

# SOUTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITIONS

*Revised January 30, 2018*

## BUILDING EXHIBITS BY DEPARTMENT

- Fine Art (Adults Only)
- Student Art (K-12)
- Agriculture
- Flower
- Home & Craft

## LIVESTOCK SHOWS BY DEPARTMENT

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Dairy Goat
- Sheep
- Smallstock
- Swine
- Youth Horse
- Youth Meat Goat

## COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

1. Agriculture, Fine Art (Adults Only), Flower, Home & Craft, and Student Art (K-12) competitions are limited to residents of the State of South Carolina.
2. Only South Carolina youth who intend to attend a South Carolina school (college, university, etc.) are eligible to receive livestock scholarships.
3. Open livestock competition is "Open to the World".
4. Youth Meat Goat competition is limited to South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia youth; however, only South Carolina youth may participate in the Project Market Weight Class.

## ENTRY REGISTRATION PERIODS

1. The Open Entry Registration Period for all departments runs July 1 - Sept. 1.
2. There is no Late Entry Registration Period for Smallstock.
3. Late Entry Registration Periods differ with each department and are noted in the **Online Exhibit Guide**.
4. Entries in any department received during the Late Entry Registration Period are subject to a \$25 Late Fee per exhibitor.
5. Entries received following close of the department Late Registration Period will not be accepted.

## FEES

1. Exhibitor and Entry fees are defined within the **Online Exhibit Guide**.
2. Checks will not be accepted following Sept. 1, the close of the Open Entry Registration Period. Any fees owed must be paid in cash, or Money Order, or MasterCard or Visa credit/debit card.
3. Fees paid at time of registration are non-refundable.
4. An Exhibitor Fee of \$7.00, in addition to Entry Fees (which vary with each department), are required for the following departments or divisions:
  - Open Dairy Cattle, \$10 per head
  - Open Beef Cattle, \$5 per head
  - Dairy Goat, \$3 per pen
  - Open Sheep, \$3 per pen
  - Smallstock (w/exception of Wildlife Division), \$2 per animal
  - Open Swine, \$1 per animal
  - Youth Horse, \$5 per class
5. There are no entry fees required in the following building and junior departments/divisions:
  - Agriculture
  - Flowers
  - Home & Craft
  - Fine Art
  - Student Art
  - \*Junior Dairy Cattle
  - \*Junior Beef Cattle
  - \*Junior Swine
  - Youth Meat Goat

(\*exception if shown in name of farm)

## **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER**

The South Carolina State Fair does not require a Social Security number for exhibitors who receive a monetary payment from the fair for premiums/awards of \$599 or less. If the premiums/awards total in excess of \$599, the South Carolina State Fair requires a signed W-9 prior to payment.

## **APPLICATION FOR ENTRY**

All applicants for entry to exhibit any animal or article in the Fair must be registered using one of the following methods:

1. Online Entry at <http://www.scfairgrounds.com/oes/index.php> or
2. Download an official SC State Fair entry form (current year) and mail to the address indicated on the entry form, or deliver it to the SC State Fairgrounds, Dowling Administration Building, 1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia SC 29201.

## **LATE ENTRIES**

A Late Fee of \$25.00 per exhibitor will be imposed during the Late Entry Registration Period.

## **ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS**

Animal Health Requirements are noted on the **Online Exhibit Guide** on each department Index page in the rules and regulations.

## **DELIVERY OF EXHIBITS**

Date, time, and location of delivery are defined in the **Online Exhibit Guide**, on each department Index page, and on the Official entry forms.

## **JUDGING OF EXHIBITS**

1. No unworthy animal or article will be awarded premium (prize) money.
2. Judges are instructed not to award any animal or article solely because of its presence.
3. No award will be given to any animal or article that does not possess high intrinsic merit.
4. If only one (1) animal or one (1) article is exhibited in a class, the premium awarded is left to the discretion of the judges.
5. When animals or articles are not deemed worthy, judges will not award premium (prize) money, whether or not there is competition in the class.
6. Dates and times of judging are noted on the **Online Exhibit Guide** for each department.

## **RELEASE OF EXHIBITS**

1. Release dates and times are defined in the **Online Exhibit Guide** for each department and on the Official entry forms.
2. Agriculture, Fine Art, Home & Craft, Flower, and Student Art exhibitors are encouraged to claim their exhibits and ribbons on the release day(s) stated in the **Online Exhibit Guide** (which differ with each department).
3. Unclaimed exhibits and awards following the published release times become property of the SC State Fair.
4. Any exhibitor removing animals or other exhibits before the official published release date and time for that department, without written consent of the superintendent, will forfeit all prizes and premiums.

## **PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS (PRIZE MONEY)**

1. Exhibitors awarded over \$599.00 must produce a valid, signed W-9 to be awarded premium monies.
2. Premiums (prize monies) will be paid within thirty (30) days after the close of the Fair.
3. Premium checks not cashed in ninety (90) days of issue date become void and will not be reissued.
4. Lost or stolen premium checks will not be reissued past sixty (60) days of original issue date.
5. No claim that a premium(s) has not been paid, or that there was a discrepancy in payment of the premium(s) won, will be considered when claim is made later than November 30 following the Fair.

## **PROTEST & APPEAL**

1. No protest based on the statement that the judge or judges were incompetent will be considered.
2. Protest upon any other grounds must be presented in written form to Fair Management within twenty-four (24) hours of the protested action.
3. All questions of dispute with interpretation of rules shall be referred to Fair Management whose decision shall be final.

## **RULE INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT**

1. The South Carolina State Fair reserves to Fair Management the right to interpret the above rules and regulations and determine all matters pertaining thereto; also the right to amend or add such rules as warranted. Violation of any of these regulations shall cause forfeiture of all privileges, prize money and the rights to further participation by the violator. This shall apply to all departments of the South Carolina State Fair.
2. In the event South Carolina State Fair rules conflict with other affiliated organizations/associations, the South Carolina State Fair management reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions or differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incident to the South Carolina State Fair. It further reserves the right to determine unforeseen matters not covered by these rules, to amend or add to these rules as they, in their judgment, may deem advisable.

3. All exhibitors are expected to conform to the South Carolina State Fair Rules & Regulations. Any person who violates any of the following or special rules will forfeit all privileges and premiums and be subject to such penalty as the management may order. Failure to comply may result in award(s) and premium(s) forfeiture; and/or dismissal from the Fairgrounds, and/or being barred from competition immediately in the department in which the violation occurred and/or from all departments entered; and/or in future competition in the South Carolina State Fair.
4. In the event of conflict between the general rules and the special rules governing the various departments, the special rules will govern. The following due process will be used in the questions of a rule violation:
  - a. The exhibitor and/or parties involved will be questioned by the Department Superintendent.
  - b. If it is felt that a violation has occurred, the Department Superintendent will inform State Fair management. Fair Managers will consider the violation and make a ruling.

## LIVESTOCK COMPETITIONS

### SC STATE FAIR DECISION REVIEW PROCEDURE: DEFINITIONS & ESCALATION SEQUENCE:

1. Complaint (Verbal):
  - a. Express verbal opinion on a decision or matter;
  - b. Usually made to South Carolina State Fair staff (not necessarily Superintendent).
2. Complaint (Written):
  - a. Express written opinion on a decision or matter;
  - b. Must remit to Department Superintendent.
3. Protest:
  - a. Action requesting the review of a decision by a third party;
  - b. Must be requested in writing;
  - c. Must be initiated within prescribed timeframe; Department Superintendent must address the situation with a formal ruling.
4. Appeal:
  - a. Protester has the opportunity to address South Carolina State Fair management;
  - b. Appeal is considered by the General Manager and decision is final.

### GENERAL PROCEDURE:

1. Complaint:
  - a. Verbal complaints may be conveyed at any time and are considered unofficial. Complaints will be considered by South Carolina State Fair employees but do not require immediate action.
  - b. Written complaints are considered official. A complaint issued during the event will be filed with the Superintendent and included in his/her final State Fair report. The action does not require immediate (during the State Fair) formal action or decision. Rather, written complaints may be evaluated after the conclusion of the State Fair and discussed within program reviews and/or considered while making program enhancements. **[Please Note: Written complaints may be hand-delivered to the South Carolina State Fair General Manager, Dowling Building, 1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia 29201 or mailed to the South Carolina State Fair General Manager, P. O. Box 393, Columbia SC 29202. The General Manager may respond to the written complaint. To be considered, written complaints must be dated and signed by the party remitting the complaint, with complete contact information, and may be subject to open records requests. E-mail correspondence, fax, telephone calls and/or voicemails are not acceptable.]**
2. Protest:
  - a. A protest must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent.
  - b. The written protest must include the specific concern and justification for the protest.
  - c. The Superintendent may discuss verbally with protesting party but must respond in writing, explaining the rationale for any decision rendered.
  - d. Superintendents must provide a copy of the protest and their response to the General Manager after the decision has been rendered or concern addressed.
3. Appeal:
  - a. An appeal to a Superintendent's decision must be submitted to the entry office using an official South Carolina State Fair appeal document.
  - b. All appeals will be considered by a review committee comprised of the General Manager, Assistant General Manager, Department Superintendent, and Show Chair, if applicable.
  - c. The review committee may choose to speak with the protesting party and/or Superintendent to assist them in making a recommendation.
  - d. The General Manager will summarize the recommendation of the review committee and communicate the final ruling on the issue.
  - e. In addition to the review committee, the South Carolina State Fair reserves the right to discuss the issue that is the subject of the appeal with South Carolina State Fair Board members, legal counsel or other parties relevant to assisting in rendering a satisfactory conclusion to an issue.
  - f. The decision of the review committee is final and not subject to further appeal.

### **BEFORE AN ANIMAL IS SHOWN** (i.e. the actual competitive event):

1. If the show management suspects that a violation of the Show Ring Code of Ethics and/or published South Carolina State Fair rules and regulations will occur if an animal is shown, and that violation is reasonably well established before the animal is shown, the show management will submit a report to the show Superintendent.
2. The Show Superintendent will discuss the potential violation with the exhibitor; and If, at the exhibitor's discretion, the animal in question is not shown, no violation will have occurred;
3. If the exhibitor wishes to challenge that a violation will occur/ has occurred, he/she will have the opportunity to appeal to the Show Superintendent and/or review committee.
4. If the decision is not changed, the exhibitor will be denied the opportunity to exhibit the animal in question.

### **DURING AND AFTER AN ANIMAL IS SHOWN** (i.e. the actual competitive event):

1. All animals are subject to examination prior to, during and after judging.
2. A violation may be considered as a result of failure to comply with guidelines, rules and regulations as established by recognized breed associations, the judge, the review committee, and/or show management.
3. If an animal is exhibited and a violation is subsequently suspected, investigated, and determined to have occurred, the violation will be reported to the review committee and show management for action.
4. The exhibitor will be notified of the violation and any supporting evidence and invited to defend or explain the allegations.
5. Violations are subject to the disciplinary provisions of show management and the national breed association.
6. Sanctions may include any one or a combination of the following: Forfeiture or return of awards, prizes, premiums or proceeds;
7. Written letter of reprimand to the owner, exhibitor, fitter or absolutely responsible person;
8. Disqualification of the exhibition livestock from an exhibition;
9. Disqualification of the exhibitor from the show;
10. Publication of offense (as these actions may be subject to open records review).
11. Disqualification may include any or all shows and classes and may be for any number of years.

### **JUDGING/AWARDS REVIEWS:**

1. A verbal complaint may be conveyed at any time and are considered unofficial. Complaints will be considered by South Carolina State Fair employees but do not require immediate action.
2. A written complaint is considered official. Written complaints pertaining to the qualifications or potential conflicts of interest of a judge must be made two (2) weeks prior to the judging date. The complaint must clearly state the issue(s) and/or concern(s). The written complaint may be hand-delivered to the South Carolina State Fair General Manager, Dowling Building, 1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia SC 29201 or mailed to SC State Fair, General Manager, P. O. Box 393, Columbia SC 29202. The General Manager may respond to the written complaint. To be considered, written complaints must be dated and signed by the party remitting the complaint, with complete contact information, and may be subject to open records requests. E-mail correspondence, fax, telephone calls and/or voicemails are not acceptable. The decision of judges will be final in all cases except where fraud, misrepresentation or collusion not discovered at the time of the award is proven. In such cases, the General Manager or his/her designee will consider relevant evidence and render a decision. The General Manager reserves the right to discuss this issue with South Carolina State Fair Board members, the South Carolina State Fair Superintendents, legal counsel or other parties relevant to assisting in rendering a satisfactory conclusion to an issue.
3. Protests and appeals against awards must be filed with the appropriate Superintendent within five (5) hours of the award being presented. An award is deemed to have been presented when the notation of the decision is entered on the official judging sheets. A protest must clearly and specifically state the facts upon which the protest or appeal is based. Overturning a judging decision will be considered when it is determined that an award has been made that may be in violation of the rules governing the exhibit. Judges are selected through a formal process involving recommendations and proper due diligence shall include any injection of gas, solid or liquid to alter the normal conformation. In consideration of this, protests and appeals based solely on unsubstantiated concerns questioning the competency of judges will not be considered. Parties involved will be notified and given the opportunity to submit evidence before a final decision is made. All decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

### **ETHICS:**

1. Exhibitors agree to accept any and all testing systems/procedures selected by South Carolina State Fair to verify rule compliance.
2. Tampering, and/or inhumane treatment; and/or misrepresentation as to breeding, age, ownership, milk status of animals and any other irregularity in showing will be considered fraud and deception.
3. To maintain a high degree of confidence and integrity in the livestock shows, South Carolina State Fair reserves the right to disqualify any animal fitted in an unethical manner and disqualify the exhibitor.
4. Unethical fitting shall include any injection of gas, solid or liquid to alter the normal conformation.
5. Treating the udder internally or externally with an irritant or other substance to artificially improve conformation is prohibited. In addition, it shall include any cutting or tearing of the hide, cutting or tearing underneath the hide or removal of tissue in any attempt to alter the shape or appearance.

6. It shall also include attempts to disrupt or change normal dental development, dyeing or coloring hair, adding artificial tail heads, switches, polls, hair and heels, as well as any attempt to change the conformation and degree of firmness by administration of fluids internally or externally in a liquid or solid state.
7. The use of Clenbuterol is prohibited.
8. Setting teats or manipulating a teat to alter its normal position such as to unnaturally hold it plumb or alter its length is prohibited.
9. All exhibitors, their immediate family and any other parties involved in the unethical fitting, showing or misrepresentation of an animal will be subject to award(s) and premium(s) forfeiture, which may include the forfeiture of auction proceeds; and/or dismissal from the Fairgrounds; and/or being barred from competition immediately in the department in which the violation has occurred and/or from all departments entered; and/or in future competition in the South Carolina State Fair.

#### **ANIMAL TESTING:**

1. As a condition for participation at the South Carolina State Fair, every exhibitor must agree to submit any animal entered to inspection by a veterinarian appointed by the South Carolina State Fair management, and agrees to have such animal submitted to any tests as may be designated and requested by the veterinarian.
2. Exhibitors must agree the conclusion(s) reached by the veterinarian as to whether such animal is unethically fitted to be final.
3. Tissue, hair and/or blood samples or carcass evaluations that yield a positive answer to tampering or an unethical practice will be sufficient evidence to remove the rights and privileges of the exhibitor(s) and to be subject to award(s) and premium(s) forfeiture, which may include auction proceeds; and/or dismissal from the Fairgrounds; and/or being barred from competition immediately in the department in which the violation has occurred and/or being barred from competition immediately in the department in which the violation has occurred and/or from all departments.

#### **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS (IAFE) NATIONAL CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS:**

1. Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship.
2. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education.
3. This code applies to Junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition.
4. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show.
5. In addition to the "IAFE Code of Show Ring Ethics," fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels.
6. All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example.
7. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows.
8. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada.

The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

1. All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership and age of all animals entered.
2. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.
3. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.
4. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock shows.
5. Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of violated drug residues.
6. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing.
7. Animals not entered in an event which culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules.
8. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event. If the laboratory report on the analysis of saliva, urine, blood or other samples taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested by the laboratory, to which it is sent, is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise.

9. At any time after an animal arrives on the fair or livestock show premises, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.
10. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, conformation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
11. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.
12. Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during, or after the competitive event is prohibited.
13. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.
14. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individual to disciplinary action.
15. The application of this code of ethics for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.
16. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show for violation of this Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rules of competition of the fair or livestock show without recourse against the fair or livestock show.
17. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fairs and Expos and any special notices to members.
18. The act of entering of an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions provided by the code.
19. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions