



2009 Rules and Regulations

REGISTRATION:

- There will be a **maximum** competition field of 16 Canadians for each of two qualifiers and 10 Canadians for the Championship.
- The top 5 competitors from each qualifier will advance to the finals.
- All contestants must be **PRE-REGISTERED**, including fees paid, with the following organizations:
 - Forest Discovery Centre, Duncan, British Columbia (Qualifier 1 – July 11, 2009)
 - (Qualifier 2 & Canadian Championship – TBA)

INSURANCE:

- Competitors are responsible for having their own medical and other applicable insurance. **No such insurance is provided by STIHL Ltd. or any other entity associated with the STIHL Timbersports Canadian Series.**

DRESS CODE:

- Competitors and helpers or assistants must wear long pants, shirt, and closed-toe shoes.
- Pants must be solid black in color.
- Competitors will be issued a SERIES shirt for each show (Submit size to show organizer)
- Competitors are required to wear the SERIES shirt during qualifying competitions and the Finals.
- Competitor's individual sponsor(s) have a specific location for placement on the T-shirt.
- SERIES shirts will be sent to competition venue in advance. Competitors may request shirts directly from venue organizers if they require them in advance to allow time to incorporate individual sponsor(s) in the designated location.
- Hearing Protection, Eye Protection and Chaps are required in the Hot Saw and the STIHL Stock Saw events. These will be made available by STIHL at each venue. Personally supplied protective equipment must meet protective standards. Example: regular glasses do not constitute protective eyewear.
- No clothing or other items that bear the logos, marks, or other product identification of products competitive to STIHL Ltd. or SERIES' sponsors, or any apparel deemed to be offensive may be worn by a competitor. STIHL officials and other involved sponsors reserve the right to determine at any time what is considered to be "competitive" or "offensive".

HEAD JUDGE:

- The head judge's job is to enforce the rules. All calls by the Head Judge will be final.
- There may be more than one judge at an event; in this case the judges will act as a team.
- The use of video camera is determined by the Head Judge and may be used to determine a "False Start" situation, review timing and assist with other calls when deemed necessary. Only the judges may review the video.

APPEAL PROCESS:

- Appeals will only be allowed for rule interpretation issues or for issues not covered in the rules.
- No appeals can be made on judgment calls. For example: jumping the gun, blocks not severed, cut foot holds or incomplete discs.
- If a competitor disagrees with the Head Judge's rule interpretation they can appeal the call by asking a member of the advisory group / athletes' jury to make an appeal to the judge.
- If the Head Judge is unsure about a rule interpretation he may ask for the advisory group / athletes' jury input.

STARTER'S CADENCE:

- Chopping Events and Single Buck: - Recorded start or voice. "Timers ready, Contestants ready, "Three-Two-One-GO". If the whistle blows before the word "Go" all competitors will stand down.
- Hot Saw: "Timers ready, contestants ready, 60 seconds to warm up the saw. 30 seconds; hands on the wood, Get Set...." The gun will be fired 1 – 2 seconds after the words "Get Set"
- Stock Saw: "Timers ready, contestants ready, 15 seconds to warm up the saw, hands on the wood, Get Set..." The gun will be fired 1 – 2 seconds after the words "Get Set".
- For the power saw events: In the event the gun does not fire the judge will blow the whistle and the warm up process will be repeated.

TIMERS AND OFFICIALS:

- There will be at least two timers for each contestant.
- Competitor's "Official Time" will be an average of the two or three timers.
- The commencement of timing for the chopping events occurs when the Head Judge or Starter's cadence reaches the word "Go"; and ends when the block is severed.
- The commencement of timing for the sawing events occurs when the Head Judge says; "GO" or the gun is fired. Time ends when the last "Cookie" is severed from the log.
- It is under the discretion of the Head Judge if a contestant is to be disqualified for "Jumping the GO".

DISQUALIFICATION:

- Indication of disqualification for any infraction will be made to the competitor concerned at the conclusion of the heat or after the review of the video by the Head Judge.
- If a competitor is disqualified they will receive 0 points for that event. There will be no monetary reward or points earned if a competitor does not compete.

COMPETITOR NO SHOW:

- For the championships, if a competitor can't compete, every effort will be made to contact the 6th qualifier that did not advance to the championships of the same qualifying venue and he will be allowed to compete. A tie for 5th place will be broken by comparing qualifying venue stock saw times.

PERSONS IN THE ARENA:

- NO PERSON other than the participating competitor, wedger for the Single Buck event or a helper to set up the Hot Saw event may be within the competition area during competition.
- The Head Judge will clear the competition area with the sounding of a whistle, prior to competition. The area will remain clear until the whistle at the completion of the heat.
- The reserved competitor area is for registered competitors only. No other individuals, including family members, will be allowed in this area.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:

- All axe heads must be pinned.
- All Hot Saws must have sprocket covers.
- Hearing Protection, Eye Protection and Chaps are required for the competitors and their helpers (Hot Saw) in the Hot Saw and the STIHL Stock Saw events. These will be made available by STIHL at each venue. Personally supplied protective equipment must meet protective standards. Example: regular glasses do not constitute protective eyewear.
- Shields must be used in the front and back of the competitor station for the Hot Saw event.
- Hot Saws can only be run on stage during competition or in the designated Hot Saw warm up area at pre-determined times.

WOOD:

- All wood for the 6 STIHL events will be round wood in the following sizes: Species Trembling Aspen or White Pine

STIHL Stock Saw	16" (40cm) round	Springboard Chop	11" (27cm) round
Hot Saw	19" (46cm) round	Standing Chop	12" (30cm) round
Single Buck/Crosscut	19" (46cm) round	Underhand Chop	13" (32cm) round

If a competitor feels that his block is not cuttable he may make a case to the judge and a spare block may be provided. Once the exchange is made the competitor may not choose to cut the original block.

DRAWING FOR WOOD, STATIONS and HEATS: Each competitor's wood, station, and heat will be randomly drawn by contest officials.

SERIES FORMAT: Venue 1 & 2: Canadian competitors (max. 16 per qualifier) will be permitted to enter into one of the two qualifiers. (Duncan, British Columbia or TBA) Sixteen points will be awarded for first place in each event, 15 points for second place, and so on down to 1 point for 16th place. Points earned in each event will be summed and the 5 competitors with the highest point totals will advance to the Canadian Championship.

NOTE: Should a venue not have the maximum number of 16 competitors, the scoring system will be adjusted accordingly.

Venue 3 (Championship): All 10 competitors will compete in each event on matched wood. The order of competition in each event will be seeded by STIHL Ltd. officials using times from venues 1 and 2. Ten points will be awarded for first place in each event, 9 points for second place, and so on down to 1 point for 10th place. Points earned in each event will be summed and the competitor with the highest point total will be the overall Canadian Champion.

ORDER OF EVENTS:

Springboard Chop, Stock Saw, Standing Block Chop, Single Buck, Underhand Chop, Hot Saw

SERIES POINTS: Points will be tracked for all STIHL® TIMBERSPORTS® CANADIAN SERIES competitors and compared to only those competitors in the same venue. The top five point earners in each venue advance to the finals.

- Scoring for STIHL points will be on a 16 through 1-point basis, first place is awarded 16 points and 16th place is awarded one point.

NOTE: Should a venue not have the maximum number of 16 competitors, the scoring system will be adjusted accordingly.

- A disqualification is worth 0 points. If a competitor does not compete in an event, 0 points are awarded.
- **Poor sportsmanship as evidenced by inappropriate audible or visual displays to the general public or actions considered to be unsafe will result in the removal of 5 points from the competitor's total. The head judge will be solely responsible for making this call.**

TIE BREAKERS: At venues 1 and 2 competitors tied for 5th place will compete in the STOCK SAW to break the tie. (one saw, one piece of wood, 2 cuts). Venue organizers are responsible for making sure wood is available to break ties. If there is a tie in an individual event between two competitors, the tied competitors will add their respective points of the next two places in the standings and split them in two. Overall point ties for first place at the championships will be broken by a STIHL Stock Saw – Saw Off. All other point total ties will be broken as per the previous statement.

GENERAL RULES:

- A 3 minute time limit is placed on all events. If a competitor has not finished their cut at the three-minute mark the head judge will stop competition and the competitor will not receive a time for that event.
- The head judge will blow a whistle to signal the end of the heat. It is at the judge's discretion to allow a competitor to continue to compete after the whistle. If there is any doubt as to whether the competitor is finished with the event it is the competitor's responsibility to indicate to the head judge that they wish to continue after the whistle blows.
- Only the Head Judge may give permission to remove bark, loose fragments of wood or imbedded grit from competitor wood blocks.
- No competitor gets a second chance unless the head judge determines that the competitor has been unintentionally wronged.
- Competitors are responsible for the proper and secure mounting of the blocks.
- Any competitor that starts before the word "GO" or the sound of the gun shot will be disqualified.
- No competitor may be physically assisted by any other person during any of the chopping events.

SLABBING: A slab is defined as a portion of a log that has been split off as a result of an axe blow which runs to the end of the block.

Any competitor who slabs shall be disqualified unless:

- The competitor cuts the slab while still attached to the block while the block is still attached to the stand;
- A minimum of six nails have been placed in the block in line with the widest opening of the cut on the chip side and in such a way as to prevent the slab from occurring. The nails must be driven in ¾ of the way and bent over. For springboard, nails must also be placed on the bottom of the back side of the block if the cutter is only using down hits on the back.

STRIKING OF BLOCK: No competitor is allowed to make any cut or mark with an axe or other tool prior to the timed cutting of the block. (A cut or mark is defined as a striking of the block or crushing the fiber, in any manner possible, in the area that is to be cut during the competition.)

SPRINGBOARD CHOP:

- Time Starts: On the word "Go" Time Stops: When the block is clearly severed.
- No striking of the tree in ANY way prior to the event. (*Exception: Peeling bark from the area where you will place your pocket is allowed.*)
- Slab nails will be used on the bottom of the block in addition to those on the top if the cutter is only using down hits on the back
- Competitors are to use two "springboards" to ascend to the top of the pole and chop a firmly attached block from the top of the pole.
- If the pole has no bark, tape will be allowed under each pocket, nailing under the pocket is never permitted. It is recommended that the springboard poles not have the bark removed by the host venue.
- Competitors cutting into or through existing board holes may be disqualified; under certain circumstances i.e., no more room on a given pole, the head judge must determine if the competitor is to move to another springboard pole or "to climb" at the corner of an existing hole.
- No competitor may be physically assisted by any other person.
- The block must be cut from two sides while still attached to the pole.
- Any uncut wood must be cut for the competitor to receive a time regardless of whether the block is still attached to the pole.
- Note: The first hit must be an "up" hit.

UNDERHAND CHOP:

- Time Starts: On the word "Go" Time Stops: When the block is clearly severed.
- Note: Do not touch the block until the head judge has determined that the block is completely cut.
- Any competitor cutting through a foothold shall be disqualified.

STANDING BLOCK CHOP:

- Time Starts: On the word "Go" Time Stops: When the block is clearly severed.
- Note: The first hit must be an "up" hit.

STIHL STOCK SAW:

- Competitors will draw for their saw immediately prior to their heat.
- Two complete cuts, One down cut, One up cut.
- STIHL 660 Magnums with a 20" bar (50cm) will be used for this event. The stock saws will be tached (RPM check) by a STIHL designated technician.
- The wood will be marked with a line drawn around the entire block, 4" (10 cms) in from the end of the block. If the line is completely severed or the competitor cuts on the other side of the line the competitor is disqualified.
- One piece of carpet or one pad (not folded), may be used to place under the saw.
- The saw must be started with a toe or crotch start. Starting the saw in an unsafe manner (drop start) will result in a disqualification. Competitors have the option of letting a STIHL technician start the saw.
- The saws are to be running, and competitor's hands must be resting on the top of the block until "go" or the gun fires.
- The competitor's hands must be placed in such a way so that 4 fingers (not the thumb) of each hand break the plane of the line drawn longitudinally down the center of the block.
- Warm Up: 15 seconds to warm up the saw. The countdown will begin within 30 seconds after the end of the warm up period.
- Time Starts: On the word "GO". Time Stops: When the second (2nd) disc is clearly severed.
- All discs must be complete, "cutting-out" results in disqualification.
- Hearing Protection, Eye Protection, as well as Chaps is required.
- If the saw shuts off after the contestant touches it he/she can restart it and finish the cut and then turn it over to the saw technician who will determine if the saw is still working correctly.
- If the saw is determined to be in working order, then the contestant's time stands.
- If the saw is determined to be malfunctioning, a new saw will be introduced and the competitor will be granted a re-cut.

HOT SAW:

- One saw per competitor will be tagged at the competitors' meeting. The head judge will remove this tag immediately before the saw is used in the event. If the competitor does not have a tagged saw they will not be allowed to compete.
- Three complete cuts, one down, one up, one down.
- The wood will be marked with a line drawn around the entire block, 6" (15 cms) in from the end of the block. If the line is completely severed or the competitor cuts on the other side of the line the competitor is disqualified.
- The hot saw will be of the contestant's choice, limited to one cylinder, and equipped with a tuned exhaust.
- All hot saws must have sprocket covers.
- A starter cord tether must be used for saws that have detachable starter cords. If a second starter cord is necessary a tether cord is not necessary however the cord must remain within the area as defined by the chain saw screens after starting or it will result in a disqualification.
- Warm Up: 60 seconds to warm up the saw.
- A helper is allowed on the deck during warm up period. The helper must leave the deck when the judge says, "hand on the wood". The helper must wear hearing protection, eye protection and chaps.
- Time Starts: On the word "GO" or when the gun is fired. Time Stops: When the third disc is clearly severed.
- The saw will be shut off at the end of the warm up period and the competitor's hands must be resting on the top of the block when the gun is fired.
- The competitor's hands must be placed in such a way so that 4 fingers (not the thumb) of each hand break the plane of the line drawn longitudinally down the center of the block.
- All discs must be complete, or the contestant will be disqualified.
- Hearing Protection, Eye Protection, and Chaps are required.
- STIHL does not recommend altering side plates, tie straps or rivets on the saw chain.
- While the saw is running the saw must be pointing in a safe direction (as designated by the judge)

SINGLE BUCK:

- Contestants may have a helper to wedge and spray/lubricate the saw. All helpers must stand on the log side of saw.
- No competitor is allowed to use a counter weight on the opposite end of the crosscut saw.
- Time Starts: On the word "Go" Time Stops: When the disc is clearly severed.
- Competitor is allowed a 12" (30 cms) arc starting cut.
- 1.5" (4 cms) of wood is allowed to make the cut.
- The disc must be complete, or the contestant will be disqualified.
- Contestants may question the location of starting cuts designated on or near obvious knots. Alternative location of the starting cut will be decided by the head judge. Knots encountered thereafter will be considered luck of the draw.