



# GPC

## **THE GREAT PUMPKIN COMMONWEALTH**

The GPC represents the standard of fair and equal competition for all participating growers and sites without prejudice. Herein are the rules and regulations for competition at GPC sanctioned sites.

### **Article I weigh-off sites and club/group**

- 1) A weigh-off site is the actual location where a GPC sanctioned weigh-off occurs.
- 2) The weigh-off site must have an available representative who the GPC Executive Committee may contact. This person shall act as an official GPC representative.
- 3) The GPC sanctioned charter to hold an official GPC weigh-off cannot be moved from an official GPC site unless the site representative and the Executive Committee give approval.
- 4) The GPC site is responsible for the annual GPC charter fee. A club/group may provide the site fee but it is ultimately the responsibility of the site.
  - A) For the northern hemisphere, new site fees along with proper paperwork are due by the first day of June the same calendar year the weigh-off is to be held. For the southern hemisphere, the deadline is January 1st.
  - B) For the northern hemisphere, fees for existing sites along with any site updates are due by the First day of July the same calendar year the weigh-off is to be held. For the southern hemisphere, the deadline is February first.
  - C) All site fees received after their deadlines will be subject to a \$100 late fee.

- D) The Executive Committee reserves the right to deny acceptance of weights for GPC prize money and recognition if the time lines are not met.
- E) All prizes will be awarded based on the calendar year.
- 5) The GPC requires each of its sanctioned weigh-off sites be open to all growers who wish to participate. Each site may have their own registration fee as long as these fees are equal for all growers wishing to enter. Each site may have their prize payout structure as they choose as long as the main prizes are available to all growers entered in their weigh-off. The main prize structure shall be defined as the majority of the money and prizes available for all competing growers. Sites may, at their own discretion, offer additional regional bonuses not to exceed the value of the main prize structure.
- A) The GPC rules will be strictly enforced for weights, fruit soundness, certification of scales, and color as stated herein.
- B) Each site will be responsible for providing no less than 3 and no more than 5 judges.
- C) Judges for a weigh-off will consist of any combination of the following: club/grower representative, site coordinator, site representative, and two experienced growers.
- D) All judges' decisions are final. All judges will be responsible to have a complete knowledge of all rules and how to implement them fairly. It will be necessary to have a current copy of the rules present at each site in public view so anyone may reference them.
- E) If any Judge has his/her entry in question or cannot be present the day of the weigh-off, they will be excused from the Judges panel and another will be appointed in their place from the above mentioned guidelines.
- 6) Pumpkin clubs/groups are to aid and assist the site in running a GPC sanctioned weigh-off upholding the integrity of the GPC and the weigh-off site.
- 7) Club/group representative and site coordinator are to be in charge of the gathering of registration, money, weights, measurements, and other information deemed necessary by the Executive Committee and the weigh-off site.

8) The site coordinator is primarily responsible to assist any new weigh-off site with proper application paper work for GPC approval and to ensure that fees are paid before deadlines. Existing sites are to be contacted periodically to ensure fees are submitted in the proper time frame and the site is comfortable with the weigh-off arrangement.

9) The club/group representative will be the direct link between the Executive Committee and the growers. All communications from the growers to the Executive Committee and from Executive Committee to the growers will be channeled through this person.

10) A site representative will be responsible for representing the interests of the physical site. This person should be employed by or have authority to dictate the interests of the site itself.

11) Site coordinators, club/group representatives, and site representatives are to work as a team to ensure each site is as accommodating to the growers, site, and GPC as possible upholding the values of fair competition.

A) All growers must comply with the rules and regulations set forth at a GPC weigh-off site they wish to participate in. Any additional rules the GPC site wishes to have must be fair and impartial for all growers wishing to participate.

B) The above mentioned representatives will also assume responsibility of ensuring the integrity of the fruits and that scales have been calibrated by a recognized weights and measurement business or government agency prior to the weigh-off.

## **Article II Fruits and Growers**

1) The entry must be exhibited by the grower or team. In the case of an emergency where the grower or team cannot be present to exhibit the entry, the site coordinator, club/grower representative, and site representative will make a determination regarding the validity of a grower or team's absence.

A) "Grower" is defined as a person who has grown and cared for the entry from planting to harvest.

B) "Team" is defined as any two or more "Growers" who exhibit together.

2) All specimens that will be submitted to the GPC for prize money and recognition must be weighed on a certified scale with only the fruit on the scale. Any fruit weighed with a tarp, pallet, or any other lifting device will be classified unofficial weight or “EXH”.

A) A certified scale is one that has been inspected and certified by a governmental agency and must have a current certification sticker attached to the scale. Scales that have been certified by other qualified agencies for commercial purposes as “legal for trade” are also acceptable.

B) All sites should use a 4’ x 4’ platform scale or larger, sitting level on a solid stable surface.

3) No foreign material (i.e.: fungicides, caulking, skin additives etcetera) will be permitted in the weighing of any fruit. Vines must be trimmed to within one inch of the stem of the fruit. The judges have the right to inspect any and all fruit before weights and measurements become official. Refusal of any inspection to an entry will cause the entry to be classified exhibition only.

4) The specimen must be sound, healthy, and undamaged. Entries must be free of rot, holes or cracks through to the cavity, and serious soft spots.

A) The Judges reserve the right to probe cracks, holes, and to dig out soft spots to judge a fruit official or not. Before the Judges can execute any of the previous they must have the grower present.

B) A serious soft spot is one that is greater than 3 inches in diameter, and greater than 3 inches deep. The dimensions of the soft spot will be measured after all soft material has been removed with a spoon.

C) If there are more than two soft spots that require material to be removed and measured, the pumpkin will be disqualified even if each is smaller than the definition of “a serious soft spot”.

D) Judging is to be completed before a fruit is officially weighed.

5) The GPC will recognize one entry per grower or team for top ten average calculations.

A) Entries other than the grower’s one official entry will be entered as “EXH – exhibition” for legal fruit and “DMG – damaged” for illegal fruit.

- B) If a grower or team wants to bring multiple entries they must contact the site representative(s) prior to the weighoff day to ensure the site can accommodate their multiple fruit.
- 6) No specimen will be allowed into competition at a GPC site if that specimen has been previously entered at another competition.

### **Article III Color Requirements and Prize Money**

1) Squash will be classified as follows- 100% of the following colors or color combinations green, blue, and gray. The surface area of the fruit as grown in the garden, not including the portion that was in contact with, or close proximity to the ground will be considered. This area will include the area between the ribs, around the stem, and the blossom end. This will not include any netting (cantaloping), any discoloration caused by the close proximity to the ground, or minimal amounts of white striping or mottling associated with some squash.

- A) Pumpkins will be all fruit not classified as squash.
- 2) Only the heaviest entry per class by a grower or team will receive monetary awards.
- 3) The GPC will only pay one monetary prize per fixed address per class.
- A) A fixed address will be defined as a parcel of land used by growers and/or teams to grow their entries.
- 4) In the event of a tie of two or more places all entries that are tied will have the prize money for the places that are tied added together then split equally amongst the places that are involved.
- 5) GPC non-monetary awards (i.e. jackets) will be given to a maximum of two persons for one entry (in the event of a team). These awards will be given at the GPC's discretion with the GPC reserving the right to distribute non-monetary awards as deemed necessary.
- 6) An entry must be weighed at one of the sanctioned weigh-off sites, on the recognized weigh-off date for that site to be eligible for GPC awards and prize money.
- 7) The GPC will only recognize specimens that have been entered into the Bigpumpkins.com "GPC Weighoff Results" database for public viewing before November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Article IV Weigh-off Dates and Mileage Requirements**

- 1) The GPC will recognize a weigh-off period instead of a fixed Weigh-off date. The weigh-off period will start on February 1<sup>st</sup> and extend to the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.
- 2) There shall be no minimum mileage distance recognized between GPC sanctioned weigh-off sites. The Executive Committee will decide as to where and when GPC sanctioned weigh-off sites will be allowed regardless of distance between sites and calendar dates.
- 3) All date changes, relative to the calendar year, must be submitted to the GPC steering committee at least 7 months prior to the weighoff. For example, if your weighoff is traditionally held the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October, a move to a different day would require approval.
- 4) All rain dates must be submitted for approval by the Executive Committee no later than 3 months before the weigh-off is to be held. All sites must make every concession for fair and inclement weather. Rain dates will only be used in the case of an emergency, after the Executive Committee gives approval to move the weigh-off date to the rain date.
- 5) The Great Pumpkin Commonwealth and its officially sanctioned sites shall not be held liable for compensation, loss, damage, or injury to any person, exhibit, or personal property.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE AND AUTHORITY**

Every provision of these amendments to the GPC Rules shall take effect February 28, 2010. The provisions of the GPC Rules shall be enforced throughout the family of GPC sanctioned sites. The GPC Executive Committee reserves the right of judicial authority to govern all sanctioned GPC sites according to these rules.