

Trebuchet Contest 2026

Key Items and Changes

**** COVID protocols will be in place during the contest in keeping with the current state mandates/CDC guidelines in place at the time of the competition. Currently no restrictions are in place. This could change at any time! ****

1. Safety goggles will be available on the day of the event, or teams may bring their own. All members on the field must wear goggles. **A team member may NOT compete without eye protection.**
2. The counterweight this year will be up to 5 unopened aluminum cans of soda.
3. Each team must provide their own soda cans and must have a way to attach the counterweight so the cans are removable. All material used to restrain the soda cans must remain attached to the throwing arm for balance testing. Only the cans may be removed – not the housing.
[Be sure to have extra cans on hand in case any leak. Also make sure you clean up any mess made from leaking or busted cans. This means you should bring rags or paper towels, just in case!]
4. The height from the ground to the center of the pivot cannot exceed 3 feet 6 inches.
5. The total length of the rotating arm cannot exceed 4 feet.
6. The individual team playing field will be 20' x 20'. The neutral zone will be 10' x 20'. Total size of match field is 20' x 50'. Be sure your trebuchets can consistently throw a squash ball 25 feet in order to be able to hit scoring targets.
7. Squash ball sizes **will** vary so you should be able to adjust for size and weight of the projectiles.
8. There are only two components to the competition: Battle and Report
Trophies will be given for first place in each component. Prize money will only be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each component.
9. Make sure your trebuchet has soft feet! Any part coming in contact with the floor **must be covered in cloth or felt** so that it will not scratch the gym floor. There will be a floor covering as a precaution, but nothing sharp should be protruding from the bottom.
10. Projectiles must hit the bottom of scoring targets to count. If a projectile hits the *outside* of a trebuchet target and knocks it over, this is **not** a score. The target must be set up as quickly as possible to allow the opposing team the opportunity to score the target. However, if the projectile strikes the bottom of the trebuchet target (inside) and subsequently knocks it over, then this **is counted** as a score even if the projectile comes out after the target falls.
12. There will be several drawings throughout the competition, each for a gift card. Actual retailers will depend on the results of the related registration question and availability.

Refer to the full rules for more details.