



AWWA HYDRANT HYSTERIA COMPETITION RULES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/2025

Revision History

Revision No.	Change	Date
Rev 0.	Initial Document – approved by OIC	
Rev 1	Added requirement for tool placement at end of assembly Reorganized existing content for readability	July 2025

Hydrant Hysteria Rules & Regulations

INTRODUCTION

The AWWA Hydrant Hysteria Competition is a dynamic and skill-based event that challenges teams to assemble a fire hydrant quickly, completely, and accurately. This timed event features multiple teams competing simultaneously to reassemble a commonly used utility hydrant. Judges test the completed hydrant to verify that all parts are correctly installed, and the hydrant is operational. Penalties are assessed for various safety and procedural infractions and an Official Time is determined. Fastest times move to the next round.

The competition includes a Men's and a Women's Division and spans three days during the AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition (ACE). Preliminary rounds begin on the first day of the Exhibit Hall schedule and continue through the third day, culminating in the finals.

ELIGIBILITY & AWWA MEMBERSHIP

1. Each Hydrant Hysteria Competition team shall consist of no more than three (3) persons: two (2) competitors and one (1) coach. The two competitors may consist of two men or two women. The coach may be either male or female.
2. Each AWWA Section may enter one (1) men's team and one (1) women's team in the AWWA ACE Preliminary Hydrant Hysteria Competition.
 - a. **Multi-State/Multi-province Sections** may enter up to two (2) men's teams and up to two (2) women's teams.
 - b. The ACE **Local Host Section** is permitted to send up to two teams. If the ACE Local Host Section also has the returning champion, they are permitted to send a total of three (3) teams.
 - c. The **Section with the returning champion team** is permitted to send one (1) additional team for a total of two (2) teams.
3. Each AWWA Hydrant Hysteria Competition participant must be a current AWWA member from the time of registration through the ACE event. This membership may be an individual membership, or the participant can be a regular employee of an AWWA Utility Member or Service Provider Member.
 - a. Each Section is responsible for verifying the membership status of each participant before entering them into the competition.

4. Only AWWA Section teams that have qualified by competing in a Section Hydrant Hysteria competition are allowed to enter the AWWA ACE Hydrant Hysteria Competition. If the Section does not hold a Hydrant Hysteria competition, a team may enter the AWWA ACE Hydrant Hysteria competition with approval from the Section that they are representing.

EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

5. All competition equipment is provided by in-kind Material Sponsors and the Local Host.
6. Fire hydrants shall be the type complying with ANSI/AWWA C502, Dry Barrel Hydrant. The size of the hydrant can either be 4 ½" or 5 1/4" barrel hydrant depending on the hydrant manufacturer that is being used. Each year the hydrant manufacturer and model may vary and will be announced in adequate time prior to the competition.
7. All the hydrants used by every competition team will be identical.
8. All hydrants used in the hydrant hysteria competition have never been operated, come straight from the manufacturer, and are verified to be in perfect working condition prior to disassembly.
9. All tools, equipment, and other supplies provided for this competition are verified in working conditions. Any tools, equipment and/or supplies that are broken will be considered to be broken by neglect of the team and will not be replaced during their turn.
10. Equipment and tools provided include:

2-14" pipe wrenches	1-15/16" open end wrench
2-1/2" socket wrenches	1 yellow T-Handle wrench (short or long)
1-3/4" open end wrench	1-standard hydrant operating wrench
1-3/4" socket	1-hydrant seat removal tool (no guide)
1-15/16" socket	1-hydrant thrust nut wrench

11. Malicious treatment of equipment may be considered a safety violation depending on the circumstances.

SAFETY & CONDUCT

12. Standard water utility safety practices will be observed at all times during the competition. Flagrant violations may result in time penalties as described in *Procedural Violations*.

13. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated and may result in disqualification of individuals or teams.
14. Judges, competitors, and/or volunteers may not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol, legal and/or illegal substances that may impair their ability to perform duties related to the competition. Violations of this will be determined at the discretion of AWWA Staff and the Hydrant Hysteria Competition Subcommittee Chair.
15. Teams will not be allowed to participate if they are wearing articles of clothing or using equipment plainly displaying offensive language, slogans, or graphics.
16. No personal bags are allowed on the floor.
17. Safety equipment is required and the responsibility of each competitor. Teams without proper personal protective equipment as described below will not be allowed to compete until they have obtained the proper personal protective equipment in a reasonable amount of time during the competition.
18. 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 the American National Standard Safety Requirements for Industrial Head Protection (ANSI Z89.1-2014). If a hard hat falls or is knocked off a team member, the hat must be replaced on the team member's head as soon as possible or a safety violation will be imposed. Head protection must be worn in accordance with the 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 competition. Eye protection must conform to the American National Standard for Occupational and Education Eye and Face Protection (ANSI Z87.1-2015).
 - 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 competition. 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 ASTM F243-17 - Standard Specification for Performance Requirements for Protective (Safety) Toe Cap Footwear (incorporates ANSI Z41.1 by reference). Sneakers and dress shoes that meet this standard are also allowed.
19. Long or short sleeved shirts and long-legged trousers are required to be worn by all members of the team during the event. No tanks or cutoff shirts, and no shorts are allowed.
20. All elements of the competition must remain within the confines of the designated area, and at a noise level not offensive to nearby exhibitors. Speakers and other sound devices should be positioned so as to direct sound into the competition space rather than into the aisle. Sound and noise may not exceed 90 decibels, management of volume levels will be the responsibility of AWWA staff. Announcer must terminate any form of attention-getting device or presentation when crowds jam aisles or infringe upon other exhibitors' areas.

COMPETITION

21. The Hydrant Hysteria competition consists of two (2) preliminary runs, one (1) semifinal round, and one (1) final round held on the last day of the competition.
22. 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 (See Section – Penalties)
23. Teams can ask to grease (Food Grade) the hydrant before each run if the judge has determined it is warranted.
24. Equal space will be provided for each team and 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. Every effort must be made to provide equal work opportunities for all competitors. A minimum of 10' clear area shall be provided between the working area and the spectators for safety.
25. The number of teams competing simultaneously in each round shall be determined by the space available for the competitors to perform adequately and/or to the number of officials available for each round.

26. Either one competitor or coach must attend the Mandatory Competitor's Meeting at the Staging Area prior to the start of the competition. The timing and order of competition will be determined at this meeting. **Failure to attend this meeting will result in disqualification**
27. Fire hydrants are disassembled by the Judges and Volunteers down to the lower barrel and shoe. A time period of no more than ten (10) minutes shall be allowed to disassemble the hydrant.
28. Competitors will be allowed to examine all the hydrant parts for five (5) minutes prior to the start of the competition. Each fire hydrant will always contain the parts needed to completely assemble the fire hydrant.
29. The competitors are allowed to position their tools and the hydrant parts anywhere within their assigned space. No tools or parts can be touching, and nothing may be placed inside the frame of the hydrant. Both hands must be empty and not touching the hydrant or any tools when the competition begins.
30. Once the judges have inspected all the parts, the competitors will be asked to assume the starting position of their choice. The Head Official is responsible for the START and STOP of the event. The Head Official will count down to "GO" to initiate the start of the competition.
31. The Official Time will stop when both competitors have placed their tools on the ground and have both raised their hands. Dropping or throwing down tools will result in a penalty.
32. The Official Time for the Competitor's run is the raw time to assemble the hydrant with any accrued penalties added. Each team's time as recorded by the Head Official, plus any penalties accrued, shall be used to determine the official time for each team. The times are recorded and the teams with the fastest times move to the next round. The Competitor with the fastest Official Time registered during the finals shall be declared the winner.

JUDGES RESPONSIBILITIES

33. 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. The Head Official is determined by AWWA's Hydrant Hysteria Subcommittee.

34. The Head Official shall see that all tools, materials, and teams are in the required positions prior to starting the event. The head official shall also ensure the work area is free from any obstructions and spectators.
35. There are (3) judges per hydrant:
 - e. Timing Judge – the Timing Judge is responsible for recording the three (3) times and any penalties that may be assessed.
 - f. Umpire – the Umpire is responsible for checking all the bolts and caps to make sure that they are tight by using a hydrant wrench.
 - g. Operations Judge – the Operations Judge is responsible for testing the hydrant and confirming the hydrant was assembled correctly.
36. Judges shall be responsible for timing the events, with the Head Official being the one to announce the START and STOP of the event. The Head Official will consult with the other officials on any infraction of the rules and shall make the ruling as required by the circumstances for any penalties to be assessed.
37. The officials shall watch for safety violations during the actual events and assess appropriate penalty times as required.
38. 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.
39. No judge will be assigned to a team who works for the same organization the team represents.

PENALTIES

40. 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.
41. The penalties will be in the form of a predetermined number of seconds added to the total time of the team's event time. The **Official Time** for the Competitor's run will be the raw time to assemble the hydrant with any accrued penalties added.
42. 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.
43. Penalties shall be:

- h. Safety violation such as throwing of tools, PPE penalty, etc. (+10 seconds each)
- i. 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 second penalty)
- j. Hydrant parts not assembled correctly:
 - i. Loose or missing hydrant bolt (+5 seconds each)
 - ii. Loose or missing nozzle caps (+5 seconds each)
 - iii. Seat assembly not tight or screwed in all the way (+10 second penalty)
 - iv. Loose hold down nut on weather cap or No attempt made with tool (+10 second penalty)
 - v. Hydrant is not completely facing forward (+10 second penalty)
 - vi. Hydrant fails to operate correctly (DQ)
 - vii. Hydrant is missing any parts (+10 second penalty)
- k. Coach enters or assist the competitors in the competition area (+10 second penalty)
- l. Tools placed in pockets before or after start of event (+5 second penalty)
- m. Tools left on the hydrant when competitors are finished (+5 second penalty)
- n. Tools not used on any bolt, nut, caps and lower valve assembly (+5 second penalty per)
- o. Tools and parts cannot be touching each other prior or during competition (+10 second penalty)
- p. Teams must use the tools provided to tighten down all parts of the fire hydrant when assembling is taking place. A tool must be used every time when tightening hydrant parts. Hand tightening will result in a penalty.
- q. No tools can be stored in hydrant frame at any time during the competition (+ 10 second penalty)
- r. No tool can be held under arm or between legs during competition (+5 second penalty per)

THE WINNING TEAM

- 44. The AWWA ACE Annual Hydrant Hysteria Champion is automatically eligible for the next year's AWWA ACE Hydrant Hysteria Competition as a Returning Champion and is not counted as the Section entry.
- 45. The Championship team (including coach) will:
 - s. Be presented with one traveling team trophy to keep at the close of the competition.
 - t. Be presented with individual trophies for each team member.
 - u. May be featured in AWWA publications, listed in the Hydrant Hysteria Hall of Fame on the AWWA website, and videos promoting the event

- v. Be reimbursed for expenses outlined by the official AWWA Returning Champion Guidelines, to return for the next AWWA ACE Hydrant Hysteria Competition at ACE the following year. (In general, expense reimbursement covers transportation costs to and from the convention site, hotel, and meals).

46. The Second and Third-place teams will:

- w. Be presented with individual trophies to keep at the close of the AWWA ACE Hydrant Hysteria Competition.
- x. May be featured in AWWA publications, website or videos

REGISTRATION

47. ACE Competition registration instructions can be found on the Hydrant Hysteria web page.

- y. No registration is available onsite.
- z. Sections must inform AWWA before May 15 of any late team registrations each year..
- aa. A signed waiver is required to participate. Competitors and Coaches must register themselves and sign their own waiver. Please ensure that all members of the team register with the same team name.

48. Each participating team member will receive a complimentary ACE Exhibits Only Registration.

- bb. At the time of registration, each competitor can obtain one (1) complimentary Spouse/Guest registration granting access to the Exhibit Hall during official Exhibit Hall hours.
 - i. Children under the age of 16 entering the Exhibit Hall during show hours must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. No one under the age of 16 is allowed in the Exhibit Hall area during move-in, move-out, or non-show hours. A parent or guardian assumes all risks and responsibility for the safety of his or her child.

cc. Anyone 12 years or older requires a badge to enter the Exhibit Hall.

49. Each team is responsible for their travel and lodging arrangements. AWWA will not make travel or lodging arrangements for any team. AWWA does not reimburse travel expenses (airfare, lodging, food) for any team. Please check with your Section on travel reimbursements.

DISCLAIMER

1. AWWA does not endorse products manufactured by sponsors and takes no position concerning the adequacy of such products or their compliance with any AWWA Standard.
2. This competition is officiated by very competent officials who are striving for fairness in their judgement for the events so that all competitors are judged as equally as possible. **Fair and equal treatment for each competitor is the goal of this competition.** There is no intention to provide anyone with an advantage. This competition is for the fun and enjoyment of the participants and spectators.
3. Hydrant Hysteria team members or team coaches who have participated as a competitor or coach are eligible to join the Hydrant Hysteria Subcommittee. Current team members and coaches are ineligible to serve on the Hydrant Hysteria Subcommittee. This is to eliminate perceived conflicts of interest.