

## 2024 National Hedgelaying Championship Rules

1. Entries are open to any paid-up or life member of the National Hedgelaying Society who has proven ability as a hedgelayer.
2. Competitors **MUST** report to the Chief Steward by 8:30am and attend the safety briefing.
3. The time limit for all competitors will be 5 hours, from 09:00am to 2:00pm. **Competitors exceeding this time will be penalised.** In the event of extreme weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances, the chief steward reserves the right to extend the time allowed.
4. All competitors will cut up to 10 metres.
5. Length numbers will be allocated at random after the closing date for competition entries. Allocated numbers are not transferable.
6. Competitors are to lay their allocated length starting from their number and working towards the next highest number.
7. Competitors opening up their length **MUST** leave sufficient material for the next entrant to lay in on completion of their length.
8. Competitors may receive assistance from a steward or another competitor. Help from anyone else is not permitted and will be penalised.
9. For “staked” styles, competitors **MUST** use the stakes and binders provided.
10. **Competitors using deadwood inappropriate for their style and not sanctioned by their class judge will be penalised.** Judges will brief competitors accordingly before the competition starts.
11. All waste material **MUST** be left where designated **within the time limit for the competition.**
12. Judging will be done on a points basis.
13. If there are three entries or fewer in a class it will be cancelled. Any entrants will be offered the choice of competing in a different class.
14. There will be two prizes awarded if there are four entries in a class; three prizes if there are five otherwise four prizes will be awarded in all classes.
15. The use of chainsaws is permitted at this competition.  
**All competitors using a chainsaw are required to have a current chainsaw certificate and wear the following safety equipment when using a saw:** safety helmet, eye protection, hearing protection, gloves, leg protection incorporating chain clogging material, chainsaw protective footwear incorporating a steel toecap, protective guarding in the front vamp and instep, and to carry an in-date personal first aid kit including a large wound dressing.  
The Safety Officer has the right to warn **and then disqualify** any competitor deemed to be working in a dangerous or unsafe manner.
16. Competitors who have won any Open class at a National Championship may only enter an Open class regardless of style. This rule ceases to apply once a competitor reaches the age of 65.
17. Competitors having reached their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday on the day of the Championship will be considered a “Veteran” for the purposes of the competition.
18. Anyone winning a style Intermediate class twice **MUST** subsequently enter the Open class when competing in that style.
19. The Chief Steward reserves the right to refuse entry to any competitor whose standard of work is considered inadequate for the National Championship. Entry will also be refused to anyone whose actions or behaviour at any previous Championship mean that they are a risk to themselves or others or might bring the National Hedgelaying Society into disrepute.
20. **In all matters relating to the competition, the Chief Steward’s decision is final and no discussion or correspondence will be entered into by the Society.**