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INDEX

GENERAL RULES	3
CATEGORIES	3
ELIGIBILITY	3
REFUND AND CANCELLATION	
CHECK IN	4
WAIVER AND RELEASE	
COMPETITION PROTOCOL	
EVENT ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT	
SPONSORSHIP	5
POINTS OF ISSUE	5
THE COURSE	5
RUN ORDER(S)	6
BREATHING APPARATUS	6
TURNOUT GEAR / PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)	7
OFFICIALS	8
THE EVENT	9
START	9
EVENT 1: STAIR CLIMB WITH HIGH RISE PACK	
EVENT 2: HOSE HOIST AND STAIR DESCENT	
EVENT 3: FORCIBLE ENTRY	
EVENT 4: OBSTACLE COURSE AND HOSE ADVANCE	
EVENT 5: VICTIM RESCUE	
RELAY/TANDEM/AGGREGATE TEAM SPECIFIC RULES	15
RELAY/TANDEM TURNOUT GEAR	
RELAY/TANDEM SUBSTITUTIONS	
THE BATON	
RELAY – PASSING THE BATON	
TANDEM PASS ZONE	
RELAY/TANDEM PENALTIES	
CLEARING THE TOWER	
PENALITIES	
SET-UP DIAGRAMS/INSTRUCTIONS	
COURSE LAYOUT/MAP	
COURSE DIMENSIONS	
(APPENDIX A)	
FIRE AND EMERGENCY NZ DISTRICT BOUNDARIES	

A. Categories

Competitors may register and compete in any category for which they qualify, for example, Open Male and Over 40 categories.

Competitors will automatically be entered into the open category, and may choose one age group category for which they qualify. i.e a 51 year old male may choose to enter the 'male over 40 category' instead of the 'male over 50 category' but cannot enter both.

The Individual categories are:

- Open Male
- Open Female
- Over 40 (Male and Female)
- Over 50 (Male and Female)
- Over 60 (Male and Female)

The Group categories are:

- Relay Team (3-5 members)
- Aggregate Team (3-5 registered individuals, top 3 times accumulated for team score)
- Tandem Team

Tandem Team Subcategories

- i. Open
- ii. Open Female
- iii. Co-Ed

B. Eligibility

- i. Competitors must be current members of fire brigades that are full members of the UFBA.
- ii. All other competitors, including those overseas, may participate if space is available, but will not be eligible for awards.
- iii. The make-up of Tandem, Relay and Aggregate Teams must come from within the same Brigade in the first instance or District Boundary as defined by Fire and Emergency NZ. (See Appendix A)

Note: Any other requests will be considered by the UFBA Challenge Panel on a case-by-case basis (prior to the entry closing), and if approved will be eligible for New Zealand honours.

- iv. Certificates to third place will be issued to the categories outlined above in A, if more than three entries per subcategory have registered.
- v. All placings will be confirmed at that event Prize-Giving, and published on the UFBA website post-prizegiving.
- vi. The Top 10 Times of Open Male, Open Female, Tandems & Relay Teams will be maintained and posted by the UFBA Events Team on the UFBA Website against the Firefighter Challenge at the end of the calendar season.

C. Refund and Cancellation

The competitor, on cancellation of entry will be responsible for costs and forfeit their entry fee, except for in cases where a medical certificate or proof of extenuating circumstances in provided. This will be at the discretion of the UFBA Events' Team.

D. Check-in

- i. Every competitor is responsible for personally checking in at the registration desk, prior to the start of the scheduled event. This is a mandatory additional requirement following registration.
- ii. Failure to do so may result in disqualification and financial penalties.
- iii. An Event Draw will be completed and published prior to the start of the Firefighter Challenge as soon as practical after registrations have closed on the day.

E. Waiver and Release

- i. Every competitor must sign a Waiver and Health Questionnaire prior to participation.
- ii. No one is allowed to participate without completing this form. The waiver and competitordata form is issued at registration

F. Competition Protocols

i. All competitors will be allowed to finish the course, (unless disqualified), provided they finish in seven minutes or less.

G. Event Organisation and Management

- i. Registration will be via the UFBA website. Preference for National Events will be given to those competitors that compete at Island events. Those who wish to compete at a National Event but have not competed at their island event will need to apply for Challenge Panel exemption.
- ii. All competitors are expected to be present at the Challenge designated site at the time requested by the Events Team. This may be relaxed if a run order is produced the prior evening.
- iii. Each competitor must check-in for his/herself.
- iv. By executing the competitor data form, the accuracy of the personal data is accepted as correct.
- v. Competitors must be present in the staging area when called. If a competitor does not show after three public address announcements requesting their presence, they will be disqualified.
- vi. It is the responsibility of the individual (or team) to ensure that they are in time for check-in, safety briefing, inspection, BA issue, and their race. A good guide is to ensure there are nine competitors ahead.
- vii. At all Prize Giving Functions, full Fire and Emergency NZ (or equivalent) undress uniform must be worn by all competitors and officials.
- viii. Team names must not cause offence through derogatory intent. This is in line with Fire and Emergencies positive workplace code of behavior and the UFBA standards. Teams may be requested to change their name at the discretion of the UFBA Events Team.

PLEASE NOTE:

A safety briefing will be held for all competitors and officials, prior to the commencement of the competition, attendance at which is compulsory for all competitors and officials.

H. Sponsorship

Sponsorship can only be visible on helmets.

POINTS OF ISSUE

- a. It is the responsibility of the delegated official to advise competitors before leaving the course whether any penalties have been imposed. Protests must be filed with the delegated official within 15 minutes of the run being completed.
- b. Where necessary, Individual Competitors, Team Captains, Referee, and the Moderator will resolve all points of issue regarding penalties.
- c. Videotapes, cameras, etc. are not reviewed.
- d. On those rare occasions where course assistants or an opposing competitor create an impediment, options may include:
 - A time deduction.
 - Another run of the course (re-run), on the same lane as the original run at a time decided by the Moderator.
- e. Any willful or malicious damage of equipment will result in disqualification and suspension pending restitution.
- f. Moderator decisions are final.

THE COURSE

- a. The Challenge Course is defined by the banner line/perimeter fence, in accordance with the distances and weights described in the *Course Layout* and relevant rules of this document.
- b. Friends, fans, and family members are not allowed on the course during the competition at any time, and competitors are permitted only when they are physically running the course, or during the track inspection time as decided by Challenge Panel
- c. The sole exception to this rule is for the members of the *Tandem or Relay* teams when they are competing.
- d. A penalty (10 sec) will be imposed on a competitor or team for violation of this rule. Disqualification may be considered.

- a. The Challenge Panel reserves the right to revise the order in which competition categories and competitors run. Runs will be done on seeded times (from slowest to fastest) across male and female competitors, who may be drawn to run against each other.
- b. Lane assignments are randomised and subject to change. Requests for lane preferences will not be considered.
- c. Competing in multiple categories is encouraged. However, warranties for specific slots in the run order are not possible. Competitors are cautioned there may be little or no recovery time between run slots. The assumption of risk lies with competitors.
- d. Competitors will be assigned a number that will be displayed on the breathing apparatus, denoting their run order in the published schedule.
- e. Competitors must be in the staging area in full turnout gear when the preceding participant is at the start line. This is a bare minimum time requirement. All competitors are required to monitor their own start times. Adequate warning will be announced where possible.
- f. Competitors not ready for start signal will be disqualified.
- g. The Challenge Panel reserves the right to fill any gaps that may appear in the draw.

BREATHING APPARATUS

a. Breathing apparatus is provided and must be worn by all participants in the Individual and Aggregate Team categories. This is made available in the Staging area. Competitors are responsible for collecting the breathing apparatus set with their corresponding race number attached, immediately to competing.

Note: Competitors do not have to be BA qualified to compete, but all competitors not BA qualified must declare this when registering online, and be present for a briefing before the draw starts. Failure to attend this briefing will result in disqualification.

- b. Competitors may use their own face piece including the nose cone.
- c. Every endeavor will be undertaken to provide either composite or alloy cylinders for this challenge.
- d. Harness straps must not be tied.
- e. Competitors from outside New Zealand must wear PPE compliant for structural firefighting as defined by the authorised jurisdiction of their country.

- a. PPE is defined as helmet, coat, pants, gloves and boots.
- b. All competitors must compete in their own PPE. PPE must be serviceable (i.e, without holes, or excessive wear), approved for structural firefighting consistent with the relevant safety standard (NFPA, AS/NZ, EN etc.) in effect at the time of manufacture.
- c. Articles of turnout gear and SCBA must not be removed or lost and worn correctly during the competition. If dropped, they must be retrieved and correctly replaced by the competitor before continuing. Non-retrieval results in disqualification.
- d. Competitors found to be non-compliant either during or after a competition will be disqualified and their time nullified.
- e. Questions about the suitability and compliance should be directed to the course Moderator prior to racing.
- f. Duct tape or other visible modifications are not permitted.
- g. Officials may inspect all gear prior to participation. Their decisions are final. Any competitor who reports to the Staging Area and is found to be in violation of these rules may be subject to a 15-second penalty and the infraction must be remedied before racing or disqualification may occur depending upon the severity of the infraction. Officials will inspect all gear in the Staging area prior to participation. Their decisions are final.
- h. PPE Specifics
 - i. Helmets Must be designated for structural fire suppression and bear a NFPA, AS/NZ, EN -compliant label. Flash hoods, face shields and neck skirts are not required.
 - ii. Coat/Jacket & Pants Must be designated for structural fire suppression. They must be properly sized and cover the area of intended protection. Collars must be showing (not tucked in) and Velcro zip must be secured. Neck skirt need not be fastened. All uniform must be worn as if on duty.
 - iii. Gloves Level 1 gloves are sufficient for this event.
 - iv. Boots In the interest of promoting this event within NZ, (Level 1) station boots, may be worn. Competitors may choose to run in compliant (and safe) structural firefighting boots if preferred. This rule will be reviewed regularly.

All non-New Zealand issue PPE or equipment must be accompanied with documentation that certifies it meets the minimum standards stipulated in these rules, as it may be subject to scrutiny prior to or during the challenge. The cost of this gear, and certification is at the competitor's own expense. Violations will result in disqualification.

Moderator

The moderator will:

- a. At their sole discretion, stop any competitor creating, or in, a stressful, unsafe, or dangerous condition or putting any equipment in danger of damage.
- b. Liaise with referees, individual competitors, and team captains to resolve disputes regarding penalties.
- c. Determine and approve a re-run of time deduction if requested by an Individual or Team Captain.
- d. Disqualify any individuals or teams in breach of rules, displaying unsportsmanlike behavior or safety concerns.

Referees will:

- a. Be responsible for fair and accurate judging of events.
- b. Sign all timecards and record the appropriate penalties.
- c. Liaise with Moderator, individual competitors, and team competitors to resolve disputes regarding penalties.
- d. Intervene or direct a competitor in negotiating the events on the course at their discretion

Course Assistants will:

- a. Be responsible for setting the course prior to the start of each run.
- b. Not provide assistance to competitors unless signaled or requested.

THE EVENT

Overview

The competition consists of 5 firefighter related tasks that simulate tasks a firefighter could be expected to carry out on any given shift. The event must be completed within seven minutes after which, a result of 'Not Completed' will be recorded.

START

Description

The starting area is designated as the base of the bottom step through an area 2 meters towards the track and indicated by a taped line. (The Challenge Panel has the right to adjust this mark if needed)

When called by the starter, competitors must remain in the confines of this starting area.

Sequence

- a. The competitor will place and adjust the high-rise pack within the boundaries of the start mat. The high-rise pack cannot be bent or manipulated.
- b. Competitors will then stand up.
- c. After the clocks have been set, competitors will take their starting position. At this stage, high-rise packs may not be touched until the start buzzer has sounded.
- d. The starting procedure will be directed at both competitors to gauge their readiness and will require a response (head nod/hand wave).
 - Ready on red Ready on blue Hands to start
- e. The start sequence will count down, after which, the start buzzer will sound.

Note: If the high-rise pack is touched early, this will constitute a false start and will invoke a penalty. There will be no restart.

PENALTIES - Start

i.	Leaving the confines of the start area	5 secs
ii.	Touching high-rise pack with hands prior to start buzzer sounding	5 secs

Pick up and carry a high-rise pack up six flights of stairs. The pack and cover must be deposited into or onto the container at the top of the tower.

Specifics

- a. The hose pack may be carried in any manner.
- b. The handrails may be used in climbing the tower and steps may be taken in multiples on the way up.
- c. One foot must be on the top deck before releasing the pack.
 Note: If a competitor misses the box, they may correct the position, without penalty, but only before starting the next evolution.
- d. No part of the pack is to touch the deck outside the box. *Note:* If any part of the pack touches the deck, it may be corrected, without penalty, but only before starting the next evolution.
- e. The pack must not be used as a step.
- f. The pack must not fall off the tower.

i.	Releasing pack early	2 secs
ii.	Pack touching deck	2 secs
iii.	Pack used as step	10 secs
iv.	Pack falling off tower	Disqualification

From the top of the tower, using a hand over hand motion, pull on a 15mm rope to hoist up a 19kg donut roll of large diameter hose. This evolution is complete when the hose roll clears the rail and is placed into α on the container on the top floor. The competitor then descends the stairs using every step.

Specifics

- a. The competitor is not allowed to stand on anything other than the top platform while hoisting.
- b. The donut roll must ascend.
- c. No part of the roll is to touch the deck outside the container.

Note: If a competitor misses the box, they may correct the position, without penalty, but only before starting the next evolution.

d. The roll must not fall off the tower, roll down the stairs or interfere with adjacent competitor.

Note: A fallen donut roll may not be retrieved.

- e. If a competitor trips on the rope, they are responsible for any additional penalties incurred as a result of this.
- f. When descending the tower, every step must be contacted by the sole of the foot in a controlled manner and the handrail grasped. If an uncontrolled slip, the penalty is calculated on the number of flights involved and not the number of slips. For example, if a competitor slips down one, two, three (and so on) steps, on the same flight, they will incur one penalty. Any repeats on a subsequent flight/s will incur another one penalty each.

i.	Slippage of donut of more than one balcony	Disqualification
ii.	Roll touching deck	2 secs
iii.	Roll falling from tower or rolls downstairs	Disqualification
iv.	Roll interferes with adjacent competitor	Disqualification
v.	Missed step	2 secs per step
vi.	Uncontrolled slip when descending	2 secs per flight

After descending the stairs, the competitor proceeds to the Keiser Force Machine (a chopping simulator). Using the provided shot mallet (4kg), and with both feet on the diamond plate surface, the competitor must drive the sled beam (72.5kg) a horizontal distance of 1.5 metres. The mallet is then placed on the designated mat (61cm x 91cm).

Specifics

a. Only the head of the mallet is allowed to strike the beam. The first handle strike will be tolerated. Any subsequent handle strikes will incur penalties.

Note: The upper edge of the beam will be covered with pressure-sensitive material to capture handle strikes.

- b. Pushing, raking, or hooking the beam is not allowed.
- c. A tape mark will be positioned 30.5cm from the top (head) of the mallet. It is a reference point for competitors to safeguard against a pinch-point between the handle and the beam.
- d. Some part of the mallet must rest within a vertical plane that borders the mat.

Note: If a competitor misses the mat, they may correct the position, without penalty, but only before starting the next evolution.

vii.	Subsequent handle strikes	5 secs each
viii.	Failure to drive sled the required distance or fraction thereof	2 secs per inch
ix.	Pushing, raking, or hooking the beam	5 secs each
x.	Hammer not resting within the vertical perimeter of the mat	2 secs
xi.	Loss of hammer control	Disqualification

Competitor must now negotiate a slalom course (42.6m), after which, they pick up the branch end of a charged hose (41mm non-percolated) and drag it 22.8 metres through a set of swinging doors, crack the branch, knock over the designated target, shut off the water, and place the branch on the mat.

Specifics

- a. The slalom course must be negotiated without missing or knocking over any delineator.
- b. The charged hose must be advanced its full distance.
- c. The swinging doors must be penetrated before opening branch.
- d. The target must drop.
- e. Branch must be placed on the mat.
- f. The branch must be closed when it is released.

Note: If a competitor leaves the branch open, they may correct the position, without penalty, but only before starting the next evolution. If the branch opens after hitting the ground, there is no penalty.

i.	Missing or knocking over delineators	5 secs each
ii.	Charged hose not fully advanced	10 sec
iii.	Opening branch prematurely	2 sec
iv.	Failure to drop target	10 sec
v.	Failure to place branch on the mat	10 sec
vi.	Branch not closed after release	2 sec

The final task is to drag a mannequin, weighing 79.4kg, a distance of 32.3m. The run time stops when both the competitor and mannequin completely cross the finish line.

Specifics

- a. Carrying the mannequin is not permitted.
- b. Competitors must not cross the course center delineator (go out of lane).
- c. Contact with the opposing competitor is prohibited.
- d. The mannequin cannot be grasped by its clothing or appendages.
- e. The competitor cannot hold or drag the mannequin by the head or throat.
- f. The heel of the mannequin being dragged across the finish line will stop the clock. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure this happens i.e. Do not 'lunge'. Penalty 6 applies.
- g. 'Spiking' the mannequin is prohibited. It is defined as any elbow movement, other than extension, when releasing the mannequin.
- h. Should the run clock sustain any problems, the time from the back-up watch will be recorded.
- i. The Referee and/or Moderator, at their discretion, may stop any competitor who is in a stressful, unsafe, or dangerous condition or situation.

i.	Carrying the mannequin	10 sec
ii.	Going out of lane	5 sec
iii.	Contacting opposing competitor	Disqualification
iv.	Grasping mannequin by clothing or appendages	5 sec
v.	Holding or dragging mannequin by head or throat	10 sec
vi.	Not dragging mannequin heels across finish line	2 sec
vii.	'Spiking' the mannequin	Disqualification

• *Tandem* teams consist of two persons and can be of mixed gender. Teams will complete two rounds each. The first round is a seeding round to determine the draw for the second round. The faster of a teams' two times is recorded.

The course is divided into two parts and must involve both competitors. The Keiser is the designated transition point. The decision to make the transition is that of the team and may be made prior to or after completion of the Keiser. In either case, the hand-over must be made prior to mounting the Keiser, or immediately after completing the Keiser (following placement of the mallet on the mat).

• *Relay* teams consist of 3-5 members and can be of mixed gender. A seeding round is first used to determine draw placings. This is followed by a bracketed elimination-style race (head-to-head) for the Top 8 in an Island Challenge, and Top 16 in a National Challenge, should numbers warrant it. The winning team advances irrespective of the time (plus penalties) recorded.

Losing teams from the Top 8 or Top 16 knock out round will enter into a Plate competition.

- *Aggregate Team* event consists of three members, each competing in the individual section, whose aggregate times are used to determine placings.
- Aggregate Teams are entered at registration on event day.
- Entries for Aggregate Team event close at start of 1st Challenge event.
- Competitors can only compete in one Aggregate Team.
- International and Composite Teams can compete only within the seeding rounds.
- For any competitors that choose to run in multiple *Tandem* or *Relay* Teams, the Challenge Panel will not change the draw to accommodate these teams. If a competitor is in two teams which come up running against each other in the draw, the competitor must choose which team to run in.

A. Relay/Tandem Turnout Gear

Requirements for turnout gear are the same for all competitors, with the exception that the face piece on the BA is not worn.

NOTE: Competitors do not have to be BA qualified to compete in the relay and tandem events.

B. Relay/Tandem Substitutions

Substitutions due to injury, transfers, illness, and/or shift changes are not permitted after the original team run. A team may reduce the number of its members.

C. The Baton

- i. The Baton must be in the possession of the team member performing an evolution.
- ii. Passing must be hand-to-hand and a clear transfer must occur.
- iii. Competitors may elect to put the Baton down after an exchange but must pick up the baton before advancing to the next event or before the next hand-over.
- iv. Loss of control of the Baton (such as forgetting to pick up the Baton) will stop the team's forward progress until the member completing the evolution regains possession.
- v. The Baton may be carried in a pocket or tucked into the harness of the BA.
- vi. A baton falling down the stairs, but not leaving the tower, must be retrieved by the person who dropped it.

- vii. Objects, including the baton, must not fall from the tower and if it occurs, it will result in disqualification.
- viii. Teams with less than five members, may have a member complete more than one evolution in succession, or alternatively, they may have a member interposed between the events. In any case, the handovers must be accomplished in accordance with these rules.
- ix. Baton changes can only be made at one of the five zones on the course.

D. Relay Pass Zone

Passing the Baton may be done up to, but not more than 5 locations on the course. These areas are specified as:

- i. **First Pass Zone:** At the top of the tower, following the placement of the high-rise hose pack in the box; a legal pass takes place when all competitors' feet are on the top platform. The competitor receiving the baton must have one hand on the top rail of the tower, with the thumb visible (to the official i.e. facing the back of the tower). The competitor must not be in contact with the hoisting rope until receiving the Baton. Second hand-over at the top of the tower may take place after the hoist evolution. This exchange must take place with all parties on the top deck.
- ii. **Second Pass Zone:** After the last step exiting the tower, and prior to mounting, the Keiser Force Machine. For example, if the competitor performing the forcible entry station is not the individual descending the tower, the exchange must be made before mounting the Keiser Force Machine.
- iii. **Third Pass Zone:** Anywhere from the Keiser and the first turn but only after placing the hammer on the mat. The individual performing the activity on the forcible entry station must first place the hammer on the mat and then pick up and hand the Baton to the next competitor.
- iv. **Fourth Pass Zone:** Is prior to the line of the last delineator. Both competitors, and the baton, may not have crossed the line. No contact with the branch or hose is permitted until the competitor is in possession of the Baton.
- v. **Fifth Pass Zone**: After striking the target and closing down the branch but before setting the branch down and the Victim Rescue Station. The branch man is the only individual allowed to shut down the branch. The competitor cannot touch the mannequin until they are in possession of the Baton.

E. Tandem Pass Zone

Passing the Baton may be done once on the course. These areas are specified as:

i. **First Pass Zone:** After the last step exiting the tower, and prior to mounting the Keiser Force Machine.

For example, if the competitor performing the forcible entry station is not the individual descending the tower, the exchange must be made before mounting the Keiser Force Machine.

ii. **Second Pass Zone:** Anywhere from the Keiser and the first turn but only after placing the hammer on the mat. The individual performing the activity on the forcible entry station must first place the hammer on the mat and then pick up and hand the Baton to the next competitor.

F. Relay/Tandem Penalties

In addition to penalties mentioned in each of the events, the following infractions will also incur penalties:

- i. Any early exchange, (i.e. touching any tool or prop including hose hoist rope, forcible entry hammer, branch, mannequin) before a handoff, etc.
- ii. No assistance can be rendered to a member of a team by any other member of the same team. Each infraction will result in a 5 second penalty, (i.e. if a member completing a taskdrops the Baton, they alone must be the one to pick it up).
- iii. If any object should fall off the tower (i.e. the Baton, coiled hose, or high-rise pack) the team will be disqualified.
- iv. If any teammate crosses the course centre line (i.e. goes out of lane), a 5 second penalty will be assessed.
- v. If contact with the opposing team results, the team will be disqualified.

G. Clearing the Tower

In tandem and relay team events all competitors must be clear of the tower before the slowest team completes the hose drag.

PENALTIES

Sta	Start			
	i.	Leaving the confines of the start area	5 sec	
	ii.	Touching high-rise pack prior to start buzzer sounding	5 sec	
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Event 1

iii.	Releasing pack early	2 sec
iv.	Pack touching deck	2 sec
v.	Pack used as step	10 sec
vi.	Pack dropped off tower	Disqualification

Event 2

vii.	Slippage of donut of more than one balcony	Disqualification
viii.	Roll touching deck	2 secs
ix.	Roll falling from tower or rolls downstairs	Disqualification
x.	Roll interferes with adjacent competitor	Disqualification
xi.	Missed step	2 secs per step
xii.	Uncontrolled slip when descending	2 secs per flight

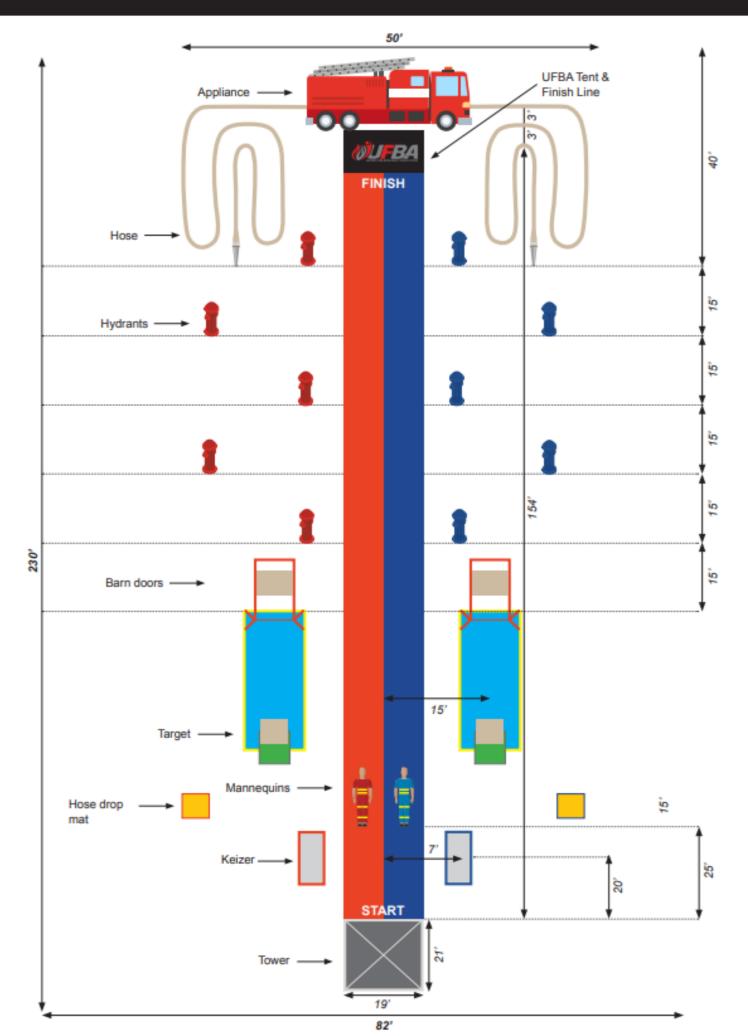
Event 3

i.	Subsequent handle strikes	5 secs each
ii.	Failure to drive sled the required distance or fraction thereof	2 secs per inch
iii.	Pushing, raking, or hooking the beam	5 secs each
iv.	Hammer not resting within the vertical perimeter of the mat	2 secs
v.	Loss of hammer control	Disqualification

Event 4

vi.	Missing or knocking over delineators	5 secs each
vii.	Charged hose not fully advanced	10 secs
viii.	Opening branch prematurely	2 secs
ix.	Failure to drop target	10 secs
x.	Failure to place branch on the mat	10 secs
xi.	Branch not closed after release	2 secs





Course Layout

- From the front of the tower to the back of the hose bight, you will require 160' long x 50' space(70m x 25m).
- The Red track is on the Right and the Blue track is on the Left, as viewed from the track, looking towards the tower.

Course Measurements (Imperial)

These are the dimensions off the centerline from the front of the tower to the middle of each obstacle:

		Off of Centerline	Distance from Tower
•	Start - No Pass Line		2.0m down
•	Keiser Position (Back)	7' off	16' down
•	Keiser Position (Front)	7' off	24' down
•	Dummy Drag Start		35' down
•	Target Position	15' off	45' down
•	Bat Doors	15' off	60' down
•	Hydrants	10' off	60' down
		20' off	75' down
		10' off	90' down
		20' off	105' down
		10' off	120' down
•	Finish Line		135' down
•	Branch Position	15' off	135' down
•	Hose Area		135' – 160' down
•	Hose Loop Points		154' and 157' down
	Hose feeds in from outside of both lanes with coupling on the finish line, in a double bight.		

- Boundary Fence 25' off

APPENDIX A



