

EXHIBITOR RULES

Exhibitors and patrons are sincerely requested to make constructive criticism and offer helpful suggestions toward improving any part of the North Carolina Mountain State Fair.

Please report any discourtesies by gatemen, concessionaires, showmen, or others connected with the Fair. If for any reason, there is a misunderstanding about admission at gates or elsewhere, please pay the admission price asked, take a receipt for same, and come directly to the Manager's office. Please do not block traffic and delay others by prolonged arguments with ticket-sellers or gatemen. They are working on strict orders from the management and are not allowed to vary from them.

Concessions and attractions are granted privileges on the grounds to supply the necessary wants, comforts, conveniences and pleasures of the patrons. The management will not accept or knowingly allow the continuance of any concession, show or other attractions of questionable nature or a demoralizing tendency nor will any concession be permitted where the business is conducted in other than a legitimate and legal manner.

Drunkenness, quarreling, or the use of profane or obscene language will not be allowed on the grounds. No begging will be permitted.

No peddling, hawking, or selling of any kind will be allowed in the buildings or on the grounds except by special license obtained from the Manager.

Any party or parties, firm or corporation owning buildings or material upon the North Carolina Mountain State Fairgrounds, without lease, or whose lease has expired, who shall fail to remove same upon order of the Manager within the time specified, shall forfeit all claim thereto, which expense of claim must be paid before material is released to the owner.

The management of the North Carolina Mountain State Fair reserves the right to amend, add to, and interpret the foregoing and following Rules and Regulations, and to arbitrarily settle and determine all questions and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incident to the Fair. In the event of conflict between the General Rules and the special rules which appear as head notes of the various divisions and departments of the Fair, the latter will take precedence.

Disregard of any rule, misrepresentation on the part of the exhibitor, concessionaire or patrons will forfeit all premiums won, privileges granted, fees paid, and rights to further participation in the Fair.

**** NO DRIVING on fairgrounds. All vehicles must be off grounds 30 minutes prior to gates opening or they must stay until gates are closed.****

EXHIBITS AND EXHIBITORS

The dates on which your exhibits must be in place at the North Carolina Mountain State Fair vary from one department to another. These dates are listed under the [Important Dates and Times](#) link and on each department page. Check these dates carefully so you can get your exhibits in place at the proper time to be judged.

Unclaimed exhibits will be considered abandoned if not picked up on **September 16 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.**, and may be disposed of as the Manager of the Fair sees fit. See Special Rules for the Culinary and Horticulture Departments.

Remember: All exhibits must be officially entered in the Fair online before the closing date for entries in the department. No article or animal will be entitled to space or considered in the judging until proper entry has been made. Removal of exhibits before the date and time specified will be cause for forfeiture of all awards won, all fees paid, and the right to further participate in the Fair.

Exhibit tags with corresponding numbers will be issued. Entry tags will be available on the entry receiving days. This tag must be securely attached to each exhibit and must remain on the exhibit throughout the Fair (exception: exhibit tags issued for livestock and poultry may be conspicuously displayed upon the stall, pen or coop).

Once the exhibit is numbered and tagged, it should be delivered to the Department Superintendent or Director who will allocate space and either personally arrange the exhibit in a suitable and attractive display or direct such action by the exhibitor. The North Carolina Mountain State Fair assumes no responsibility for the incorrect tagging of exhibits.

Division Directors and Department Superintendents will have full authority over allocation of space, and will have direct supervision of all exhibits which are considered on exhibition as a part of the Fair's attraction, subject to use as these Directors and Superintendents see fit to add to the educational values of the Fair.

All livestock must be cared for by the exhibitor. Stalls and pens, unless otherwise stated elsewhere, will be furnished by the Fair free of charge. Exhibitors will be required to furnish their own bedding, unless otherwise stated elsewhere, and keep all stalls and pens clean.

When exhibit tags are issued by the Entry Department for each article entered, a stub with a duplicate number will be given to the exhibitor to serve as his/her claim check to recover and secure the release of his/her exhibit. Claim checks should be guarded carefully, since Department Superintendents and Directors are not allowed to release any exhibit without presentation of the exhibit tag stub. If the claim check is lost, such loss should be reported promptly and it will be necessary for the exhibitor to furnish the Superintendent of the Entry Department proof of ownership of the article on exhibit.

The Fair management reserves the right to reject any exhibit which does not reflect merit and which would not be a credit to both the exhibitor and the Fair. Also, the right is reserved to reject exhibits which are deemed objectionable or unsuitable for exhibition. All entries are accepted conditionally pending inspection of the article or animal to be exhibited. Any article or animal which proves to be misrepresented or falsely classed will be rejected and the right of the exhibitor to further participation in the Fair will be denied.

Division Directors, Department Superintendents, and/or Judges must report disqualification of entries to the Manager of the Mountain State Fair immediately after such action is taken.

Under no circumstances will judging be considered official and awards paid in a class where disqualification is recommended until approval of the disqualification is obtained from the Fair Manager.

****Superintendents cannot enter in the department(s) that they are overseeing.****

JUDGING AND AWARDS

Decision of the judges will be final, and no appeal will be considered except in cases of protest in writing, with strong evidence of fraud or violation of the rules of the Fair. Protests must be filed with the Division Superintendent no later than noon of the day following the award, and must be accompanied by a protest fee of \$5 which will be retained by the Fair if the protest is not sustained. The Division Superintendent will appoint a committee to consider the protest, and all interested parties will be notified of the time of the hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard. The rules of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions governing appeals will be those of the North Carolina Mountain State Fair.

Judges will not award premiums to any article or animal because of its mere presence. It must be individually worthy. It is not the policy of the Fair to encourage indifferent production of any kind, or to distribute premiums equally among exhibitors. No premium will be awarded to any exhibit that does not possess high intrinsic merit.

Unless otherwise specified in the Department Rules and Regulations, **no exhibitor may be paid more than two premiums in any one individual class.**

No exhibitor may accompany judges during their deliberations except such attendants as are necessary to handle and show livestock and other such exhibits. **A Judge cannot judge in a department that he/she has entered an exhibit in.** Any exhibitor attempting to interfere with adjudication, or who publicly expresses disapproval of the decision of the judges, will be excluded from further competition and any premiums previously won will be forfeited.

The judge will have the right not to award a first place ribbon/premium if the item does not merit the placing. Awards in any class will be given only if merited.

Fraud or deception as to breeding, or in any other form, will be exposed and exhibitor guilty of such violation will be excluded from further participation in the Fair and all premiums previously won will be forfeited.

Premiums will be paid only on the basis of the records of the judging reports, which will be signed by the judge and by the Department Superintendent or Director. Ribbons will be securely attached to the articles upon which they were awarded, if possible, but the ribbons and pins have no value in the payment of premiums.

Online Entries Only!! Be sure to fill in the online form completely and accurately. Give your rural route number, post office box number, or city street address, zip code, **Social Security Number on the W-9 form**, and telephone number, including area code. Note that exhibitors who choose not to disclose their full Social Security Number or Federal ID on the W-9 form at the time of registration, **even if they have submitted an entry in the past**, forfeit any and all premiums.

NO PREMIUMS WILL BE RELEASED WITHOUT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR TAX ID NUMBER PLACED ON A W-9 FORM. IF THE NUMBER LISTED ON THE ENTRY FORM DOES NOT MATCH THE NAME ON THE ENTRY FORM WHEN GIVEN TO THE IRS, YOU COULD BE SUBJECT TO IRS FINES.

Entries made in wrong classes may be reclassified by the Entry Department Staff. Records must be changed when entries are reclassified. If the records are altered and the entry department files are not changed, premiums will be withheld.

“Any other” or “Miscellaneous” categories at the end of each area are only for items that are not listed in preceding categories. They shall not be used for duplications.

Judges, when requested, may give the reasons for their decisions embracing the value and desirable qualities of the exhibits to which they have awarded premiums.

Judges will not award premiums or ribbons to any article or animal that does not qualify for one of the classes in the North Carolina Mountain State Fair Premium List. There will be no additional prize money for given places, in the event of a tie. There shall not be more than one ribbon awarded and premium paid for each placement in a class. This does not include Judge’s Choice or Best of Show.

Premiums will be paid to winning exhibitors immediately after the awards are made and all reports are compiled and checked. **This process can take up to ten weeks.** Premiums will be mailed to the exhibitor at the address given on his or her entry form. Errors in premium statements will be corrected until **December 1, 2019** after which time the books of the 2019 Fair are closed.

IMPORTANT INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE INFORMATION

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations require that we have the Social Security Number (SSN) or Federal Identification Number that corresponds to the name to whom the check for prize money is written. If we are notified by the IRS that the Social Security Number or Federal Tax ID Number does not match the name of record, you may be subject to a penalty by the IRS. A separate form should be used for each number. **You must provide this information to be eligible for prize money.** Also, IRS regulations state that any prize money totaling \$600 or more in a calendar year must be reported on a Form 1099.