

Trebuchet Qualification Checklist 2025

Team Name: _____

Trebuchet Number: _____

Qualification Requirement	Judge Check
Trebuchets, and/or their platforms, must have soft feet (felt or cloth). No sharp points should be visible that could cause damage or injury.	
Recoiling trebuchets (with wheels) must be on a platform (board) to stop rolling motion.	
Is the trebuchet safe? No loose parts are allowed that will break free.	
No catapults or catapult/trebuchet hybrids are allowed. No energy can be stored in deformation of components. There are no springs, rubber bands, flexible arms, etc.	
No pulleys or ball bearings can be used.	
The counterweight must be attached, not looped over, the end of the arm (or close to the end). The top pivoting lever must be greater than 1/4" thick.	
The counterweight is (up to) 3 unopened 20-ounce plastic bottles of soda.	
The counterweight must be either: a) dangling throughout the entire throwing motion (makes no contact with other parts of the trebuchet lever arm), OR b) must be rigidly attached to the arm (i.e. doesn't slide, wiggle, etc.)	
The counterweight must be attached so that it does not come free on its own.	
The top pivoting lever (length L2 + L5 on the example figure) must not be able to lift off the ground in the cocked position until the counterweight is attached. Any fastening devices to be used in the competition will be included as part of the arm during testing for balance.	
The top pivoting lever must be balanced toward the projectile end (see L5 end) throughout the entire range of motion.	
The top pivoting lever (length L2 + L5) must not be longer than 3 feet 2 inches. This length includes the sling hook.	
The top pivoting lever (length L2 + L5) must not be collapsible.	
The height of the center of the pivot point (H) is less than or equal to 3 feet.	

Check all that apply

Failed 1st
Check _____

Failed 2nd
Check _____

Other (put note on back) _____

Qualification Judge's Signature