

2026 OPERATION PUMPKIN / SOGPG OFFICIAL GPC-SANCTIONED WEIGH-OFF RULES

Hamilton, Ohio

GENERAL GPC RULES

1. Entries must be grown and cared for by the grower/team exhibiting them. The grower/team is expected to be present at the weigh-off unless an emergency absence is approved by weigh-off officials.
2. All entries must arrive **clean and free of chemical residue, soil, or other foreign substances** and are subject to inspection before unloading.
3. Vines must be trimmed to **within 1 inch of the stem** before judging and measuring.
4. All specimens must be **sound, healthy, and undamaged** and free from rot, holes, or cracks extending into the interior cavity.
5. Judges may inspect or probe questionable cracks, holes, soft spots, or other areas of concern. The grower must be present before these procedures are performed. Refusal to allow inspection will result in an **Exhibition Only (EXH)** classification.
6. For Atlantic Giant pumpkins and squash, a single damaged area greater than **3 inches in any direction** may result in a **DMG classification**, unless the area is dry and healed. More than two soft damaged areas requiring removal may also disqualify the fruit from official competition.
7. Squash must meet current **GPC color requirements** to qualify as squash. Entries that do not meet the GPC squash color requirements will be classified as pumpkins.
8. Only **one official entry per grower/team** is recognized for GPC competition. Additional accepted entries may be classified as exhibition entries. The grower must declare the official entry before competition.
9. A specimen previously entered in another competition **cannot subsequently be entered into competition at a GPC-sanctioned site**.
10. All judging and inspection must be completed **before the fruit is officially weighed**.

OPERATION PUMPKIN / SOGPG EVENT RULES

11. Pumpkins weighing under 1,000 lbs. are subject to being carved.
12. All pumpkins will remain on-site until Sunday, October 11, 2026, for public viewing.
13. Pumpkins may be picked up Sunday, October 11, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.
14. All prize payments and awards will be presented at the conclusion of the weigh-off.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 GIANT PUMPKIN WEIGH-OFF	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 OTHER GPC FRUIT
On-site deadline: 4:00 PM Weigh-off begins: 5:00 PM	On-site deadline: 10:00 AM Weigh-off begins: 11:00 AM

Saturday GPC Judging: All fruit competing in the Saturday weigh-off will be judged in accordance with current GPC guidelines. All qualifying entries will be submitted to the GPC for inclusion in the official GPC records and tracking system.

All entries are subject to final inspection and determination by the designated weigh-off judges and officials. GPC classifications and eligibility will be determined in accordance with the current Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC) Rules and Handbook.

Southern Ohio Giant Pumpkin Growers (SOGPG) • Operation Pumpkin - Hamilton, Ohio