S. § 96(8)-(10) may not engage in any activities related to these events that qualify as "participating" or "competing." See 7 M.R.S. § 96(10) ("A person who participated in an event during any period of suspension or prohibition ordered by the commissioner under this subsection or subsection 8 and the owner of any animal that competes during a period of suspension or prohibition commit an additional violation of this section."). Per the June 13 memo, "being present in the ring for the purpose of offering verbal or moral support to youth teamsters" does not constitute participating or competing in a pull event. However, "walking any animal entered into a licensed pulling event across the scales for weigh-in," or "handling in the ring any animal entered into a licensed pulling event" does constitute participating or competing in a pull event.

Going forward, a person under suspension engaging in prohibited activity related to a licensed pulling event, including youth pulling events, may be judged to have committed an additional violation under 7 M.R.S. § 96(10) and may be subject to the additional penalties identified in that section.

Permit holders are reminded that under 7 M.R.S. § 97(1) and [01-001 C.M.R. ch. 226, § 5\(1\)](#), they are responsible for ensuring that no suspended person competes in a pull event.

cc: Amanda Beal, DACF Commissioner
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