

Willoughby Pumpkin Chunkin 2026 Official Rules

1. Trebuchet Size & Weight Rules:

Max Height:	84 inches (7 feet), measured at top of throwing arm.
Max Counter Weights:	80 pounds.
Projectiles	Baseball / softball sized pumpkins approximately ½ pound are provided. (Oranges will be used if pumpkins are not found)

2. Seven foot height limit measured to the top of the throwing arm fully extended in the (un-cocked/vertical position).

3. The sling and or cocking mechanism is not included in, and may slightly exceed the 7 foot height limit.

4. No digging into the ground is allowed. But you may use the ground to stake the trebuchet in to reduce rocking.

5. Trebuchets are only to be gravity powered. No physical pushing or shoving of the counterweight will be allowed.

6. No springs, bands, pneumatic, hydraulic, torsion, or powered catapults are allowed.

7. Safety:

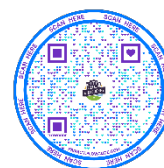
- Trebuchets will be inspected at check in, before loading, and immediately prior to each firing.
- Trebuchets must have a **“safety device”** (like a C-clamp) to stop the throwing arm from firing prematurely.
- Another **“safety device”** is a steady support which can be placed directly under the counterweight, to prevent falling.
- The trebuchet must have a trigger mechanism that allows the operator to fire the device from 6 feet or more away.
- Counter weights must be removable and weigh no more the 50 lbs each, and no more than 80 lbs total.
- Counter weights may be weighed, marked, and approved by the safety officer at check in inspection.
- The Safety Officer will determine if the trebuchet is safe. If not we will try to help make it safe, time permitting.
- Only the team designated operator and the “range master” may be in the vicinity of the device when firing.
- Only the **“range master”** may give permission to fire. Unauthorized firing may lead to expulsion /disqualification.
- **Warning, once the counterweight is lifted, the trebuchet is dangerous. No hands, feet or any body part in the potential path of the throwing arm or counterweight. Put your safety on immediately after the counterweight is lifted and prior to loading.**

8. Teams:

Consist of one to 10 people. In the Middle School and High School divisions a non-student adult mentor over age 18 years of age is required to supervise and assist in the construction of the trebuchet, and be the leader, spokesman and safety director for each team. However, the students should be building the trebuchet. The Adult should only construct when safety concerns necessitate it.

9. Divisions:

- Middle School (One Adult Leader and Students in grades 6 to 8.)
- High School (One Adult Leader and Students in grades 9 to 12.)
- Open Class



10. Launching and Winning:

- Teams will have three firing attempts
- The Team with the longest single launch will be declared the winner in each Category

11. **Fee:** \$35 per team. Registration Deadline is Fri Oct. 16, 2026 at 4:00 P.M.

Call Willoughby Parks and Recreation at: (440) 953-4200 or register online at:

<http://willoughbyohio.activityreg.com>

12. **Event Date, Time & Place:** Willoughby Pumpkin Chunkin will be held on Sat. Oct. 26, 2026. Set up begins at 9:00 A.M. and the competition begins at 10:00 A.M. The location is Osborne Park 38575 Lakeshore Blvd. Willoughby, OH. 44094