American Water Works Association
VirginiaSection

2026 VA AWWA Rodeo Events Rules



Note: No walk-on registrants on the day of events. All contestants shall be pre-registered. All contestants shall be active members, either Individual or Utility, of the Virginia Section of the AWWA to compete.
Revised July 2026

VA AWWA Competitions - Rules and Regulations SPLISH SPLASH

INTRODUCTION

1. This event is to demonstrate and recognize the skills of utility operators by simulating a typical repair to a water service “On the fly”.
2. All contestants shall be VA AWWA members. This membership may be an individual membership or contestants may be regular employees of a Utility Member of the AWWA.

GENERAL

3. Contestants shall report to the Event Coordinator when called, be ready with all safety equipment and ready to compete.
4. The service line to be repaired shall be Type K copper tubing, 12’ in length at the beginning of the event connected to a water supply, under pressure and crimped. Minimum copper length during event shall be 8’.
5. The water pressure at the beginning of the event shall not exceed 60 psi.
6. Contestants may turn the crimped end of the copper pipe to a position that best suits their style before the start signal.
7. The copper shall be placed parallel to ground level and no more than 1” off the ground.
8. Contestants may place curb stop where it best suits his style but may not adjust the flare nut after the judge has checked it.
9. Contestants shall select tools from a stock of tools provided. Contestants are responsible for gathering all tools needed to perform the event. Contestants may place tools in a position that best suits their style.
10. While waiting for the “Go” signal, contestants may not be touching any tools or the copper pipe. This includes kneeling or stepping on the pipe.
11. At the “Go “signal, contestants will cut and flare the pipe “On the fly”, then install a ¾” curb stop to complete the repair.
12. Each contestant will be given a curb stop just before starting his run. Contestants may not work valves on curb stop but will be allowed to open and close once to check tension. The curb stop shall be in the open position at the start of the event.
13. Contestants are required to use a pipe wrench to tighten the flare nut on the curb stop. The flare nut must be completely tightened.
    a. Flare nut will be inspected at completion of each run. If the flare nut can be unscrewed by hand or if flare nut and curb stop will turn on copper pipe, an additional safety penalty will be assessed.
    b. The intent is to simulate an actual field repair as closely as possible. Failure to comply

will result in a procedural violation.

14. Time will stop and all work shall cease when the curb stop is closed. Curb stop shall be turned off with a wrench. Failure to use a wrench will result in a procedural violation.
15. Contestants will have two attempts with the lowest of their two times being the official time. The two attempts will be performed consecutively. All contestants will compete in each round however contestants will be stopped when their time has exceeded the established third place time.
16. The winner will be the contestant with the fastest time plus any penalty time.
17. In the event of a tie, a one-time rerun of the event by the tied contestants will be run.

SAFETY

18. All safety equipment shall be required to be provided by each contestant. Contestants will not be allowed to compete if missing any of the required safety equipment.
19. Safety equipment required for all participants shall be:
    a. Head protection for ALL contestants shall be worn during the event. The head protection (hard shells) shall conform to American National Standard Safety Requirements for Industrial Head Protection Z89.1-1969. If a hard hat falls, the hat must be replaced as soon as possible, or a safety violation will be imposed. Head protection must be worn in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
    b. Eye protection (glasses or goggles) is required to be worn by all contestants during the. Eye protection must conform to American National Standard for Occupational and Education Eye and Face Protection Z87.1-1968.
    c. Gloves are required to be worn by all contestants. 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 contest. Sport gloves with full fingers are allowed.
    d. Foot protection shall be required to be worn by all contestants and shall conform to American National Standard for Men's Safety Toe Foot Wear, Z1.1-1967. Sneakers or dress type shoes meeting ANAI Z41.1-1967 are also allowed.
    e. Short-sleeved shirts and long-legged trousers are required to be worn by all contestants during the event.
20. If during the run any safety equipment falls off, the contestant must stop all work until the safety equipment is replaced.

JUDGING

21. The judging of each event shall consist of three (3) or more persons with one of the judges designated as the Head Judge. The Head Judges shall be in charge of the complete contest. The Head Judge may appoint another Judge to make a ruling as required by the circumstances for any penalties. If there is a disagreement after consulting with other officials on any infraction of the rules, the Head Judge shall make the final ruling.
22. The judges shall be responsible for timing the event.
23. There will be NO INSTANT REPLAY allowed for reversing any decision after the Head Judge has made a final determination on any infraction in these rules.

NOTE: This contest is officiated by very competent Judges and human judgment must enter into the contest at various times. All Judges strive for fairness, in their judging duties so that all contestants are judged as equally as possible. FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT FOR EACH AND EVERY CONTESTANT is the goal of this contest. There is no intention to provide anyone

with an advantage. This contest is for FUN and ENJOYMENT of the participants and spectators. Let's keep it that way!

EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

24. All equipment and parts for this event, with the exception of PPE, will be provided by the VA AWWA Distribution System Committee and sponsors to include:
    a. Brass curb stops ¾" Mueller (H-B25204), Ford (B-22333)) or McDonald (6100) to be provided for each run. Curb stops provided shall be of the same manufacturer and model for each contestant.
    b. Type K copper tubing, ¾", 12' – 15' in length at the beginning of the event, but no less than 8' at any given time.
    c. Pipe wrenches, two (1), 14" REED Manufacturing Company (RW-14) or RIDGID (31020).
    d. Hammers, one (1), shall be a brass, 3 lb hammer for flaring, Mueller Co. (H-18025) or Reed Manufacturing Company (HAM3, 3lb, 06088).
    e. Adjustable (Crescent-type) wrenches, one (1), 12", Reed Manufacturing Company (CW 12) or RIDGID (86917).
    f. Tubing cutters, one (1), heavy duty, Reed Manufacturing Company (T-20) or RIDGID (32930). The contestant shall examine the cutting wheels before each run to determine their condition and ask the Officials for a replacement if necessary. THESE ARE THE ONLY CUTTERS ALLOWED.
    g. Flaring tools, one (1), Mueller Company (H-18005) or one (1), Reed (PRHF3 Item Code 06073) E-8. No lubrication of any type will be allowed on the end connectors, threads, or flaring tool.

PENALTIES

25. Various penalties will be assessed by the Head Official or designee for any infraction of the rules as described herein or for any flagrant violation of normal safety practices.
26. The penalties will be in the form of a predetermined number of seconds added to the total time of the team's event that will then be the OFFICIAL TIME of that event. Each of the contestant's two events will be considered separate for penalty points.
27. Contestants without proper personal safety apparel as prescribed above will not be allowed to compete until they have obtained the proper apparel in a reasonable amount of time during the contest.
28. Penalties shall be (in seconds):
    a. Leaking connections, barely oozing water and just discernable to the Officials, +10 each
    b. Slow, obviously dripping connection, +20 each
    c. Squirting, continuous leaking connection, +30 each
    d. Crimp in service line that will not pass ½" marble, +10 each
    e. Safety violation, +10 each
    f. Procedural Violation by any member of the Team +10
    g. Using the side of the hammer head to flare = +10

29. If the curb stop blows off of the pipe after time is stopped, the contestant's run is DISQUALIFIED.
30. For any disagreement with a penalty decision, the Head Judge's decision is final.

WHAT THE WINNER RECIEVES

31. The VA AWWA Annual Splish Splash Champion is automatically eligible for the next year's VA AWWA Splish Splash Competition as a special entry and is not counted as one of the Utility's entries.

32. The Champion will:
    a. Be presented with one traveling trophy to keep at the close of the competition for one year.
    b. Be presented with an individual trophy.
    c. May be featured on the VA AWWA website and in publications.
    d. Receive a stipend for expenses to attend the next AWWA ACE Conference (In general, expense reimbursement covers transportation costs to and from the convention site, hotel, and meals).
    e. Amount of Stipend will be determined in December of each year and will be based on location of the Annual AWWA ACE Conference. Amount will be no less than $1,000.
    f. Winners will be informed of the exact amount before ACE Registration opens
33. The Second and Third-place teams will:
    g. Be presented with individual trophies.
    h. May be featured on the VA AWWA website and in publications