

RULES & REGULATIONS of the MIGHTY HOWARD COUNTY FAIR

GENERAL RULES

NOTE: Fair Management reserves final and absolute right to interpret these Rules and Regulations and to settle and determine arbitrarily all matters regarding exhibiting or selling at the Howard County Fair.

1. The term "Board" as found in these rules & regulations refers to the Board of Directors of the Howard County Agricultural Society.
2. Violation of any of these Rules and Regulations, and the Show Ring Code of Ethics, of the Fair, shall result in disciplinary action by a committee, acting for and appointed by the Board.
3. The Howard County Agricultural Society reserves to its Board the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incidental to the fair.
4. All rules in this premium book will be adhered to and no exceptions made.
5. In the event of conflict between the general and special rules, the latter will govern.
6. The Society will use diligence to insure the safety of stock or articles after their arrival and placement, but in no case will the Society be responsible for any theft, accident or loss of property that might occur.
7. The Board of Directors will be in session at the Fair office each day of the Fair for the transaction of any necessary business. Meeting times will be posted in the Fair Office.
8. The promiscuous distribution of handbills or other advertising matter is prohibited, and no tacking or posting of advertising, bills, cards, etc., will be permitted on any buildings or elsewhere. The only posting of advertising materials allowed will be the promotion of official Fair sponsors, and such advertising of official Fair sponsors will be under the control of the Fair Secretary or Manager.
9. No horses, bicycles, mopeds, motorcycles, or other motorized vehicles may be ridden in the immediate area of livestock barns, exhibit buildings, or outdoor exhibit areas. Only golf carts used by Fair personnel allowed. Refer to "Policy Statement in Reference to Disabled Persons" printed elsewhere in these rules & regulations.
10. No animal shall be allowed to run at large on the grounds. All animals, including pets, must be on a leash, confined to a cage or otherwise restrained. While every precaution will be taken for safe keeping of the same the Fair Board will in no case be responsible for loss or damage that may occur.
11. No person can serve on an awarding committee or advisory committee in any department, in which the person may directly, or indirectly, be interested in the result, as owner, agent or otherwise. The Board shall govern appointment of persons serving on such committees, as well as appointment of department superintendents.
12. No alcoholic beverages allowed on the fairgrounds, with the exception of the licensed beverage area as governed by the Society. Consumption of alcoholic beverage allowed in the licensed beverage area only. Any persons found to have in possession, and/or consuming alcoholic beverages outside of the licensed beverage area will have beverages confiscated, and could face criminal charges if the situation is determined to warrant the filing of criminal charges.
13. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages allowed in the youth areas of the fairgrounds and no alcohol may be consumed during any competitions, shows or other judging involving youth. Violation of this rule will result in the disqualification of the family from all activities and competitions of the Fair, forfeiture of all premiums, awards and other prizes earned by the family and the filing of criminal charges on the offending persons.

JUDGING & JUDGES

1. Judges are required to read carefully the general rules and special rules under the heading of the department in which they are to serve, previous to entering upon their duties, and to specifically note and mark those bearing on the classes to be judged by them. Judges are required to meet with department superintendent and Fair office prior to the show to finalize show schedule and rules.
2. Judges must not award prizes to an unworthy animal or exhibit. It is the intention of the Fair Board that no premium or distinction of any kind shall be given to an exhibit that is not deserving. This rule must be strictly adhered to whether there is competition or not.
3. Where there are fewer entries in the class than the number of premiums offered, judges may in their discretion, award a prize or prizes of such grade as the exhibit deserves.
4. Judges must report to the Superintendent of the department any exhibitor, who in any way, whether in person or by agents interfere with them during the judging, or showing any disrespect to them. Whereupon the Superintendent shall, at his discretion, demand a proper apology or exclude him from further competition, and the Board may withhold from such exhibitor any premiums earned, and expel them from further exhibiting at the Fair.
5. In the case of all junior departments, absolutely no parental participation in the judging is allowed. The exhibitor is responsible for the actions of his/her parents, guardians, and other family members and friends that intercede in the judging of that exhibitor.
6. The judge and person acting as clerk to the judge must take special pains after making an award to see that the same is properly entered in the award class.
7. The decision of every judge shall be final in all cases, except where error, fraud, misrepresentation, or collusion, discovered at time of award is obvious. In such case, the Superintendent may render a decision.

ENTRIES

1. All entries must be filed with the department superintendent and in its proper place at the time listed.
2. All entries must be made on forms provided by the Fair.
3. Should any individual enter an animal or article in a name other than the bona fide owner or attempt to perpetrate a fraud by misrepresenting any fact, the entry thus made shall not be allowed to compete for any premiums. In case as to the age of any animal, the superintendent shall appoint an expert whose decision will be final.
4. Exhibits, which may have been erroneously entered, may, at the digression of the Fair Secretary and the Superintendent of the department, be transferred to their proper class previous to judging. In case such classes have been judged they shall not be re-judged.
5. No animal can be entered or exhibited as a purebred unless the same has been recorded in the recognized books of record for their respective breeds, and exhibitors must produce certificates of registry at the request of the Superintendent in charge any time during the Fair.
6. Stall and pens will not be reserved unless the required fee accompanies application. All stall or pen rates will be doubled when occupied by animals not exhibited.
7. All premiums and awards earned by an Exhibitor will be forfeited if the Exhibitor's entries, or any part of the entries, are removed before the designated checkout time. This also applies to any entries left after designated checkout time.
8. The Society, its superintendents and office personnel are not responsible for articles left at the Fair.
9. Fair Office and department superintendents make stall assignments. Any changes made in stall assignments without permission of Fair Office and Superintendent will result in forfeiture of all awards and premiums earned by the exhibitor(s) involved. In case of involvement by non-exhibitors, those exhibitor(s) who benefit from the situation will be penalized.

PROTESTS

1. All protests must be made in writing and accompanied by a deposit of \$30 in the livestock department and \$20 in all other departments, which will be forfeited if protest is not sustained.
2. Such protest must state plainly the cause of the complaint or appeal, and must be filed with the Secretary within 12 hours after cause of protest.
3. The Board will consider no complaint or appeal based upon the statement that the judge or judges are incompetent.
4. Where the protest is to be made against the competition of an animal or article in any class, notice of the same should be filed with the Superintendent of the department before the class is passed upon, that the judges may be instructed to place a reserve award, that premiums may be properly distributed in the event of the protest being sustained.
5. The person(s), exhibitor, or agent of the same, who the protest decision is rendered against, shall pay all costs incurred in resolving the protest, including fees paid to persons hired by the Board to test, investigate and evaluate the animal or article that has been protested.

PREMIUMS & AWARDS

1. Full premiums in the open classes will be mailed to exhibitor as soon after the Fair as possible.
2. Premiums earned by 4-H and FFA exhibitors will be sent to their respective clubs for distribution by the club treasurer.
3. The standard colors of awards will be used: Champion - Royal Purple; First - Blue; Second - Red; Third - White.
4. Should circumstances beyond the control of the Society prevent the usual income and thus diminish the funds so far as to fall short of funds to pay premiums in full they will be paid pro rata.
5. Special prizes will not be accepted for classes that do not conform to the regular classifications of the department in which they are offered unless for urgent reasons satisfactory to the Board and the Superintendent of the department in which they are offered.
6. Specials are limited to money prizes or articles of intrinsic value. Cups, medals, or other articles offered as special must be in the hands of the Secretary on opening day of the Fair or awards will not be made. The Board, in no way, will guarantee the delivery of such prizes offered.
7. No animals will be awarded a prize unless promptly brought into the show ring when class is called.
8. All entries will compete for listed premiums in the Class or Class Lot they are entered in. Should any Classes or Class Lots be combined for any reason, premiums will be paid for the Class or Class Lot the entries are competing in. Premiums will not be combined between Classes or Class Lots.
9. The Society will have absolute jurisdiction over all awards, premiums and trophies presented to exhibitors. Any special awards, other than those presented by the Society, must first be approved by the Society.

CONCESSIONS AND COMMERCIAL EXHIBITORS

1. All desiring to obtain leases for the sale of articles or for exhibitions must pay the price of such permits in advance. Contracts issued by the Fair office must be returned by the deadline date with payment in full for space fee, both as specified on the contract or the contract will be voided and the space will be leased to another exhibitor.
2. Set up hours for commercial exhibits and concessions will be Monday from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. of Fair week.
3. Space assigned and not occupied before Noon Wednesday, the first day of the Fair will be forfeited.
4. Commercial exhibit spaces must be occupied by the lessee by Noon on Wednesday of the Fair and remain in place until 7:30 p.m. on Sunday of the Fair. Inside display hours will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Saturday from Noon to 10:30 p.m. and Sunday from Noon to 7:30 p.m. Outside concessions and exhibitors may open earlier and remain open later if so desired.
5. Any lessee of space leaving before designated time loses right to return to the Fair, unless expressed permission has been secured from the Fair Office. Lessee also forfeits any deposits made to Fair for the space.
- 6. No parking of vehicles, unless a part of the concession, will be allowed around the exhibit and central building complex. Vehicles may enter the area to load/unload goods or exhibits only. No vehicles are allowed in this area from 10:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., unless expressed permission is received from the fair office.**
7. All special electrical and water hookups will be charged to exhibitor and collected for at time of hookup.
8. All concessions must furnish the Fair proof of product liability insurance for products sold. Those who do not have insurance must apply through the Fair office for proper insurance coverage, at a rate set by the Board of Directors of the Fair. Concessionaires will not be allowed to lease space without proper insurance and proof of such.
9. Charge for camping, electrical needs and water needs must be made with the Fair office.
10. All campers must park in the campground of the fairgrounds, and pay fees for camping as set by the Fair Office.
11. All food concessionaires shall cause to be posted in a conspicuous manner, at the front or entrance of place of business, a sign showing the price charged for meals, lunches, drinks or other articles of food offered for sale.
12. Exhibitors may advertise and distribute from their assigned concession space only.
13. No part of a commercial exhibit, inside or outside, may be in any way attached to any buildings and other property of the Fair. All exhibits must be free standing.
14. Expo Center exhibitors are prohibited from using nails, pins or other metal fasteners on walls and ceilings of Expo Center. Only approved tape may be used. At no time may any inside exhibitor hang or attach any signs, materials, banners, articles and such from light fixtures and/or any part of the ceiling.
15. Any commercial concession wanting to sell its product in the grandstand during the shows must first receive permission from the Fair office and pay any fees deemed appropriate by the office. All persons selling for vendors during the grandstand shows must pay the normal admission price to the shows.
16. A contracted concession or commercial exhibitor cannot sub-lease exhibit space to another party.
17. All commercial and food concessions must pay local and state sales tax on their food and goods sold, and must provide to the Fair the Federal ID number, Iowa State Sales Tax number and/or personal Social Security number of the owner or agent of the concession. Temporary Iowa sales tax forms are available at the Fair office.
18. The Society will carefully guard against extortion in any form being practiced on the patrons of the Fair. A violation of the rule will cause forfeiture of contracts, money paid, and the expulsion from the grounds.

SUPERINTENDENTS

1. Each Superintendent shall have full charge of his, or her, department. They shall have the authority to select assistants and helpers unless otherwise provided, subject to the approval of the Board.
2. It shall be the duty and responsibility of Superintendents of departments, in cooperation with the Fair Board, to make and enforce such rules and interpretations as may be needed to insure proper functioning of departments. This shall cover eligibility and handling of entries, and all matters of procedures and conduct on part of exhibitors, in their relationship with the Fair, other exhibitors, and judging officials. Decisions shall be made that will carry out the policy of the Fair, to serve all interests in a dignified and beneficial manner with absolute fairness to all.

LIVESTOCK

1. All animals presented for exhibition at the Fair shall be subject to daily inspection during the Fair. Should any animal be found to be affected with any contagious, infectious or communicable disease, it shall be immediately removed.
2. An animal will be disqualified from exhibition if the animal's conformation (body shape) has been altered in any way to change the appearance of the animal; also included are diuretics before and after weighing or falsifying the age.
3. Any exhibitor with animals requiring medical attention for any reason will go through the following steps:
 - a. Notify Superintendent of the department.
 - b. Superintendent will contact the Fair veterinarian to inspect the animal in question.
 - c. Upon diagnosis a licensed veterinarian will determine if treatment is necessary. If treatment is necessary the owner's veterinarian will be notified to treat animal unless owner requests Fair veterinarian to treat the animal.
 - d. Animals requiring treatment will be removed from the Fair, if deemed necessary. If an animal is requested to be removed from the Fair by the Superintendent, it must be done so immediately.
4. All animals shown from the same family or from the same farming unit shall be considered as one exhibitor (no competition). No champion will be named and only standard ribbons and premium money will be awarded in the case of no competition.
5. Livestock must remain in place until posted release time of the Fair. Anyone removing livestock before release time without consent of Superintendent will lose all premiums awarded.
6. All animals must be raised in their natural environment. No artificial means shall be allowed.
7. When only one entry is exhibited in a class, the quality of the individual entry determines the award. A class does not necessarily have to have a blue or red award if the projects do not merit the placing.
8. All entries will compete for listed premiums in the class or class lot they are entered in. Should any classes or class lots be combined for any reason, premiums will be paid for the class or class lot the entries are competing in. Premiums will not be combined between classes or class lots.
9. Purebred calves may be registered in the name of the member or jointly as father and son or daughter.
10. Paper bedding is NOT allowed. Bedding is to be straw, wood chips or the like.
11. All awards and premiums earned by exhibitor will be withheld if stalls are not cleaned at close of Fair.
12. All swine, market beef and market lambs must be ear tagged (late ear tags will not be accepted).
13. Aisles in all barns must be kept open at all times. Grooming chutes are allowed only in designated areas. Animals are to be groomed in their own stall/pen, or if more room is needed, outside of barn in area set aside for grooming by the Superintendent of the department. Designated areas for grooming chutes will be posted.
14. Any exhibitor who in any way, whether in person or by agents, interferes with the judging procedure shall forfeit or cause forfeiture of all awards and premiums he/she would have gotten for that department.
15. The decision of every judge shall be final in all cases, except where error, fraud, misrepresentation, or collusion, discovered at time of award is obvious. In such case, Superintendent may render a decision.
16. Fair Management reserves final and absolute right to interpret these Rules and Regulations and to settle and determine arbitrarily all matters regarding exhibiting or selling at the Howard County Fair.
17. Refer to "PENALTIES" in regards to penalties and sanctions for violation of any of the rules listed in this area.

PENALTIES

1. All premiums and awards earned by an exhibitor will be forfeited if the exhibitor's entries, or any part of the entries, are removed before the designated checkout time. This also applies to any entries left after designated checkout time.
2. Any lessee of commercial exhibit space leaving before designated time loses right to return to the Fair, unless expressed permission has been secured from the Fair Office. Lessee also forfeits any deposits made to Fair for the space.
3. Any person(s) consuming alcohol in the youth areas of the fairgrounds, and/or during any competitions, shows or other judging involving youth will result in the disqualification of the family from all activities and competitions of the Fair, forfeiture of all premiums, awards and other prizes earned by the family and the filing of criminal charges on the offending persons.
4. In regards to violations in livestock departments the following penalties shall be placed upon the exhibitor:
 - a. Any violation shall result in immediate disqualification of the animal(s) from the department that the violation occurred in and forfeiture of all premiums and awards earned, and disqualification from the ribbon auction. Violations for this penalty shall include, but not limited to:
 - i. Intervention of judging by family and/or friends
 - ii. Changing stall assignments without consent of the department superintendent and/or Fair office.
 - iii. Failure to care, feed and water animal(s).
 - iv. The grooming of animals by parties other than the exhibitor and his/her family.
 - v. Failure to comply with direction of, or intervention with the duties of, the department superintendent.
 - vi. The animal(s) have been found to be entered in, or shown at, another 4-H and/or FFA achievement show or fair.
 - vii. Other violations as determined by the superintendent and/or Fair office.
 - viii. Should the exhibitor violate another rule the following year that the exhibitor has been disqualified due to any of the previously mentioned rules, the exhibitor shall be in "serious violation" of the rules and section "b." shall apply.
 - b. If a serious violation of the rules is found, the following shall be sanctioned upon the exhibitor, and the exhibitor's family if they are deemed involved with the violation;
 - i. The exhibitor and family shall be barred from exhibiting in all livestock departments at the Howard County Fair and the Iowa State Fair for the next calendar year's fair.
 - ii. The exhibitor and family shall be barred from exhibiting in the livestock department that the violation occurred at the Howard County Fair and the Iowa State Fair for the next two calendar year fairs.
 - iii. The exhibitor, and the exhibitor's family, shall be placed on probation for the remainder of their years eligible to exhibit. Any further violation of the rules and regulations of the Fair shall permanently bar the exhibitor, and the exhibitor's family they are deemed involved with the violation, from exhibiting at the Howard County Fair and the Iowa State Fair.
 - iv. In the case of a serious violation of these rules, the name of the exhibitor and family, and the particulars of the violation(s) shall be forwarded to the International Association of Fairs and Expositions to be placed in a file that could prevent exhibition at livestock shows in the United States and Canada. Refer to guideline #10 in the Show Ring Code of Ethics.
 - v. Serious violations shall include, but not limited to;
 1. Altering the conformation of an animal by artificial means.
 2. Administering illegal drugs, or drugs that are not prescribed by a licensed veterinarian.
 3. Falsifying records in regards to ownership, age, or any facts thereto.
 4. Misrepresenting an exhibit, such as switching an animal(s) after they have been officially weighed in or otherwise entered.
 5. Other violations as determined by the superintendent and/or Fair office.