

2025 Buddy Rider Rules

(Updated February 18, 2025)

PLEASE READ ALL RULES PRIOR TO APPLYING FOR A BUDDY SEAT. THERE ARE NO REFUNDS FOR ENTRY FEES.

ALL NEW BUDDY SEATS MUST BE REGISTERED NO LATER THAN **JULY 1, 2025. NO EXCEPTIONS. ANY REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 1, 2025.**

The Mackinac Bridge Authority (MBA) has given approval for Buddy Riders to participate in the Owosso Tractor Repair & Parts Antique Tractor Parade & Show 2025 / 17th Annual Mackinac Bridge Antique Tractor Crossing. A strict set of safety rules have been set in place. Each Buddy Rider must abide by these rules set forth by Owosso Tractor Repair & Parts and approved by the MBA. These rules must be agreed to by participating Buddy Riders, driver and club President.

BUDDY RIDER REQUIREMENTS

- Each Buddy Rider must be at least 16 years or older to ride next to the driver in the parade on the tractor. Tractor driver must be 18 years old, as described in the event Rules and Regulations.
- Buddy Riders aged 13-15 will be allowed to participate in the 2025 Crossing. These riders must be on a bench seat behind the driver. An adult (18+) must accompany the 13–15-year old's on the bench seat.
- NO ONE UNDER THE AGES LISTED BELOW IS ALLOWED ON THE TRACTOR WHILE ON THE MACKINAC BRIDGE.
- Each Buddy Rider must be a member of the respective participating club. Some clubs have family membership. Contact your club board to verify if family members are included on their club roster.
 - ****IT IS UP TO THE CLUB WHETHER OR NOT THEY ACCEPT BUDDY RIDERS. SOME CLUBS MAY ALLOW 16+ BUT NOT 13-15 AND SOME MAY NOT ALLOW AT ALL. PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR CLUB BEFORE SIGNING UP****

BUDDY SEAT REQUIREMENTS

All new buddy seats, seats that have been modified (including switching tractors) or any seat not approved in the last five years will need to submit an online pre-approval form, located on our website (www.mackinacbridgecrossing.com). Any seat submitted that has not read the rules will be denied and will not be able to re-apply for 2025. We may cap the number of new buddy riders allowed for 2025 and will provide that information by March 15, 2025.

Any seat deemed unsafe will be denied. Any changes to the seat after approval and before the event need to be submitted to Owosso Tractor Repair & Parts. Seats will be inspected prior to the event and may be disqualified if deemed unsafe or inaccurately represented in photos. Safety is our top priority.

Approval may take up to three weeks after submittal. You will be emailed an approval number, list of changes or denial and the reason why.

Failure to follow the buddy rider rules will result in removal from the event and potential disqualification of future events and is the discretion of Owosso Tractor Repair & Parts and/or the Club President.

Photo Requirements

- At least six photos of different angles of the seat must be submitted upon time of registration. These photos should show how the seat is bolted on and include all requirements listed below (including but not limited to fenders, how seat is bolted on, grab handle, brake drum cover, foot rest, etc.)

1. All Buddy Rider seats must be secured to the tractor beside the driver if possible. No Buddy Rider will be directly behind the driver unless there is a safety bumper separate from the seat frame. No Buddy Rider will be ahead of the driver. No buddy rider may sit over the fender.
 2. Seat must not be rusted out or welded up.
 3. Tractor must have fenders to protect the Buddy Rider from the tractor tires.
 4. There can be absolutely no interference to the driver's ability to drive the tractor across the Mackinac Bridge or the entire parade route safely. This includes tractor steering, clutch, brakes, and vision of the driver. The driver must always have full control of the tractor. At no time will the Buddy Rider be allowed to have control of the tractor.
 5. All tractors with rotating parts (i.e. brake drums) near the tractor's operating station will be required to have guards covering these parts to protect Buddy Rider and driver.
 6. Absolutely no Buddy Rider seats mounted directly to the rear straight drawbar only.
 7. Buddy rider seat must be fixed, not using the hitch to lift up and down.
 8. All seats must have a secure and safe back support for the rider. Even if the tractor may have a seat for a rider from the factory, it will still need to be approved by Owosso Tractor Repair & Parts.
 9. A grab handle must be secured to the tractor for the Buddy Rider's safety during the parade. Seat belt use is at the sole discretion of the Buddy Rider. Those using seat belts should read about the pros and cons of using a seat belt on a farm tractor. The <http://nasdonline.org/document/940/d000778/use-tractors-with-rops-to-save-lives.html> advises against the use of seat belts on a tractor unless the tractor is equipped with a ROPS (Roll Over Protection System). Visit the above website for more information. If a seat belt is used by the Buddy Rider, it must be installed securely and safely on the tractor.
 10. OTPE and the MBA assume no liability for Buddy Riders, the tractor or the driver during this entire event.
 11. All buddy rider seats must face forward.
 12. Club officials have the right to deny any Buddy Rider or driver during this event
 13. Owosso Tractor has the right to amend or modify these rules at its discretion
 14. By signing the Participant Form, the Buddy Rider agrees to abide by the above rules. Failure to comply with these rules will disqualify the individual and the buddy rider from participating in the event.
- OTPE and the MBA will be enforcing these rules prior to and during the event.
- Comments or questions concerning the Buddy Rider Rules can be sent to bridgecrossinginfo@owossotractor.com.