

LOCAL RULES

1. Applicable State Rules apply in all departments. State Rules are available on www.motherlodefair.org as well as the CDFA website.
2. **No maximum entry limit per class per exhibitor.** Per State Rules, no exhibitor shall receive more than two (2) cash awards in any one (1) class using American judging system. When an exhibitor earns more than two (2) awards in a class, the exhibitor will receive the two (2) highest cash awards, and the lesser cash awards will be moved down the placings to other exhibitors; ribbons will be awarded as placed.
3. LOCAL CLASSES (***Other than Livestock***): Entries are open to only residents and/or producers of the following counties, **unless otherwise stated in Division rules:** ALPINE, CALAVERAS, MARIPOSA, STANISLAUS, and TUOLUMNE.
4. No entry fee will be refunded except as provided in the State Rules. Entry fees appear preceding each Division of the Exhibitors' Handbook. No refunds of entry fees will be made for amounts less than \$5.
5. Any check returned by the bank for any reason will be levied a \$25 return check charge. Any Exhibitor that has not made good on a returned check will have their entries disqualified from judging.
6. All entries must remain in place until the close of Fair. Still Exhibits will be released from 10 AM to 6 PM on Monday, July 3, and Tuesday, July 4, 2023. No exceptions will be made for the above rule except by written permission from the Fair Manager or as otherwise stated herein.
7. **Exhibitors claim check required for pickup of all exhibits.**
8. If an entry is removed prior to the official release time, all awards and premiums will be withheld.
9. Exhibitors must be amateurs unless Division or Class specifies otherwise.
10. The Fair reserves the right to reject any entry if it is objectionable, or if it requires excessive space.
11. No entry will be accepted where an Exhibitor prescribes the condition under which he/she will exhibit.
12. Judging results will not be given over the telephone.
13. Entry forms may be accepted after the official closing date on an ease of processing and space available basis. Late entries will only be accepted when accompanied by a \$5 processing fee.
14. The Management will not be responsible for accidents, loss, or theft that may occur to any exhibit at the Fair. Every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety of all exhibits. It is under this condition only that entries will be accepted. Any insurance desired on any entry will be the sole responsibility of the Exhibitor.
15. Checks for awards will be made payable to the Exhibitor as indicated on the entry form and will be mailed to the Exhibitor after exhibit is released.
16. All judging is final. The Judging Sheets are the ONLY official record of judging. Cash awards will be paid as recorded on the signed Judging Sheet.
17. Should a premium be found to have been obtained by misrepresentation or a violation of any of the rules, State or Local, the premium award shall be withheld.
18. All material used in decorating booths, exhibits and displays must comply with the State Fire codes.

VEHICLES

1. No vehicles will be allowed on the Fairgrounds without a parking permit or vehicle permit.
2. Vehicles on the grounds parked in unauthorized areas will be towed away at the owner's expense.
3. A vehicle permit admits only the vehicle. Each occupant must have either a pass, paid admission, or wristwrap to be allowed admittance.

JUDGING DEFINITIONS

1. **American:** The judging process to rank exhibits against one another and awarding one first place, one second place, etc.
2. **Danish:** The judging process to compare each exhibit on its own merit against the scorecard or recognized standard and award as many first, second and third, etc., placings as merited.

MOTHER LODE FAIR PROTEST POLICY & PROCEDURES
2023 STATE RULES FOR CALIFORNIA FAIRS (CDFA, pages 10-11)

1. Protests will be considered only if there has been a violation of State or Local rules that have not been enforced. Decisions of judges, veterinarians, weighmasters, and timers cannot be protested and are final.
2. All protests must be accompanied by a deposit of \$500 (cash, money order or certified check made payable to Mother Lode Fair). NOTE: Deposit will be returned if the protest is upheld. If protest is upheld, the violator may be held liable for any portion of the direct cost incurred by the Fair in the course of the protest resolution. Failure to reimburse the Fair shall be cause for disallowing future entries in any of the network of California fairs.
3. Given the short duration of the Fair:
 - a. The protestor shall make every effort to file the protest prior to judging. All protests must be filed in writing within 24 hours of the time of the cause of the protest and before the conclusion of Fair.
 - b. The Fair will make every effort to resolve protests as quickly as possible. All exhibitors entering an exhibit and all persons by filing a protest agree to cooperate with Fair Management to resolve protests in a timely manner.
 - c. Protests shall be adjudicated by Fair Management (Manager/CEO or his/her designee) and/or members of Board of Directors.
4. Any exhibit involved in a filed protest before or during judging is eligible to compete until the protest is resolved.
5. Classes that involve the protested exhibit will not become official until the protest is resolved.
 - a. In championship or special award classes that involve the protested exhibit the judge shall also select 1st and 2nd runners up in case of disqualification.
 - b. In the case of protest, the unofficial judging results may be used to prepare the sale list and other necessary information.
6. At the discretion of the CEO judging can be delayed to allow time for the Fair to resolve the protest if to do so does not unreasonably delay or disrupt the operations of the remainder of the Fair judging and auction events.
7. Prior to judging the affected class, fairs may announce that an entry has been protested.
8. All questions concerning competition or non-protestable disputes or differences with staff or the exhibition not provided for under the State or Local Rules shall be referred to the CEO or their designee, whose decision shall be final.
9. Violations of State Rules may be appealed to the Divisions of Fairs & Expositions (F&E) in writing.
10. An individual may appeal to F&E only after adjudication at the local level and only if:
 - a. The decision upholds a Local Rule that circumvents or is not in the spirit of a State Rule(s);
 - b. The individual can substantiate new and credible information that was not available at the time of the local decision; or
 - c. There was inappropriate adjudication at the local level that may have included conflict of interest, lack of due process, or a significant misinterpretation of the rules.
11. A fair or state, national or international organization or subdivision thereof which has a significant stake in the interpretation of rules affecting the network of California fairs may make an appeal directly to F&E concerning multiple-fair issues, industry-wide issues, unavoidable conflict of interest or assistance in enforcing its own organization rules.
12. No protest will be accepted unless it:
 - a. Is filed or received, in writing, with a signed original and a signed duplicate copy;
 - b. Clearly states which rule has been violated;
 - c. States when the protestor first became aware of the facts and rule violation;
 - d. States the facts relied upon for the basis of the protest;
 - e. States that the protestor will cooperate with the investigation of the protest and that the protestor will be available and agrees to attend any hearing held to resolve the protest at the time and place directed by F&E;
 - f. Includes the names of supporting witnesses, with accessible phone numbers; and
 - g. Describes or attaches any documents relating to the protest, which must include the written decision issued by the local arbitrating body.
13. Fairs & Expositions Branch (F&E) must receive the appeal in writing within 24 hours from receipt of notice of local decision.
14. A hearing may be conducted at the discretion of F&E. The F&E Branch Chief may consult with and/or request that members of State Rules Advisory Committee participate in any hearing.
15. Once the Branch Chief has ruled on an appeal to F&E, no additional protest or appeal will be considered relating to that incident.